Module Specification

Criminal Litigation

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Criminal Litigation

Module code: UJXTSW-25-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 25

ECTS credit rating: 12.5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law - non modular

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The purpose of the module is to give students a sound understanding of how the criminal courts operate in the disposal of the cases brought before them.

Outline syllabus: The module covers the procedural aspects of criminal litigation, from the investigation of criminal offences and the commencement of proceedings, to the preliminary hearings in the magistrates' courts, the trial of criminal cases summarily and on indictment, and the various routes of appeal available to aggrieved parties.

In addition, it covers the procedural aspects of sentencing and the principal powers of the sentencing courts.

Finally, the module considers the rules and principles which govern the admissibility and the use of evidence in
the criminal courts.

The subjects covered on the module are set out in detail in the syllabus provided from time to time by the Bar Standards Board.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is taught via seminars involving for example the discussion of pre-prepared questions and unseen
exam-style questions; face-to-face and on line lectures and podcasts; and on line exam-style questions.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 State accurately the essential rules and principles governing the conduct of criminal litigation, the sentencing of offenders, and the admissibility of evidence.

MO2 Apply the essential rules and principles governing the conduct of criminal litigation, the sentencing of offenders, and the admissibility of evidence to factual situations of a type frequently encountered in criminal practice.

MO3 Analyse and evaluate different arguments and solutions which might present themselves in the context of a criminal case and determine the merit attaching to each.

MO4 Analyse and evaluate factual situations and arguments to identify those matters which are likely to be important for the purposes of giving legal advice or reaching final outcome.

Hours to be allocated: 250

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 230 hours

Staff-guided learning = 20 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment of this module consists of one component – a 3-hour written examination comprising a combination of multiple choice and single best answer questions. The assessment is centrally set by the Bar Standards Board and is designed to test the outcomes in Part 4 below.

The summative assessment is preceded by two formative assessments: a 1-hour test halfway through the course comprising multiple choice and single best answer questions on the subjects so far covered on the course; and a 3-hour mock exam at the end of the course covering the whole syllabus.

The pass mark for all assessments on this module is 60% due to requirements set by the Bar Standards Boards (BSB).

Assessment tasks:

Examination (First Sit)

Description: 3-hour exam consisting of multiple choice and single best answer questions. The pass mark is 60%.
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Examination (Resit)
Description: 3-hour exam consisting of multiple choice and single best answer questions. The pass mark is 60%.
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2026-27

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2026-27

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] PGDip 2026-27

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2026-27

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2026-27

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] PGDip 2026-27

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] PGDip 2026-27

Bar Training Course {Two Part} [Frenchay] PGDip 2026-27