



ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Opinion Writing				
Module Code	UJXUSA-10-M	Level	M	Version	1.1
UWE Credit Rating	10	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5	WBL module?	No
Owning Faculty	Business and Law	Field	Law Non-Modular		
Department	Law: BILP	Module Type	Professional Practice		
Contributes towards	Bar Professional Training Course				
Pre-requisites	None	Co- requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None	Module Entry requirements	N/A		
First CAP Approval Date	QSC 28 April 2010	Valid from	September 2010		
Revision CAP Approval Date	1 June 2016	Revised with effect from	September 2016		

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify and address the needs and objectives of the client and seek (subject always to ethical considerations) to provide a practical solution to the client's problems 2. accurately identify and show a thorough grasp of all the material facts, the relevant law, the real issues, the relevant procedure, parties and evidence, distinguishing one issue from another; and asking 3. identify and ask for further information/evidence, when necessary; 4. give clear, sound, practical advice on the matters raised in the instructions and advise on any practical steps to be taken 5. where appropriate, advise on the need for expert evidence, on quantum of damages, and on any limitation aspects 6. and generally give realistic and practical advice as to steps to be taken, including further inquiries or investigations, compliance with pre-action protocols, and other protocols necessary to take the matter forward.

Syllabus Outline	<p>1 Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -needs and objectives of the client; solution of the client's problems -identification of material facts, relevant law, real issues, relevant procedure and evidence; - distinction between issues -specialised language and grammar -headings, sub-headings, lay out and style; lines of reasoning; -structure, order, weight and significance; conciseness and length -practical approach, as opposed to academic discussion of the law; -addressing questions expressly or implicitly raised in the instructions by expressing clear conclusions where appropriate, alternatively explaining why there can be no clear conclusions -explanation of legal and factual alternatives, and setting out of conclusions, with full advice -identifying the need for relevant further information/evidence, explaining where appropriate why the further information is needed -providing clear, identifiable, appropriate, sound, practical advice on the matters raised in the instructions <p>2. Remedies (general)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the cost of pursuing a remedy; -whether a self-help remedy is available; -whether alternative forms of resolving a dispute are available; -the capacity of the defendant to pay damages if awarded; -whether a range of remedies should be pursued; -whether interim remedies should be pursued; and -applicable time limits. <p>3 Contract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the general principles underlying damages for breach of contract, including limitations on compensatory damages; -the availability of equitable remedies, including specific performance, injunctions, rescission and rectification; -remedies for misrepresentation; -the law and practice in respect of interest on judgment debts pursuant to contract or statute (Judgments Act 1838; County Court (Interest on Judgment Debts) Order 1991; Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998). <p>4. Tort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the general principles underlying the amount of damages, the calculation of quantum, the reduction of damages, aggravated and exemplary damages and the availability of injunctions; -the principles according to which damages are quantified, the process by which a court would arrive at a final figure, and the practical steps to be taken in advising on quantum in cases of personal injury; -the impact of Social Security payments on the assessment of damages and the method by which HM Revenue and Customs approach issues of taxation of damages; -the law and practice in respect of interest on damages in claims for personal injury.
Contact Hours	<p>There are 3 x 1.5 hour SGSs, 3 x 2.5 hour SGSs and 2 x 45 minute (for the student) individual feedback sessions, comprising 30 minute group discussion and a 15 minute individual appointment with the tutor.</p> <p>There is also a 1 x 2 hour lecture and a 1 x 1 hour lecture.</p> <p>In addition to the face to face contact hours noted above, students will have a number of hours doing self-study and taking advantage of the numerous online resources to assist them in this</p>

Teaching and Learning Methods	Although there will be some large group sessions, most of the teaching takes place via small group sessions. Students will be given a number of practice exercises on Opinion Writing in order to practise these skills. Following each practice exercise students will usually receive either individual feedback from their tutor or peer feedback.
Reading Strategy	Students will be required to use the Manuals mentioned below (as appropriate) in preparation for and during all small group sessions. They will also be expected to source practitioner texts such as those outlined below and undertake research using practitioner texts/encyclopaedias on substantive law areas such as Chitty on Contract, Clerk and Lindsell on Torts and Halsbury's Laws. They will also be expected to access primary source materials using skills acquired during the sessions on Legal Research Methods.
Indicative Reading List	City Law School Manuals for 'Opinion Writing' and 'Remedies'. A balanced selection of textbooks on opinion writing.

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	The Opinion Writing Assessment will consist of a 4 hour formal unseen invigilated examination (where 'open book' materials may be used as specified in advance). A mock/formative assessment will also be held and full feedback will be given in relation to this practice assessment
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% weighting between components A and B	A:	B:
	100%	
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. 4 hour formal unseen invigilated examination	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
n/a		

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
2. 4 hour formal unseen invigilated examination	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
n/a		

If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.