



Junior Lawyers Club Programme of Study

Skills and Competencies

Skills and Competencies are taught alongside the Knowledge Programme. Students complete the programme at their own pace and can attend a single workshop or regular workshops over a number of years. Completion is determined by a number of factors, including age of child, regularity of attendance, level of study, complexity according to age group and the subject area being discussed.

Key Transferable Skill of a Lawyer	Elements	Practical Application
Debating Skills	Mental Attributes such as listening and mental agility.	Universal: e.g. Debating, social situations, exam and assessments
	Content – creating and structuring arguments. Expressing them clearly and concisely.	Universal: in particular all formal and informal exams and assessments Interviews
	Delivery, including tone pace pitch Body Language	Useful for GCSE spoken presentation components in English Language and others. Presentations, interviews, school assemblies, school committees
	Critical Thinking, Rhetoric and logic	Essential for navigating information on the Internet - identifying fake news Debating skills GCSEs, e.g. English Language, Literature, History, etc.
	Terminology- building up suitable terminology or technical phrases	Speaking fluently and persuasively with authority, for example in an interview or school presentation.
Presentation Skills	Preparation and overcoming nerves Persuasion Debating skills as above Responding to questions	GCSE English Language spoken presentation element or for GCSE Language spoken element School or outside club presentations, oral exams, assemblies, social speeches.



Public Speaking/Advocacy	Presence, delivery, persuasion and preparation	
Critical and Lateral Thinking	Meaning Arguments and evidence Questioning assumptions	Essential for GCSE English Language, English Literature, History, etc. Now a major component of job selection, done in the form of assessment programmes.
Creative Thinking & Problem Solving	Innovative solutions New approaches	An essential life skill. Especially useful for exam and interview scenarios. Also a component on assessment selection days for many jobs (e.g. for Banks and Graduate Assessment Programmes).
Communication Skills	Delivery, Rhetoric and Body Language	
Research Skills	Carrying out research, assessing evidence, making decisions based on research	Research projects in schools from KS2 to A Levels. Researching University choices, employment decisions, making key life decisions. Learning Research Skills is also very useful for future university study and postgraduate degrees.
Essay Writing Skills	Expressing your points with clarity Structure, the importance of citing sources and using appropriate terminology	SATS/11 Plus exams/GCSEs/A Levels Application forms Coursework - for secondary school, university, etc. (*please note we do not cover written work in the sessions)
Exam/Assessment Skills	Focussing Prioritising Structuring arguments	Preparing for debates, exams and assessments from secondary school to university to postgraduate. (again, please note we do not cover written work in the sessions)
Leadership and Teamwork	Qualities, theories and styles Emotional Intelligence	For school situations, for example, becoming a prefect or representative on the School Council.



		Often tested as an exercise on a Graduate Assessment Programme or in job interviews.
Negotiation Skills	Advocacy style Manner and Delivery Theories of Principled Negotiation	Useful for negotiating pocket money, screentimes, parental restrictions, etc.
Interview Skills	Preparation Performance Feedback	Secondary school interviews, university and employment interviews.
Diplomacy Skills	Tactfulness	A universally needed skill, especially so, given globalisation.
Networking and Communication Skills	The Art of Conversation, Networking and Social Communication	Becoming adept at making friends and contacts - an essential skill in an increasingly online world.



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Substantive Knowledge- Law, Politics, Philosophy, Economics

The following table is an abridged version of the areas and topics covered on the JLC Programme of Study, taught alongside the skills. Topics are introduced in an age-appropriate way by UK lawyers or UK university lecturers, as a brief introduction to some of the activities or debates in the workshops.

The information below is intended as a guide only, as examples of topics that might be introduced over the programme. All classroom topics are gauged and assessed as to their suitability for the age profile of the group. **Please note:** the areas/topics cited are merely indicative and should not be regarded as exhaustive. Regular reviews are conducted to ensure material is contemporary and suitable for practising and delivering the core skills the JLC Programme aims to develop.

Area	Why is this useful?
Constitutional Law	<p>This topic puts into context issues such as the Rule of Law, who runs the country, how states and leaders interact, and how the British Parliamentary System works. It teaches the vocabulary and concepts to understand the news and current affairs.</p> <p><i>Issues you might discuss include:</i></p> <p><i>Where are the rules regarding how a country is governed? How can you change the law?</i></p> <p><i>Should Britain have a written (codified) constitution?</i></p> <p><i>If you wanted to create the most 'just society' what rules would you draft? How do these compare to the rules we have in place in the United Kingdom?</i></p>



Human Rights Law	<p><i>This topic looks at how what Human Rights are and how they are protected under the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.</i></p> <p>Examples:</p> <p><i>How does the court balance the right to privacy, and the right to freedom of speech?</i></p> <p><i>Should we have complete freedom of speech with no restrictions?</i></p> <p><i>Should parents be allowed to smack their children?</i></p>
Administrative Law	<p><i>This covers the Doctrine of Judicial Review, and when decisions made by public bodies such as local government, the police, or the NHS can be challenged.</i></p> <p>Examples:</p> <p><i>Can Scotland's First Secretary make a decision to close schools in Yorkshire?</i></p> <p><i>Can a pupil be allocated a secondary school 6 miles away when there is a good secondary school less than a mile away?</i></p>
Criminal Law	<p>Examples of discussions:</p> <p><i>The concept of thought crimes – should a person be guilty for simply thinking of committing a crime?</i></p> <p><i>Should difference crimes have different ages?</i></p> <p><i>What do you think should be more serious: a physical attack on a person or scaring a person? Why?</i></p> <p><i>The Robin Hood Principle - can theft ever be justified? On what grounds?</i></p>
Criminology Penology	<p><i>This topic looks at the concept of punishment and the aims of sentencing, and how criminal behaviour changes over time, e.g. drug use, children working, slavery, etc.</i></p>



Tort Law	<p><i>Tort law allows a person, who has suffered damage or harm, caused by another to bring a claim for compensation (money). For example, a person injured by a badly driven car.</i></p> <p>Examples</p> <p><i>A child wanders off at a picnic and causes an accident – who is responsible?</i></p> <p><i>Should you be liable in law if you see someone about to walk off a cliff and you don't shout a warning?</i></p>
Contract Law	<p><i>Contract Law is based on the idea that people are completely free to agree any terms they wish with each other, e.g. to buy a coffee, book a holiday, etc.</i></p> <p>Examples</p> <p><i>Is an advert on social media an offer?</i></p> <p><i>Can children make binding contracts?</i></p>
Business Law	<p><i>This covers business structures such as partnerships and limited companies and the role of agency</i></p> <p>Example</p> <p><i>You design a new product with your friend. How can you turn this into a business?</i></p>
Legal Philosophy	<p><i>If you were creating the rules of society from scratch what would they be and why?</i></p> <p><i>Is a fair law one that is very clear, or one that is flexible?</i></p> <p><i>Are there any fixed, universal laws which apply to everyone regardless of where they are from or history of time?</i></p>



Moral Philosophy (Ethics)	<p><i>We look at theories such as Utilitarianism or Deontology.</i></p> <p>Examples</p> <p><i>Should you always tell the truth?</i></p> <p><i>Is it ethical to eat animals? All animals? Do animals have rights?</i></p>
The Philosophy of Art/Aesthetics	<p>Examples:</p> <p><i>Who decides what makes an object art? Is it a subjective or objective concept?</i></p>
Politics	<p>Examples</p> <p><i>How would you organise a new society?</i></p> <p><i>Is there a contract or agreement between the citizen and the state? What do you think are the terms of this agreement?</i></p> <p><i>Recently some, countries have mooted the idea that societies should abolish the police. Is this a good idea?</i></p> <p><i>Should we create Climate Police and a Climate Court with all states accountable? What would be the problems?</i></p>
Economics	<p>Examples:</p> <p><i>Can the price for luxury goods always be justified?</i></p> <p><i>Should basic necessities be free?</i></p> <p><i>How does insurance operate?</i></p> <p><i>What tax system is the fairest?</i></p> <p><i>Examples from Behavioural Economics</i></p>