

GCE

LAW: PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THE UK

BILL OF RIGHTS SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teacher /Lecturer:	
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Course:	A Level Law
Topic:	Protection of rights and freedoms in the UK
Session:	UK Bill of Rights

Component:	A Level Components 2 and 3
Ref. to specification:	Human Rights Law
Suggested time allocation:	2-4 hours

Aims and Objectives: At the end of these sessions the student will be able to:

- **Discuss/ Consider whether the UK needs a Bill of Rights**
- **Critically evaluate the need for a Bill of Rights identifying the advantages and disadvantages of a Bill of Rights**

Main Teaching and Learning Activities

Teacher/Lecturer Activities:

- Introduce topic, explain 4th session on Rights (1st being rights and liberties, 2nd ECHR, 3rd HRA)
- PowerPoint presentation can be used to introduce the topic, state the objectives and for the topic area.
- Organise the class into small groups -What is a Bill of Rights? Can you think of any countries that has a Bill of Rights? Feedback answers to class.
- Explain that UK and Israel (as developed democracies) are alone in not having a Bill of Rights – class discussion – does this matter? Do you think that the Human Rights Act has given greater protection to people against breaches of Human Rights, or do we need a Bill of Rights?
- In small groups students to draw up the advantages and disadvantages to a Bill of Rights – link to knowledge gained in previous lessons on ECHR and HRA. Discuss current political opinion on HRA and a Bill of Rights e.g. Conservative party wants to repeal the HRA.
- Optional – organise class debate on: A Bill of Rights for the UK? For and against.

Student Activities:

- Students in small groups: What is a Bill of Rights? Discuss other countries and a Bill of Rights e.g. America, China etc.
- Students to draw up the advantages and disadvantages to a Bill of Rights.
- Optional debate - A Bill of Rights for the UK? For and against.

Suggested links/ resources:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint • Newspaper articles |
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Key skill:	Communication - debate, A Bill of Rights for the UK?	PSE – Knowing your legal and human rights			
Level:	3				

Assessment

During the lesson	Group exercises and direct questioning illustrate how well the students have understood A Bill of Rights.
Subsequent to lesson	Past paper question on effectiveness of the HRA and the need for a Bill of Rights.

TOPIC: Bill of Rights

Questions:		Expected answers:
1.	What is a Bill of Rights?	A list of human rights that cannot be taken away from us , higher than any other law.
2.	What countries have a Bill of Rights?	Students usually answer America, and talk about the right to arm themselves, defend their property etc.
3.	What are the advantages to a Bill of Rights?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More control on powerful Governments and their agents • Judges could refuse to apply laws that are incompatible • A Bill of Rights would be entrenched – therefore difficult to repeal • Bill of Rights would introduce new rights
4.	What are the disadvantages to a Bill of Rights?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not needed – our rights are adequately protected • Increased power to the judiciary – judges not elected and power would be removed from Parliament • Inflexible - hard to change • Could lead to uncertainty – loose drafting style of a Bill of Rights • A Bill of Rights is only as effective as the Government that underpins it • Difficult to draft – what would you include?