

GCE

# LAW: THE RULES OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND THEORY IN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

## BILL OF RIGHTS SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



## **SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

<b>Teacher /Lecturer:</b>	
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<b>Course:</b>	<b>A Level Law</b>
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>The rules of human rights law and theory in human rights law</b>
<b>Session:</b>	<b>UK Bill of Rights</b>

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

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> being rights & liberties, 2<sup>nd</sup> ECHR, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) 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 want 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:

- PowerPoint
- Newspaper articles

### 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 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"> <li>• More control on powerful Governments and their agents</li> <li>• Judges could refuse to apply laws that are incompatible</li> <li>• A Bill of Rights would be entrenched – therefore difficult to repeal</li> <li>• Bill of Rights would introduce new rights</li> </ul>
4.	What are the disadvantages to a Bill of Rights?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not needed – our rights are adequately protected</li> <li>• Increased power to the judiciary – judges not elected and power would be removed from Parliament</li> <li>• Inflexible - hard to change</li> <li>• Could lead to uncertainty – loose drafting style of a Bill of Rights</li> <li>• A Bill of Rights is only as effective as the Government that underpins it</li> <li>• Difficult to draft – what would you include?</li> </ul>