

A Level Law Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

- 1. Where do most barristers in England and Wales primarily operate?**
 - A. In law firms**
 - B. From a set of chambers**
 - C. In government offices**
 - D. In corporate legal departments**
- 2. Which case illustrates the principle of distinguishing in contract law?**
 - A. Merrit v. Merrit**
 - B. Balfour v. Balfour**
 - C. R v. Howe**
 - D. Herrington v. British Railways Board**
- 3. How does the court hierarchy impact the application of precedent?**
 - A. Courts are bound by decisions from lower courts**
 - B. Courts are only bound by decisions from legislatures**
 - C. Courts are bound by the ratio decidendi set by courts above and at their level**
 - D. Courts can ignore all past decisions if they choose**
- 4. What distinguishes a conditional discharge from an absolute discharge?**
 - A. Conditional discharge can lead to resentencing if a further offense occurs**
 - B. Absolute discharge requires the offender to serve probation**
 - C. Conditional discharge has no stipulations at all**
 - D. Absolute discharge involves a fine as part of the sentence**
- 5. What is the significance of the case STONE and DOBINSON?**
 - A. It discusses professional obligations to assist**
 - B. It involves a contractual duty to intervene**
 - C. It establishes family duties regarding care**
 - D. It highlights issues of negligence in public service**

- 6. What principle is established in GIBBINS and PROCTOR regarding omissions?**
- A. Omissions can lead to criminal liability**
 - B. Only professionals can be held liable for omissions**
 - C. Omissions have no legal consequences**
 - D. Parental duties do not impact liability**
- 7. Which statement best describes the purposive approach?**
- A. It relies only on the wording of the statute**
 - B. It also considers external sources for interpretation**
 - C. It limits the influence of judicial discretion**
 - D. It is less favored than the golden rule**
- 8. Which of the following is a justification for strict liability offences?**
- A. They require a higher standard of proof**
 - B. They help reduce the burden on the courts**
 - C. They ensure defendants are always blamed**
 - D. They limit the impact on societal safety**
- 9. In the case of Harrow LBC v Shah, what led to the defendants' liability?**
- A. They knowingly sold a lottery ticket to a minor**
 - B. An employee mistakenly sold a lottery ticket to a minor**
 - C. They failed to follow proper training procedures**
 - D. They were unaware of the minor's age**
- 10. What does the principle from Clarke state regarding a defect of reason?**
- A. D must lack reasoning ability at the time of the act**
 - B. Only a permanent incapacity counts as a defect**
 - C. Absence of memory is sufficient for a defense**
 - D. Confusion is always a defect of reason**

Answers

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- 1. B**
- 2. A**
- 3. C**
- 4. A**
- 5. C**
- 6. A**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. A**

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Explanations

1. Where do most barristers in England and Wales primarily operate?

- A. In law firms**
- B. From a set of chambers**
- C. In government offices**
- D. In corporate legal departments**

Barristers in England and Wales primarily operate from a set of chambers. These chambers serve as the work environment for barristers, who are self-employed and share office facilities and administrative support. Chambers provide an environment where barristers can collaborate, share resources, and access legal clerks, facilitating their work in representing clients in court and during legal proceedings. The setup allows barristers to focus on advocacy and specialized legal advice, while the structure of chambers supports the independence and professional ethos of barristers. This is distinct from solicitors, who typically work within law firms. Though some barristers may take on roles within other settings such as government offices or corporate legal departments, the predominant and traditional place of practice remains the set of chambers.

2. Which case illustrates the principle of distinguishing in contract law?

- A. Merrit v. Merrit**
- B. Balfour v. Balfour**
- C. R v. Howe**
- D. Herrington v. British Railways Board**

The case of Merritt v. Merritt illustrates the principle of distinguishing in contract law due to its focus on how courts can differentiate between similar cases based on their specific factual contexts and the intentions of the parties involved. In this particular case, the court examined whether a legally binding agreement existed between a husband and wife regarding the sale of their house. The key here is that the court distinguished this case from Balfour v. Balfour. In Balfour, the court found that there was no intention to create legal relations in a domestic setting when the husband promised to pay his wife an allowance while they were separated. However, in Merritt, the couple was separated, and there was written evidence that showed the husband's intention to create a legally binding obligation. Thus, the court held that a contract did exist in Merritt due to the unique circumstances. This clear distinction highlights how the courts will consider the specific facts and external evidence of intention in different scenarios, which is core to understanding the principle of distinguishing in contract law.

3. How does the court hierarchy impact the application of precedent?

- A. Courts are bound by decisions from lower courts
- B. Courts are only bound by decisions from legislatures
- C. Courts are bound by the ratio decidendi set by courts above and at their level**
- D. Courts can ignore all past decisions if they choose

The correct answer highlights a fundamental principle in the doctrine of precedent, known as **stare decisis**. In a hierarchical court system, decisions made by higher courts are binding on lower courts within the same jurisdiction. This means that when a higher court establishes a legal principle or rule (the *ratio decidendi*), lower courts must follow this guidance in subsequent cases, ensuring consistency and predictability in the law. While judges in courts at the same level may not be strictly bound by each other's decisions, they often follow them for the sake of consistency and legal stability. Therefore, this answer accurately reflects the binding nature of precedent as it relates to both appellate courts and those courts at the same level. The other options suggest misunderstandings about the relationship between court levels and precedent. For example, the misconception that courts are obliged to follow decisions from lower courts does not align with the hierarchical structure, as higher court rulings take precedence. Additionally, stating that courts are bound solely by legislative decisions disregards the critical role that judicial decisions play in law development. Lastly, the idea that courts can entirely disregard past decisions is incorrect, as it contradicts the principle of adherence to precedent essential for the rule of law.

4. What distinguishes a conditional discharge from an absolute discharge?

- A. Conditional discharge can lead to resentencing if a further offense occurs**
- B. Absolute discharge requires the offender to serve probation
- C. Conditional discharge has no stipulations at all
- D. Absolute discharge involves a fine as part of the sentence

A conditional discharge is characterized by its stipulation that the offender must comply with certain conditions for a specified period. If the offender commits a subsequent offense during this period, the court may choose to resentence them for the original offense. This means that while the individual is not being punished immediately, any further legal trouble may result in consequences, reinforcing the idea that compliance with outlined conditions is critical. On the other hand, an absolute discharge is a more lenient outcome where the individual is found guilty of an offense but is released without any conditions or requirements, meaning there is no risk of resentencing based on subsequent conduct. The other options misrepresent conditions or requirements associated with the different discharges. A conditional discharge does not have the absence of stipulations, and an absolute discharge does not require probation or involve fines.

5. What is the significance of the case STONE and DOBINSON?

- A. It discusses professional obligations to assist**
- B. It involves a contractual duty to intervene**
- C. It establishes family duties regarding care**
- D. It highlights issues of negligence in public service**

The significance of the case STONE and DOBINSON lies primarily in its establishment of family duties regarding care. This case highlights the legal expectations placed on family members to look after individuals who are vulnerable or in need of assistance due to circumstances such as illness or incapacity. In STONE and DOBINSON, the court examined the responsibilities of family members, particularly in situations where one family member takes on a caring role, which creates a duty of care toward the individual being cared for. The ruling emphasized that family relationships carry a moral and, to some extent, a legal obligation to provide care and assistance, particularly in cases where the loved one is unable to care for themselves. This aspect is essential in understanding not only the duties of care that exist within familial relationships but also how failure to fulfill these duties can result in legal consequences. Other options, while addressing aspects of duty or negligence, do not capture the primary focus of the case on familial responsibilities. Thus, the emphasis on family duties in this context is what makes the answer distinctly correct.

6. What principle is established in GIBBINS and PROCTOR regarding omissions?

- A. Omissions can lead to criminal liability**
- B. Only professionals can be held liable for omissions**
- C. Omissions have no legal consequences**
- D. Parental duties do not impact liability**

The principle established in Gibbins and Proctor highlights that omissions can indeed lead to criminal liability under certain circumstances. In this case, Gibbins, who was a father, failed to provide adequate care for his child, who ultimately died due to neglect. The court held that there was a legal duty to care for the child, making the omission a criminal act. This case demonstrates that in situations where a person has a specific duty to act, failure to take appropriate action can result in liability. The focus of the judgment underscores the significance of established duties in law, particularly those stemming from relationships such as parental responsibilities. Thus, it extends the understanding of criminal liability beyond actions to include significant omissions that have harmful consequences when there is a duty to intervene. This further emphasizes that being in a position of responsibility can create legal obligations that failure to uphold can render one liable for resulting harm.

7. Which statement best describes the purposive approach?

- A. It relies only on the wording of the statute
- B. It also considers external sources for interpretation**
- C. It limits the influence of judicial discretion
- D. It is less favored than the golden rule

The purposive approach is a method of statutory interpretation that emphasizes understanding the underlying purpose and intent behind the legislation. This approach recognizes that the literal wording of a statute may not always capture the intention of the lawmakers fully. By considering external sources for interpretation, such as legislative history, preambles, and reports, this approach attempts to give effect to the overall aim and spirit of the legislation rather than solely relying on the exact text. This is particularly useful in cases where the language might be ambiguous or where the impact of the statute is viewed as central to fulfilling its intended purpose. The importance of the external sources lies in their ability to provide context and clarity that enhance the comprehension of legislative intent, which is not achievable through the wording alone. Thus, stating that the purposive approach "also considers external sources for interpretation" captures its essence well.

8. Which of the following is a justification for strict liability offences?

- A. They require a higher standard of proof
- B. They help reduce the burden on the courts**
- C. They ensure defendants are always blamed
- D. They limit the impact on societal safety

The justification for strict liability offences primarily relates to their role in reducing the burden on the courts. Strict liability allows for the imposition of liability without the necessity of proving fault or intent, which means that cases can be resolved more quickly and efficiently. This approach is particularly useful in regulatory offences, where the emphasis is on the importance of compliance with safety and health regulations. By not requiring the prosecution to establish mens rea (the intention to commit a crime), strict liability offences facilitate faster resolution and enforcement actions, allowing the legal system to focus resources on more serious criminal matters. In contrast, the other options do not accurately capture the essence of strict liability. For example, while a higher standard of proof is important in criminal cases, strict liability offences do not require the same level of proof regarding intention or knowledge as other offences. Additionally, while it's essential to hold defendants accountable, strict liability does not inherently ensure that defendants are "always blamed," as the focus is on liability regardless of personal fault. Lastly, strict liability aims to maintain or enhance societal safety rather than limit its impact; these laws typically exist to promote compliance and prevent harm to the public.

9. In the case of Harrow LBC v Shah, what led to the defendants' liability?

- A. They knowingly sold a lottery ticket to a minor**
- B. An employee mistakenly sold a lottery ticket to a minor**
- C. They failed to follow proper training procedures**
- D. They were unaware of the minor's age**

In the case of Harrow LBC v Shah, the defendants were held liable primarily due to the actions of their employee, who mistakenly sold a lottery ticket to a minor. This case illustrates the principle of strict liability in relation to the sale of age-restricted goods. The law does not allow for a defense based on mistake or lack of knowledge regarding the buyer's age in these circumstances. The focus of the liability was on the fact that the regulatory framework surrounding the sale of lottery tickets places a responsibility on retailers to ensure that they do not sell to individuals who are underage. Even though the employee acted without malice or intent to violate the law, the company was still held accountable for not having sufficient safeguards to prevent such a sale. This demonstrates that businesses need to ensure that their staff are adequately trained and that robust procedures are in place to verify ages when selling age-restricted items. This case highlights the importance of strict adherence to legal standards in retail practices and the consequences of failing to implement effective training and verification processes.

10. What does the principle from Clarke state regarding a defect of reason?

- A. D must lack reasoning ability at the time of the act**
- B. Only a permanent incapacity counts as a defect**
- C. Absence of memory is sufficient for a defense**
- D. Confusion is always a defect of reason**

The principle from Clarke regarding a defect of reason emphasizes that a defendant must demonstrate a lack of reasoning ability at the time of the act to establish a valid defense. This principle plays a crucial role in legal interpretations of mental capacity and culpability. Specifically, it suggests that the defendant's cognitive functions must be significantly impaired to the extent that they cannot understand the nature of their actions or the circumstances surrounding them when the offense occurred. This understanding is vital because it addresses the need for a clear connection between the mental state of the defendant and the act committed. If a defendant merely experiences a temporary lapse in reasoning or confusion that does not interfere with their overall reasoning ability, this would not suffice to meet the criteria of a defect of reason as outlined in Clarke. As a result, establishing a permanent or significant incapacity of reasoning is essential for a successful defense based on this principle. In contrast, the other concepts such as a requirement for permanent incapacity, the sufficiency of absent memory, or confusion not always qualifying as a defect do not align with the overarching principle established by Clarke. They suggest thresholds for incapacity that may not apply in the same manner as highlighted by the core idea of lacking reasoning ability at the critical moment of the act.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://a-level-law.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!