

# Module Descriptor

## English Legal System, Legal Method and Legal Skills

### Module Overview

To become a competent Costs Lawyer it is essential to have an understanding of the foundations of the Legal System of England and Wales. This module of the course aims to give guidance on how to read, understand and apply case law and legislation. It covers the Legal System in England and Wales in general.

### Aim

To enable Trainees to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the English legal system and introduce them to a range of legal resources available electronically and paper based to encourage and support their legal research and understanding.

### Module Size and Credits

Academic Year:	2020
Credits:	10
Total Trainee study hours:	100

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to:

1. Explain different forms of legislation and legislative bodies in England & Wales.
2. Identify and discuss the sources of law including legislation, delegated legislation and judicial precedent
3. Explain the key characteristics that define the legal professions of England & Wales.
4. Explain the organisation and structure of the court and tribunal system for England and Wales including the process of settling disputes outside of court (ADR)
5. Independently research topics concerning the English legal system.
6. Analyse the scope and complexity of legal developments through research

### Indicative Content

Legislative bodies	Legislative interpretation
The legal profession	Trial by jury
Rules of construction	Tribunals
Precedent	Criminal litigation/trial process
Court hierarchy	Civil litigation process
The judiciary and the magistracy	Legal research
Legislation	

### Assessment strategy

The intended learning outcomes will be assessed by a written research report on the English Legal System. Word limit 1500 words. Reassessment will require the completion of a comparable piece of work.

The grades for assignments from all modules in the unit will be accumulated (based on credit value) and will constitute 40% of the overall unit grade. Except for the Professional Development Planning Module (Foundation), which is graded as pass or fail.

In addition to the assignments candidates must attend the compulsory seminar and pass the end of unit examination. The end of unit examination will further assess learning outcomes from the compulsory modules within the unit by an unseen synoptic paper constituting 60% of the overall unit grade.

Where students have been granted exemptions in relation to a module assignment their applications have been made on the basis they are confident that they could pass the assessment for any of the modules from which they applied for the exemption.

### Pass requirements

The pass mark for all Assessment Components is 50%:

49% (inclusive) and below:	Fail
50% (inclusive) to 59% (inclusive):	Pass
60% (inclusive) to 69% (inclusive):	Pass with merit
70% (inclusive) and over:	Pass with distinction

### Teaching and Learning

To enable Trainees to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the English legal system and introduce them to a range of legal resources available electronically and paper based to encourage and support their legal research and understanding.

Teaching, learning and assessment at ACL Training offers Trainees the ability to develop their knowledge, skills and competences through a curriculum that is purposely designed to provide both an exceptional learning experience and also engage them with relevant professional qualifications.

All modules will be available to Trainees via distance learning, supported by a learning management system which directs their study. All teaching, learning and assessment materials will be available to both staff and Trainees via the system in a consistent and user-friendly manner. Trainees will engage primarily via a number of learning opportunities in each module:

Knowledge & Understanding; is concerned with the analysis of academic theory and concepts to ensure Trainees have mastered a critical appreciation of current and relevant research in the subject area.

Application; brings the knowledge and understanding 'to life' by relating it to current practice. It takes a critical view of the theory and concepts as they are employed in the workplace in order to encourage Trainees to evaluate their application, significance and merit in practice.

Analysis & Problem Solving; requires Trainees to develop and demonstrate their essential analytical skills in order to respond to employer related problems by making a set of clearly evaluated recommendations.

Assessment is explicitly related to both the module and programme learning outcomes detailed above.

Trainee activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Online Tutorials

4 hours attendance and 4 hours preparation

Exam Prep	20 hours
Coursework	15 hours
Compulsory Seminar	2 hours
Materials/Activities	15
Self Guided Learning	40
<b>Total Hours</b>	100

## MODULE RESOURCES

### Recommended Reading

Slapper, G., and Kelly, D. (2017) *The English Legal System: 2* 18th edn. Routledge-Cavendish

### Useful Websites

[www.lawcommission.justice.gov.uk](http://www.lawcommission.justice.gov.uk)

[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

[www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

### Required Equipment

Trainees must have access to the Internet and a word-processing package.