



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

Law A Level Task 2

Purpose of task:

The study of Law requires you to read definitions carefully, analyse situations and apply the relevant law accurately. The next exercise will test your ability to do this. You don't need to know anything for this exercise - just try to think logically and analytically and give reasons. Law is about argument.

Task:

The Criminal Law

Section 47 of the Non Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1861 states that a person is liable for the offence of Actual Bodily Harm if they **apply unlawful force which causes an injury that is "not trivial but not serious"**. This might occur when you punch someone in the face (applying unlawful force) which causes them a black eye (an injury).

1. What does it mean to say that a **"person is liable"** for an offence?
2. To be liable for this offence, the defendant must **"apply unlawful force"**. When might you apply force to someone that is not **unlawful**? (One example might be in a football match when you accidentally knock into someone). Give a few other examples.
3. The offence is called "Actual **BODILY** Harm" – do you think that infecting someone with a disease counts as Actual **BODILY** Harm? How about causing someone to have an asthma attack? **Give reasons.**
4. What do you think that the phrase **"not trivial but not serious"** means?



Peter is 14 years old and is generally a very angry person. He asks to be excused from his Chemistry lesson so that he can go to the bathroom. While in the bathroom, he fills the hand-dryer with concentrated sulphuric acid which he took from his Chemistry lesson and leaves. Paul goes into the bathroom five minutes later, washes his hands and uses the hand dryer. The acid spews out of the hand dryer and sprays his hand. He suffers a minor burn, which needed hospital treatment and left a scar. The police investigate and Peter is arrested and charged with causing Actual Bodily Harm.

For the next two questions, you can only use arguments based around the **definition of ABH and on the facts of the case study**. Do not speculate or make things up!

5. Give **two arguments** that the **prosecution** could give to establish that Peter is liable for ABH
6. Give **two arguments** which **Peter** could give to say that he is not liable

Recommended resources:

Sixth form law website:

<http://sixthformlaw.info/>

Guardian law web pages:

<http://www.theguardian.com/law>

Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 11th September 2017

Additional Information:

Recommended reading & activities list:

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