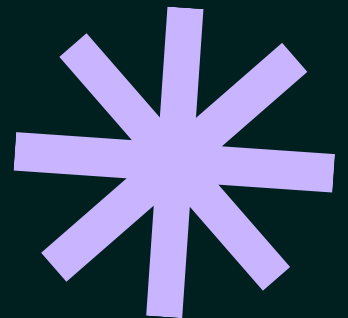


A large, stylized purple starburst or asterisk shape, composed of several thick, radiating lines, is positioned behind the main text on the left side of the slide.

**Welcome to
Legal Success Toolkit's
Study Tips & Tricks Workshop**



Case Summaries



- Before approaching any cases that you are trying to learn or summarize, make sure you understand the language.
- Use resources available online, as most seminal cases will have summaries online - but cross-check each one with other summaries on the internet.
- Do not recite what the case or its summaries say, put it into your own words.
- Remember each side of a case believes they have a valid argument, so always know both sides argument.
- There can often be more than one legal issue in a case, hence why it is called relevant legal issues - relevant to the topic you are focused on.
- **Never** use AI as it is famous for making up cases to suit your facts/legal issue.

Tips and Tricks



Styling your Case Summaries



The three main headings:

Case Facts

Relevant Legal Issues

Decision Reached and Reasoning

Case Facts

Your case facts set the basis for your Case.

They ensure you're familiar with the **parties**, familiar with the **case circumstances** and familiar with the **arguments**

These are useful and relevant for problem questions, as they help you understand where you can **apply certain principles or legal tests**, or what the **precedent** is for certain circumstances.

However, often people put more emphasis on this than is necessary. **All three of these parts are equally important**, none more so than any other.



Relevant Legal Issues

This should be in the form of a question.

Ask yourself **what main legal question is at the core**, that the court will subsequently answer with their decision.

- This will help you understand the main legal issues and apply them in problem questions.
- It also helps you link cases of precedent if the same legal issue is recurring.
- Finally, it will help massively in your identifying of the legal issues in a lengthy problem-based question.



Decision Reached and Reasoning

This will connect the two previous sections.

This will provide a decision reached for the argument within the case facts, simultaneously answering the question from your legal issues!

This is important to know as it will direct your advice in your problem question and will link up your conclusion in your essay questions.







Questions?



Exam Time Management



- Know the layout of your paper - whether you're to answer three questions, answer one from Part A and one from Part B, etc.
- As a rule, Problem-based Questions should be 3-4 pages, where Essay Questions should be aiming for 3 pages.
- Highlight the relevant facts in your exam questions and re-read many times.
- Never leave out doing a conclusion if you can help it. Even if its a line or two, marking schemes will often dictate specific marks to go toward a conclusion which you will miss out on if you dont include it.
- Start with the question you are most confident with - this means **1.** you will probably save time here and finish before your allocated time slot and **2.** you will boost your confidence and lock in.
- Whatever your time plan is going in... stick to it!

Tips and Tricks



Fail to prepare...

This saying exists for a reason. Preparing ahead of an exam is the key to acing your time management - obviously as you'll know the correct amount of knowledge to answer the required amount of questions on the paper.

One of the best ways is answering sample questions under exam-like conditions. Look into getting past papers from your university.





In the Exam

Let's take our previous sample exam in which you have **2** hours to answer **3** questions.

120 minutes in total

Remaining Time: 120 minutes



In the Exam

- Start with taking 15 minutes to read through your questions, choose which ones you'll complete, and jot down all your relevant information beside them.
- This may seem like a lot of time, but that is the point. Feeling like you have ample time in this part, feeling like you are on top of things, will subconsciously calm your brain down.
- This can make you less likely to panic and blank, and this is also why you start jotting down key cases, legal issues, and anything else important at this point.

Remaining Time: 105 minutes



In the Exam

- Make sure to also leave 15 minutes at the end. This is for checking over your answers, finishing any conclusions that you may not have gotten the chance to finish during the writing period, ensuring you included everything you jotted down on your exam paper/plan.
- Make sure you also use this time to highlight key points you want the examiner to notice. Make sure they cannot miss giving you the marks you deserve.

Remaining Time: 90 minutes



In the Exam

Now you take your remaining time (in this case 90 minutes) and divide it amongst the amount of questions you have to answer.

So in this case, 30 minutes for each of the 3 questions.





Questions?

Organising Notes



- In looking at notes, consistency is key. Make a master template for yourself that works for you and stick to it.
- Always redo your notes - whether it be handwritten or typed. You do not want to be in the weeks leading up to an exam trying to navigate your chaotic class notes.
- Have a notes section for miscellaneous definitions, or as we call it - Legal Jargon.

Tips and Tricks



Two Key Areas **DPTs and Case Law**

Or can be known as
Rules and Real Life



Definitions

Principles

Tests

These can be derived and created from case law, however it is important you understand all these in their own right.

These should be in clear, concisely formatted notes SEPARATE from your cases.



When writing your actual notes, there are many different ways. It is totally up to you which one works best, but here are some examples...



Cornell Method

Keywords

Mens Rea
Actus Reus
Causation

Detailed Notes

The types of manslaughter in Ireland are voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter. There is also gross negligence manslaughter. Manslaughter has defenses of insanity or incapacity.

Summaries

Mens rea is not visible for manslaughter whereas actus reus is.



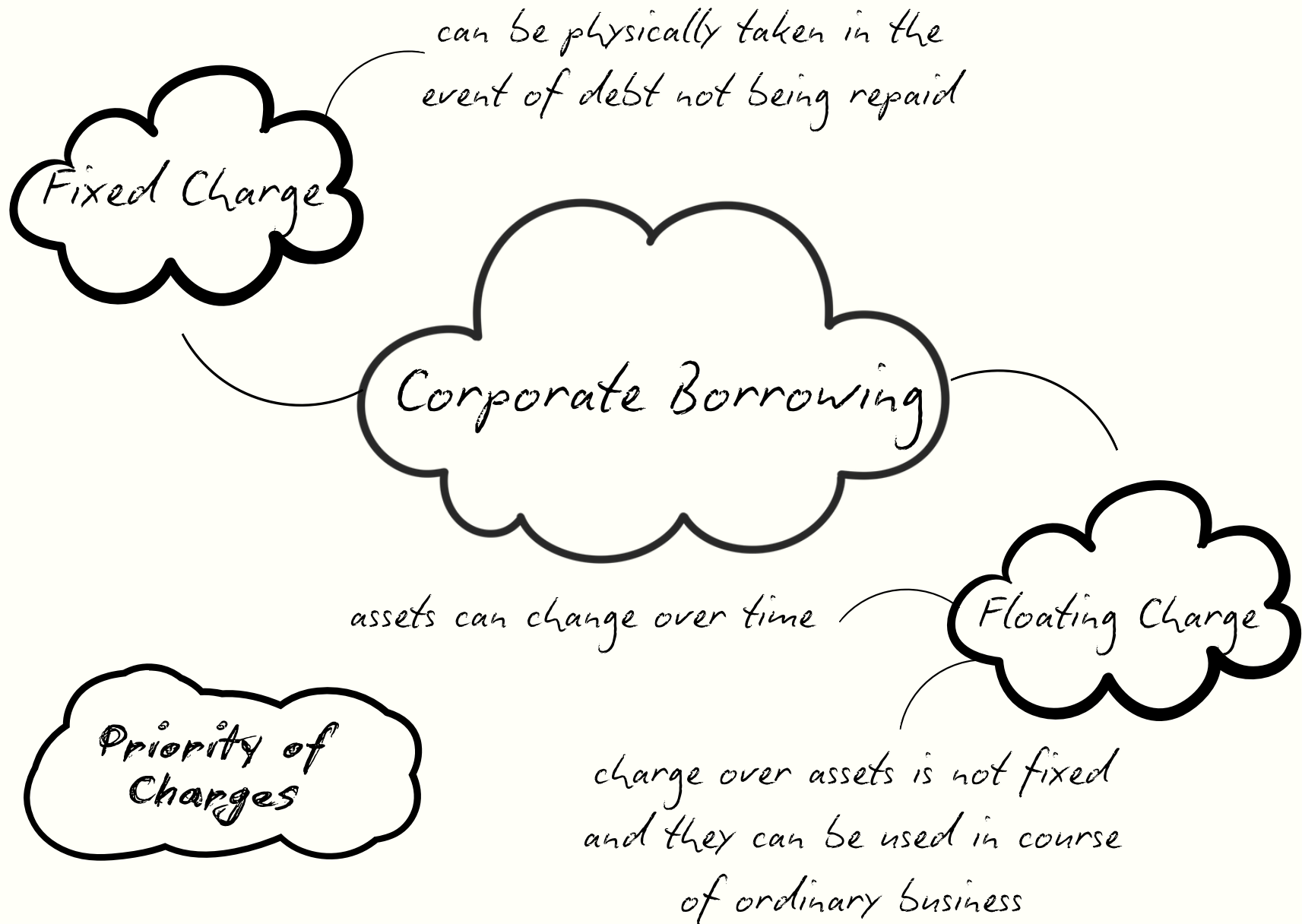
Outline Method

Offer and Acceptance

- Offer is a clear and unambiguous statement of the terms upon which the offeror is willing contract
- Types of Offer:
 - A bilateral offer is accepted by a promise to do something
 - AS unilateral offer is accepted by a performance of act or forbearance of an act
- 4 elements of a valid offer
 - terms must be clear, certain and complete
 - offer must be communicated to other party
 - offer must be made by written or spoken words, or inferred by conduct
 - offer must be intended as such before contract arises



Mind Maps



Most of the time, it is not your notes that are the problem. It is how you are utilising them.

One of the best tips I ever received, is to read with intention. If you are reading or writing just for the sake of ticking it off your To-Do List, it won't go into your head.

Reading with intention, even feigned intention, will help you absorb more information. Take things in smaller chunks, take regular breaks, movement breaks keep your head working.



Cases

Your cases - not to be biased
- should be on flashcards.

This ensures they're separate
to your notes and in a
different format so

Your brain can identify the
distinction between them.

It also helps when trying to
memorize them coming up to
exams.







Questions?

Learn your Learning Style



- You should be doing a ratio of 2:1 individual study to group study. They both have their benefits, but individual study will usually be more beneficial. Group study will encourage your brain to be more receptive to things it acknowledges.
- Studying in lots of different ways and manners, can help keep your brain awake and active.

Tips and Tricks



Despite what you may think... reading and re-writing is not the only viable learning style!

Many people are skeptics that other learning styles may work for them... but until you try it you'll never know!



The **FLEMING/VARK** Model holds the 4 main types of learning styles... however as humans we are constantly shifting in nature and you could be an amalgamation of any of these learning styles!
This is known as multi-modality

Visual Learning

Auditory Learning

Read/Write Learning

Kinaesthetic Learning



There have been other studies and other classifications of learning, however these are the most commonly used still to this day. However it is important to draw your attention to the latter developed **Sprenger Principles...**

1. Teachers can be learners, and learners teachers.
We are all both.
2. Everyone can learn under the right circumstances.
3. Learning is fun! Make it appealing.



This idea is considered a 'neuro-myth' by majority of educators, however we believe there is some weight and value to it if applied correctly.

Most people will be able to learn if the approach taken with any of these kinds of learning styles is made engaging and interactive - so maybe this will provide some ideas of how to make study more beneficial.



Whether they're true or false, is not up to us to say.

What is true though, is that utilising different study methods will help you find one that is right for you.

It will give you different ideas on how to study, so that you are not just writing the whole time, keeping your brain engaged by using different methods. And believing in something, will give you the motivation to study which is what will help you do well.





When you are trying to learn a new skill (like cooking or crafting), what helps you the most?

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A) Reading recipes or step-by-step instructions.

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C) Watching tutorials or looking at pictures of the final product.


When you are trying to learn a new skill (like cooking or crafting), what helps you the most?

A) Reading recipes or step-by-step instructions.

B) Listening to someone explain the technique or watching a podcast.


C) Watching tutorials or looking at pictures of the final product.

D) Getting hands-on and experimenting with the materials or ingredients yourself.

**If you chose  A. you
are likely to be a...**


Reading/Writing Learner

- **Take Detailed Notes:** Write out notes in your own words, focusing on summarizing and paraphrasing information.
- **Create Lists and Outlines:** Organize information into lists, bullet points, and outlines to visualize structure.
- **Rewrite Information:** Rewriting key concepts or essays can help reinforce understanding.
- **Use Journals:** Keep a journal where you write reflections or thoughts on what you're learning.
- **Read Books and Articles:** Read textbooks, articles, and other written resources that cover the subject.

**If you chose  B. you
are likely to be a...**

Auditory Learner

- **Listen to Audio Resources:** Use podcasts, audiobooks, or recorded lectures to absorb information.
- **Speak Out Loud:** Summarise material by talking about it aloud. Teaching the material to someone else can also help.
- **Group Discussions:** Join study groups where you can discuss and debate topics.
- **Record Your Notes:** Record yourself reading important notes or chapters and listen to them while you're on the go.
- **Mnemonic Devices:** Use rhymes, songs, or acronyms to remember important information.

**If you chose  C. you
are likely to be a...**

Visual Learner

- **Mind Maps/Diagrams:** Use colorful diagrams or mind maps to organize key concepts and show connections between them.
- **Flashcards:** Create flashcards with visuals or pictures on one side and information on the other.
- **Charts & Graphs:** Use diagrams or infographics to understand and remember information.
- **Color-coding:** Highlight or underline important information with different colors to help distinguish key concepts.
- **Videos and Slideshows:** Watch educational videos or create slideshows to break down complex material.

**If you chose  D. you
are likely to be a...**

Kinaesthetic Learner

- **Hands-On Activities:** Engage in activities that involve physical manipulation, like conducting experiments or building models.
- **Use Gestures or Movement:** Try pacing around while you study, or use hand gestures to mimic or act out concepts.
- **Interactive Learning Tools:** Use physical learning tools like flashcards or educational games that allow you to move or manipulate objects.
- **Role-Playing:** Act out scenarios or concepts to better understand and remember material.
- **Break Up Study Sessions:** Take frequent breaks to move around, stretch, or do light physical activities to keep your mind active.



Questions?

ILAC Method

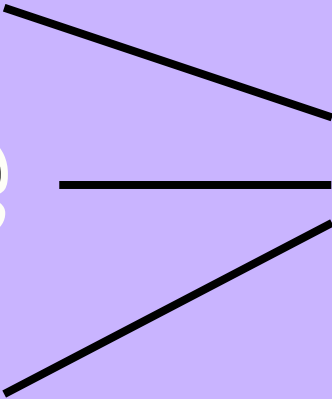


- Do not invent facts that are not directly stipulated in the problem-question. Never assume something unless it is stated there in clear writing.
- Always define the concept you are taking about, remember you are acting in this scenario as giving advise to a layperson, who would not have any context for even the most common legal principles.
- Never make a statement unless you can back it up with case law.
- If there isn't sufficient details on a topic for you to give confident advice to your client, feel free to say it! If the precedent in the law isn't clear and there are conflicting authorities which means you cannot give confident advice to your client, feel free to say it!
- Avoid colloquialism as much as possible.
- Even though 'you' are advising, try to avoid using the phrase 'I'. So... 'I think Steven should do this...'
- Always check the role the examiner has assigned to you. The whole problem question may be from John's perspective, but you're asked to advise Mary. This will affect the approach you have.

Tips and Tricks



**The reason most people
struggle with ILAC is not
knowing**

When
Where
How  **to apply it**

ILAC is an acronym standing for...

Issue

Law

Application

Conclusion

Issue

Many people fall into the habit and make the mistake of not knowing how to write an issue or reciting the facts of the problem question.

This is not what you want to do.

No one is getting marks from copying the question verbatim.

And remember, each letter of ILAC does have marks allocated. So never think you can leave it out.

This is your first chance to show off your legal knowledge and recognition of issues to your examiner

Question 1

Brendan is an elderly farmer and lives alone in a remote part of Co. Sligo. He has recently become increasingly reliant on his neighbour, Marie....'

HINT: every aspect of the facts is important

HINT: what are the main two aspects that will be relevant?

Verbatim Answer

Brendan is an elderly farmer and lives alone in a remote part of Co. Sligo. He has recently become increasingly reliant on his neighbour, Marie....'

THE EXACT SAME!

Identifying Possible Legal Issues from the Beginning

‘In light of Brendan’s age, and having regard to the degree of reliance and trust which he has placed in Marie, it seems prudent to consider.....

Law

People often get this confused with application, so let's clarify this from the get-go.

Law

where you state the DPT's (definitions, principles, tests), you mention relevant cases or statutes and what outcome they had on the general area of law you are dealing with.

Application

NOW you approach your problem scenario, you reference certain cases being similar or different, you apply legal principles or tests using your scenario.

Your LAW and APPLICATION sections should be a similar size.

If you make the mistake of merging them, your LAW section will be huge and your APPLICATION will feel repetitive.

Application

This is the part they are looking for.

Good students can recite and memorise the law.

Great students can have an in-depth knowledge of the law to the point where they can then apply that law to a situation in front of them.

It separates the students from the future practitioners.

Application

Your examiner is unlikely to set you a straightforward problem-based question. Keep that in mind.

If you are lacking clarification on a matter and say in your answer you wish to seek more info - or you acknowledge conflicting authorities - you should then in your application give BOTH possible routes and outcomes that could arise from this

Later in your conclusion, you can state which one you believe is fairer/more competent/ more likely etc.

Conclusion

Make sure for this section you are summarising the advice you have given, not the scenario in the problem question!

Always include a conclusion, leave yourself time at the end of your exam to approach a short 2-line conclusion even because if you have nothing there, then you are going to lose however many marks are afforded to it in the marking scheme!

Is this a problem-based or essay-based question?

Consider the following scenario:

"A shopper named Ciara slips on an unmarked spill in a supermarket that staff failed to clean promptly. Ciara believes there was negligence on behalf of the supermarket.

Discuss the legal principles and potential liabilities arising in each scenario, focusing on how Irish law addresses negligence. To what extent do the remedies and damages available in these areas of law provide adequate protection for individuals' rights?"

Is this a problem-based or essay-based question?

Ciara is walking through a local supermarket when she slips on a puddle of water near the produce section. There were no warning signs in the area, and it is later discovered that the spill had been reported to staff over 30 minutes earlier but was not cleaned up. Ciara injures her wrist and misses two weeks of work as a result. Ciara comes to you for legal advice.

Read this question in detail

Liam hires a contractor, Maeve, to renovate his kitchen. The contract specifies that the work must be completed by December 1st for a total price of €10,000. On November 25th, Maeve notifies Liam that she will not complete the work on time due to unforeseen delays but insists she still deserves full payment. Liam refuses to pay unless the work is completed by the agreed deadline. Has Maeve breached the contract, and what remedies, if any, are available to Liam?

What section of ILAC is this?

Under Irish contract law, a bilateral contract requires performance as stipulated in its terms. Under the Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980, service providers must act with due skill, care, and within a reasonable timeframe. A term can be a condition (essential) or a warranty (non-essential). The remedy provided under contract law is dependent on the classification of the term.

Law

What section of ILAC is this?

Liam and Maeve entered into a bilateral contract where Maeve agrees to renovate Liam's kitchen in return for a monetary sum. Maeve is delayed in the completion of her contractual obligation but insists she deserves full payment. Liam refuses to pay if the delay continues and is looking for available remedies.

Issue

What section of ILAC is this?

If the term is a condition, Maeve has breached the contract and Liam is entitled to terminate the agreement and/or seek damages for the delay.

If the term is a warranty, Maeve has breached a term within the contract, and Liam is entitled to compensation for the delay.

Conclusion

What section of ILAC is this?

The December 1st deadline appears to be a clear term of the contract. If it is a condition, Maeve's failure to meet it could entitle Liam to terminate the contract and seek damages. If it is not a condition, Liam may only claim compensation for delays. Maeve's assertion of "unforeseen delays" does not excuse non-performance unless a force majeure clause applies, which is not mentioned here.

Application

Referencing



- Always make sure that your OSCOLA referencing is correct - it is the easiest and quickest ways to lose marks in a seemingly perfect essay.
- Use your reading table to help you along the way with your referencing, take down all relevant details in one document. Do not have to go through all your readings again to try and get relevant information to cite with.
- Always remember to italicize case names and book titles. But do **not** italicize journal article titles.
- 'Ibid' is going to be your best friend. This can be written if the consecutive footnotes/references are the same source. This only works for consecutive sources, if a different source separates them it cannot be used.

Tips and Tricks



**In the realm of legal
academia in Ireland, there
is one referencing style we
use...**

OSCOLA

Primary Sources

- Irish cases • the Constitution
- statutes • UK cases • EU cases

Secondary Sources

- websites and blogs • books
- journal articles
- official publications
- Law Reform Commission Reports

Primary

- Give the party names, followed by the neutral citation, followed by the Irish Reports citation.

- Eg. *Riordan v Ireland*

[2009] IESC 44, [2009] 3

IR 745.

● **Neutral Citation**

● **Irish Reports Citation**

Primary

- If you can't find the neutral citation, then look for an Irish Reports citation, if not an Irish Law Review Monthly citation
- Eg. *Friends of the Curragh Environment Ltd v An Bord Pleanála (No 2)* [2006] IEHC 390, [2007] 1 ILRM 386.

● **Neutral Citation**

● **Irish Law Review Citation**

Primary

- Where the case is unreported and has no neutral citation, it should be cited:
- *First Plaintiff v First Defendant* (HC, 22 February 1999).

Secondary

When it comes to referencing **books...**

- Give the author's name in the same form as in the publication
- Give relevant information about editions, translators and such before the publisher
- Put a comma after this information, but not between publisher and year.
- When pinpointing, give page numbers at the end of the citation, after the brackets.

Italicised

- Eg. **Author Name, Title of Book, (No. of Edn, Publisher, Year Published) Page No.**
- Eg. James Casey, *Constitutional Law in Ireland* (3rd edn, Round Hall Sweet and Maxwell 2000) 126.

Secondary

When it comes to referencing **journal articles**, it can become a little more difficult...

- Give the author's name in the same form as in the publication
- Give relevant information about editions, translators and such before the publisher
- Put a comma after this information, but not between publisher and year.
- When pinpointing, give page numbers at the end of the citation, after the brackets.

- Eg. **Author Name, 'Title of the Article', (Year of Publication) Journal Name, Page No..**

- Eg. Terence Coghlan, 'The Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000' (2001) 6 Bar Review 294.

- For online journals, add the link at the very end like this:
<https:/insert link here>

Bibliography

- You must always use a bibliography when writing in OSCOLA, unless your individual lecturer has advised you otherwise.
- when citing in your bibliography, citations remain the same as in the footnotes. Except in regard to the author of a secondary sources name. Their surname will precede their forename, and their forename will be just their first initial.

e.g. Smith. J, *Title of Book*, etc.

Exam Referencing

- Referencing in exams can often throw people off... this is because you do not have to reference in exams.
- You do not need to have citations or a bibliography in your exam, that is kinda insane.
- If you are saying a case name... this can depend on the lecturer. But in my experience and opinion, the case name is enough. If you can get the year, that is an added bonus. You will not be expected to cite the Irish Reports numbers etc.
- Finally, if you want to reference a quote from a recognised legal scholar, their name and the quote is more than enough. If it is more obscure, try to add the article title but textbooks are usually all recognised.

TIP: please don't cite a nutshell/study book

How would you reference the following?



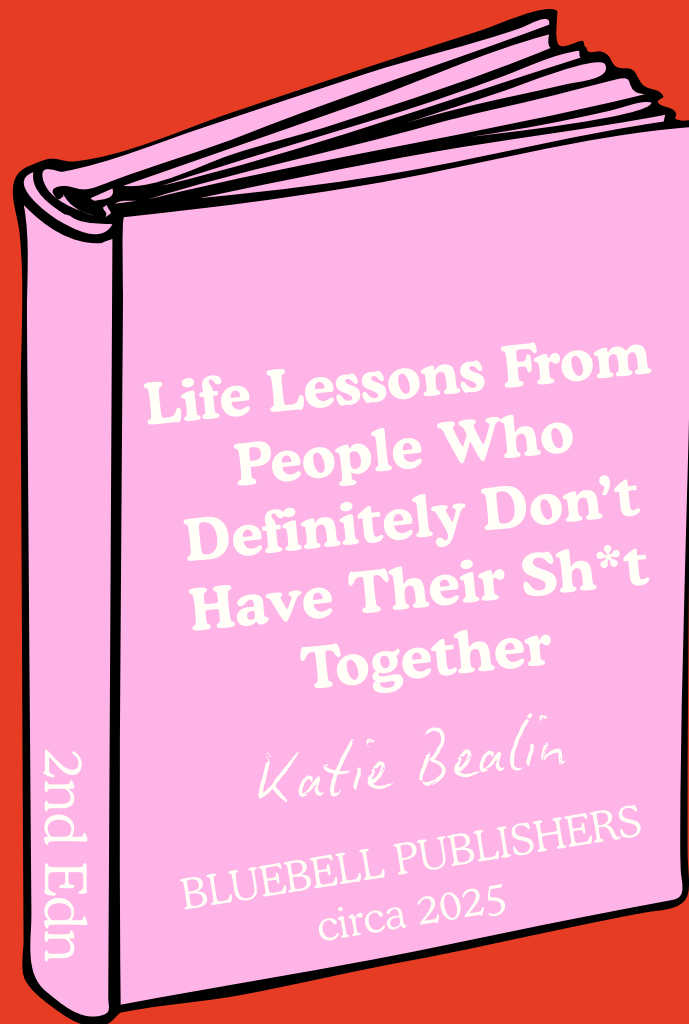
**Life Lessons From
People Who
Definitely Don't
Have Their Sh*t
Together**

Katie Bealin

BLUEBELL PUBLISHERS
circa 2025

2nd Edn

Katie Bealin, *Life Lessons From People Who Definitely Don't Have Their Shit Together*, (2nd edn, Bluebell Publishers, 2025) pg. X



Katie Bealin

"A 3-Year Study on How
Many Times You Can Call
in Sick Before It's a
Problem"

6th edition of 'The Lazy Workers
Guide' 2025

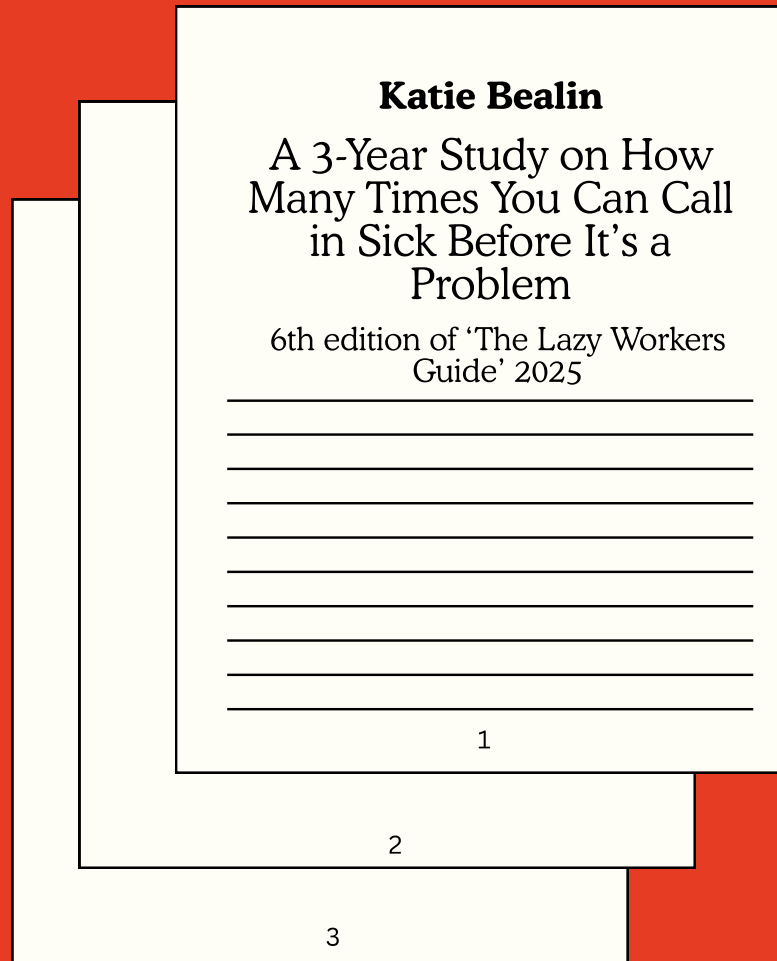
1

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Katie Bealin, 'A 3-Year Study on How Many Times You Can Call in Sick Before It's A Problem' (2025)

6 The Lazy Workers Guide 1-3



**The People v. That One Friend
Who Always '*Forgets*' Their
Wallet on a Night Out**

**Neutral Citation:
Supreme Court, 44th Case in 2024
3rd Irish Report of 2025, page 785.**

***The People v That One Friend Who Always
Forgets Their Wallet on a Night Out [2024]
IESC 44, [2025] 3 IR 785***

**The People v. That One Friend
Who Always 'Forgets' Their
Wallet on a Night Out**

**Neutral Citation:
Supreme Court, 44th Case in 2024**

3rd Irish Report of 2025, page 785.

Readings



- Reading with intention is my biggest and best tip. When starting out it is frustrating, but in the long run it will make your study more beneficial. Whether it is reading with real or fake intention, it must be done.
- Tracking your readings may sound tedious and boring at the time but it is so helpful and important when it comes to writing essays and referencing.

Tips and Tricks



**Readings can seem very
overwhelming when first
starting out.**

**But read smarter...
not harder.**

1. Know the basics before doing any readings on the topic. Use a nutshell textbook, a basic textbook, know your DPT's (Definitions, Principles, Tests), know your Legal Jargon, before even approaching advanced reasons. Don't think "I'll figure it out as I go along".
2. Before searching for your own readings on a topic, look through your module outline and college pages for any Lecturer Recommended readings. Use these AND your own found readings
3. Read through your Table of Contents thoroughly before starting, and cross out any paragraphs that don't seem relevant to your essay. Don't waste time reading unnecessary material.

Tracking your Readings on a Reading Table

A Reading Table

Name of
Reading (in
OSCOLA
Format)

Basic Topic Heading

"Your quote always in quotation marks" Pg. X

"Your quote always in quotation marks" Pg. X

Another Basic Topic Heading

"Your quote always in quotation marks" Pg. X

"Your quote always in quotation marks" Pg. X

Summary on the Reading

Every reading is coming from one side of a debate/argument. Acknowledging both sides and picking one will get your critical analysis. To help yourself, give a summary of which side the reading is on

Another
Reading (in
OSCOLA)

Basic Topic Heading

"Your quote always in quotation marks" Pg. X

"Your quote always in quotation marks" Pg. X

Make sure you have the page number beside each of the quotes, there is nothing worse than having to go through a reading to find a page number for a single line of text.

An example of 'Basic Topic Headings' mentioned before could be:

- The Main Definitions of Legal Principles
- Legal Tests and their Application
- Recurring Headings you see in your readings
- Headings from your Essay Plan or anything else you can think of!

Including a summary at the end will assist you in knowing which quotes go in which paragraphs, in terms of your further critical analysis.



Thank you for your time!
And do check out our flashcards...



legalsuccesstoolkit



legalsuccesstoolkit



legalsuccesstoolkit@gmail.com