

BOOK REVIEW LAW BOOKS FOR NEW STUDENTS

ESSENTIAL LEGAL SKILLS

ISBN: 978-0-19-923955-9

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
Price: £30.00

LEARNING LEGAL RULES (6th edition)

by Holland & Webb

ISBN: 978-0-19-928250-0
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Price: £19.99
www.oup.com

March 2008

STUDYING LAW

*A review of recent OUP titles by Phillip Taylor MBE LLB Barrister-at-Law
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It is often difficult to work out which books to advise a student new to law to read. OUP has come up with some useful works which I would strongly advise those studying law at 'A' level or as an undergraduate to refer to in order to see whether they actually like the subject or not! Of course, there are many others which I will review elsewhere, but these works are the basic tools for the aspiring lawyer just starting out.

The Essential Legal Skills Set

This collection gives one of the best groundings in the subject for beginners at either 'A' level or undergraduate level. It combines a useful *OUP Law dictionary* with Dr Strong's book *How to Write Law Essays and Exams* featuring the well-known CLEO system. Also included is *The Law Student's Handbook* by Wilson & Kenny which will give the new student all the fiddly bits of information in one source from law tests to the 'gobbledygook test' and useful website information.

Learning Legal Rules

This is also a must for law students. It is a guide to legal method and reasoning much favoured

by many first year degree courses these days.

There are eleven chapters in Holland & Webb which cover the sort of main principles which Lord Templeman has dealt with as a Law Lord, and which he describes so well in the Foreword to the first edition in 1991 when he wrote:

"This book answers all the questions which a student of the law ought to ask and propounds answers to questions which every lawyer and every judge should ask himself from time to time".

His concluding remarks are equally telling when he says " *the book should enable all its readers to guard against asking a silly question and thus provoking a silly answer*" (which we have all done as students and practitioners).

It is also about technique, whilst we are going through a period of substantial legal reform which is where the examiners like to place much of their questioning.

To go with the dictionary is another more detailed and advanced work called The Oxford Dictionary of Law Enforcement (also reviewed on this site) which I found of great use when teaching learners with some knowledge which needs to be covered in greater detail amid the never-ending reforms we seem to be having at the moment. I am sure that all students will find these works of great benefit as they begin their studies with the Distance Learning Partnership