

balance of probabilities

the standard of proof required in a civil case in order for a plaintiff to succeed in proving the case against the defendant

beyond reasonable doubt

the standard of proof required in a criminal case in order for the prosecution (the state) to obtain a conviction against the accused

burden of proof

the responsibility of a party to prove a case in court

civil jurisdiction

the power of a court to hear matters involving disputes between private individuals, and to award civil remedies

credibility

trustworthiness,
reliability,
believability

cross-examination	questioning a witness called by the other side, to produce information relevant to one's case or to call the credibility of the witness into question
damages	monetary compensation for harm or loss suffered
defendant	the person who is accused of a crime or a civil wrong
examination in chief	questioning a witness by the barrister who called that witness
injunction	a court order requiring an individual or organisation to perform or not to perform a particular action

intellectual property	intangible property that has commercial value and can be protected by law
jury	a group of people who listen to all the evidence in a court case and decide on the verdict
plaintiff	the person who initiates a civil action
pleadings	written statements of the parties to a civil dispute that set out the issues to be decided by the court
prima facie	at first sight; having sufficient evidence established against a defendant to warrant a trial in a higher court of law

private law

the body of law governing relationships between individuals e.g. contract law, torts, family law and property law

prosecutor

the person formally conducting legal proceedings against someone accused of a criminal offence, acting on behalf of the state or Crown

public law

the body of law governing relationships between individuals and the state e.g. criminal, administrative, and constitutional law

specific performance

an order requiring the defendant to perform the acts that the contract obliged him or her to perform

standard of proof

the degree of proof required in order for the plaintiff (in a civil case) or the prosecution (in a criminal case) to prove their case

the state

a term used to refer to
the government and the
people it governs
