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Учебник представляет собой комплексный курс английского языка для профессиональных целей в сфере юриспруденции.

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Для студентов, магистрантов, аспирантов юридических специальностей, а также для практикующих юристов, желающих систематизировать и углубить знание отраслевой терминологии.

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UNIT 1. THE LANGUAGE OF LAW

*Differences in legal systems – legal profession and its language –
English as an international language – discrepancy between legal systems’
terminology – the origins of law and writing – custom and code*

Task 1. Discuss the questions below. Read the text to compare your ideas with the ones provided in it.

- 1) Why is it important to be precise with your words in the legal profession?
- 2) How do differences in legal systems create difficulties for participants in international forums and trade transactions?
- 3) What are the reasons behind the specificity and differences in legal thinking among different legal systems?

Lawyers have a unique obligation to their clients to pursue truth and to seek justice. Language learning requires commitment, determination and persistence just like the pursuit of justice, but it is well worth the investment. Why is it important to be precise with your words particularly in this profession? Our language is a reflection of organized rational thinking which we express in words in a precise and concise way. A former United States president Abraham Lincoln gave a famous speech called *The Gettysburg Address* that is believed to be one of the most influential statements of the American national purpose expressed in 272 words. Interestingly, it was preceded by Senator Everett’s 13,607 word long oration, and no one remembers what Everett said that day in his speech that lasted two hours, but every American can recite the opening lines from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

Some law practitioners believe it to be a smart way to not economize and to think that the longer the document, the bigger the bill for the client. In fact, the most effective **advocacy** for a client is conveying in the most concise, precise way possible. The more difficult way is to find exactly the right words to use to **convey that message** whatever the idea is, whether it is a principle of contract or an argument in a brief.

Lawyers in particular need to pay careful attention to their language because, as was said, it is a reflection of our thinking, our principles, the arguments that we are trying to convey. Law school teaches to think like a lawyer,

which entails learning to speak like a lawyer, to be precise in one's language. For example, the word 'claim' has several meanings:

- 1) 'an announcement that something is true, although it has not been proved,'
- 2) 'an official demand for something you think you have a right to'.

If **relief from a court** is being sought, a claim is to be submitted, which is really different from using 'claim' in the context of 'to contend, to assert'. Being precise and the way one uses that word is just an example of how important it is particularly for legal English.

Working in a language that one is not native to is even more challenging. Nevertheless, it is vital for anybody who is interested in practicing law particularly because English has become over time the language of commercial relations for the most part. It is extremely important particularly for lawyers who are interested in commercial relations to have familiarity with legal English.

In recent years, attempts have been made to unify the legal norms of the **subjects of international law**, including the Russian Federation. According to the Constitution, the Russian Federation international treaties of the country are an **integral part** of its legal system. Along with this, in the international legal field and legal systems of some countries, there are still concepts that are absent in the legal systems of some other countries, including Russia. This is understandable, since the political and legal system of each country has its own specifics, reflecting the features of its socio-historical development.

With all the positive results of applying the unified regulation of legal norms in practice, it is necessary to take into account the situation that creates certain difficulties for the **parties to contractual relations**, at least at first, until they are adapted to the new **legal framework** in their activities. In some cases, the completeness and accuracy of the content of the legal text of other legal systems cannot always be expressed using the linguistic means of the domestic legal system. The legal language tends to match the terminology items to the concepts of phenomenon, which is not always possible with the help of means of the native language alone. The differences existing in the normative base of the law enforcement practice of individual states create certain difficulties for participants in international forums and trade transactions, primarily when choosing the language and drafting the text of the **treaty**. These difficulties are related to legal terminology, and the «stumbling block» often becomes a special (legal) terminology reflecting the specifics of a country's legal system.

The presence of various legal systems shows the fact of the specificity of legal thinking and culture inherent in them, representing the language, history and culture of a country, peculiar only to it and those missing in others. For example, the Anglo-American legal system stipulates that the parties to a **lawsuit** must take an oath on the Bible as follows: *I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God*. The differences between legal systems go back to the distant historical past, and they exist not only between world legal systems, but also between the legal systems of countries belonging to any one world the system. Although the United Kingdom, the United States and other countries are part of **common law** system, there are differences between them. For example, in the political and **legal system** of Great Britain there are elements of a **monarchical form of government**, in the United States there are public authorities represented by the President and Congress, governors are elected, and these features **leave their mark on** jurisprudence, terminology, and even the language of law.

Active Vocabulary

advocacy – представительство в суде

common law system – система общего права

convey a message – передавать сообщение

international treaty – международный договор

integral part – неотъемлемая часть

law practitioner – практикующий юрист

lawsuit – судебный процесс

leave one's mark on – оставить след в

legal framework – правовые рамки

legal system – правовая система

monarchical form of government – монархическая форма правления

party to contractual relations – участник договорных отношений

pursuit of justice – стремление к правосудию

relief from a court – судебная помощь

subject of international law – субъект международного права

Task 2. Match the words to their definitions.

1	pursuit of justice	a	a case in a court of law which concerns a dispute between two people or organisations
2	subject of international law	b	the way in which lawyers deal with cases in court
3	lawsuit	c	the act of looking for a fair solution of a legal matter
4	party to contractual relations	d	the set of laws of a country and the ways in which they are interpreted and enforced
5	common law system	e	an entity who possesses international legal personality
6	advocacy	f	a legal system that gives great precedential weight to common law
7	legal system	g	an individual or entity that agrees to the terms of the contract

Task 3. Fill the gaps with the words from the active vocabulary.

- 1) In some countries the woman may seek ... if her father prevents her from marrying.
- 2) Only 43 states have ..., except for a few dozen territories under the authority of the British Crown.
- 3) An inclusive ... does not necessarily prevent regional or local discriminatory practices.
- 4) In the old English system, there were different types of ..., such as barristers, special pleaders, certified conveyancers, and solicitors.
- 5) Ensuring effective implementation of an ... is as important as ratifying it.
- 6) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination was an ... of domestic law.
- 7) The affected party won a ... at a local court.

Task 4. Read the text again to answer the questions below.

- 1) What unique obligation do lawyers have towards their clients, as mentioned in the text?

- 2) How does the text compare the commitment required in language learning to the pursuit of justice?
- 3) What does the text suggest about the relationship between language and organized rational thinking?
- 4) How does the length of Senator Everett's speech contrast with the impact of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address?
- 5) How does the text illustrate the different meanings of the word «claim» in legal contexts?
- 6) What challenges do lawyers face when working in a non-native language?

Task 5. Fill the gaps with the prepositions.

- 1) Forensic investigation is increasingly playing an important role ... the pursuit ... justice.
- 2) Adoption of this Act on National Education was preceded ... ample national debate.
- 3) Infrastructural investment was a high priority in sustainable development policies, ... particular in developing countries.
- 4) When signing a service contract, be sure to pay attention ... the date ... incorporation of the company.
- 5) The burden of proof lies with the author in that suit, since the burden ... proof is an integral part ... any civil action.
- 6) Covenant provisions can ... practice be invoked before or directly enforced ... the State party's.
- 7) Corruption, according ... some writers, is endemic in all Governments; it is not peculiar ... any continent or ethnic group.

Task 6. How did ancient societies maintain order and record agreements before the invention of writing systems? Read the text below to compare your ideas.

Even in societies without written records, customs transmitted across generations governed human behavior. Evidence from Neolithic sites like Stonehenge and Skara Brae reveals organized communities requiring shared rules for construction, resource management, and social coordination. These rules, though unwritten, were enforced through collective memory and cultural traditions. Oral agreements, though vulnerable to faulty memory, likely served as early contracts possibly witnessed by community elders to ensure validity

and fairness. The stability of such settlements suggests that mechanisms for dispute resolution and mutual obligation were deeply embedded in these early societies.

The emergence of writing may have been driven by practical needs rather than artistic or literary ambitions. Ancient scripts like Linear B (Mycenaean Greece) and Mesopotamian cuneiform (dating back to at least 2500 BC) primarily recorded inventories, loans, trade agreements, and property transfers rather than poetry or philosophical works. This indicates that trade and legal requirements – not creative expression – propelled the development of permanent records. Societies engaged in regional trade found verbal agreements insufficient due to the risks of misinterpretation, deception, or forgetfulness. Written documentation provided a tangible reference that could be stored, replicated, and verified, reducing conflicts and enhancing trust between parties.

Furthermore, the complexity of early urban economies necessitated more reliable record-keeping. Temples and palaces in Mesopotamia, for example, served as central hubs for storing grain, distributing resources, and recording debts. Scribes played a crucial role in maintaining these records, using clay tablets to track transactions and obligations. The shift from oral to written records also enabled the standardization of laws and the expansion of administrative control. While literature and mythology eventually found their place in written form, the earliest texts were overwhelmingly practical, focusing on commerce, law, and governance. Thus, writing emerged as a tool for power, organization, and economic stability, laying the foundation for modern legal and commercial systems.

Task 7. Complete each sentence by forming a new word from the root word given in CAPITAL letters in brackets.

- 1) The ... of large Neolithic structures like Stonehenge suggests a highly organized society. MAINTAIN
- 2) In pre-literate societies, social order was maintained through unwritten ... handed down through generations. CUSTOM
- 3) Important oral agreements were often ... by elders to ensure their terms were remembered. WITNESS
- 4) The primary ... of early writing was commercial and legal, not literary. PURPOSE

- 5) The ... of the Linear B script revealed its use for keeping inventories and records. **DECIPHER**
- 6) A significant ... of oral contracts is their vulnerability to faulty memory or misinterpretation. **ADVANTAGE**
- 7) Written records allowed for the ... of laws and trade practices across larger regions. **STANDARD**
- 8) The ... of writing was a pivotal moment in human history, enabling more complex administration. **EMERGE**
- 9) Scribes were responsible for the ... of resources in ancient Mesopotamian temples. **ADMINISTER**
- 10) Early legal codes aimed to reduce ... over agreements and obligations. **INTERPRET**

Task 8. Read the text again to choose the right answers in the questions below.

1. What was the primary purpose of early writing systems like Linear B?
 - a) Recording poetry and myths
 - b) Creating religious texts
 - c) Documenting commercial transactions
2. How did Neolithic societies likely enforce rules without writing?
 - a) Through written codes hidden in artifacts
 - b) Via customs and oral traditions
 - c) Using complex sign language
3. Why might ancient contracts have been made with witnesses?
 - a) To entertain the community
 - b) To prevent disputes over oral terms
 - c) To satisfy religious requirements
4. What does Skara Brae's construction suggest about its society?
 - a) It operated under shared behavioral rules
 - b) It had no need for any rules
 - c) It relied entirely on written laws

5. What is a key limitation of oral agreements?
 - a) They are too formal
 - b) They risk misinterpretation
 - c) They require literacy
6. What content was found on Linear B tablets?
 - a) Philosophical texts
 - b) Inventories and archives
 - c) Personal letters
7. What likely drove the invention of writing?
 - a) The need for reliable trade records
 - b) The desire to write history
 - c) Religious rituals
8. How did temples in Mesopotamia contribute to early record-keeping?
 - a) By producing literary works
 - b) By serving as centers for storing and tracking resources
 - c) By promoting oral traditions
9. What role did scribes play in ancient societies?
 - a) They were religious leaders
 - b) They maintained records of transactions and obligations
 - c) They built architectural wonders
10. What was a significant effect of written records on laws?
 - a) They made laws more ambiguous
 - b) They enabled standardization and broader enforcement
 - c) They reduced the need for administration

Task 9. Read the following questions and discuss them in your group. Appoint a spokesperson to summarize your key points for the class.

- 1) The text states that Neolithic societies like those at Skara Brae «could not have been built and maintained without settled rules.» Based on

the text and your own reasoning, what might these unwritten «settled rules» have included? Think about construction, resource sharing, and leadership.

- 2) How did the transition from oral customs to written records fundamentally change how societies enforced rules and conducted commerce? Consider the concepts of vulnerability, permanence, and standardization.
- 3) The text suggests writing was driven by «practical needs.» Do you think the invention of writing was inevitable for complex societies? Why or why not?

Language Focus: Use these terms in your discussion: *customs, oral agreements, vulnerability, dispute resolution, permanent record, standardization.*

Task 10. Read the quotation below. How much do you agree with the premises it represents?

The history of human experience has shown that the individuals who have exerted the most potent influences in the world were those who possessed, in the most eminent degree, the supreme power of eloquence. The men who could persuade others have held, among civilized nations the highest places in the State, and gathered the honors and rewards which belong to an exalted station. The power with an orator possesses, touches the feelings and passions of the human heart, controls the will, and convinces the judgement. The proper solution, therefore, of the most important issues which have arisen, with respect to the fortunes of nations and of individuals, are the result of its exercise.

(Great Speeches by Great Lawyers by William L. Snyder, NY 1904)

Choose one of the famous court speeches and analyse the use of language that contributes to its power.

Task 11. Write a 500–600 word discursive essay on the following topic:

«While legal systems around the world are shaped by unique historical, cultural, and political contexts, they often share fundamental principles and face similar modern challenges. Discuss the key similarities and differences between major legal systems, and evaluate the impact of globalization on legal convergence.»

This essay aims to demonstrate your understanding of the world's major legal traditions, your ability to compare and contrast them,

and your capacity to form a reasoned argument about contemporary legal trends.

Your essay should follow a standard academic structure:

- **Introduction.** Introduce the topic, state your thesis (your main argument about legal convergence/divergence), and outline the main points you will discuss.
- **Body Paragraphs (2-3).** Each paragraph should focus on one clear aspect of comparison.
- **Example Paragraph 1.** Compare the origins and core principles of Common Law vs. Civil Law systems.
- **Example Paragraph 2.** Discuss a key difference (e.g., the role of judges) and a key similarity (e.g., the protection of fundamental rights).
- **Example Paragraph 3.** Analyze how globalization is creating both pressure for harmonization (e.g., in trade law) and resistance based on cultural sovereignty.
- **Conclusion.** Summarize your main points and restate your thesis in a compelling way. Offer a final thought on the future of legal systems.

While based on course materials, you are encouraged to conduct light independent research to find specific examples (e.g., a particular law, a famous case, an international treaty).

1. Core Concepts and Examples to Consider

To stimulate your thinking, here are some key concepts and examples you might integrate:

A) Major Legal Systems:

- **Common Law:** (e.g., UK, USA, India). Built on precedent (*stare decisis*), adversarial system, emphasis on case law.
- **Civil Law:** (e.g., France, Germany, Japan). Based on comprehensive legal codes, inquisitorial system, primary role of statutes.
- **Religious Law:** (e.g., Islamic Law – Sharia in Saudi Arabia, Jewish Halakha). Derives authority from religious texts.
- **Pluralistic Systems:** (e.g., South Africa, Nigeria). Blend of multiple traditions (e.g., Civil Law, Common Law, and customary law).

B) Areas for Comparison:

- Sources of Law: Precedent vs. Legal Codes vs. Religious Texts.
- Role of Judges: Creators of law vs. Appliers of law.
- Legal Procedure: Adversarial (lawyers drive the process) vs. Inquisitorial (judges drive the process).
- Contract Law: Differences in interpretation and formation.
- Human Rights: Different philosophical foundations (e.g., individualistic vs. communitarian approaches) but universal goals.

C) Impact of Globalization:

- Convergence: International treaties (e.g., UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods – CISG), supranational bodies (e.g., European Union law), harmonization of commercial standards.
- Persisting Differences: Cultural values (e.g., free speech vs. hate speech laws), constitutional structures, resistance to external imposition.

2. Functional Language Bank

Use these phrases to enhance the clarity and formality of your writing.

Introducing the Topic:

- «Legal systems worldwide exhibit a complex interplay between national tradition and global influence.»
- «The comparative study of law reveals both stark contrasts and surprising parallels in how societies establish order and justice.»

Stating Your Thesis:

- «This essay will argue that despite deep-rooted historical differences, economic globalization is acting as a powerful force for the convergence of commercial law.»
- «It will be demonstrated that while procedural differences remain significant, common principles of justice form a universal foundation for legal systems.»

Comparing and Contrasting:

- Similarities: «Similarly,» «Likewise,» «Both systems share...», «A common feature is...», «Correspondingly.»
- Differences: «In contrast,» «Conversely,» «Whereas Common Law relies on..., Civil Law is based on...», «A fundamental distinction lies in...»

Providing Examples:

- «For instance,» «To illustrate,» «A prime example of this is...,» «This is exemplified by the case of...»

Expressing Cause and Effect:

«Consequently,» «As a result,» «This has led to,» «This necessitates...»

Concluding:

«In conclusion,» «To summarize,» «The evidence suggests that...», «Ultimately, it is clear that...»

UNIT 2. SOURCES OF LAW IN THE UK

Common law and its origins – statutes and their role today – the doctrine of stare decisis – the rules of interpreting legislation – equity in common law – key historical events to shape common law – legal system evolution in the UK – codified systems and their origins – the role of the state and national sovereignty – modern convergence and distinction between legal traditions

Task 1. Discuss the questions below. Read the text to compare your ideas with the ones provided in it.

- 1) What sources of law do you know?
- 2) What are the origins of common law and how it was formed before a unified government existed in the UK?
- 3) What role do the customs play as a source of law in the modern era?

The **sources** of law must be considered as an integrated **system**, where each plays a vital and distinct part in shaping the UK's legal framework. While some carry more weight than others, **statutes** are universally recognized as the most authoritative form of law.

The role of **common law (judge-made law)** in establishing the foundation of English law is essential to acknowledge. Prior to a centralized government, **judges** created law on a regional basis by ruling on **cases** brought before them. Through meetings where they shared their experiences and the **rationale** behind their decisions, the foundation for a unified '**common law**' was laid.

The **hierarchy of the courts** directly influences the power of legal **principles** to **bind** lower courts. This system of binding **precedent** is founded on the doctrine of **stare decisis** ('stand by what has been decided'). However, a **judge** in a lower court may **deviate** from a previous ruling if they can identify a **material difference** in the **cases**, a process known as '**distinguishing**' a precedent. Furthermore, **higher courts** hold the power to '**reverse**' a precedent entirely.

The core legal principle in a judgment is the **ratio decidendi** ('the reason for the decision'), which is based on a point of law, not the specific facts. **Judges** may also include remarks called **obiter dicta** ('things said by the way').

These comments serve as a **persuasive authority** rather than creating a binding **precedent**.

In the UK, **legislation** refers to laws enacted by Parliament, known as **statutes** or **acts of Parliament**. To ensure consistent application, several rules for **interpreting legislation** have been established:

- **The Literal Rule:** A traditional approach where **judges** assign words their plain, ordinary meaning. The **Interpretation Act 1978** expanded the tools available to **judges** beyond standard dictionaries.
- **The Golden Rule:** This allows **judges** to avoid an **absurd result** that a strict literal interpretation might cause by choosing an alternative meaning for ambiguous words (*Grey v Pearson [1857]*).
- **The Mischief Rule:** This permits the **judiciary** to interpret a **statute** by looking at the **problem** (the «mischief») the law was intended to correct (*Smith v Hughes [1960]*).

Historically, **Equity** developed to provide remedies like **injunctions, specific performance, rectification, and rescission**, which were unavailable under **common law**, which only offered **damages**. The **Judicature Acts 1873 and 1875** merged the administration of these systems, allowing all courts to grant remedies from both **common law** and **Equity**.

Customs are now rarely used as a **source of law** in the modern era (e.g., an old rule permitting fishermen to dry nets on private land). **Conventions** are unwritten, historically established practices dictating how individuals are expected to act. As part of the UK's uncodified constitution, they are sometimes written down to 'formalize' the rule and are typically applied to **constitutional matters**.

Active Vocabulary

ambiguos – неоднозначный, двусмысленный

bind – обязывать

common law – общее право

consistency – логичность, связанность

deviate (from) – отклоняться (от)

injunction – судебный запрет

material difference – существенная разница

obiter dicta – неофициальное мнение (*от лат.* попутно сказанное)

point of law – вопрос права

ratio decidendi – сущность решения

rationale – обоснование

rescission – расторжение, аннулирование

rectification – исправление

sparingly – умеренно, скудно

specific performance – реальное исполнение (контракта)

stare decisis – правило прецедента (*лат.* стоять на решенном)

Task 2. Match the words with their definitions.

1	injunction	a	a legal doctrine that obligates courts to follow historical cases when making a ruling on a similar case
2	common law	b	the undoing or termination of a contract that may have been entered into as a result of misrepresentation, fraud, or undue influence
3	specific performance	c	a remedy whereby a court orders a change in a written document to reflect what it ought to have said in the first place
4	stare decisis	d	“body of law” based on court decisions rather than codes or statutes
5	rescission	e	a legal rule regarding the legal reasoning behind the judgement of the judge or jury
6	rectification	f	an opinion or non-necessary remark made by a judge
7	ratio decidendi	g	an equitable remedy in the form of a special court order that compels a party to do or refrain from specific acts
8	obiter dicta	h	an extraordinary order from the court requiring a contractual party to perform a specific obligation or act in accordance with what he or she had agreed upon in the contract

Task 3. Fill the gaps with the words below.

**ambiguous • material difference • bind • consistency
• rationale • sparingly • deviate**

- 1) The contract contains some ... terms that may cause discrepancies in Parties' interpretation.
- 2) International community must strictly comply with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and not ... from them.
- 3) In this system, declarations are very rare and relate to basic commitments that ... all Member States.
- 4) There is no ... between the result obtained and that, which might have been obtained based on the tests.
- 5) Suspending trading in can be harmful to the very shareholders, therefore these measures should be used ... and judiciously.
- 6) Disclosure is part of the core ... of patent law.
- 7) Due to the ... of the Organization's work in this field, this objective was fully achieved.

Task 4. Read the text again to answer the questions below.

- 1) The text emphasizes that the sources of UK law must be viewed as a «system as a whole.» Explain what this means and why it is important, providing an example of how two different sources might interact.
- 2) Describe the process through which English common law was originally formed, according to the text. What was the key mechanism that allowed regional judicial decisions to become a unified system?
- 3) How does the hierarchy of the courts enforce the doctrine of *stare decisis*? Furthermore, explain the two specific mechanisms (one for lower courts, one for higher courts) that allow the system to adapt and avoid inappropriate precedents.
- 4) Distinguish between *ratio decidendi* and *obiter dicta* in a judicial decision. What is the fundamental difference in their legal authority and function within the common law system?
- 5) The text outlines three rules of statutory interpretation. Compare and contrast the Golden Rule and the Mischief Rule. When would a judge typically apply one instead of the other?

- 6) What was the primary limitation of common law remedies, and how did the court of Equity address it? What was the ultimate structural change brought about by the Judicature Acts 1873–1875 regarding these two systems?
- 7) The text states that customs are used «increasingly sparingly in the modern era.» Why do you think this is the case? In contrast, why do conventions, which are also often unwritten, remain highly relevant, particularly in the UK's constitutional framework?

Task 5. Discuss the following rules, their pluses and minuses, find the cases to illustrate them.

*In case of any ambiguity, the court interprets the law. The word interpretation means a simple explanation and understanding of a statute. Interpretation is the essential function of the court. **The Golden Rule** is that the words of a statute must prima facie be given their ordinary meaning. This rule allows the court to alter the structure of sentences and give unusual meaning to particular words.*

*One of the ways to interpret laws or statutes is through **the Mischief Rule**. It aims to uncover the reason and objective behind a statute's creation. Its purpose is to aid judges in determining the «mischief» or issue that the legislation was meant to solve and understand the statute in a manner that meets the legislative intent.*

Task 6. Read the text below and match the paragraphs with the points they describe.

- 1) Modern framework of property law.
- 2) Embracing laws made outside the country.
- 3) Lord Chancellor becoming the last resort.
- 4) Immense upturn in property law.
- 5) Establishing Supreme court.
- 6) Widening voting rights.
- 7) Abolishing Parliamentary constituencies.
- 8) Introducing equity.
- 9) Making all remedies available in one court.
- 10) Written limitations of the power of the King.
- 11) Arranging circuits.
- 12) Centralisation of justice.

A) The Battle of Hastings in 1066 is widely recognized as a pivotal event in the Norman conquest of England. While little of the UK's current system originates from the pre-conquest era, William the Conqueror established a central King's Court or Curia Regis and appointed itinerant judges to administer justice across the country. Later, in the twelfth century, Henry II formalized this by dividing the nation into circuits, ensuring judges visited major towns on a regular schedule.

B) Sealed by King John in 1215, Magna Carta (the Great Charter) was not conceived as a broad declaration of principle but as a practical solution to a conflict between the King and powerful Barons who accused him of abusing his position. Intended to avert civil war, the Charter was a series of concessions to address specific grievances. Although most of its original clauses have been repealed, one enduring section guarantees that free men are protected from arbitrary imprisonment or seizure of property, entitling them to the lawful judgement of their equals and ensuring justice is not sold, denied, or delayed. Crucially, it was the first written instrument to impose limitations on the power of the King.

C) Equity, meaning fairness, has roots in Greek and Roman times. As the common law became increasingly rigid – offering damages as the sole remedy – individuals who felt denied justice could appeal to the Lord Chancellor. This official developed a new Court of Chancery where rules of fairness were elaborated. A landmark 1616 case established that when the two systems clashed, Equity was to prevail. This principle remains critically important, as it empowers judges to develop new remedies for novel problems.

D) The Reform Act of 1832, commonly called a bill, radically transformed Parliament by eliminating archaic constituencies. Previously, some constituencies had only a handful of voters and were effectively controlled by a few individuals. The Act eradicated this patronage, marking a vital landmark for Parliamentary democracy by distributing electoral power more widely.

E) Historically, various courts, notably those of common law and Equity, competed with each other. The 1870s introduced a completely new structure that merged these into one supreme court. This new court had different divisions capable of applying all remedies from the previous courts, eliminating the need for claimants to choose which court to use.

F) A significant upheaval in property law occurred in 1925 with the passage of five major Acts of Parliament, including the Law of Property Act, the Trustee