



# Thinking about Law?

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## What do lawyers do?

If you are thinking about a career in law have you considered what lawyers actually do and what skills you will need to be successful?

**Solicitors:** provide advice and assistance on matters of law. They are the first point of contact for people and organisations seeking legal advice and representation. Solicitors may work together within a law firm, in central or local government, or in the legal department within a business. Solicitors jobs are very different dependent upon the area of

**Barristers:** advise on specific legal issues and spend most of their time representing clients in court. When not in court they are usually preparing their arguments and researching their cases in chambers. They receive their information and instructions through a solicitor.

**Chartered Legal Executive:** is a qualified lawyer (not solicitor) who is trained to specialize as an expert in a particular area of law. You can also do a chartered Legal Executive apprenticeship.

**Paralegal:** traditionally considered support staff by the legal profession, but in practice many experienced paralegals so the same work as solicitors. Paralegal roles provide a good route into the profession for students and graduates and work experience in these roles can be invaluable.

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## Why Choose Law?

A career in Law offers more diversity than almost any other profession but it is also worth knowing that training as a lawyer will equip you with a skillset that could take you almost anywhere. From a High Court Judge, a Company Secretary, teacher, entrepreneur or Prime Minister, law opens so many doors. Do you recognise these skills in YOU?

**Problem Solving – Creative Thinking – Management Skills –  
Attention to Detail – Diplomacy – Effective Communication –  
Public Speaking – Persuasiveness – Research Skills – Analytical  
Ability**

**You can find more information at : [lawcareers.net](http://lawcareers.net) and [law.ac.uk](http://law.ac.uk).**



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## Pathways to Practice

There are many routes into Law and the graphic below clearly illustrates your options, from deciding to study for an unrelated degree and converting to Law at postgraduate stage, to undertaking an apprenticeship after your GCSE's. Remember Lawyers come from every walk of life and entry into the legal profession is possible at any stage.

