

7-Day Breakdown: Contract Law (Offer & Acceptance)

Day 1 – Foundations of Contract Law

Topics:

What is a contract?

Definitions by Treitel, Pollock, Anson.

Difference between serious promises and casual/social ones.

Cases/Examples:

Social agreements (not enforceable).

Illegal agreements.

Activity: Write down 5 daily promises and classify them: contract or not?

Day 2 – Essentials of a Contract

Topics:

Three essentials: Agreement (offer + acceptance), Intention, Consideration.

Focus on **Offer**.

Cases/Examples:

Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [1893] (reward adverts as offers).

Fisher v Bell [1961], Partridge v Crittenden [1968] (shop displays & adverts as invitation to treat).

Activity: Spot the difference: write 2 sentences — one as an “offer,” one as “invitation to treat.”

Day 3 – Offer vs Invitation to Treat

Topics:

Storer v Manchester CC [1974] vs Gibson v Manchester CC [1979].

Auctions, shop displays, advertisements, tenders, statements of price.

Cases/Examples:

Payne v Cave (1789), Barry v Davies (2000).

Harvey v Facey (1893).

Activity: Create a table comparing “offer” vs “invitation to treat” with at least 5 examples.

Day 4 – Termination of Offers

Topics:

Revocation, rejection, counter-offer, lapse of time, failure of condition, death.

Cases/Examples:

Routledge v Grant (1828), Byrne v Van Tienhoven (1880).

Hyde v Wrench (1840), Stevenson v McLean (1880).

Ramsgate Victoria Hotel v Montefiore (1866).

Activity: Draw a flowchart showing how an offer can end.

Day 5 – Acceptance (Part I)

Topics:

Definition of acceptance (Treitel).

Mirror rule (must match offer exactly).

Counter-offer vs inquiry.

Silence not acceptance.

Cases/Examples:

Hyde v Wrench (1840).

Stevenson v McLean (1880).

Felthouse v Bindley (1862).

Activity: For 3 sample replies, decide: acceptance, counter-offer, or inquiry?

Day 6 – Acceptance (Part 2)

Topics:

Communication rules.

Instantaneous communication (phone, telex, email).

Battle of the forms.

Unilateral contracts vs bilateral contracts.

Cases/Examples:

Entores v Miles [1955], Brinkibon [1983].

Butler Machine Tool v Ex-Cell-O [1979].

Carlill (1893), Brogden v Metropolitan Railway (1877).

Activity: Draft one example of unilateral acceptance and one bilateral.

Day 7 – Postal Rule, ICLR & Certainty

Topics:

Postal rule (Adams v Lindsell [1818], Holwell v Hughes [1974]).

Knowledge of the offer (R v Clarke [1927], Williams v Carwardine [1833]).

Intention to Create Legal Relations: Domestic (Balfour, Merritt) vs Commercial (Edwards, Rose & Frank).

Certainty of terms (Scammell, May & Butcher, Foley v Classique Coaches, RTS v Müller).

Cases/Examples:

Household Fire v Grant (1879).

Jones v Padavatton (1969), Parker v Clark (1960).

Hillas v Arcos (1932).

Activity: Write a one-page “exam recap sheet” with the rules and leading cases for each topic.

👉 By the end of the week, you’ll have:

A strong grasp of **Offer & Acceptance** rules.

A ready list of **key cases** with facts + principles.

Practice activities to reinforce exam-style thinking.