W201 The Individual and the State

Exam questions on Manual 3

Problem questions

These often mix up offences from Manuals 3 and 4 (as well as defences attempts and accessories). We will therefore look at problem questions again when the study of Manual 4 has been completed.

Essay questions

In the past these have covered:

- infancy and doli incapax
- mens rea and strict liability
- the reasonable person
- provocation/diminished responsibility
- the objective/subjective element in mens rea and defences
- intoxication
- consent
- the mandatory life sentence in murder
- dishonesty
- consent in sexual offences/intoxication

Topics not so far covered:

- self defence/prevention of crime
- duress/necessity
- insanity/automatism

It would be sensible to revise the special and general defences so that you could write about them (and any proposals for reform of the law) in essay form if need be. Look also at the offences themselves as possible essay question material eg the offences of murder or manslaughter and possible reforms.

Some students find that compared with a problem question an essay question may take less time in an exam situation. However you must be sure you have understood the question and are writing about both the right topic and covering everything you are being asked about. It is much more difficult to get the answer to a problem question completely wrong!

In previous years in comparable exams there have been three problem questions and one essay question in the criminal law part of the paper (from which you have to answer two). You should not rely on being able to answer only essay questions in the Criminal part of the exam. Plan to be ready to answer at least one problem question.