

Guide to i-Tutorials and Podcasts

W200: Understanding law

- PART A** i-Tutorials
- PART B** Podcasts
- PART C** Transcripts for i-Tutorials and Podcasts

PART A – i-TUTORIALS

1. Practical Issues
2. Guidance on how to use each individual i-Tutorial:
 - (a) How to Learn on your Law Course
 - (b) Legal Research
 - (c) The W200 i-Tutorials
 - Introduction to EU Law
 - Institutions and Sources of EU Law
 - Free Movement of Goods and People
 - EU Competition Law

1. Practical issues

Accessing i-Tutorials and Podcasts: you can access the materials from The College of law ELITE site at <http://elite.lawcol.com>. You can also access them through the support website for your module. Enter <http://www.open.ac.uk/law> click on the link to take you to the support sites and then select the relevant site for you, W200. You will see a further hyperlink to ELITE – Online Materials. You will need your OU Student Personal Identifier (PI number) to hand, as you will need this to access these resources. The site has details about how to select ELITE as a “favourite” which means that you can access it directly, and reduce the amount of clicks required.

A note on timing: each i-Tutorial takes around an hour to view in one sitting, and many students would take about another hour to work through all the activities in each i-Tutorial. However, there is no need to work through an i-Tutorial all at once, unless this is what you want to do. Each podcast is approximately ten to fifteen minutes long.

Tube line: At the top of the screen in each i-Tutorial there is what might be called a “Tube line”, with a series of “stops” across the top of the screen; this shows you on a continuous basis exactly where you are within the i-Tutorial, how long each section is and how close you are to completing each section.

2 Guidance on using each i-Tutorial

2.1 How to Learn on Your Law Course

This i-Tutorial summarises many of the matters dealt with in the Study Guide. We suggest that you watch this or read the Study Guide as the first activity on your module. This will give you an overview of the resources available and what is expected. The Study Guide has more detail and you will need to refer to it throughout your studies.

The learning outcomes of this i-Tutorial are that it will help you:

- understand some different ways of learning and hopefully determine what will work best for you
- use the range of learning resources available
- understand how to organise and manage your paperwork
- understand how to manage your time effectively
- recognise how particular defined skills will underpin your studies
- and help you get off to a good start

2.2 The Legal Research i-Tutorial

This i-Tutorial has been designed to outline the knowledge and understanding which you require as a law student to carry out practical legal research (e.g. how to find and use legal sources such as cases and statutes, and to apply them to legal questions to come up with an answer). It also looks at skills of problem-solving.

This i-Tutorial is used on all the compulsory courses and W221, W222 W223 and W224 so you may already be familiar with it. If you studied the i-Tutorial last year, and do not want to look at it again, that is fine; like all i-Tutorials, it is an optional part of your studies.

2.2.1 Overview of content

This i-Tutorial has been designed to introduce you to the knowledge and understanding which you will require for W200 purposes on how to carry out practical legal research (e.g. how find and use legal sources such as cases and statutes, and apply them to legal questions to come up with an answer). In doing so, it will also help you to develop skills of problem-solving.

The Legal research i-Tutorial is divided into 13 stages, covering a range of topics on legal research and problem-solving.

The Introduction at Stage 1 contains the learning outcomes of the i-Tutorial, which the presenter will briefly run through. He will review them at the end of the i-Tutorial. All these learning outcomes correspond with the learning outcomes in the relevant sections of Units 3 and 15, the two course Units on the study of legal research.

The remaining stages provide an overview of the steps involved in learning the basics of practical legal research.

2.2.2 Where does the i-Tutorial fit into the module?

Legal research is a topic which pervades W200. To support you, two units in W200 (Units 3 and 15) are devoted to the study of practical legal research. You are also offered the opportunity to attend a Study Day at one of The College of Law's centres to help you further develop your skills of finding and using legal information. If you are able to attend the Study Day, you will find that working through the i-Tutorial (either before or after the day) will be a useful complementary activity, which helps you get an overview of practical legal research.

In addition, during your course you will be asked to use legal databases to find legal information (and sometimes to go on and apply it to factual situations to solve legal problems).

This i-Tutorial will assist you in learning to do all these things.

2.2.3 Suggestions for using the i-Tutorial: how and when

Work through the i-Tutorial before attending the Study Day. This will enable you to get a "feel" for the materials which you will be using on the Day, and how they might fit into a strategy for carrying out practical legal research.

Alternatively, work through the i-Tutorial at a convenient point (or points) after you have completed Unit 3, but before starting Unit 15. Again, this will help to give you a "feel" for the materials which you have read about when studying Unit 3, and will also help you prepare for the second stage of studying legal research in Unit 15.

Whenever you are able to look at the i-Tutorial, bear in mind that there is no obligation to work through it all in one sitting. It is an equally valid approach to work through as many (or as few) stages at a time as you want to. The i-Tutorial has been designed to accommodate both approaches.

2.2.4 Points to Note

At one or two points within this i-Tutorial, and the podcast, you will come across the occasional reference to other i-Tutorials on topics related to legal research. These i-Tutorials and podcasts are not currently available as they are beyond the needs of your studies.

2.3 W200 i-Tutorial 1: Introduction to EU Law

2.3.1 Overview of content

This i-Tutorial looks at what EU law is, how it is made, how the European Economic Community developed into the European Union, and gives you (via a case study which continues into the later EU law i-Tutorials) examples of how EU law works in practice.

2.3.2 Where does it fit into the module?

As you will see when studying W200, EU law is a major source of law within the United Kingdom, and is often referred to as "pervasive", as it influences many areas of UK law.

This i-Tutorial will assist you in gaining an overview of what EU law is and how it works, providing a firm basis for your studies in this area.

2.3.3 Suggestions for using the i-Tutorial

Use the i-Tutorial to support your introductory study of EU law in Units 16-17. It would be possible to work through the i-Tutorial before starting to study the Units, but our recommendation is to use it as a review and consolidation device at a convenient point after completing Unit 17.

An alternative would be to use the i-Tutorial in the third Consolidation Week.

2.3.4 Points to Note

If you use the i-Tutorial for consolidation purposes, you will inevitably find that it covers areas which you have studied already in Units 16 and 17. If you are already comfortable with these areas, feel free to skip any sections which you do not want to cover. We expect, however, that most students will find the case study and practical examples contained in the i-Tutorial very useful for starting to get a real “feel” for EU law and how it operates in practice.

2.4 W200 i-Tutorial 2: Institutions and Sources of EU Law

2.4.1 Overview of content

This i-Tutorial looks at the different types of EU law, how they are made (including the EU institutions which make them), how EU law is used in practice, and the principle that EU law takes precedence over national law where the two conflict.

2.4.2 Where does it fit into the module?

This i-Tutorial will assist you in gaining a detailed knowledge of how EU law is made and used. It fits in closely with the issues covered in Units 18 and 19.

2.4.3 Suggestions for using the i-Tutorial

Work through the i-Tutorial as a preparation for Units 18 and 19 or while you are studying these units

Alternatively, work through it during the third Consolidation Week.

2.5 W200 i-Tutorial 3: Free Movement of Goods and People

2.5.1 Overview of content

This i-Tutorial gives an overview of the EU’s single internal market, and looks at how the single market operates in four particular areas; free movement of goods, free movement of people, freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services.

It gives practical examples of how the single market and its freedoms operate in practice, using the case study already established.

It uses the free movement of goods (broadly speaking, this amounts to free trade between member states) as a vehicle for explaining single market principles, and then looks in turn at the other three areas listed above to see how these principles operate in these areas.

2.5.2 Where does it fit into the module?

The single internal market is such an important feature of the EU that it come up in a number of Units. However, the part of the course to which this i-Tutorial relates most strongly is Units 20 and 21.

2.5.3 Suggestions for using the i-Tutorial

- Work through the i-Tutorial prior to Units 20 and 21, concentrating on getting a general idea of how the single market works
- Alternatively, you might want to work through the i-Tutorial during the third Consolidation Week.

2.6 W200 i-Tutorial 4: EU Competition Law

2.6.1 Overview of content

This i-Tutorial is devoted to one of the most important aspects of what might be called the “commercial law” of the EU: competition law. Very broadly, competition law is the area of law which deals with how businesses are allowed to behave when seeking to win market share and gain customers; it is a major area of law not only in the EU, but in many countries worldwide, including the USA.

The i-Tutorial covers two areas of competition law which are important in practice:

- the law relating to agreements between businesses (Article 101 TFEU)
- the law relating to abuse of market power by dominant businesses (Article 102 TFEU)

2.6.2 Where does it fit into the module?

Units 26 and 27 deal with aspects of free trade. This i-Tutorial will assist you in preparing for or consolidating your study of EU competition law.

2.6.3 Suggestions for using the i-Tutorial

Work through it before you start the competition law Units, concentrating on getting a general idea of what competition law is and how it works.

Alternatively, work through it after completing the competition law Units to consolidate your knowledge.

PART B – PODCASTS

A podcast is an audio file which you can listen to. It is stored on The College of Law ELITE site and is accessed in the same way as the i-Tutorials.

Podcasts are available for each of the i-Tutorials provided and they cover the same content as the i-Tutorial. The podcasts are stored as MP3 files. You can click on the MP3 file and listen to it on your computer. Alternatively, most people prefer to download the file on to an MP3 player, i pod or CD. You can download the file by right-clicking on the item and then selecting "save target as...". This means that you can listen to the podcast while travelling.

PART C –TRANSCRIPTS OF I-TUTORIALS AND PODCASTS

You may experience difficulties in accessing the i-Tutorials and podcasts satisfactorily if you do not have a broadband connection. It is important to remember that the i-Tutorials and podcasts are optional and can supplement your studies, but it is not necessary to use them in order to be successful on the module. However, we have provided transcripts although we strongly recommend, that you do not print these documents unless you have special circumstances.