

Revision Summary Chapter 2

The administration of the law

- Civil cases will usually commence in either a county court or the High Court. All criminal cases will commence in a magistrates' court.
- In civil cases, county court decisions can be appealed to the High Court. High Court decisions can be appealed to the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal.
- In criminal cases, magistrates' court decisions can be appealed to the Crown Court. Crown Court convictions or sentences can be appealed to the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal.
- The Supreme Court is the highest court in the UK.
- Tribunals exist to resolve disputes in certain specialist areas (for example, employment disputes, tax disputes, etc.).
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) tends to be cheaper, quicker, and more private than litigation. It is also more likely to preserve the relationship between the parties.
- The legal profession in the UK is rare in that it is split into two branches: solicitors and barristers.
- Increasingly, legal executives are undertaking much of the work that was formerly carried out by solicitors.