

## Unit 1 Handout 1

I. Briefly reflect on the main characteristics of the Common Law and the Civil Law systems. Use the table as guide.

	Common Law	Civil Law
Origins		
Countries		
Main Differences		

II. Watch the first part of the video and answer the following questions (0:00 – 1:08):

a) Where and when was Common Law developed? Who did it?

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b) Who started Civil Law? Where did it spread to?

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c) Who uses Religious Law?

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III. Watch the second part of the video. In relation to Common Law (1:08 - 2:57):

a) What is a precedent?

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b) Who determines the meaning of Legislation?

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c) What is “honing the law”? Can you guess the meaning of the expression from its context?

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IV. Watch the last part of the video. In relation to Civil Law (2:57 – 3:40):

a) Who writes codified law?

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b) What is the power of law based on?

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c) When are laws frequently change?

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V. The speaker has a clear point of view in relation to what is the best legal system. What is her opinion? Do you agree with her? Why? Work in small groups.

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