

1. Read the text and complete it with the prepositions from the box.

around • by • down • in • of • on • to • with

Common law was introduced by William the Conqueror 1..... 1066. However, it was King Henry II who wanted to introduce one single system of law that was common to all the country. When these laws became written 2....., recorded and published they formed the precedents, judges would use 3..... determine disputes. 4..... the thirteenth century, the Court of Chancery applied principles 5..... equity and did not follow the precedents established 6..... the common law courts. Equitable decisions are based 7..... what is considered right or wrong, on the merits of the case and, in accordance 8..... good conscience.

VOCABULARY TIP

The regular verb for the noun **rescission** is **to rescind** /risɪnd/.

The judge **rescinded** the contract because one of the parties to it was a minor.

2. Read the following statements (1-6) and decide whether they are True (T) or False (F). Correct the false ones using the space provided.

- 1 A case law precedent is a judgement or order made by a court. T F
- 2 An alternative name for case law precedent is man-made law. T F
- 3 The United States is a common law country at a state level. T F
- 4 Britain was under Roman Law until 410 AD. T F
- 5 There was no unified legal system in Britain under the Anglo-Saxons. T F
- 6 William the Conqueror set up the King's Court or *curia regis*, but never attended it. T F

3. Answer the following questions (1-5) in four words or less using the space provided.

- 1 Who came to the English throne in 1154?
.....


- 2 How many judges were appointed to the single court?
.....
- 3 What is the phrase that means judges travel around to various courts?
.....
- 4 When local laws were replaced by national ones, what were they called?
.....
- 5 When the rulings started to be written down, how did future arguing parties use them?
.....

4. Circle the correct word(s) in each of the following sentences.

- 1 The Magna Carta was originally signed to settle a dispute about precedent / taxation.
- 2 King John's powers were limited / reinforced by the Magna Carta in 1215.
- 3 The Magna Carta established / removed Parliament's powers over the King.
- 4 One clause states that no King / free man shall be imprisoned except by lawful judgement.
- 5 The document was first printed / studied in 1508.

5. Answer the following questions (1-4) in four words or less using the space provided.

- 1 How often were citizens able to take disputes directly to the King?
.....
- 2 Who did the King eventually appoint to receive his petitions?
.....
- 3 What did the Chancellor's court become known as?
.....
- 4 What new principles did this Court apply?
.....

6.  1.0.1 Listen to the audio and complete the text with the missing words.

Global legal systems are usually divided into two main systems of law. The civil law systems use 1..... laws whereas common law systems use case law 2..... and judges 3..... the law to find a solution for the 4..... and their 5..... The Italian Civil Code is an example of codified law. England and Wales and many current or former 6..... colonies have adopted the common law system whereas most 7..... countries have a civil law system. The civil law system is based on codified laws derived from 8..... law principles.