Dear Offer Holder

Now that your ‘A’ level exams are over, you may be interested to know how you can best prepare for your law degree starting in October.

A large London law firm, Slaughter and May, have very kindly agreed to buy one book for each subject studied by every undergraduate lawyer at Pembroke. This means that once your results are out and your place at Pembroke has been confirmed, we will be able to send you the first three books that you will need when you come to Pembroke in October, along with some suggestions for what you might read in those books before you come.

However, even before this point there are some general materials about studying law that you might find it useful to read.

As a general introduction, two books we recommend at Pembroke are What about Law? by Catherine Barnard, Janet O’Sullivan and Graham Virgo (Hart Publishing June 2007) or How to Study Law (5th ed), by A Bradney, F Cowrie, J Masson and D Newell (Sweet & Maxwell, 2005). These books will give you an important guide to how you go about work as a law student.

In addition to these, the Law Faculty also recommends the following books:

Finch and Fafinski Legal Skills (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007)  
Fox and Bell Learning Legal Skills (3rd Edition)(London, Blackstones, 1999)  
Huxley-Binns and Martin Unlocking the English Legal System (London, Hodder Arnold, 2005)  

Unlike the reading for particular subjects that we will send you later, please do not see this as a compulsory reading list, requiring you to read all of these books! Rather, see this as a source of potential information. It will help you to read through at least one of these books and you may find it useful to continue to refer to these books through your law degree if you’re wondering how you should go about tackling something. Try and find the book that you find the most accessible and easy to use, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any other questions about anything.

With best wishes and good luck for your results,

Rebecca Williams  
(fellow and tutor in law)  

Ariel Ezrachi  
(fellow and tutor in law)