

OSCOLA Referencing

OSCOLA is the referencing system used by single-honours LLB students. It consists of footnotes and an end-of-text reference list

Primary or Secondary?

Primary Sources

In Law, primary sources include domestic and foreign law cases, Acts, Statutory instruments (SI) and Bills, and EU legislation. Essentially, documents that enact the law itself

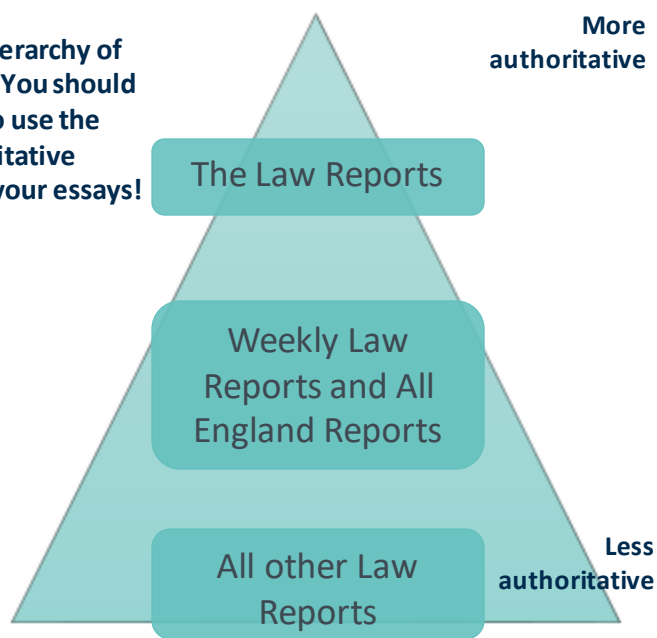
Secondary Sources

Secondary sources encompass books, articles, parliamentary papers, and newspapers. They are texts that criticise or comment upon the law

Reference List

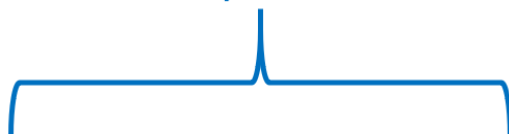
OSCOLA requires Primary and Secondary sources to be kept in separate lists in your end-of-text references. File your Primary sources under *Table of Authorities*, and your secondary sources under *Bibliography*

This is the hierarchy of law reports. You should always try to use the most authoritative accounts in your essays!



Here is an example of OSCOLA Referencing in action

Party Names



X Ltd v Morgan Grampian [1991] 1 AC 1

Note that the names of the involved parties appear in italics

This indicates that the case was reported in 1991, in volume 1 of the Appeals Cases (a branch of The Law Reports). It also indicates that the case report starts on page 1 of volume 1



Law Report



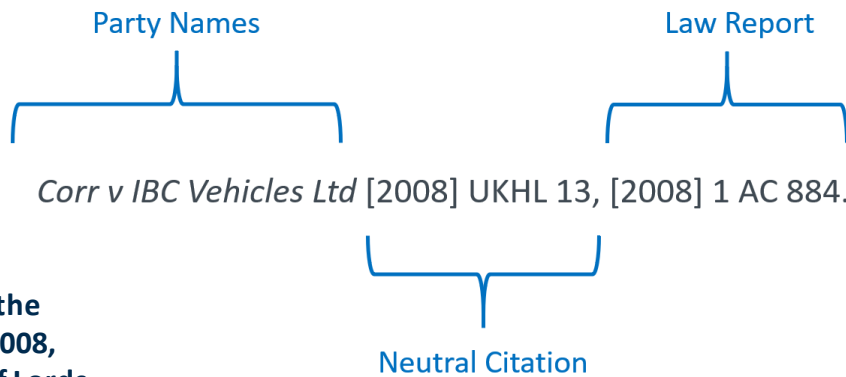
BRACKETS!

Use square brackets [] for years where the year is required to find the report

Use round brackets () for years where you can find the report from the volume number

Neutral Citations

Since 2001, cases have been assigned a Neutral Citation in addition to the law report information. This indicates where the case was *heard*, not where the case was *reported*



This indicates that the case was *heard* in 2008, before the House of Lords. It was the 13th judgement of the year

Citing Statutes

You should use the full title the first time you reference an act. For all subsequent references, you can use the abbreviation e.g. HRA 1998

Title of Act Year

Title of Act Year

Human Rights Act 1998

Human Rights Act 1998

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