



Teaching practical skills

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Skills v Substance?

- Does concentration on skills dilute the curriculum ?
- A “Woolly feel” to education ?
- “The best place to learn skills is in the workplace?”



The Role of Skills

- National Committee of Inquiry into HE (Dearing Report)
1997 www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/ncihe
- The employers view
www.sra.org.uk/consultations
- DMU Student Services research



DMU Research

- Student self assessment exercise
- 530 respondents
- Evaluate level of confidence in 7 skills
- Outcome:
 - Reflect on skills level
 - Engage with support mechanisms
- Limitations:
 - Definition of terms
 - Lack of subsequent engagement



Outcome 1: Experiential learning

- Deep approach to learning
- Higher cognitive domains: evaluating, creating



Outcome 2: Critical thinking

- Elements:
 - Searching
 - Connecting
 - Evaluating
- Example exercises
 - Your client owns a premium brand and is preparing to grant a licence. What processes are to be considered to protect the goodwill of the brand?
 - The agreement contains Clause X. Why?



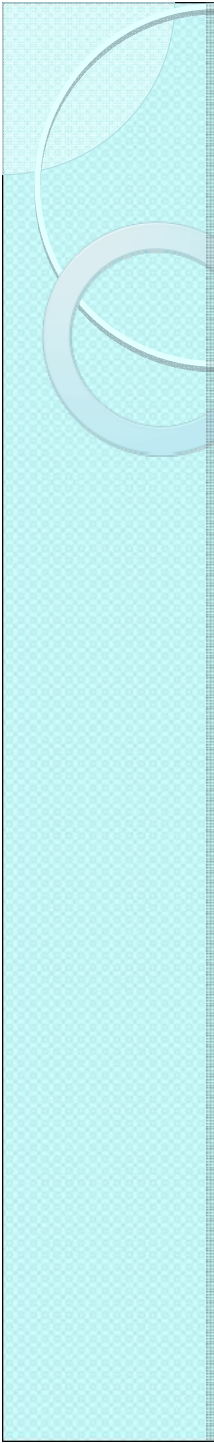
Ready to learn?

- Language skills
 - Resource bank for modern legal drafting
 - Prior learning
- Communication skills
- Reflection
- Supportive learning climate



Case study I Negotiation

- Task: Negotiate a royalty clause
- Outcomes
 - Negotiations skills
 - Improved group work
 - Creative thinking
 - Case handling
 - Client handling
 - Handling conflict
- Working in pairs

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- Tutor to prepare
 - Separate client brief
 - Ground rules
 - Non agreement not an option
 - Feedback on process as well as substantive agreement



Case study 2 Outline drafting

- Task: What are the key elements of a third party infringement clause?
- Outcomes:
 - Drafting whole documents
 - Evaluating documents
- Syndicate groups
- Tutor to prepare
 - Comparative precedents



Case study 3 Clinical education

- Task: Advising a client via real law clinic or simulation software programme e.g. SIMPLE at ukcle
- Outcomes:
 - integrate skills
 - transactional learning
- Tutor to prepare
 - Law Clinic structure
 - Continual supervision



The future:

- Widening provision of PG legal education
- Preparation for Work Based Learning
 - Standards include commercial skills
- Learning styles





References

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<http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/research/projects/tle.html>