OSCOLA 5th Style Sheet

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Introduction

This style sheet is an introductory guide to formatting common information types in the OSCOLA 5th referencing style, it also provides answers to frequently asked questions. We recommend that you use this style sheet in conjunction with the OSCOLA 5th Guide, which includes an appendix of a list of the most common abbreviations used in this style (see section 5.2, pages 65-71). For general help with referencing, see the Academic Skills Kit.

OSCOLA style rules overview

OSCOLA is designed to facilitate accurate citation of authorities, legislation, and other legal materials. It is used by students in Newcastle University Law School. It is essential that you **identify the type of information** you are referencing and follow the guidance as closely as possible. Where there aren't specific instructions for what you need, follow the basic guiding principles **as closely and consistently** as you can.

OSCOLA is a **footnote** style, meaning a superscript number is placed in the text, and a citation is placed in the corresponding footnote below your text. For example:

In the text:

A valid contract requires offer, acceptance, consideration, and intention to create legal relations.[1]

In the footnote:

[1] *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co* [1893] 1 QB 256 (CA).

In the bibliography:

Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co [1893] 1 QB 256 (CA)

To find out more about footnotes and bibliography, refer to following FAQs

1. What is the difference between the footnotes and bibliography?
2. How should my bibliography be set out?
3. What punctuation should be used in my footnotes?
4. How do I reference subsequent citations in my footnotes?
5. How do I refer to multiple sources within one footnote?
6. What are pinpoints and how do I use them?

Primary Sources (basic principles)

Cases from England and Wales

Cases are cited in one of the following three ways depending on the case, its date and where it has been reported:

1. A law report citation
2. A medium neutral citation and a law report citation
3. A medium neutral citation

For a list of abbreviations for key law reports see section 5.2 (pages 65–66) of the OSCOLA 5th Guide. Alternatively use the Cardiff Index of Legal Abbreviations to search for law report titles and abbreviations. For a guide to medium neutral abbreviations see section 5.1 (page 63-64) of OSCOLA 5th Guide.

Formula for cases which only have a law report citation

case name | [year] | volume | report abbreviation | first page | (court identifier) OR *case name* | (year) | volume | report abbreviation | first page | (court identifier)

Footnote

[1] *Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932] AC 562 (HL).

Bibliography

Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] AC 562 (HL)

Further explanation

Older cases (pre-2001) will only consist of a case name and the reference to the report. This is because medium neutral citations were only introduced in 2001. The formula above has two variations, which differ in the use of brackets around the year. Square brackets **[year]** are used when the year is essential for identifying the correct volume—for example, where volume numbering restarts at 1 each year, making the year necessary to locate the information. Round brackets **(year)** are used when volumes are numbered independently, so the year is not needed to find the relevant information.

Formula for cases which have a medium neutral citation and a law report citation

case name | [year] | court | number, | [year] | volume | report abbreviation | first page OR *case name* | [year] | court | number, | (year) | volume | report abbreviation | first page

Footnote

[2] *Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd* [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884.

Bibliography

Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884

Further explanation

Cases decided after 2001 will usually have both a medium neutral citation and a law report citation, following the format outlined above, separated with a comma. The main exception is where a case has not been reported in a law report, in which case only a medium neutral citation will be available.

Formula for cases which only have a medium neutral citation

case name | [year] | court | number

Footnote

[3] *Harrison v Cameron* [2024] EWCA Civ 547.

Bibliography

Harrison v Cameron [2024] EWCA Civ 547

Further explanation

If a case has a medium neutral citation but no reported version, you simply cite the medium neutral citation alone. For more information refer to

What is a medium neutral citation? FAQ.

UK Legislation

Statutes

Formula

short title | year

Footnote

[4] Human Rights Act 1998.

Bibliography

Human Rights Act 1998

Bills

Formula

title | HC Bill | (session) | [number]
OR
title | HL Bill | (session) | number

Footnote

[5] Data Protection HL Bill (2017–2019) 66.

[6] European Union (Withdrawal) HC Bill (2017–19) [5].

Bibliography

Data Protection HL Bill (2017–2019) 66

European Union (Withdrawal) HC Bill (2017–19) [5]

Further explanation

The session date can either be written out in full (e.g. 2017-2019) or the second date can be shortened depending on whether it runs on from first date or not (e.g. 2017-19).

Statutory Instruments

Formula

legislation name | year, | SI year/serial number

Footnote

[7] Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018, SI 2018/480.

Bibliography

Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018, SI 2018/480

Secondary Sources (basic principles of common types)

Books

Formula

author, | *title* | (additional information, | edition, | publisher | year)

Footnote

[8] Catherine Elliott and Frances Quinn, *Contract Law* (12th edn, Pearson 2020).

Bibliography

Elliott C and F Quinn, *Contract Law* (12th edn, Pearson 2020)

Edited and translated books

Formula

author (ed/s OR tr/s), | *title* | (additional information, | edition, | publisher | year)

Footnote

[9] Peter Cane and Herbert Kritzer (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research* (OUP 2010).

Bibliography

Cane P and H Kritzer (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research* (OUP 2010)

Contributions to edited books

Formula

author, | 'title' | in editor (ed/s), | *book title* | (additional information, | publisher | year)

Footnote

[10] John Cartwright, 'The Fiction of the "Reasonable Man"' in AG Castermans and others (eds), *Ex Libris Hans Nieuwenhuis* (Kluwer 2009).

Bibliography

Cartwright J, 'The Fiction of the "Reasonable Man"' in AG Castermans and others (eds), *Ex Libris Hans Nieuwenhuis* (Kluwer 2009)

Journal articles

Formula

author, | 'title' | [year] | journal abbreviation | first page of article
OR
author, | 'title' | (year) | volume(issue) | journal abbreviation | first page of article

Footnote

[11] Paul Craig, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440.

[12] Alison L Young, 'In Defence of Due Deference' (2009) 72 MLR 554.

Bibliography

Craig P, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440
Young AL, 'In Defence of Due Deference' (2009) 72 MLR 554

Further explanation

The formula above has two variations, which differ in the use of brackets around the year. Square brackets **[year]** are used when the year is essential for identifying the correct volume—for example, where volume numbering restarts at 1 each year, making the year necessary to locate the information. Round brackets **(year)** are used when volumes are numbered independently, so the year is **not needed** to find the relevant information.

For a list of abbreviations for key journal titles see section 5.2 (pages 66–67) of the OSCOLA 5th Guide. Alternatively use the Cardiff Index of Legal Abbreviations to search for journal titles and abbreviations.

Websites

Formula

author, | 'title' | (*website title,* | full date) | <URL> accessed date OR DOI:

Footnote

[13] Cyclefree, 'Is This Really Necessary, Minister?' (*Legal Feminist*, 27 April 2023) <https://www.legalfeminist.org.uk/2023/04/27/is-this-really-necessary-minister/> accessed 2 June 2026.

Bibliography

Cyclefree, 'Is This Really Necessary, Minister?' (*Legal Feminist*, 27 April 2023) <https://www.legalfeminist.org.uk/2023/04/27/is-this-really-necessary-minister/> accessed 2 June 2026

Further explanation

Websites cover online content such as online dictionaries and blogs but does not cover every source found online. Before citing as a website, check whether your information source features in the OSCOLA 5th Guide elsewhere. If so, reference it by its specific information type. Newcastle Law School has agreed that there is **no need to place perma.cc links** as the OSCOLA 5th Guide advises. **Simply use the URL and access date** as seen in the formula above.

Newspaper articles

Formula

author, | 'title' | *newspaper title* | (full date) | first page of article if known **OR** <URL> accessed date if needed

Footnote

[14] Jane Croft, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (1 July 2010) 3.

[15] Patrick Wintour, 'Russia Accused of "Cynical Brinkmanship" Over Delays to Grain Deal Renewal' *The Guardian* (13 July 2023) < https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/13/russia-accused-of-cynical-brinkmanship-over-delays-to-grain-deal-renewal> accessed 3 June 2026.

Bibliography

Croft J, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (1 July 2010) 3

Wintour P, 'Russia Accused of "Cynical Brinkmanship" Over Delays to Grain Deal Renewal' *The Guardian* (13 July 2023) < https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/13/russia-accused-of-cynical-brinkmanship-over-delays-to-grain-deal-renewal> accessed 3 June 2026

Further explanation

For printed newspaper articles, include the first page of the referenced article, if known. If you have accessed the article online, include the URL and access date.

Online videos

Formula

author, | 'title' | (*website title,* | full date) | timestamp range | <URL> accessed date

Footnote

[16] UK Supreme Court, 'Lady Hale's Valedictory Remarks – 18 December 2019' (*YouTube*, 18 December 2019) 42:41–51:17 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkuLOTvB4Jc> accessed 4 April 2026.

Bibliography

UK Supreme Court, 'Lady Hale's Valedictory Remarks – 18 December 2019' (*YouTube*, 18 December 2019) 42:41–51:17 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkuLOTvB4Jc> accessed 4 April 2026

Gen AI

Formula

AI tool name, | response to 'prompts given', | name of AI tool developer | (full date of response creation)

Footnote

[17] ChatGPT, response to 'Explain how artificial intelligence is used in law firms', OpenAI (21 May 2026).

Bibliography

ChatGPT, response to 'Explain how artificial intelligence is used in law firms', OpenAI (21 May 2026)

Other secondary sources

For citation guidance relating to case notes, book reviews, working papers, podcasts, social media posts, lectures, speeches, interviews, conference papers, theses, Hansard and parliamentary reports, command papers, personal communications and Law Commission reports and papers, refer to the OSCOLA 5th Guide, section 3 (pages 33–44).

For other secondary reports and government publications follow the general principles laid out in OSCOLA 5th Guide section 3.1 (page 33).

If citing an online source, ensure that you **do not use an unstable link of a PDF or other downloaded content**, but rather **use the landing page where this content can be accessed**.

If you can't find specific guidance on the type of secondary source you are trying to cite, use the generic formula below.

Formula

author, | *title if it has an ISBN* OR 'title' | (additional information, | date) | <URL> accessed date OR DOI: if an online source

Footnote

[18] Competition and Markets Authority, 'Microsoft/Activision Blizzard Merger Inquiry' (GOV.UK, 26 April 2023) <https://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/microsoft-slash-activision-blizzard-merger-inquiry#final-report> accessed 28 May 2026.

Bibliography

Competition and Markets Authority, 'Microsoft/Activision Blizzard Merger Inquiry' (GOV.UK, 26 April 2023) <https://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/microsoft-slash-activision-blizzard-merger-inquiry#final-report> accessed 28 May 2026

Further explanation

Additional information could include any information that would help the reader locate the source such as a document number, a document description or a publisher etc.

International Sources

For detailed information and general principles on international sources, please see pages 45–62 of the OSCOLA 5th Guide.

For abbreviations of international reports, journals and treaty series see section 5.2.1 (pages 66–67). For abbreviations of international institutions and bodies see 5.2.6 (page 70) and for guides to other jurisdictions see 5.3 (page 71).

Treaties

Formula

treaty title | (parties' names, if bilateral or trilateral) | (date of adoption/signature, date of entry into force) | treaty series identifying information | (short title if appropriate)

Footnote

[19] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (adopted 23 May 1969, entered into force 27 January 1980) 1155 UNTS 331 ('VCLT').

Bibliography

Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (adopted 23 May 1969, entered into force 27 January 1980) 1155 UNTS 331

Further explanation

Make sure you use the following abbreviations for different treaty series: UNTS for United Nations Treaty Series; LNTS for League of Nations Treaty Series; CTS for Consolidated Treaty Series; UKTS for UK Treaty Series. This is also the citation order preference for citing treaties. For a full list of abbreviations see OSCOLA 5th Guide section 5.2.1 (page 67) and pages 45–46 for further treaty series guidance.

United Nations Documents (general principles)

Formula

body, | 'title' | (date) | unique identifying information
OR
body | resolution number (date) | unique identifying information

Footnote

[20] HRC, 'Concluding Observations on the Sixth Periodic Report of Hungary' (9 May 2018) CCPR/C/HUN/CO/6.

[21] UNSC Res 1373 (28 September 2001) UN Doc S/RES/1373.

Bibliography

HRC, 'Concluding Observations on the Sixth Periodic Report of Hungary' (9 May 2018) CCPR/C/HUN/CO/6

UNSC Res 1373 (28 September 2001) UN Doc S/RES/1373

Further explanation

Make sure you use the following abbreviations for UN bodies and identifying information: UN for United Nations; UNSC for UN Security Council; UNGA for UN General Assembly; ILC for International Law Commission; HRC for Human Rights Council; UNHCR for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Res for resolution; No for number and Doc for document. See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.2 (page 48) for further help and guidance on UN documents.

International Court of Justice (ICJ) and Permanent Court of Justice (PCIJ)

Formula

case name | *(parties' names OR Advisory Opinion)* | (phase) | (type of decision) | [year] | report information | first page

Footnote

[22] *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v United States of America)* (Merits) (Judgement) [1986] ICJ Rep 14.

Bibliography

Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v United States of America) (Merits) (Judgement) [1986] ICJ Rep 14

Further explanation

In the formula above, 'phrase' refers to what part of the proceedings the court is dealing with such as 'merits', 'preliminary objections', 'provisional measures', 'compensation' etc. You only need to use the phase when the case you are citing has multiple decisions and you need to clarify which one you're citing. For a single decision, there may be no phase to include and you will only need to cite 'the type of decision'. The 'type of decision' refers to what type of document the court has issued e.g. 'judgment', 'order' and 'advisory opinion'. See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.3 (page 51) for further help and guidance on international cases and decisions.

International Criminal Court (ICC) and ad hoc criminal tribunals

Formula

case name | (type of decision) | case/document number | (date)

Footnote

[23] *Prosecutor v Taylor* (Decision on Immunity from Jurisdiction) SCSL-03-01-I-059 (31 May 2004).

Bibliography

Prosecutor v Taylor (Decision on Immunity from Jurisdiction) SCSL-03-01-I-059 (31 May 2004)

Further explanation

See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.3.3 (page 53) for further help and guidance on ICC or international criminal tribunal decisions.

European Union

EU treaties and protocols

Formula

legislation title | [year] | OJ series | issue/first page

Footnote

[24] Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [2016] OJ C202/47.

Bibliography

Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [2016] OJ C202/47

Further explanation

Make sure you use the correct letter after OJ. The Letter 'L' after OJ denotes the legislative series, the letter 'C' series contains EU information and notices and the letter 'S' series contains invitations to tender for public contracts. See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.4.1 (page 56) for further help and guidance on EU legislation.

EU Regulations, Directives, Decisions, Recommendations and Opinions

Formula

legislation name, including type of legislation and number | title | [year] | OJ L issue/first page

Footnote

[25] Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation) [2016] OJ L119/1.

Bibliography

Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation) [2016] OJ L119/1

Further explanation

See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.4.1 (page 56) for further help and guidance.

Court of Justice of the European Union and General Court decisions

Formula

case number | *case name* | European Case Law Identifier

Footnote

[26] Case C-403/03 *Schempp v Finanzamt* EU:C:2005:446.

Bibliography

Case C-403/03 Schempp v Finanzamt EU:C:2005:446

Further explanation

Make sure you use the correct case number prefix. For example, use the prefix C- for cases registered since 1989 at the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and T- for cases registered since 1989 at the General Court (GC). See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.4.2 (page 58) for further help and guidance on case numbers and European Case Law Identifiers.

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) decisions

Formula

case name | (phase) | (type of decision or document) | [chamber/ committee] | court | application number | (date)

Footnote

[27] *Broniowski v Poland* (Merits) (Judgment) [GC] ECtHR App No 31443/96 (22 June 2004).

[28] *Tatuyev v Russia* (Judgment) [Committee] ECtHR App No 3333/08 (21 July 2020).

Bibliography

Broniowski v Poland (Merits) (Judgment) [GC] ECtHR App No 31443/96 (22 June 2004)

Tatuyev v Russia (Judgment) [Committee] ECtHR App No 3333/08 (21 July 2020)

Further explanation

Make sure you use [GC] after the name, phase and decision or document type if the case was heard in the Grand Chamber and use [Committee] where the decision has been made by a three judge Committee. See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 4.4.4 (page 93) for further help and guidance on ECtHR decisions.

Frequently asked questions

Where should I place a footnote in my sentence?

The footnote marker should be positioned at the end of a sentence unless, for the sake of clarity, it is necessary to put it directly after the word or phrase to which it relates (this may happen if you are making several points in the same sentence which refer to different sources). The marker should always be placed after any punctuation (e.g. it would appear after the full stop at the end of the sentence), unless the marker relates to parenthetical text and in which case it should be placed within the brackets. See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 1.1 (page 3) for examples and further guidance.

What punctuation should be used in my footnotes?

OSCOLA uses minimal punctuation. For example, abbreviations and initials in authors' names don't use full stops (TG Smith not T.G. Smith) and names of law reports and journal abbreviations have no full stops either (e.g. Weekly Law Reports are cited as WLR not W.L.R). There are also no full stops in the v between two parties (e.g. *Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd*). However, you will need to **include full stops at the end of all your footnotes** and **use a semi-colon between sources if you're referring to more than one source** within the same footnote. The only other time you may need to use additional punctuation is when pinpointing for certain information types. See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 1.3 (page 8) for examples and further guidance.

What are pinpoints and how do I use them?

Pinpoints are included in footnotes when you want to refer your reader to a specific section that you are paraphrasing or directly quoting from within a source.

For **cases** this would either be a specific page or paragraph number. For **legislation**, this may include either a section, subsection, part, schedule, regulation, rule or article. And for **other secondary** sources this could include a page, a chapter, a part, a paragraph or a time stamp etc. If you are referring to a general argument, you may choose to refer to a journal article or a book as a whole rather than to a precise page. The same applies to cases: if you are using a case as an authority on a point of law or an application of law on a scenario, a general reference is enough.

You should place your pinpoint at the end of your footnote citation (this includes after a court identifier within a case citation). However, different information types have specific rules for using pinpoints:

Judgments and law reports

Use numbered paragraphs rather than page numbers (if available) and place them in square brackets within your footnotes. For example:

A single numbered paragraph	*Callery v Gray* [2001] EWCA Civ 1117, [2001] 1 WLR 2112 **[42]**.
Two separate paragraphs (separate with a comma)	*Callery v Gray* [2001] EWCA Civ 1117, [2001] 1 WLR 2112 **[42], [45]**.
A range of paragraphs (separate with an en-dash)	*Callery v Gray* [2001] EWCA Civ 1117, [2001] 1 WLR 2112 **[42]–[45]**.
A single page number after a court identifier	*Beattie v E & F Beattie Ltd* [1938] Ch 708 (CA) **720**.
A single paragraph number when also referring to a judge (judge then follows after pinpoint)	*Arscott v The Coal Authority* [2004] EWCA Civ 892, [2005] Env LR 6 **[27]** (Laws LJ).

Legislation

Statutes are divided into parts (pt/pts), sections (s/ss), subsections (sub-s/sub-ss), paragraphs (para/paras), subparagraphs (subpara/subparas) and schedules (sch/schs). Statutory instruments are divided into parts (pt/pts), articles (art/arts), regulations (reg/regs) and rules (r/rr). For example:

A section of a statute (a comma separates the section and the act title)	Sexual Offences Act 2003, **s 1(1)(c)**.
A number of sections in a statute (a comma separates the sections and the act title)	Criminal Attempts Act 1981, **ss 1(1) and 4(3)**.
A regulation of a statutory instrument (a comma separates the SI information and the regulation being pinpointed)	Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2009, SI 2009/2163, **reg 7(2)**.

Secondary sources

Use ‘pt(s)’ for part(s), ‘ch(s)’ for chapter(s), and ‘para(s)’ for paragraphs. Time stamps for videos and podcasts appear before the URL address. For example:

A book with a paragraph number	Donal Nolan and John Davies, 'Torts and Equitable Wrongs' in Andrew Burrows (ed), *Principles of the Law of Obligations* (OUP 2015) **para 2.87**.
A journal article with a page number (the pinpoint is separated by a comma after the first page of the article)	JAG Griffith, 'The Common Law and the Political Constitution' (2001) 117 LQR 42, **64**.
A journal article with a range of page numbers (an en-dash is used to separate the pinpoints)	JAG Griffith, 'The Common Law and the Political Constitution' (2001) 117 LQR 42, **64–65**.
An audio or video footnote with a timestamp (these are to be placed before the URL)	Double Jeopardy podcast, 'Episode 27: Dr Bryn Harris – Free Speech, Harm and the Internet' (7 April 2023) **3:40–3:56** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/double - jeopardy/id1633485236?i=1000607857832> accessed 21 July 2023.

For more detailed explanations, refer to the OSCOLA 5th Guide section 2.16 (page 20) for cases and judgments, section 2.4.2 (page 26) and section 2.5.2 (page 30) for legislation, and section 3.1.3 (page 33) for secondary sources.

How do I cite and reference a source quoted in another author's work?

This is called secondary referencing. Wherever possible try to avoid doing this, instead look to read the original document and evaluate it yourself. If this is not possible, then you need to cite the source you have read followed by the original source, linking the two with the word 'citing'. In your bibliography, you only include the source which you have read. For example:

Footnote

[29] Brian Yeats and Jack Duggan, *Water Law* (Poole Press 2009) 245 citing *Atkinson v Moore* [2012] IPR 260.

Bibliography

Yeats B and J Duggan, *Water Law* (Poole Press 2009)

How do I reference subsequent citations in my footnotes?

In a subsequent citation of a case, briefly identify the source (e.g. you can give a short title for the case name) and provide a cross-citation in brackets to the footnote where the full citation is found e.g. (n 1). **Do not use 'ibid'**. Place pinpoints at the end of the subsequent citation, if required.

For example:

[30] *Austin v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis* [2009] UKHL 5, [2009] AC 564

[31] *Austin* (n 30) [34], [39], [43]–[47].

However, when referring to a subsequent citation of legislation, a short form of the title can be used, but there is no need for a cross-citation to the full citation. For example:

[32] Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015 ('SARAH') s 1.

……..

[36] SARAH, s 2.

[37] SARAH, s 3.

How do I refer to multiple sources within one footnote?

Separate the sources with a semi-colon. Do not precede the final source with 'and'. In terms of the order of the sources within the footnote there is differing guidance depending on the context:

Context	**Guidance and examples**
If you are citing more than one source of the same information type and they are all of equal importance.	Place these in chronological order. For example: **FH Newark, 'The Boundaries of Nuisance' (1949) 65 LQR 480; Richard Kidner, 'Nuisance and Rights of Property' [1998] Conv 267.**
If one or more of your sources are more directly relevant than others.	Cite the most relevant first in chronological order then cite the less relevant ones in a new sentence beginning with the indicator 'See also'. For example: ***Brent v Haddon* (1619) Cro Jac 555, 79 ER 476; *Broder v Saillard* (1876) 2 Ch D 692 (Ch); *Pemberton v Bright* [1960] 1 All ER 792 (CA).**

	See also *Torette House Pty Ltd v Berkman* (1939) 62 CLR 637 (HCA).
If citing legislation and case law.	Cite the legislation before citing the case law. For example: **Defamation Act 2013, s 1(1); *Lachaux v Independent Print Ltd* [2019] UKSC 27, [2020] AC 612 [12]–[17], [20]–[26].**
If citing a mixture of primary and secondary sources.	Cite the primary sources before the secondary. For example: **Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015, s 4; Allen M Linden, 'Rescuers and Good Samaritans' (1971) 34 MLR 9.**

What is a medium neutral citation?

A medium neutral citation is a way of citing a court judgment (since 2001) that is independent of any law report series. The citation includes the year, the court abbreviation and a judgment number, which is numbered consecutively. Cases after 2001 will have a medium neutral citation which must be used, separated with a comma, and then followed by the most authoritative law report citation (see footnote 38). If a case is not reported in a law report, then you are just required to use the medium neutral citation (see footnote 39).

[38] *Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd* [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884.

[39] *ABC v DEF Ltd* [2021] EWHC 987 (QB).

See OSCOLA 5th Guide section 2.1.3 (page 18) for more information on medium neutral citations and go to section 5.1 in the appendix (page 63) for a list of court abbreviations.

Where can I find a list of abbreviations?

You can find a comprehensive list of abbreviations in the OSCOLA 5th Guide, section 5.2 (page 65) of the appendix. You can also check the Cardiff Index of Legal Abbreviations. If you cannot find a common abbreviation, you may need to create one yourself. If you need to create several abbreviations, you should include a table that sets out and defines your abbreviations at the beginning of your work.

How many authors do I include in my footnotes and bibliography

Where a single source has **two or three** authors, all named authors must be included. You must insert an 'and' before the last author's name.

Footnote (example of two or three authors)

[40] Rebecca Helm, Roxanna Dehaghani and Daniel Newman, 'Guilty Plea Decisions: Moving Beyon the Autonomy Myth' (2022) 85(1) MLR 133.

[41] Hugh Jones and Christopher Benson, *Publishing Law* (5th edn, Routledge 2016).

Bibliography (example of two or three authors)

Helm R, R Dehaghani and D Newman, 'Guilty Plea Decisions: Moving Beyond the Autonomy Myth' (2022) 85(1) MLR 133

Jones H and C Bensen, *Publishing Law* (5th edn, Routledge 2016)

For **four or more** authors, you can use the name of the first author followed by 'and others'.

Footnote (example of four or more authors)
[42] Roy Goode and others, *Transnational Commercial Law: International Instruments and Commentary* (2nd edn, OUP 2012).

Bibliography (example of four or more authors)
Goode R and others, *Transnational Commercial Law: International Instruments and Commentary* (2nd edn, OUP 2012)

What is the difference between the footnotes and bibliography?

Your footnotes comprise of a superscript number in your text, placed at the point that references your source. The number is normally placed at the end of a sentence. This number then relates to a corresponding footnote at the bottom of the page. For more information on citations and footnotes, see section 1.1 (pages 3–5) in the OSCOLA 5th Guide.

Your bibliography is a full reference list that includes every source you have cited in your work and is organised into tables and lists by information type. You can find out more in section 1.7 (pages 12–13) of the OSCOLA 5th Guide.

Key differences between footnotes and bibliography include:

Footnote	Bibliography

Names of authors in footnotes follow the format of: full first name (if available), followed by family name. For example: **Timothy Endicott, *Administrative Law* (2nd edn, OUP 2011).**	Names of authors in bibliography follow the format of: family name, followed by initial. For example: **Endicott T, *Administrative Law* (2nd edn, OUP 2011)** If there is more than one author, the first author is cited with their surname first, followed by initial, but any additional authors follow the format: initial, followed by family name. **Endicott T and J Bloggs, *Administrative Law* (2nd edn, OUP 2011)**
Footnotes are always closed with a full stop (or question or exclamation mark). For example: **Cabinet Office, 'Ministerial Code' (December 2022).**	Full stops are NOT included after citations. For example: **Cabinet Office, 'Ministerial Code' (December 2022)**
Case titles are written in italics. For example: ***Miller v Jackson* [1977] QB 966.**	Case titles are not written in italics. For example: **Miller v Jackson [1977] QB 966**
Pinpointing is required if you are referring to a specific part of a source. For example: **Paul Craig, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440, 442.**	Pinpointing is not required. For example: **Paul Craig, 'Theory, "Pure Theory" and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440.**

How should my bibliography be set out?

Your bibliography should be set out in a series of tables/lists that group information types together with a heading for each. It should be presented in the following order within your work

1. A table of Cases
2. A table of Legislation
3. A list of all the secondary sources you have cited (including books, articles, websites, reports etc.).

However, you can adapt the bibliography and layout within the above parameters for the needs of an assessment. For example, if you are using a sizeable number of cases or legislation from different jurisdictions you may feel that it is appropriate to separate them out in your bibliography and make a separate section as necessary. For instance:

1. A table of UK Cases
2. A table of International Cases
3. A table of UK Legislation
4. A table of International Legislation, Documents, Treaties and Agreements (delete as appropriate)
5. A list of all the secondary sources you have cited (including books, articles, websites, reports etc.).

Your citations within each section should be ordered alphabetically. For further information on how to set out your tables and bibliography, see sections 1.6 and 1.7 (pages 11–14) in the OSCOLA 5th Guide. For examples of how a bibliography can be set out, see OSCOLA 5th Example Bibliography: UK sources and OSCOLA 5th Example Bibliography: International sources.

Where do you go if you need to cite foreign law?

If you need to cite foreign law, then you need to cite it as clearly, consistently and as closely as possible to the source jurisdiction's own citation style, whilst also being understandable to an OSCOLA 5th UK reader. You will often find this means stripping out a lot of the punctuation to make it OSCOLA compliant. To do this you will firstly need to find a guide for the relevant jurisdiction/s. You can find a list of these guides in the OSCOLA 5th Guide, section 5.3 (page 71) of the appendix.