

A Mock Trial in Action

LESSON PLAN:

Objective:

To provide the students with a full understanding of the mock trial and what will be expected of them.

Note: Answers and notes should be retained for use with the module 'Preparing for a Trial'.

Aims:

- To demonstrate a mock trial from beginning to end.
- To broaden the students' understanding of the various roles of court users.

Resources:

- Let's look at the law video - Lesson 2 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXTKWtx8SRQ>) & Lesson 3 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWTzK1HnHgw>) (45 minutes)
- Teacher's Note: Important note in respect of the Mock Trial
- Teacher's Note: Explanation of Legal Terms
- Student Handout: Sheet with key questions
- Student Handout: Running order of the trial
- Student Resource webpage at <https://www.courts.ie/mock-trial-action>

Key Questions (Student Handout)

- Who is the prosecutor? How do you know?
- Who is the accused? How do you know?
- What role did the judge play?
- Compare how the barristers question their own witnesses and the witnesses for the other side

- Were there any questions you felt the barristers should have asked, but didn't?

1st Lesson - Duration: 35 minutes

Introduction: (15 minutes)

The teacher explains what the students are about to see, distributes the sheets containing key questions and asks the students to take notes as they watch. Answers will be discussed as part of the next class.

Video (20 minutes)

The video is an edited final of a Mock Trial Competition. It provides a broad outline of how a case should be run including the order of statements, arguments and case progress. The teacher can choose an appropriate point to stop the video - we suggest after the case for the prosecution ends.

2nd Lesson - Duration: 35 minutes

Video (25 minutes)

Closure (10 minutes)

Discuss notes taken by students and any other matters that require explanation. Class can take quiz from student resource page (quiz available online or as a download) and hold brief discussion relating to the events seen on the video.