

Foreword

For more than 25 years we have been developing law and language programs which introduce the Anglo-American Legal System and the specialized language used to describe it (Legal English) to international students and interested lawyers and linguists with a focus on the German speaking market. An applied comparative law approach has been adopted to provide international lawyers and linguists with the necessary basis for an understanding of the English as well as the American legal system, allowing them to communicate at an advanced level not only about English and American law but also about German and Austrian law using Legal English.

The courses offered at university level have been expanded to seven courses covering no less than 19 fields of law, always from a US, an English, a German and an Austrian perspective.

In order to allow students to become acquainted with the relevant field of law each and every one of these introductions is accompanied by a set of law and language exercises, allowing each student to check his/her understanding of substantive law as well as of the specialized language used to describe the said field. These exercises (study aids) have been compiled in this book to give each reader/student ample opportunity to work on the relevant study aid and thus deepen his/her understanding of the relevant law field as well as broaden his/her command of the specialized language used in that context.

These study aids can be used for class work or for self-study; all exercises are also followed by a key section with suggested answers. Given the nature of the law as well as of the ESP in this context not all answers are deemed “correct” but instead they may be considered recommended or suggested answers, some are open for discussion, allowing for arguments in class or with instructors.

The Vienna Legal Proficiency Exam is based on the contents of the three books (with electives subject to the preference of the candidate); all study aids provide an excellent source for preparation of the said exam.

We wish you all an enjoyable time working on these study aids – and don’t cheat (by looking up the answers in the key section) – you would just be cheating yourself

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