

# A' Level Latin "Memory Jogger"

**Ab initio** - From the beginning

**Actus reus** - A guilty act. All aspects of the crime except accused's mental state (see **mens rea**)

**Alibi** - Elsewhere. Defence that the accused was not there

**Caveat emptor** - Buyer beware. A maxim that has been superseded by **Sale of Goods Act 1979**

**Compos mentis** - Of sound mind. A contract must be made by someone who is *compos mentis*

**Dictum** - A saying. Observation by a judge with respect to a point of law

**Ex officio** - By virtue of holding office (Headmaster is *ex officio* a member of the School Governors)

**Ex parte** - An application on behalf of someone else. Such as applications for Judicial Review

**Habeas Corpus** - You shall have the body. Used to challenge a person's detention before trial

**Intra vires** - Within the powers. Describing an act by a body (eg council) that is within its powers

**Ipsa facto** - By that very fact.

**Mens rea** - A guilty mind. State of mind standard to prove mental awareness. Varies from crime to crime

**Obiter dictum** - A remark in passing. Something judge says that was not essential to **ratio decidendi**

**Prima facie** - At first appearance. Judging the evidence at 'face value'

**Ratio decidendi** - The reason for deciding. Principle(s) in law on which the court reaches its decision

**Res ipsa loquitur** - The thing speaks for itself. Used to link negligence to accident without need for evidence

**Stare decisis** - To stand by things already decided. Doctrine of judicial precedence

**Ultra vires** - Beyond the powers. Describing an act by a body that exceeds the limits of its powers