5. Children's rights
Jonathan Herring

‘Children's rights’ looks at different definitions of childhood that exist in the law and the rights that a child has in today's family law. Children have a right to life and the right not to be harmed. The matter of dispute lies in the question of whether they have all the same rights that adults have. One argument is that we need to restrict people from doing things that will cause harm to them or to others if they do not understand sufficiently what they are doing. A more persuasive argument in favour of restricting children's rights might be made on the basis that doing so during childhood is necessary in order to maximize children's autonomy in adulthood.

5. Deprivations of life and liberty
Andrew Clapham

‘Deprivations of life and liberty’ considers the rights to life and liberty, which may be limited through legal restrictions designed to protect a defined legitimate objective. The human rights approach starts from a presumption that we all have rights to liberty, freedom of expression, belief, assembly, association, property, and fair trial. Any restriction on these rights has to be justified as proportionate to the aims pursued by the restriction according to a four-stage schema developed in human rights law. Is the right to life absolute? When is the detention of an individual lawful?

3. Law and morality
Raymond Wacks

Is torture wrong? What’s wrong with abortion? Is homosexuality sinful? Moral questions such as these arise in almost any legal system, and confronting them is among the
fundamental characteristics of a free society. ‘Law and morality’ describes the relationship between the law and moral practices, and questions whether the law must be moral and if anything can count as law. It considers the 1957 Wolfenden Committee report on homosexual offences and prostitution, the right to life abortion debate, the issue of euthanasia or ‘mercy killing’, the legality of torture, natural law, and human rights.

9. The death penalty
Andrew Clapham

Attitudes with regard to what constitutes a human rights issue change over time. Is the death penalty a human rights issue? If we believe that torture and inhuman punishment is absolutely prohibited, then the ultimate irrevocable punishment of execution should also be prohibited at least as a form of inhuman punishment. ‘The death penalty’ considers how the human rights treaties that allow for the death penalty have been interpreted to include procedural safeguards, limits on which crimes may be punished with a death sentence, who may be executed, and prohibitions on certain forms of execution where the death penalty is still used around the world today.

Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction
Andrew Clapham

Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction considers the controversies surrounding the human rights movement by focusing on highly topical issues such as torture, arbitrary detention, privacy, equality, health, and discrimination. It discusses the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law; explains what our human rights actually are; and considers where the human rights movement might be heading. Today, it is usually not long before a problem gets expressed as a human rights issue. Indeed, human rights law continues to gain increasing attention internationally, and must move quickly in order to keep up with a social world, which is changing so rapidly.

Law: A Very Short Introduction
Raymond Wacks

Law is at the heart of every society, protecting rights, imposing duties, and establishing a framework for the conduct of almost all social, political, and economic activity. Despite
this, the law can seem highly technical, with its antiquated and often impenetrable jargon, obsolete procedures, and complex statutes and legislation. Law: A Very Short Introduction introduces the major branches of the law, describing what lawyers do and how courts operate, and considers the philosophy of law and its pursuit of justice, freedom, and equality. This second edition considers the pressures of globalization and digitalization on the law and the nature of the law in our culture of threatened security and surveillance.