Contents

Prei	face	xi
Tab	le of cases	xiii
Tab	le of legislation	xxi
List	of Latin terms	XXV
Part I	Basic principles of criminal liability	1
1	Introduction to criminal law 1.1 The scope of this book 1.2 What is criminal law? 1.3 The role of criminal law 1.4 What conduct is criminal? 1.4 Other influences on criminal law 1.5 The reality of criminal behaviour 1.6 The Human Rights Act 1998 Hot Topic – Should drinking alcohol be illegal? Summary	3 3 4 4 11 13 13 20 20
	Further Reading Case Notes	21 23
2	 Procedures and structures of criminal law 2.1 The role of the state in criminal proceedings 2.2 The role of the judge in criminal proceedings 2.3 Judge and jury 2.4 The burden of proof 2.5 Classification of offences 2.6 Punishment 2.7 The proposals for a Criminal Code Hot Topic – Judges, juries and 'rape myths' Summary Further Reading Case Notes 	25 25 26 28 32 32 33 34 34 34 35 35
3	 The external elements 3.1 The elements of a criminal offence 3.2 Different aspects of the <i>actus reus</i> 3.3 Liability for omissions 3.4 The voluntary nature of the <i>actus reus</i> 3.5 Automatism 3.6 Accessorial liability Hot Topic – Criminal liability for omissions 	39 39 40 41 43 44 46 46

vi Contents

	Summary Further Reading Case Notes	48 48 49
4	Causation 4.1 The nature of causation 4.2 The guiding rule of causation 4.3 'But for' causation 4.4 <i>Novus actus interveniens</i> 4.5 The relevance of <i>mens rea</i> in questions of causation Hot Topic – The suicidal rape victim Summary Further Reading Case Notes	53 53 54 55 56 61 62 63 63 63
5	The mental element 5.1 Mental element in a criminal offence 5.2 Different types of <i>mens rea</i> 5.3 Intention 5.4 Recklessness 5.5 Negligence 5.6 Transferred <i>mens rea</i> 5.7 Coincidence of <i>actus reus</i> and <i>mens rea</i> 5.8 'The correspondence principle' Hot Topic – Euthanasia and mercy killing Summary Further Reading Case Notes	67 68 68 71 74 75 76 78 78 81 81
6	 Corporate crime and strict liability 6.1 The meaning of 'strict liability' 6.2 The justifications for strict liability offences 6.3 Construing statutes which appear to impose strict liability 6.4 Alternatives to strict liability 6.5 Vicarious liability 6.6 The criminal liability of corporations Hot Topic – Is the new law on corporate killing effective? Summary Further Reading Case Notes 	87 87 89 92 93 93 94 95 96
Part II	Offences against the person	99
7	Assaults7.1Common law and statutory assaults7.2Common assault and battery7.3Assault occasioning actual bodily harm7.4Malicious wounding7.5Wounding with intent7.6Maliciously administering poison7.7Consent	101 101 104 105 107 108 109

	7.8 Spreading infectious diseases	115
	7.9 Chastisement of children	115
	7.10 Assault with intent to rob	116
	7.11 Assault with intent to resist arrest	116
	7.12 Assaulting, resisting and wilfully obstructing a police constable	116
	7.13 Protection from Harassment Act 1997	116
	7.14 Racially aggravated assaults	121
	7.15 Reform of offences against the person	122
	Hot Topic – Criminalising the spread of disease	123
	Summary	120
	Further Reading	125
	Case Notes	120
		120
8	Sexual offences	131
	8.1 The scope of sexual offences	131
	8.2 Rape	132
	8.3 Assault by penetration	141
	8.4 Sexual assault	141
	8.5 Causing sexual activity without consent	142
	8.6 Sexual offences protecting children from sexual abuse	143
	8.7 Sexual offences against those with a mental disorder	144
	8.8 Miscellaneous offences	144
	Hot Topic – Sexual offences and sexual autonomy	144
	Summary	145
	Further Reading	145
	Case Notes	146
		110
9	Murder	149
	9.1 Homicide	149
	9.2 The actus reus of murder	150
	9.3 The mens rea of murder	152
	9.4 Intention in murder	153
	9.5 The relevance of the mandatory life sentence	153
	9.6 Reform of the law on murder	154
	Hot Topic – Murder of a disabled child	155
	Summary	156
	Further Reading	156
	Case Notes	157
10	Manslaughter	161
	10.1 Distinguishing between voluntary and involuntary manslaughter	161
	10.2 Constructive manslaughter	161
	10.3 Gross negligence manslaughter	164
	10.4 Reckless manslaughter	166
	10.5 Killing while driving	166
	10.6 Voluntary manslaughter	167
	10.7 Loss of control	167
	10.8 Diminished responsibility	171
	10.9 Suicide pact	175
	10.10 Infanticide	175

viii Contents

	child or vulnerable adult	176
	10.12 Criticisms and reform of involuntary manslaughter	176
	Hot Topic – Battered women who kill	177
	Summary	179
	Further Reading	180
	Case Notes	181
Part III	Offences against property	185
11	Theft	187
	11.1 Property offences	187
	11.2 The definition of theft	187
	11.3 Appropriation	188
	11.4 Property	195
	11.5 Belonging to another	197
	11.6 Dishonesty	200
	11.7 Intention of permanently depriving	203
	Hot Topic – Finding treasure	207
	Summary	208
	Further Reading	209
	Case Notes	210
		210
12	Offences connected to theft	215
	12.1 Robbery	215
	12.2 Assault with intent to rob	216
	12.3 Burglary	217
	12.4 Aggravated burglary	221
	12.5 Trespassing with intent to commit a sexual offence	222
	12.6 Handling stolen goods	222
	Hot Topic – The wrongs of burglary	227
	Summary	228
	Further Reading	228
	Case Notes	229
13	Fraud	233
	13.1 The fraud and deception offences	233
	13.2 Fraud by false representation	233
	13.3 Fraud by failing to disclose information	235
	13.4 Fraud by abuse of position	236
	13.5 Obtaining services dishonestly	236
	13.6 Making off without payment	237
	Hot Topic – Has the Fraud Act 2006 improved the law?	240
	Summary	241
	Further Reading	241
	Case Notes	241
14	Other offenees against property	245
14	Other offences against property	
	14.1 Criminal damage	245
	14.2 Arson	249
	14.3 Blackmail	249

10.11 Causing or allowing the death or serious physical harm of a

- 4 4		050
14.4	Taking a conveyance	252
14.5	Aggravated vehicle-taking	255
14.6	Computer crime	256
14.7	Possession offences	260
Hot Topic – Is graffiti criminal damage?		261
Summ	nary	261
Further Reading		262
Case Notes		262

Part IV Defences

265

15	Denial of elements of offences		267
	15.1	Defences	267
	15.2	Exemptions from liability	269
	15.3	Denial of actus reus	274
	15.4	Denial of <i>mens rea</i>	281
	Hot To	opic – Home owners killing burglars and self-defence	287
	Sumn	nary	288
	Further Reading		289
	Case	Notes	290
16	General defences		295
	16.1	Justifications and excuses	295
	16.2	Duress by threats	297
	16.3	Duress of circumstances	303
	16.4	Coercion	304
	16.5	Self-defence and duress of circumstances	305
	16.6	Necessity	305
	16.7	Superior orders	308
	Hot Topic – Killing one to save the many?		309
	Summary		309
	Further Reading		310
	Case Notes		311

Part V Participation in crime

010	
· / ר ני	

17	Accessories		315
	17.1	What is an accessory?	315
	17.2	Principals and the doctrine of innocent agency	316
	17.3	The actus reus of being an accessory	317
	17.4	The mere presence of an accessory	320
	17.5	The mens rea of being an accessory	321
	17.6	Criticisms of the law	326
	17.7	Interaction between accomplice liability and principal liability	327
	17.8	Victims as accomplices	328
	17.9	Assistance after an offence	328
	17.10	Serious Crimes Act 2007	329
	Hot To	opic – Why do we have liability for accessories?	329
	Sumn	nary	331

x Contents

331
332
337
337
338
340
345
352
353
354
354
357