

Y12 Summer work 2022: Murder Problem Essay

Read the following scenario:

On his way to work on Tuesday morning Peter is cycling along a busy main road when Julie pulls out of a side junction in her car directly in front of Peter and knocks him off his bicycle. Peter is furious with Julie because he has been knocked off his bicycle by inconsiderate car drivers several times over the last two years and once, 18 months ago, was badly injured when he fell awkwardly from his bicycle. Peter, in a rage, decides to show Julie how it feels to be hurt, picks up a brick that is lying at the side of the road and throws it through the windscreen of Julie's car intending to break her arm.

Unfortunately, the brick misses Julie's arm and hits her in the head. An ambulance is called but unfortunately takes 45 minutes to arrive. Julie is finally taken to hospital where she is treated by Dr Nick. Dr Nick fails to spot a bleed on Julie's brain and several hours after arriving in hospital, Julie dies from her injuries.



Q: Discuss the criminal liability of Peter for the murder of Julie. You should aim for your answer to be at least 500 words

As part of this answer you will need to include the following:

- An explanation of the Actus Reus and Mens Rea of murder
- An explanation of the rules of causation
- An explanation of the rules on intent, particularly oblique intent
- Application of the rules of Actus Reus and causation to the scenario, considering whether or not Peter has the actus reus of murder.
- Application of the rules of Mens Rea and oblique intent to the scenario, considering whether or not Peter as the mens rea of murder.
- A conclusion that identifies whether or not Peter is liable for the murder of Julie.