



## **SAMPLE INTERVIEW PROBLEM**

The following problem is an example of the sort of exercise that we use in law interviews at Trinity. Candidates are given the problem and some note paper 30 minutes before one of their interviews, in order to prepare their thoughts. Discussion of the problem then forms the larger part of that interview.

Although the problems often raise legal issues, or even involve the use of legal tests, candidates are not generally expected to have, and are not being tested on, any legal knowledge: if any law is required to complete the exercise, we provide it. We are interested in assessing candidates' ability to analyse problems and issues, to construct and put an argument, to spot and evaluate counterarguments, etc.. Even where candidates have told us (on their application forms) that they have already studied some law – such as at A Level – we only expect them to know as much of the law as they have studied.

## PROBLEM

1. Mary is 22 years old. In February 2015, she becomes pregnant by her boyfriend, Tony.
2. In early August 2015, Mary quarrels with Tony and the conflict escalates, ending when Tony stabs Mary three times with a kitchen knife, including once in the abdomen. Mary is taken to hospital, where she is told that the baby has not been harmed by the attack.
3. Mary thinks that she has made a full recovery but, two weeks after the attack, she goes into labour, and the baby is born prematurely in mid-August. The baby boy survives on a ventilator until November, when he dies, because of a lung condition associated with premature birth.
4. In relation to the attack on Mary, Tony is charged with the offence of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He pleads guilty, and is sentenced to four years' imprisonment.
5. After the death of the baby, the Director of Public Prosecutions decides that further criminal proceedings must be brought against Tony. In September 2016, Tony is convicted at Cambridge Crown Court of the murder of the baby, and is sentenced to life imprisonment. Tony now appeals against his conviction to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division).
6. The definition of murder in English law requires that the defendant perform an act which causes the death of a human being and that the act was done with the intention of causing death or the intention of causing grievous bodily harm.
7. You are a research assistant to the one of the judges who will have to decide Tony's appeal, early in the new year. The judge has asked you for advice about the arguments which are likely to be made, by both the prosecution (supporting Tony's conviction) and the defence (seeking to have the conviction overturned).