## Table of Contents

**Preface**  v  
**Table of Cases**  xv  
**Table of Statutes**  xlix  
**Table of Statutory Instruments**  lvii  

### 1. Introduction  1

What this book is about, and what it is not about  1  
The purposes of criminal law  2  
Classifying criminal offences and the structure of the courts  4  
The significance of proof  7  
**Who has to prove what? The burden of proof**  7  
**How much proof is needed? The standard of proof**  8  
Conclusion  9  

### 2. Actus Reus and Mens Rea: The Elements of an Offence  11

**Actus Reus**  14  
The need for voluntary conduct  15  
*Has the defendant introduced evidence of automatism?*  18  
*What is the cause of the automatism?*  20  
*Evidential and legal burdens*  21  
*Self-induced automatism*  22  
*Criminal liability in the “state of affairs” cases*  23  
Liability for failing to act  25  
*In which crimes may liability be incurred for an omission?*  27  
*Who is under a duty to act*  29  
*Medical treatment*  34  
*Conclusion on omissions*  36  
**Causation**  36  
*A substantial cause*  39  
*Take your victim as you find him*  40
### Contents

#### Supervening events
41

#### Actus reus: general reading
57

#### Mens Rea
57
- Introduction
- What can constitute mens rea?
  - Intention
  - Negligence and recklessness
  - Negligence
  - Recklessness
  - Knowledge
- Coincidence of actus reus and mens rea
- Transferred malice
- Mistake as a defence to crime
  - The basic problem
  - Mistake and Lawfulness
  - Mens rea: general reading

#### 3. Strict Liability
89
- Who created this genre of crimes?
- How can crimes of strict liability be identified?
  - The wording of the act
  - Crimes and Quasi crimes
  - Smallness of the penalty
- Modern principles for strict liability
- Defences to offences of strict liability
- Why do we have crimes of strict liability at all?
- General reading

#### 4. Parties to Criminal Offences
113
- Principal and Secondary Offenders
- Introduction
- The principal or perpetrator
- Secondary parties
  - Knowledge of the type of crime
  - Aids, Abets, Counsels or Procures
- Joint enterprise
  - The nature of joint enterprise
  - Joint enterprise and murder
  - Liability for unforeseen consequences
  - Is there a need to distinguish between joint enterprise and accesoryship liability
  - Hypothetical example
  - Reform
- The need for an actus reus
  - The commision of the actus reus
  - No principal offender
5. General Defences

The Mentally Abnormal Offender: Insanity and Unfitness to Plead

The defences of insanity and diminished responsibility

Insanity

Diminished responsibility

Hospital orders

Conclusions

The mentally abnormal offender: general reading

Intoxication

Voluntary intoxication

Involuntary intoxication

Self-induced automatism and non-harmful drugs

Insanity and diminished responsibility produced by intoxication

Drinking with intent

Proposals for reform

Intoxication: general reading

Self-defence, Necessity and Duress

Self-defence: the use of force in public and private defence

Prevention of crime

Self-defence and defence of others

Defence of property

Excessive force

Summary

General reading
Necessity
   Necessity and the killing of another 236
   Necessity and medical treatment 238
   Necessity and statutory legislation 242
   Necessity as a general defence 243
General reading 244
Duress
   General background 244
   The ambit of the duress defence 246
   The constituents of duress 252
   Duress and the voluntary joining of criminal associations 262
   Duress of circumstances 265
General reading 269
Infancy
   Children under 10 years of age 270
   Children 10 years old and above 270
Entrapment
   Y's liability 273
   X's liability 273
General reading 274
Superior Orders 274
General reading 275

6. The Inchoate Offences 277
Attempts
   General principles 278
   Actus reus 280
   Mens rea 288
   Are all attempted offences crimes of specific intent? 293
   Attempting the impossible 294
   Acts of preparation 298
   General reading 299
Encouragement or Assistance 299
Conspiracy
   General overview 305
   The actus reus in conspiracy 307
      Rationale and the requirement of an agreement 307
      The object of the agreement 309
      Parties to the agreement 314
      Acquittal of a co-conspirator 316
   The mental element in conspiracy 317
      Recklessness as to circumstances will not do 317
      Course of conduct 319
      Intention on the part of each conspirator 320
      Active partipation in the course of conduct 322
      Conditional intention 323
   Impossibility 325
Territorial jurisdiction 325
General reading 326

7. Offences Against the Person 329

General Introduction 329
Who can commit an offence against the person? 330
Who can be the victim of an offence against the person? 330
The unborn child 331
When do you cease to be a human being? 332

Unlawful Homicide 334
Murder and Manslaughter 335
The penalty for murder and manslaughter 336
The actus reus of murder and manslaughter 337
The mens rea of murder 338
The killing of a human being 339
Mens rea on the other external elements of murder 340

Reforming the Law of Murder 341
Voluntary and Involuntary Manslaughter 342
Voluntary Manslaughter 342
The nature of provocation 342
Cooling-off period: a gender issue? 345
The role of judge and jury 347
Self-induced provocation 348
The dual test for provocation 349
The objective question 349
Control characteristics: recent developments 352
Reform 357

Provocation: general reading 359

Involuntary Manslaughter 359
Unlawful act manslaughter 360
The act must be unlawful in itself 361
The unlawful act in drug administration 364
The act must not only be unlawful; it must also be dangerous 365
Must the unlawful act be “aimed at” the particular victim? 367
The unlawful and dangerous act must be the cause of death 369
Gross negligence manslaughter 370
Further categories of involuntary manslaughter? 375
The future of involuntary manslaughter 376

Other Unlawful Homicides 377
Suicide 377
Infanticide 378
Causing death by dangerous driving 378
Homicide: general reading 379

Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person 380
The general framework 380
Common assault 381
Assault 381
The actus reus of battery 385
Mens rea of assault and battery 390
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm 390
Occasioning actual bodily harm 391
Actual bodily harm 391
Mens rea 393

The offences under sections 20 and 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 395
Section 20 395
Section 18 401

Miscellaneous notes on offences against the person 403
Alternative verdicts 403
Laser pointers 403
A hierarchy of offences 403
Racially aggravated assaults 403

Consent as a defence to offences against the person 405
To which crimes is consent a defence? 405
The exceptions to the general rule 413
What is consent? 416

Future reforms of the offences against the person and consent 418
Reform of non-fatal offences against the person 418
Reform of consent 419

General reading 420

Sexual Offences 420
General 420
Rape 421
Actus Reus 422
Mens rea 431
Assault by penetration 432
Sexual Assault 433
Causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent 434
Sections 5 to 8: Offences against children under 13 435
Child sex offences 437
General reading 438

8. Offences Against Property I 439

Stealing under the Theft Act 1968 439
Theft 441
The actus reus of theft 441
Appropriates 441
Property 457
Belonging to another 461
The mens rea of theft 471
Dishonesty 471
With intention permanently to deprive 476
Conditional intention 481
General reading 482
9. Offences Against Property II

Fraud Under the Fraud Act 2006 and Other Offences Under The Theft Acts 483
  Introduction 483
  The Fraud Act 2006 485
    Fraud 485
    Obtaining services dishonestly 490
    Ancillary offences under the Act 491
Making Off Without Payment 492
  General reading 495
Robbery 496
  Summary 499
Burglary 499
  Entry 501
  As a trespasser 503
  A building 505
  Part of a building 506
  Mens rea 507
Aggravated Burglary 508
Making Unwarranted Demands with Menaces: Blackmail 510
  There must be a demand 511
  The demand must be accompanied by menaces 511
  The demand must be made with a view to gain for the maker or another,
    or with intent to cause loss to another 513
  The demand must be unwarranted 513
Handling 514
  The actus reus of handling 515
    Stolen goods 515
    Handling 518
  The mens rea of handling 521
    Knowing or believing that the goods were stolen 521
    Dishonesty 523
    Proof of mens rea 524
  Summary on handling 525
Miscellaneous Provisions 526
  Offences of temporary deprivation 526
  Abstracting electricity 527
  Business frauds 527
  Advertising rewards 528
  Going equipped for stealing 528
  Restitution and compensation 528
  General reading 528

10. Offences Against Property III 531

Criminal Damage 531
  The basic offence 531
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actus reus</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mens rea</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated damage</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening to destroy or damage property (section 2)</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of anything with intent to damage or destroy property (section 3)</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The defence of lawful excuse</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lawful excuse under section 5</strong></td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lawful excuse outside of section 5</strong></td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reading</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Index* 543