# Problem-based question and IAC methodology

**Problem-based questions/case-based/hypothetical scenario**

The aim of a question which poses a hypothetical fact problem is to test your ability ***to apply the relevant legal principles and rules to the legal problem arising on the facts***

* Therefore, you need to demonstrate your knowledge of the law, as well as your ability to apply the law to the facts
* Your knowledge of law is gained from reading and understanding case law as Contracts 1 is mostly about legal principles grounded in the common law (case law)

**Keep in mind:**

* It is inadequate to simply refer to the correct legal principles without referring to the relevant cases and/or statutes which illustrate the application of these principles
* Further, where the precedent value of a case is in issue, you need to critique that aspect of the case  (e.g. a precedent value of a case with distinguishable facts from the case at hand is slightly less as compared to another which might possesses similar facts to the case at hand)
* The **IAA(C) methodology** is commonly used as it is simple and straightforward and is analogous to the proof-making model used by lawyers to solving legal problems (variations of this method includes, IRAC and ILAC)
* Identify the legal **Issue(s) (Contractual)**
  + What is the gist of the dispute from the perspective of each party, and in particular, from the perspective of your client?
  + What is the reason behind the client’s needs to obtain legal advice?
  + Articulate the most contentious issues that require analysis
  + Think about what your client wishes to be advised on
* **Research** and **Apply** **relevant principles of law** **and authority** (from case law or legislation) to resolve the legal issues and to ultimately advise your client (think and communicate like a lawyer)
* What are the relevant principles/rules/exceptions/tests that could and should be applied the factual scenario?
* Apply those principles to the facts
* **Advise /Conclusion**
  + Which arguments/ principles of law are the most arguable and persuasive?
  + Are there alternative responses to the issues?
  + What would be the most likely outcome of the dispute?
  + What remedies are available for the parties, and in particular, for your client?