

Contents

PREFACE	xiii
TABLE OF CASES	xv
TABLE OF STATUTES	xxvii
PART 1	
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW IN THE UK	1
Chapter 1	
CONTEMPORARY AND FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC LAW	1
1.1 What is a constitution?	2
1.2 Classifying constitutions	3
1.3 Essential elements of the UK constitution	6
1.4 Should the UK constitution be codified?	7
1.5 Legal and non-legal sources of the constitution	10
1.6 The concept of constitutional statutes	11
1.7 The continuing constitutional contribution of the common law	13
1.8 The scope of the royal prerogative today	13
1.9 The impact of distinctly European legal systems and values	14
1.10 Other sources of constitutional values and practices	15
Key cases checklist	16
Chapter 2	
THE RULE OF LAW AND A SEPARATION OF POWERS	24
2.1 A description of the rule of law	24
2.2 Dicey's formulation of the rule of law	25
2.3 Bingham's view of the rule of law	26
2.4 Examples of the rule of law as a functional element of the UK constitution	27
2.5 Reconciling a strict view of the rule of law with some legal rules in the United Kingdom today	28

2.6	Some broader interpretations of what the ‘rule of law’ might entail	29
2.7	The relationship between the rule of law and the ‘separation of powers’	31
2.8	The actual extent of the doctrine of ‘separation of powers’ in the UK constitution today	32
2.9	Constitutional fusion between elements of Government in the United Kingdom	33
2.10	The impact of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and other issues	35
	Key cases checklist	37
Chapter 3		
PARLIAMENTARY SOVEREIGNTY		42
3.1	A brief overview of parliamentary sovereignty, or ‘parliamentary supremacy’	43
3.2	Potentially unlimited legislative power for Parliament?	43
3.3	Exploring the details of legislative supremacy	44
3.4	Limitations to parliamentary supremacy	45
3.5	Limitations on parliamentary sovereignty from a European dimension?	48
3.6	Lord Hoffman’s version of the ‘principle of legality’	49
	Key cases checklist	51
Chapter 4		
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS		55
4.1	Definitions of constitutional conventions	55
4.2	Examples of constitutional conventions	56
4.3	Are constitutional conventions legally binding?	57
4.4	Should constitutional conventions themselves be codified?	58
	Key cases checklist	59
Chapter 5		
THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW		63
5.1	What is international law?	63
5.2	The development of international law	64
5.3	Sources of international law	64
5.4	Custom in international law	65
5.5	Treaties	66
5.6	International law and national law	67
5.7	The effect of international law in the UK constitution	67
	Key cases checklist	71

Chapter 6
EUROPEAN UNION LAW 72

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 6.1 | The origins and development of EU law | 72 |
| 6.2 | EU Treaties | 73 |
| 6.3 | Institutions within the European Union | 74 |
| 6.4 | The Court of Justice of the European Union | 75 |
| 6.5 | Different EU law instruments: Treaties, Regulations and Directives | 76 |
| 6.6 | Supremacy of EU law and the European Communities Act 1972 | 78 |
| 6.7 | <i>Factortame</i> and the impact on parliamentary sovereignty | 81 |
| 6.8 | The EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and overlaps with European human rights law | 82 |
| 6.9 | An ongoing relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union? | 85 |
| | Key cases checklist | 86 |

Chapter 7
EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998 89

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 7.1 | The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms | 90 |
| 7.2 | Particular rights from the ECHR and its Protocols | 90 |
| 7.3 | Derogation | 95 |
| 7.4 | The proportionality principle | 95 |
| 7.5 | The margin of appreciation | 95 |
| 7.6 | The UK constitution and the impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 | 96 |
| 7.7 | Section 2 of the Human Rights Act 1998: UK courts drawing on the case law of the ECtHR | 96 |
| 7.8 | Section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998: interpreting statute in the light of the ECHR | 99 |
| 7.9 | Sections 4 and 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998: Declarations of Incompatibility and fast-track statutory reform | 99 |
| 7.10 | Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998: duties to be upheld by public bodies under the ECHR | 101 |
| 7.11 | Section 7 of the Human Rights Act 1998: cases brought by the 'victims' of rights infringements under the ECHR | 102 |
| 7.12 | Section 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998: remedies for the unlawful interference with rights under the ECHR | 103 |

7.13	Possible reform of the UK human rights framework	103
	Key cases checklist	106
Chapter 8		
DEVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE		111
8.1	Historical overview of the formation of the United Kingdom	112
8.2	Key developments in the late 20th century	114
8.3	Key legislation – an overview	116
8.4	Recent moves toward greater devolution or independence	119
8.5	Looking ahead	121
PART 2		
PUBLIC LAW IN PRACTICE		125
Chapter 9		
THE CONTEMPORARY ROLE AND POSSIBLE REFORM OF PARLIAMENT		125
9.1	A bicameral Parliament	126
9.2	The electoral system relevant to the ‘Westminster Parliament’	127
9.3	Other electoral systems used in the United Kingdom	129
9.4	The Electoral Commission and controls on lobbying and campaigning	130
9.5	Broadcasting	132
9.6	The House of Commons	133
9.7	The House of Lords	134
9.8	The Parliament Acts	137
9.9	Parliamentary privilege	138
9.10	Parliamentary standards	140
	Key cases checklist	142
Chapter 10		
THE CONTEMPORARY ROLE, SCOPE AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE		146
10.1	Defining the executive: Ministers, Government departments and public bodies	147
10.2	Ministerial responsibility and accountability, and a Ministerial Code	151
10.3	Local authorities	152
10.4	Police structures	155
10.5	Different types of public body	156

10.6	Prerogative powers today: the Monarch and Ministers exercising power	157
10.7	Proper scrutiny of the executive branch of Government by Parliament	166
10.8	The work of the parliamentary committees	168
10.9	Wider controls on the power of the executive: judicial review, the media and the electorate	169
10.10	The traditional role of the Civil Service and the growth of 'special advisers' to Ministers	170
10.11	The executive, public records and freedom of information law in the United Kingdom and Europe	173
	Key cases checklist	176
Chapter 11		
	THE CONTEMPORARY ROLE AND POWERS OF THE COURTS	179
11.1	The role of the courts in the UK constitution	179
11.2	The importance of the separation of powers doctrine in assigning the courts a role in the UK constitution	180
11.3	Developing the common law	180
11.4	Engaging in dialogue with Parliament, the Government and European legal structures	181
11.5	Engaging with Parliament	183
11.6	Engaging with the Government	185
11.7	Engaging with European legal structures: the European Union	186
11.8	Engaging with European legal structures: a relationship with the European Court of Human Rights	186
11.9	The growth of the landscape of administrative justice	188
11.10	A system of tribunals	188
11.11	Ombudsmen and regulators	190
11.12	Inquiries	192
	Key cases checklist	193
Chapter 12		
	THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE AND CONFIGURATION OF JUDICIAL REVIEW	196
12.1	Defining the role of judicial review	196
12.2	A (problematic) growth in judicial review, or scrutiny of the Government we can be proud of?	197
12.3	Judicial review and the Human Rights Act 1998	198
12.4	Defining public bodies: amenability to judicial review	199
12.5	Reviewing crucial matters of policy	200

12.6	Limitations on judicial review: the concept of justiciability	201
12.7	Ouster clauses and other exclusions in relation to judicial review	201
12.8	Exhausting other processes: the importance of the availability of other remedies beyond judicial review	203
	Key cases checklist	204
Chapter 13		
	PROCESS, STANDING AND REMEDIES IN JUDICIAL REVIEW	208
13.1	Procedural requirements in applying for permission for judicial review	209
13.2	The pre-action protocol in relation to claims for judicial review	210
13.3	Time limits	211
13.4	'Sufficient interest' standing	211
13.5	Standing in human rights claims	212
13.6	Representative standing	213
13.7	Prerogative remedies in judicial review – and the influence of the Human Rights Act 1998	214
13.8	Other remedies used in judicial review	215
13.9	Declaratory relief	216
13.10	Judicial deference and comity: refusal of a remedy	216
	Key cases checklist	217
Chapter 14		
	SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	220
14.1	An overview of grounds for judicial review	221
14.2	Types of illegality and the importance of statutory interpretation in deploying arguments about illegality in claiming judicial review	222
14.3	Illegality as an excess of powers (<i>ultra vires</i>)	223
14.4	Illegality as an improper purpose	223
14.5	Illegality as an error of law (or an error of fact)	224
14.6	Illegality as a failure to take into account a relevant consideration, or the taking into account of an irrelevant consideration	225
14.7	Illegality as an unlawful delegation of power in decision-making	226
14.8	Illegality as an unlawful fettering of discretion in decision-making	226
14.9	Unreasonableness and irrationality	227
14.10	<i>Wednesbury</i> unreasonableness	227

14.11	Proportionality: influenced by human rights law	228
	Key cases checklist	230
Chapter 15		
	PROCEDURAL GROUNDS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	237
15.1	An overview of procedural grounds for judicial review	237
15.2	Natural justice	238
15.3	Bias: the rule against bias (<i>nemo iudex in causa sua</i>)	239
15.4	Legitimate expectations	241
15.5	Procedural fairness	245
15.6	Procedural <i>ultra vires</i>	245
15.7	The general public sector equality duty (or duties)	246
	Key cases checklist	250
Chapter 16		
	HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	256
16.1	An overview of human rights grounds for judicial review	256
16.2	Engaging rights: measuring lawful and unlawful interferences with rights	259
16.3	Absolute, limited and qualified rights in the language of the ECHR	259
16.4	The concept of ‘positive obligations’ under the ECHR	260
16.5	The concept of a margin of appreciation	260
16.6	Preventing the use of ECHR rights to undermine the rights of others	261
	Key cases checklist	262
16.7	Article 2 ECHR	263
16.8	Article 3 ECHR	263
16.9	Article 5 ECHR	265
16.10	Article 6 ECHR	266
16.11	Case law on qualified rights under the ECHR	268
16.12	Article 8 ECHR	269
16.13	Article 9 (and Article 14) ECHR	275
16.14	Article 10 ECHR	276
16.15	Article 11 ECHR	277
16.16	ECHR rights drawn from Protocols	279
16.17	Overlaps between ECHR rights and the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights	279
	INDEX	281