
Contents

Preface	ix
Table of statutes	xi
Table of cases	xxi
Abbreviations	xliii
Acknowledgements	xliv
Part I — General constitutional law	
1. Definition and scope of constitutional law	3
A. What is a constitution? 4	
B. Scope of constitutional law 9	
2. Sources and nature of the constitution	12
A. The legal rules of the constitution 12	
B. Non-legal rules of the constitution 19	
C. Other sources of the constitution 30	
D. Constitutional government in Britain 33	
3. The structure of the United Kingdom	36
4. The relationship between legislature, executive and judiciary	47
5. Parliamentary supremacy	60
A. The growth of the legislative authority of Parliament 60	
B. Meaning of legislative supremacy 64	
C. Continuing nature of Parliamentary supremacy 70	
D. The Treaty of Union between England and Scotland 84	
E. Conclusions 88	
6. The rule of law	91
A. Historical development 92	
B. Rule of law and its implications today 97	
7. Responsible government	105

8. The United Kingdom and the European Communities	120
A. The EEC and Community law	120
B. Community law and the United Kingdom	134
9. Composition of Parliament	144
A. House of Lords	144
B. House of Commons	148
10. Meeting of Parliament	170
11. Functions of Parliament	177
A. Legislation	178
B. Conflict between the two Houses	190
C. Financial procedure	196
D. Scrutiny of administration	204
12. Privileges of Parliament	210
A. House of Commons	211
B. Financial interests of members	223
C. House of Lords	228
13. The Crown and the prerogative	229
A. The Sovereign	230
B. The Queen in Council	243
C. The royal prerogative	245
14. The Cabinet, ministers and government departments	256
A. Cabinet and Prime Minister	256
B. Ministers and departments	266
15. The civil service	273
16. Public finance, taxation and the economy	284
17. Public boards and advisory bodies	295
A. Public boards	297
B. Advisory bodies	310
18. Foreign affairs	313
A. Executive certificates	314
B. Act of state	316
C. Treaties	320
D. Recognition and immunities	323
19. The courts and the machinery of justice	326
A. The courts and the judiciary	326
B. Contempt of court	342
C. The executive and the machinery of justice	352
20. The police	362
21. Local government	375
22. Devolution of government	397
23. The armed forces	406
24. The United Kingdom and the Commonwealth	418

Part II – The citizen and the state

25. Citizenship, immigration and extradition	437
A. Citizenship	437
B. Immigration and deportation	445
C. Extradition	462
26. Freedom of person and property	471
A. Personal freedom and police powers	473
B. Habeas corpus	491
C. Enjoyment of property rights	497
27. Liberty of expression	501
A. Civil restraints upon freedom of expression	502
B. Criminal restraints upon freedom of expression	509
C. Law and the media	521
28. Meetings, protest and public order	527
29. Emergency powers	547
A. Use of the armed forces	547
B. Emergency powers in peace and war	555
C. Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984	559
30. State security	563
31. Protection of human rights	574
A. Legislation against discrimination	574
B. European Convention of Human Rights	578
C. A Bill of Rights for the United Kingdom?	584

Part III – Administrative law

32. Nature and development of administrative law	593
33. Delegated legislation	609
34. Judicial control of administrative action	626
A. Excess and abuse of powers	628
B. Natural justice	642
C. Binding nature of official acts	651
35. Methods of judicial control	655
36. Liability of public authorities and the Crown	675
A. Liability of public authorities and the Crown in tort	676
B. Contractual liability	687
C. The Crown in litigation: privileges and immunities	692
37. Administrative justice	701
A. Tribunals	703
B. Public inquiries	713
C. Tribunals of Inquiry	719
D. Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration	721

Appendix A: The Canadian constitutional controversy, 1981-2	730
Appendix B: Current developments	734
Bibliography	741
Index	749