

Module Descriptor



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Module title	Public law
Module code	LA1020
Module level	4
Contact email	The Undergraduate Laws Programme courses are run in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre at: www.enquiries.londoninternational.ac.uk
Credit value	30
Courses on which this module is offered	CertHE, LLB, EMFSS
Module pre-requisite	None
Notional study time	300 hours

MODULE PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Public law is one of the seven foundation subjects required for a qualifying law degree in England and Wales and is a core requirement of the University of London LLB and CertHE Common Law programmes. This module is concerned with the core features of the UK constitution and examines the impact of both EU membership and Council of Europe membership. Emphasis is placed throughout on the changing nature of the UK constitution – in particular the move from a political to a more legal constitution – as well as the case for further change.

MODULE AIM

This module introduces students to the role of the main institutional actors (the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary) within the UK constitution and the processes of constitutional change. Students will be able to analyse key issues governing the relation between citizens and the state, including sovereignty and the division of powers between legislature, executive and administration.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: KNOWLEDGE

Students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of the main concepts and principles of Public law. In particular they should be able to:

1. Explain the nature and purpose of constitutions including the ways in which governmental powers are generally allocated amongst the institutions of the state, and the way in which courts operate to review administrative action and protect basic rights;
2. Describe the main institutions and legal characteristics of the EU and analyse the implications for the UK constitution;
3. Assess the constitutional implications for the UK of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the role of the European Court of Human Rights;
4. Understand the social and political context in which public law is situated;
5. Evaluate suggestions for constitutional reform in the United Kingdom and the European Union.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: SKILLS

Students completing this module should be able to:

6. Conduct straightforward legal research, retrieving information from a range of data sources and including interpretation of textual and numerical data;

7. Distinguish relevant facts and issues presented in a range of legal material;
8. Interpret primary and secondary legal sources, including case law and statutes, to answer questions;
9. Construct a coherent argument in response to oral or written stimuli.

BENCHMARK FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) benchmark statement for Law (2015).

MODULE SYLLABUS

(a) *The Conceptual Framework of Public Law*. Introducing Public Law. The UK Constitution and its Core Institutions. Parliamentary Supremacy. The Rule Of Law.

(b) *Executive and Legislative Functions*. Limited Government and the Separation of Powers. Ministerial Accountability. Crown and Prerogative Powers. UK Primary Legislation. UK Delegated Legislation. Constitutional Conventions.

(c) *Multi-layered Governance*. EU Legal and Governmental. Order EU Law and UK Constitutional Law Devolution.

(d) *Courts and the Constitution*. Judicial Independence and Accountability. Principles of Judicial Review I: Illegality. Principles of JR II: Procedural Fairness. Principles of JR III: Irrationality and Proportionality.

(e) *Human Rights*. Human Rights Protection. HRA Jurisprudence. HRA and Terrorism.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Subject guide

Subject guides are the student's primary learning resource. The subject guide covers the entire syllabus and provides students with the grounding to complete the module successfully. The subject guide sets out the learning outcomes that must be achieved as well as providing advice on how to study the subject. Each chapter of the guide includes essential and further reading and a series of activities designed to test knowledge and develop relevant skills. A summary of the main points arising in each chapter of the guide is also provided. The guide is supplemented each year with 'Recent Developments in Law', made available on the VLE.

The Laws Virtual Learning Environment

The Laws VLE provides one centralised location where the following resources are provided:

- a module page with news and updates, provided by legal academics associated with the Laws Programme;
- a complete version of the subject guides;
- online audio presentations;
- recent developments in law;
- past examination papers and reports;
- discussion forums where students can debate and interact with other students;
- Computer Marked Assessments – multiple choice questions with feedback are available for some modules allowing students to test their knowledge and understanding of the key topics.

The Online Library

The Online Library provides access to:

- the professional legal databases LexisLibrary and Westlaw;
- cases and up-to-date statutes;
- key academic law journals;
- law reports;
- links to important websites.

Core Reading

Students should refer to the following core text. Specific reading references are provided for this text in each chapter of the subject guide:

Le Sueur, A., M. Sunkin and J. Murkens *Public law: text, cases and materials*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013) second edition [ISBN 9780199644186].
<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199644186.do>

ASSESSMENT

Learning is supported by means of a series of activities in the subject guide. Generic feedback on each of the activities is provided at the end of the guide. The activities are designed to test knowledge and understanding and also assist students to develop skills listed in outcomes 6-8. There are additional online activities in the form of multiple choice questions. The formative activities also prepare students to achieve the module learning outcomes tested in the Summative Assessment.

Summative assessment is through a three hour unseen examination. Students are required to answer 4 essay questions out of 8. Summative assessment will demonstrate achievement of outcomes 1-5 and 9.

Permitted materials

Students are permitted to bring into the examination room the following specified document:
Blackstone's statutes on public law and human rights. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780198736059.do>