Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008561	**Version:** 7 **Date Amended:** 03/Nov/2025

1. Module Title
Constitutional and Administrative Law

2a. Module Leader
Jane Martin

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Constitutional and Administrative law is all about legal power: where it is located in the British constitution and how and by whom its use is scrutinised and checked. This foundational subject for those considering a career in the legal profession, provides a broad framework in which all other areas of substantive law operate, whilst also reflecting on the historical development of liberal values and contemporary notions of citizenship that underpin modern British society and values.

Initially you'll focus on the constitution of the United Kingdom, providing you with a solid foundation in the main structures, relationships and themes in domestic constitutional law. Consideration will be given to questions such as: What are the key features of the constitution? Where is power located in the United Kingdom? What is parliamentary supremacy and how has it been impacted upon by such things as EU membership, the Human Rights Act 1998, devolution and Brexit?

After considering key areas of constitutional law, you'll move on to administrative law and related matters. The focus will be on the main non-parliamentary ways in which decision-makers are held to account and will involve looking at inquiries and ombudsmen and the important function of judicial review which you'll examine through authentic, real world case studies. Finally, you'll be introduced to human rights and civil liberties, particularly the substance and impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 and its place conceptually and practically within law.

As this module fulfils part of the seven Foundations of Legal Knowledge, in alignment with the Bar Standards Board's requirement compensation is not permitted for this module.

6b. Outline Content

- The UK constitution, its nature and sources
- Constitutional doctrines: separation and balance of powers, the rule of law
- The operation of Parliament
- Parliamentary supremacy and the impact of EU membership, the Human Rights Act 1998, and devolution
- The role of the executive
- The royal prerogative
- Introduction to administrative law
- Tribunals, inquiries and ombudsmen
- Principles of judicial review
- The European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify and describe the legal framework, including rules, principles, doctrines, institutions, processes and procedures and or institutions relating to constitutional and administrative law, and recognise how they interrelate within and broader social, political, commercial, ethical and other contexts in balancing interests in society;
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify a range of relevant legal materials relating to constitutional and administrative law recognising different perspectives and beginning to analyse areas of uncertainty and ambiguity in legal content;
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Apply basic legal understanding to straightforward scenarios, outlining reasoned solutions that reflect core legal principles and simple practical implications;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate legal information and arguments effectively with basic structure and clarity, demonstrating clear expression and accurate use of academic conventions, including introductory OSCOLA referencing and bibliography;
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify individual strengths, areas for improvement, and describe the influence of one's actions on outcomes, demonstrating emerging self-awareness, and the ability to recognise insights to future academic or professional contexts;
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse straightforward legal scenarios and select appropriate outcomes showing an emerging ability to apply structured legal reasoning.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	47.5	1-6	2 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 2 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 2 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks
Student managed learning	252.5	1-6	To include such things as online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion. This is adjusted if additional Teacher Managed Learning is used to ensure total 300 hours.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Component 010_1 - Assessed Piece to support skills for main assessment (max 500 words) Component 010_2 A scenario-based question applying the theory and practice of constitutional and administrative law (up to 3000 words Compensation is not permitted for this module.

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	**Assessment Title**	**Submission Method**	**Weighting (%)**	**Components needed for Mark Calculation?**
010/1	Assessed Piece (up to 500 words)	Canvas	20 (%)	All
010/2	Scenario-based question (up to 3000 words)	Canvas	80 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]