



Module code	ULAW/4/PULW/19/E	NQF level	4
Credit value	30	Study duration	18 weeks

# Public Law

## Module description

This is a 30 credit Level 4 module which forms part of the core of the LLB. All students must complete this part of the course. The module covers the key constitutional concepts and principles and the substance and role of Constitutional and of Administrative Law.

### This module aims to:

This module aims to develop in students:

- knowledge and understanding of the constitution of the United Kingdom, its core institutions, its constitutional principles and processes and the mechanisms of democratic accountability which exist between them
- understanding of the social, environmental and political context in which constitutional and administrative law operates, and an ability to debate such issues in relation to more general ethical perspectives
- understanding of the operation of constitutional law in a practical context
- understanding of the role and function of the Human Rights Act 1998 within the UK constitutional system; and an appreciation of the nature of some of the basic European Convention rights
- knowledge of administrative law in the UK on both a theoretical level and in a practical context and the development of a critical understanding of the subject

## Learning outcomes

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the UK constitution, the sources of law and the bodies of governance
- demonstrate a knowledge and Understanding of the impact of the Human Rights Act
- demonstrate a knowledge and Understanding of the principles of judicial review
- apply knowledge to a range of questions in a variety of legal contexts
- identify legal issues in familiar and unfamiliar scenarios
- understand the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
- demonstrate familiarity with relevant research
- present arguable and reasoned conclusions
- demonstrate an ability to manage own time, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
- solve problems by clarifying questions, considering alternative solutions and evaluating outcomes

## Syllabus

- Sources and characteristics of uk constitution
- Conventions
- Key principles of the constitution: separation of powers
- Key principles of the constitution: the rule of law
- The executive
- The executive: prerogative power
- The executive: accountability
- Parliament: legitimacy and privilege
- Parliament: devolution
- Primary and secondary legislation
- Parliamentary sovereignty, including impact of EU Law
- ECHR/HRA
- ECHR (Arts 1, 6, 7, 8 and 10) 1
- ECHR (Arts 1, 6, 7, 8 and 10) 2
- The judiciary: judicial power and decision making and introduction to judicial review
- Judicial review grounds 1- illegality
- Judicial review grounds 2- procedural impropriety and legitimate expectation
- Judicial review grounds 3- irrationality

## Learning and teaching methods

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly live seminars (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

There will be also provision for weekly meetings with tutors in their office hours supplementing online students' self-managed learning, discussing their individual queries, and directing them to require and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Assessed discussion activity	2 weeks	N/A	10%
Mid module assignment: case analysis	2,500 words	Mid term	30%
End of module project: advice to client on practical scenario	3,500 words	End term	40%
Reflective journal entries	Each up to 500 words	Units 3, 13, 16	20%