The Honorable Society of King’s Inns

Entrance Examination 2020

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

EXAMINER: Mr John O’Dowd (UCD)

EXTERN: Advocate General Gerard Hogan

Attached:
Syllabus 2020
Reading List 2020
Examination Format 2020
TEXTS AND TEXTBOOKS

All students should have a copy of Bunreacht na hÉireann/Constitution of Ireland; an up-to-date (January 2020) official text (in both languages) is available at:


This includes the most recent amendments—

Twenty-Ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Act 2011
Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Treaty on Stability, Co-ordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Act 2012
Thirty-third Amendment of the Constitution (Court of Appeal) Act 2013
Thirty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Act 2012
Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (Marriage Equality) Act, 2015
Thirty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution Act 2018
Thirty-seventh Amendment of the Constitution (Repeal of offence of publication or utterance of blasphemous matter) Act 2018
Thirty-eighth Amendment of the Constitution (Dissolution of Marriage) Act 2019

There is no amendment entitled the Thirty-second or the Thirty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

Students may usefully refer to:

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, Kelly: The Irish Constitution (Bloomsbury Professional, 2018, 5th edition)

Casey, Constitutional Law in Ireland (Sweet & Maxwell, 2000, 3rd edition)


Forde and Leonard, Constitutional Law of Ireland, 3rd edition (Bloomsbury, 2013)


The Report of the Constitution Review Group (Government Publication.1996, Pn. 2632) remains a very useful source. The text of the Report is available on the web, on the website of the Constitutional Convention, which students may also find it useful to look at more generally:

http://www.constitutionalconvention.ie/

For an archived copy of the Report, see:


The focus of the examination will be on key constitutional principles: the separation of powers; principles of judicial review; the Oireachtas, Government and President and the key fundamental rights contained in Articles 38 and 40-44.
Some basic knowledge of relevant ECHR case-law is also expected.

This (comparatively) lengthy reading-list is designed to assist rather than to intimidate! Obviously, a good knowledge of the case-law is essential, but the ability of students to identify the issues; to reason by analogy and to apply the legal principles to the facts are also very important.

The citation of Irish cases has been confined to those more recent decisions—Irish or European, generally ones not dealt with in the discussion of the relevant topics in Kelly, Hogan and Whyte The Irish Constitution (5th ed.) That does not mean that earlier cases are not still be just as relevant.

The examination itself will be three hours in duration. Every effort will be made to ensure that the examination fairly reflects the syllabus, though not all topics will be examined each year. The examination is designed to bring out the best in each student, rather than to trip you with “trick” questions or questions with an unduly narrow focus. However, you should expect that some, at least, questions will combine material emanating from different topics.

Students must answer three questions out of five.

**Question 1 is compulsory** and carries **50 marks**.

Each of other questions carries **25 marks**.

Note: “MJLER” stands for Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform; “MJE” stands for Minister for Justice and Equality”; “MJLR” stands for “Minister for Justice and Law Reform”.

**Topic 1: The Separation of Powers**

*The Executive Power*

Article 28.1 -2

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, *Kelly: The Irish Constitution*, pp. 164-170 and 431-437
Casey, *Constitution Law in Ireland*, pp. 346-350
Doyle, pp. 362-378

Whyte and Doyle “The Separation of Powers and Constitutional Egalitarianism after the Health (Amendment) (No 2) Bill Reference” in O’Dell (ed) /The Older Person: Law and Policy in Modern Ireland/ (Dublin, 2005)

Marques v MJE [2019] IESC 16 (20 March)

The Executive Power: International Relations

Article 29.4, Irish Constitution
Casey, pp. 230-233 and 205-220
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 567-581
Doyle, pp. 341-348
Hogan, “The Supreme Court and the SEA” (1987) 22 Irish Jurist 55

Pringle v Government of Ireland [2012] IESC 47 (19 October)

The President

Articles 1-2-14 and 26, Irish Constitution
See generally Casey, Ch.3


The Houses of the Oireachtas

Articles 15, 17 and 20

See generally Casey, pp.101-103 and 123-152; Doyle, pp. 327-332 and 378-381

Kerins v McGuinness [2019] IESC 11 (27 February)
O’Brien v Clerk of Dáil Éireann [2019] IESC 12 (5 March)
Smith v An Ceann Comhairle [2019] IEHC 746 (6 November)

Legislative Power and the Executive (Separation of Powers)

Casey, pp. 221-230
Gwynn Morgan, The Separation of Powers in the Irish Constitution, Ch.11
Doyle, pp. 309-327

Carolan, “Democratic Accountability and the Non-Delegation Doctrine” (2011) 18 DULJ 220

Friends of the Irish Environment Ltd v Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment [2019] IEHC 646 (20 September)
Smith v An Ceann Comhairle [2019] IEHC 746 (6 November)
DPP v District Judge McGrath [2019] IECA 320 (20 December)

**Legislative Power and the Judiciary (Separation of Powers)**

*The Judicial Power*

Articles 34-38
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 693-726, 782-848
Casey, pp.239-274
Doyle, pp. 353-362

*Judicial Power and the Legislature (Separation of Powers)*


*What is the Judicial Power?*

**Sentencing & Detention:**

G(M) v Director of Oberstown Children Detention Centre [2019] IEHC 275 (3 May)
Ellis v MJE [2019] IESC 30 (15 May)

*Freezing and Forfeiture*

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1354-55

**Topic 2: Personal Rights**


Humphreys, “Interpreting Natural Rights” (1993-5) *Irish Jurist* 221
Adrian Twomey, “The Death of Natural Law” (1995) *ILT* 270
Parker, “Must constitutional rights be specified? Reflections on the proposal to amend Article 40.3.1” (1997) 32 *Irish Jurist* 102
Kavanagh, “The Quest for Legitimacy in Constitutional Interpretation” (1997) 32 Irish Jurist 195
de Blacam, “Justice and Natural Law” (1997) 32 Irish Jurist 323
Coffey “Article 28.3.3, The Natural Law and the Judiciary - Three Easy Pieces” (2004) 22 ILT 310

O(ME) (Nigeria) v MJELR [2012] IEHC 448 (2 November)
Y(Y) v Minister for Justice and Equality [2017] IESC 61 (27 July)
M(IR) v MJE [2018] IESC 14 (7 March)

Doctrine of Proportionality
See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1477-1507

P v Minister for Justice and Equality [2019] IESC 47 (31 May)

Right to earn a livelihood
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1699-1713
Casey v Minister of Arts [2004] 1 IR 402
Morrissey v Minister for Defence [2018] IEHC 672 (30 November)

Fair procedures
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1330-32, 1568-72, 1759-61
M(LS) (a minor suing through her mother and next friend M(K)) v Child and Family Agency [2018] IECA 385 (5 December 2018)
Shatter v Guerin [2019] IESC 9 (26 February)
Kelly v Dublin City Council [2019] IESC 56 (29 May)
P v Minister for Justice and Equality [2019] IESC 47 (31 May)

Right to Travel
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1761-63

Access to the courts
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1729-59
Doyle, pp. 128-132

Privacy and Sexuality
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1713-29

Muwema v Facebook Ireland Ltd [2018] IECA 104 (19 April)
Barry v Governor of Midlands Prison [2018] IEHC 279 (11 May)
DPP v McDonnell [2018] IECA 189 (28 June)
Dwyer v Commissioner of An Garda Síochána [2018] IEHC 685 (6 December)
Criminal Assets Bureau v Mannion [2018] IEHC 729 (17 December)
McMorrow v Governor of The Midlands Prison [2018] IEHC 765 (21 December)
DPP v v Brown [2018] IESC 67 (21 December)
P v Judges of the Circuit Court [2019] IESC 26 (30 April)
DPP v Doherty [2019] IECA 209 (31 May)
Dwyer v Commissioner of An Garda Síochana [2020] IESC 4 (24 February)
Dwyer v Commissioner of An Garda Síochana [2020] IESC 4_1 (24 February)

Conscientious objection

E(G) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal [2018] IEHC 564 (15 October)

Protection of the environment

Merriman v Fingal County Council [2017] IEHC 695 (21 November)

Personal identity

Habte v MJE [2020] IECA 22 (5 February)
Habte v MJE [2020] IECA 22_1 (5 February)

Protection of “the person”

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1666-69

Simpson v Governor of Mountjoy Prison [2019] IESC 81 (14 November)
Simpson v Governor of Mountjoy Prison [2019] IESC 81_1 (14 November)

Right to Life

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp.1652-64

M(IR) v MJE [2018] IESC 14 (7 March)

Thirty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution Act 2018
Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018

Topic 3: Property Rights

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2347-2455; CRG Report pp. 357-367
Doyle, pp. 133-165
McCormack, “Blake and its Aftermath” (1983) 5 DULJ 205

General Principles

Parkin (a debtor), Re: Lisa [2019] IEHC 56 (4 February)

Interference with property rights and compensation

Barry v Ennis Property Finance DAC [2018] IEHC 766 (21 December)

Topic 4: Freedom of expression and freedom of association

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2061-2121; CRG Report, pp. 291-304
Doyle, pp. 194-207

O’Dell, “Does Defamation value Free Expression?” (1990) 12 DULJ 50
Conroy, “Constitutionalising the Tort of Defamation” (2002) 5 Trinity College L Rev 1
Casey, “Injunctions and Freedom of Expression” in Breen, Casey and Kerr, Liber Memoralis for Professor JC Brady (Dublin 2001) at 139-147

Expression: General Principles

DPP v Independent News and Media plc [2018] IECA 301 (10 October)

Article 10 - ECHR

Murphy v Ireland (2004) 38 EHRR 13
Pedersen and Baadsgaard v Denmark (No 2) (2006) 42 EHRR 486
Independent News and Media & Independent Newspapers Ireland Ltd v Ireland (2006) 42 EHRR 1024
Lindon v France [2007] ECHR 836 (22 October)
Sanoma Uitgevers BV v The Netherlands [2009] ECHR 994 (31 March 2009) (under referral to the Grand Chamber)
Financial Times Ltd v United Kingdom [2009] ECHR 2065 (15 December)
Von Hannover v Germany (No 2) [2012] ECHR 228 (7 February)
Axel Springer AG v Germany [2012] ECHR 227 (7 February)
Aksu v Turkey [GC] [2012] ECHR 445 (15 March)
Mouvement raëlien suisse v Switzerland [GC] (2013) 56 EHRR 14 (13 July 2012)
PETA Deutschland v Germany [2012] ECHR 1888 (8 November)
Animal Defenders International v UK [GC] [2013] ECHR 362 (22 April)
Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Ltd v Ireland [2017] ECHR 567 (15 June)

**Freedom of Association**

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2135-68; CRG Report, pp. 312-317
Doyle, pp. 207-217


**Article 11 - ECHR**

Refah Partisi (Welfare Party) v Turkey (2003) 37 EHRR 1
ASLEF v UK [2007] ECHR 184 (27 February)
Demir and Baykara v Turkey (2009) 48 EHRR 54 (12 November 2008)
Redfearn v UK [2012] ECHR 1878 (6 November)

See also: Evaldsson v Sweden [2007] ECHR 129 (13 February)

**Topic 5: Equality before the Law - Article 40.1**

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1561-1643; CRG Report, pp. 220-243


**General Principles**

Shaw v Minister for Justice and Equality [2018] IEHC 288 (9 March)
Donnelly v Minister for Social Protection [2018] IEHC 421 (17 July)
Buck v Governor of Portlaoise Prison [2018] IEHC 354 (3 October)
G(M) v Director of Oberstown Children Detention Centre [2019] IEHC 275 (3 May)
O v Minister for Social Protection [2019] IESC 82 (21 November)
O v Minister for Social Protection [2019] IESC 82_1 (21 November)

**Sex Based Discrimination**

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1356-1358
Topic 6: Article 38.1: Trial in Due Course of Law

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1231-1356 (general) 1356-82 (delay); CRG Report, pp. 191-209


Bloom and Dewey “When Rights Become Empty Promises: Promoting an Exclusionary Rule that Vindicates Personal Rights” (2011) 46 Irish Jurist 38

General Principles

Konadu v DPP [2018] IEHC 72 (5 February)
MJE v Celmer [2018] IEHC 119 (12 March)
MJE v Celmer [2018] IEHC 153 (23 March)
DPP v Connolly [2018] IECA 201 (28 June)
Bita v DPP [2018] IEHC 385 (4 July)
DPP v H [2018] IESC 32 (17 July)
DPP v Forsey [2018] IESC 55 (8 November 2018)
DPP v Casey [2019] IESC 7 (21 February)
O’Callaghan v Ireland [2019] IEHC 782 (14 March)
Ryan v Governor of Mountjoy Prison [2020] IESC 8 (19 March)

Autrefois Acquit and related principles

 Courts and Court Officers Act 1995, s 44

"An appeal shall not lie to the Supreme Court from a decision of the Central Criminal Court to acquit a person, other than an appeal under s 34 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1967."

Undue delay

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1144-1170

Present-day general approach to delay

H(M) v DPP [2018] IEHC 560 (12 October)
S(H) v DPP [2019] IEHC 107 (1 March)
O’Callaghan v Ireland [2019] IEHC 782 (14 March)
S(H) v DPP [2019] IECA 266 (22 October)

Right to counsel

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1299-1330


Criminal Justice Act 2011 ss 9-14 (not yet commenced)

McEntaggart v DPP [2018] IEHC 230 (20 April)
DPP v Nash [2018] IECA 147 (8 May)
Farrell v Superintendent of Milford Garda Station [2019] IEHC 67 (11 February)

*Unconstitutionally Obtained Evidence*

Balance in the Criminal Law Group, *Final Report*, pp 147 to 166

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1308-21

DPP v Flynn [2018] IECA 39 (20 February)
DPP v Tierney [2018] IECA 44 (23 February)
Criminal Assets Bureau v Murphy [2018] IESC 12 (27 February)
DPP v Doherty [2019] IECA 209 (31 May)

*Gathering and preservation of evidence*

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1341-46

Non-criminal context: Curtin v Irish Coursing Club [2009] IEHC 175 (6 March)

*Unfair pre-trial publicity*

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1333-41

*Power of search*

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1328-30, 2019-60

*Right to silence*

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1288-99


Balance in the Criminal Law Group, *Final Report*, pp 17 to 98
Criminal Justice Act 2007 ss 28-32

DPP (Garda James Reynolds) v Burke [2018] IEHC 554 (11 October)
Sweeney v Ireland [2019] IESC 39 (28 May)

**Topic 7: Article 38.5 - Right to Jury Trial**

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1429-48
Casey, “Interpretation of Constitutional Guarantees” (1996) 31 Irish Jurist 102

**Topic 8: Locus Standi, Mootness, Justicability & Remedies**

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 141-51, 719-26, 943-94, 1037-83


A. Locus standi

B. Jus Tertii

Mohan v Ireland [2018] IECA 13 (9 February)
P v Judges of the Circuit Court [2019] IESC 26 (30 April)

C. Justiciability

See Casey, Constitutional Law in Ireland at 277-281

Kerins v McGuinness [2019] IESC 11 (27 February)
O’Brien v Clerk of Dáil Éireann [2019] IESC 12 (5 March)
Re Appropriate Care of a Ward of Court [2019] IEHC 393 (31 May)

D. Mootness

M(IR) v MJE [2018] IESC 14 (7 March)

E. Abstract judicial review: the Article 26 procedure

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 477-92
Jaconelli, “Reference of Bills to the Supreme Court” (1983) Irish Jurist 322

Re Article 26 and the Equal Status Bill, 1997 [1997] 2 IR 387

F. Rule of Avoidance

See Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 982-94

Morrissey v National Asset Management Agency [2019] IEHC 576 (2 July)
Friends of the Irish Environment Ltd v Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment [2019] IEHC 646 (20 September)

G. Effect of declarations of invalidity or inconsistency

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1037-83
H. Constitutional Lacunae

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1042-51

I. Injunctions

Friends of the Irish Environment Ltd v Minister for Communications [2019] IEHC 555 (23 July)

Topic 9: Referendum Law

Articles 46-47
Casey, pp.709-719
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2525-56


Jordan v Ireland [2018] IECA 291 (27 August 2018)

Topic 10: Personal Liberty

Articles 40.4.1 and 40.4.6

Article 5 ECHR
Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1807-79, 1885-1930
Casey, pp. 476-511

Arrest and detention powers
Offences against the State Act 1939, s 30
Offences against the State (Amendment) Act 1998, s 10
Criminal Justice Act 1984, s 4
Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act 1996, s 2(2)
Criminal Justice Act 2006 s 9(c)
Criminal Justice Act 2007 s 50

McCutcheon, “Section 30 Yet Again” (1988) 10 DULJ 158

Position of prisoners
McD v Governor of X Prison [2018] IEHC 668 (1 November)
Simpson v Governor of Mountjoy Prison [2019] IESC 81 (14 November)
Simpson v Governor of Mountjoy Prison [2019] IESC 81_1 (14 November)
Therapeutic detention

L(P) v Clinical Director of St. Patrick’s UH [2018] IECA 29 (14 February)
M(A) v Health Service Executive [2019] IESC 3 (29 January)
A(C) v Patricia Hickey General Solicitor [2019] IESC 73 (17 October)

Topic 11: FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2457-2509
Casey, pp. 685-708
CRG Report at 368-388

Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018

Topic 12: IMPACT OF THE ECHR

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 635-40; 1555-59


European Convention of Human Rights Act, 2003

McAuley v Judge Fergus [2018] IECA 30 (7 February)

Topic 13: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN

Art 41.4 (inserted by the Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (Marriage Equality) Act 2015)

Art 42A (inserted by the Thirty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Act 2012)

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2169-2346
CRG Report pp. 319-337

Casey, pp. 612-652

Protection of the family and children

S(MKF) (Pakistan) v MJE [2018] IEHC 103 (6 February)
M(P) v H(V) [2018] IECA 4 (24 January)
M(IR) v MJE [2018] IESC 14 (7 March)
Child and Family Agency v Adoption Authority of Ireland [2018] IEHC 172 (28 March)
Ford v MJE [2018] IESCDET 55 (11 April 2018)
Gorry v MJE [2018] IESCDET 56 (11 April 2018)
Luximon v MJE [2018] IESC 24 (24 April)
In the matter of the Adoption Act, 2010, Section 49 (2), and in the matter of JB (a minor) and KB (a minor) [2018] IESC 30 (16 July)
Child and Family Agency v Adoption Authority of Ireland [2018] IEHC 515 (25 September)
A Foster Mother v Child and Family Agency [2018] IEHC 762 (21 December)
Child and Family Agency v LM][2019] IECA 109 (12 April)
W(MW) v F(SJ) [2019] IECA 227 (30 July)
I(I) (Nigeria) v MJE [2019] IEHC 729 (29 October)

**Examination Format 2020**

The examination will be of 3 hours duration.
Candidates will be required to answer three questions.

There will be five questions on the examination paper.
The first question will be a compulsory problem question; it carries 50 marks.

Each of the other four questions carries 25 marks. Three of the four remaining questions are problem questions. There will be an internal choice within the fourth (non-problem) question, between part (a) and part (b).

**End.**