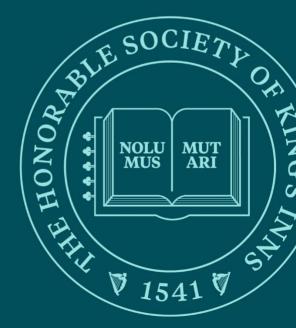
DEGREE OF BARRISTER-AT-LAW ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2023 – CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR APRIL 2023





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CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Syllabus 2023.

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".

Where there is a reference in what follows to the neutral citation of a case, that includes all the judgments delivered; for instance, a reference to [2023] IESC 7 is a reference to the judgments of Charleton, Hogan and Murray JJ in that case.

Topic 1: The Separation of Powers

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The Executive Power: International Relations

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

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Bacik v An Taoiseach [2020] IEHC 313 (29 June) Heneghan v Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government [2023] IESC 7 (31 March)

Legislative Power and the Executive (Separation of Powers)

Casey, pp. 221-230 Gwynn Morgan, *The Separation of Powers in the Irish Constitution* (Dublin, 1997) Ch.11 Doyle, pp. 309-327

Hogan, "The Implementation of EU Law in Ireland: the Meagher Case and the Democratic Deficit" (1994) 3 *Irish Journal of European Law* 190 Hinds, "The Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926 after Laurențiu" (2000) 18 *ILT* 250 Carolan, 'A Public Choice Analysis of the Non-Delegation Doctrine' (2007) 29 DULJ 111 Carolan, "Democratic Accountability and the Non-Delegation Doctrine" (2011) 18 DULJ 220

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Judicial Power and the Legislature (Separation of Powers)

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Sentencing & Detention:

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Freezing and Forfeiture

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Topic 2: Personal Rights

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of the CRG (1998) 2 Contemporary Issues in Irish Law and Politics 216

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Fair procedures

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Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1761-63

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Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1729-59 Doyle, pp. 128-132

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Right to Life

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Topic 3: Property Rights

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 2347-2455; CRG Report pp. 357-367
Doyle, pp. 133-165
All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution, Ninth Progress Report: Private Property (2004, Pn 2218)
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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

Carolan and O'Neill, *Media Law in Ireland* 2nd ed (Dublin, 2019) Ch. 2 Fennelly, "The Irish Constitution and Freedom of Expression" in Curtin & O'Keeffe eds., *Constitutional Adjudication in European Community and National Law*. (Butterworths, 1992)



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

Lynch, "Lawyers and Unions—The Right to Freedom of Association in the Irish Constitution" in Murphy and Twomey eds., Ireland's Evolving Constitution 1937-1997: Collected Essays (Hart Publishing, 1998)

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Topic 5: Equality before the Law - Article 40.1

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

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

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O'Connell, "The Irish Constitution and the ECHR" (2000) Irish Human Rights Review 90 CRG Report at 213-219 Hogan, "The Belfast Agreement and the Future Incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights in the Republic of Ireland" (1999) 4 Bar Rev 205

European Convention of Human Rights Act, 2003

McAuley v Judge Fergus [2018] IECA 30 (7 February) Fox v MJE [2021] IESC 61 (14 September) Clare County Council v McDonagh [2022] IESC 2 (31 January)

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 L(M) [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) Gorry v MJE [2020] IESC 55 (23 September) In the matter of JJ (Unapproved) [2021] IESC 1 (22 January) C(FE) v MJE [2021] IECA 119 (16 April) H v MJE [2021] IESC 32 (11 May) Burke v Minister for Education [2022] IESC 1 (24 January) H(S) v Minister for Justice [2022] IEHC 392 (27 June) Z(A) v MJE [2022] IEHC 511 (27 July) Child and Family Agency v Adoption Authority of Ireland [2022] IECA 196 (10 August) BB v Minister for Justice [2022] IEHC 536 (30 September) O'Meara v Minister for Social Protection [2022] IEHC 552 (7 October) Achouri v MJE [2022] IEHC 576 (12 October) M(S) v Minister for Justice [2022] IEHC 611 (4 November) O v Minister for Justice [2022] IEHC 617 (9 November) K(M) (Albania) v MJE [2022] IESC 48 (24 November) Z(A) v Minister for Justice [2022] IEHC 693 (2 December) Re A & B (minors) [2023] IESC 6 (30 March)

Reading List 2023.

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

gov.ie/en/publication/d5bd8c-constitution-of-ireland/

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)
- Dewhurst, Higgins and Watkins, *Principles of Irish Human Rights Law* (Clarus, 2012)
- Forde and Leonard, *Constitutional Law of Ireland*, 3rd edition (Bloomsbury, 2013)

Doyle and Hickey, *Constitutional Law: Text, Cases and Materials* 2nd edition (Clarus Press, 2019) and Doyle, *The Constitution of Ireland: A Contextual Analysis* (Hart Publishing, 2018) are also useful.

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: <u>constitutionalconvention.ie/</u>

For an archived copy of the Report, see: archive.org/web/20110721123125/http://www.constitution.ie/reports/crg.pdf

The 1st Report of the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution (Pn. 3795, April 1997) provides a valuable overview of and response to the CRG Report.

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.



Examination Format 2023.

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.

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*).

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