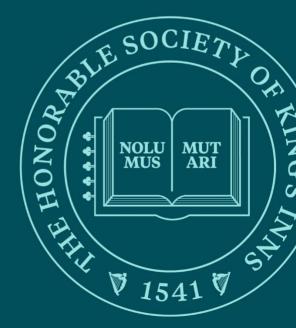
# DEGREE OF BARRISTER-AT-LAW ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2023 – CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR APRIL 2023



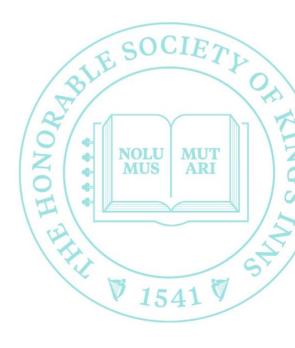


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**EXAMINER:** MR JOHN O'DOWD, UCD

**EXTERN:** THE HON MR JUSTICE GERARD HOGAN





# **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**

#### 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, Social Exclusion and the Legal System (Dublin, 2002) pp. 340-363

McDermott, "The Separation of Powers and the Doctrine of Non-Justiciability" (2000) 35 Irish Jurist 55

Ruane, "The Separation of Powers and the Grant of Mandatory Orders to Enforce Constitutional Rights" [2000] 5 Bar Rev 416

Keating and Lowry "The Separation of Powers - The Supreme Court's Approach to Affirmative Duties - Part 1" (2003) 21 ILT 103; " ... Part 2" (2003) 21 ILT 118

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) Damache v MJE [2020] IESC 63 (14 October) Kelly v Minister for Agriculture [2021] IESC 23 (30 March) Burke v Minister for Education [2022] IESC 1 (24 January) Dowdall v DPP [2022] IESC 36 (29 July)

# 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 Casey, "Crotty v An Taoiseach: A Comparative Perspective" in O'Reilly, ed., *Human Rights and Constitutional Law* (Dublin, 1992)



Pringle v Government of Ireland [2012] IESC 47 (19 October) Costello v Government of Ireland [2022] IESC 44 (11 November)

#### The President

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

Jaconelli, "Reference of Bills to the Supreme Court? A Comparative Perspective" (1983) Irish Jurist 322

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#### 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

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#### Seanad Éireann

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#### 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

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) NECI v Labour Court [2021] IESC 36 (18 June) DPP v District Judge McGrath [2021] IESC 66 (21 September) Delaney v Personal Injuries Assessment Board [2022] IEHC 321 (2 June); [2022] IESCDET 133 (25 November) Right to Know CLG v An Taoiseach [2023] IECA 68 (24 March) Harte v Superior Court Rules Committee [2023] IEHC 192 (17 April) Conway v An Bord Pleanála [2023] IEHC 178 (18 April)



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

Hogan, "The Sinn Fein Funds Judgment Fifty Years On" (1997) 2(9) Bar Rev 375 Keane, "Across the Cherokee Frontier of Irish Constitutional Jurisprudence?" in O'Dell, ed., *Leading Cases of the Twentieth Century* (2000)

#### 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

#### Damages

Delaney v Personal Injuries Assessment Board [2022] IEHC 321 (2 June); [2022] IESCDET 133 (25 November)

#### **Topic 2: Personal Rights**

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1453-1524, 1683-92, 1775-78; Doyle, pp. 85-108; Constitution Review Group ("CRG") Report pp. 213-219



Hogan, "Unenumerated Personal Rights: Ryan's Case Re-Evaluated" (1990-92) 25-27 Irish Jurist 95

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

Whyte, "Discerning the Philosophical Premises of the Report

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

Hogan, "Directive Principles, Socio-Economic Rights and the Constitution" (2001) 36 Irish Jurist 174

Casey "Logically Faultless" Argument for Unenumerated Rights in the Constitution' (2004) 22 ILT 246

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 MJE [2017] IESC 61 (27 July) M(IR) v MJE [2018] IESC 14 (7 March)

Friends of the Irish Environment v Government of Ireland [2020] IESC 49 (31 July) Fox v Minister for Justice [2021] IESC 61 (14 September) Burke v Minister for Education [2022] IESC 1 (24 January)

# Doctrine of Proportionality

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P v MJE [2019] IESC 47 (31 May) DPP v Molloy [2021] IESC 44 (19 July) Burke v Minister for Education [2022] IESC 1 (24 January) Tallon v DPP [2022] IEHC 322 (2 June) Donnelly v Minister for Social Protection [2022] IESC 31 (4 July) O'Doherty v Minister for Health & Ors [2022] IESC 32 (5 July) Delaney v Personal Injuries Assessment Board [2022] IEHC 321 (2 June); [2022] IESCDET 133 (25 November)

# Right to earn a livelihood

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1699-1713

Morrissey v Minister for Defence [2018] IEHC 672 (30 November) Muldoon v Minister for Environment & Local Government [2023] IECA 61 (16 March)

#### Fair procedures

Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1330-32, 1568-72, 1759-61

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#### **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

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#### 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) Friends of the Irish Environment v Government of Ireland [2020] IESC 49 (31 July)

#### Personal identity

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Protection of "the person" and the right to bodily integrity

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

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## Right to Life

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

M(IR) v MJE [2018] IESC 14 (7 March) In the matter of JJ (Unapproved) [2021] IESC 1 (22 January) Fox v Minister for Justice [2021] IESC 61 (14 September)

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
All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution, Ninth Progress Report: Private Property (2004, Pn 2218)
McCormack, "Blake and its Aftermath" (1983) 5 DULJ 205
Kingston, "Rich People have Rights Too? The Status of Property as a Fundamental Human Rights in Heffernan ed., *Human Rights: A European Perspective* (Round Hali Press, 1994) at pp. 284 -297
McBride, 'The Right to Property' (1996) 21 European L Rev Human Rights Survey 40
Hogan "The Constitution, Property Rights and Proportionality" (1997) *Irish Jurist* 373

#### **General Principles**

Parkin (a debtor), Re: Lisa [2019] IEHC 56 (4 February) Crofton Buildings Management CLG v An Bord Pleanála [2022] IEHC 704 (20 December)

#### 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* 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)



O'Dell, "Does Defamation value Free Expression?" (1990) 12 DULJ 50 McGonagle, "Freedom of Expression and Information" (1995) *Irish Human Rights Yearbook* 31

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) Start Mortgages DAC v Gilroy [2021] IECA 147 (18 May) Higgins v Irish Aviation Authority [2022] IESC 13 (7 March) Tallon v DPP [2022] IEHC 322 (2 June) Corcoran v Commissioner of An Garda Síochána [2022] IECA 98 (22 April); [2022] IESCDET 110 (30 September)

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# Freedom of Association

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)

K(M) (Albania) v MJE [2022] IESC 48 (24 November)



#### 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)

#### Freedom of Assembly

O'Doherty v Minister for Health & Ors [2022] IESC 32 (5 July)

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

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

Connolly, "The Constitution" in Connolly ed., Gender and the Law in Ireland (Oak Tree Press, 1993)

Hogan, "The Supreme Court and the Equality Clause" (1998) 3 Bar Rev 116-120. Doyle, *Constitutional Equality Law* (Dublin, 2004)

#### **General Principles**

Shaw v MJE [2018] IEHC 288 (9 March)
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)
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Hogan, Whyte, Kenny and Walsh, pp. 1231-1356 (general) 1356-82 (delay); CRG Report, pp. 191-209



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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. 1144-70

O'Callaghan v DPP [2021] IESC 68 (30 September)

Present-day general approach to delay: representative cases

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

Butler, "The Right to be Informed of a Right to a Lawyer; The Constitutional Dimension" (1993) Irish Criminal Law Journal 173

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) DPP v Sheehan [2021] IESC 49 (29 July) DPP v McDonald [2022] IESC 29 (30 June)

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#### Right to silence

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

Hogan, "Right to Silence after National Irish Banks and Finnerty" (1999) 21 DULJ 176

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) DPP v Sheehan [2021] IESC 49 (29 July) DPP v Cassidy [2021] IESC 60 (13 September) DPP v Carroll [2021] IECA 261 (13 October) DPP v D(J) [2022] IESC 39 (24 October)

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

Carolan, "The Relationship between Judicial Remedies and the Separation of Powers: Collaborative Constitutionalism and the Suspended Declaration of Invalidity" (2011) 46 Irish Jurist 180

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Fitzpatrick v Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine) [2020] IESC 50 (31 July)

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# D. Mootness

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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'Neill, "The Referendum Process in Ireland" (2000) 35 Irish Jurist 305

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

Braney v Special Criminal Court [2021] IESC 7 (12 February) DPP v Banks [2022] IESC 7 (10 February)



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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

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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*).

- END -

