

Public Law

Wednesday 6 November 2025

9.30am to 11.00am

Candidates are required to answer TWO out of four questions.

Question 1

It is vitally important in a democracy that individual judges and the judiciary as a whole are impartial and independent of all external pressures.

Outline and discuss the ways in which the independence of the judiciary is preserved within the United Kingdom constitution.

(20 marks)

Question 2

- a) Outline and explain the importance of the separation of powers as a key constitutional doctrine. (10 marks)
- b) Critically analyse to what extent this constitutional doctrine is observed in the United Kingdom (10 marks)

Question 3

Outline and discuss the controls which are in place to ensure that the Scottish Parliament legislates in accordance with the European Convention of Human Rights. (20 marks)

Question 4

- a) Outline and discuss the role and functions of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO). Are there any areas in which the Ombudsman could be reformed? (20 marks)

END OF PAPER