Public Law

Tuesday 12 May 2015: 10.00 – 13.15

Candidates will have **fifteen minutes** during which they may read the paper and make rough notes ONLY in their answer books. They then have the remaining **THREE HOURS** in which to answer the questions.

Candidates should answer **FOUR** of the following **EIGHT** questions.

Candidates should answer all parts of a question unless otherwise stated.

**Permitted materials**
Students are permitted to bring into the examination room the following specified document: **either** one copy of *Blackstone’s Statutes on Public Law & Human Rights* (OUP) **or** one copy of *Core Statutes on Public Law & Civil Liberties* (Palgrave Macmillan).
1. Discuss the strength of the arguments for the UK keeping its uncodified constitution.

2. Discuss the extent to which the major offices and institutions of the European Union resemble a 'balance of powers' more than a formal 'separation of powers'.

3. Discuss whether the concept of prerogative powers is out of date and ought to be abolished.

4. Discuss whether the doctrine of collective ministerial responsibility enhances or undermines government accountability to Parliament.

5. Assess the impact of the UK’s membership of the European Union on the doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty.

6. Discuss whether the adoption of the proportionality principle simply vests enormous discretionary power in the hands of the judiciary.

7. Evaluate the roles of Parliament in the process of making primary and secondary legislation. Does it have too little power?

8. Discuss the purpose and core provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998, and the respects, if any, in which its provisions might be reformed in order to better promote the protection of civil liberties in the UK.

END OF PAPER