

Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Glossary of Irish Language Terms</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Table of Cases</i>	<i>xvii</i>
<i>Table of Legislation, Agreements and Treaties</i>	<i>xxi</i>
1. Beginnings, Influences and Evolution	1
I. Introduction.....	1
II. Irish Constitutional History: 1782 to 1922	2
III. The Irish Free State: 1922–1937.....	6
IV. Drafting a New Constitution.....	12
V. Overview of the 1937 Constitution	17
VI. Constitutional Ideology and Constitutional Balance of Power	18
VII. Conclusion	22
Further Reading.....	22
2. Constitutional Foundations	24
I. Introduction.....	24
II. People and Nation.....	25
III. Who are the People?	27
IV. Territory	29
V. The Character of the State	31
VI. International Relations.....	34
VII. The European Union.....	36
VIII. Continuing Relations with the UK and Northern Ireland.....	39
IX. Conclusion	44
Further Reading.....	45
3. Government and Oireachtas	46
I. Introduction.....	46
II. Party Politics.....	47
III. The Government	52
IV. Coalition Governments	55
V. The Dáil Electoral System	57

VI.	Preserving a Fair Electoral Process	62
VII.	Seanad Éireann	65
VIII.	The Internal Organisation of the Houses of the Oireachtas	68
IX.	The Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions.....	69
X.	Conclusion	70
	Further Reading.....	71
4.	The President	72
	I. Introduction.....	72
	II. The Election and Removal of the President	73
	III. The Roles of the President	74
	IV. The Evolution of the President's Role	77
	V. Conclusion	80
	Further Reading.....	80
5.	Legislative Power and Interpretation	81
	I. Introduction.....	81
	II. Preparation of Legislation for the Oireachtas.....	82
	III. Passage through the Oireachtas	84
	IV. Legislative Debate	85
	V. Constitutional Limits on the Form of Legislation.....	90
	VI. The Attorney General as a Veto-holder in the Legislative Process	93
	VII. The Oireachtas Elected in 2016.....	94
	VIII. The Interpretation of Legislation by the Courts	95
	IX. Conclusion	97
	Further Reading.....	97
6.	Governance and Public Administration	99
	I. Introduction.....	99
	II. Executive Power	100
	III. Public Administration	102
	IV. The Operation of Government	105
	V. Dynamics Within the Government	109
	VI. Financial Governance.....	111
	VII. Local Government.....	116
	VIII. Semi-State Companies and Privatisation	118
	IX. Conclusion	119
	Further Reading.....	120

7. Political Constraints on the Government	121
I. Introduction.....	121
II. Tribunals of Inquiry and Commissions of Investigation.....	122
III. Oireachtas Committees	127
IV. Accountability in the Dáil	131
V. Financial Accountability	134
VI. Accountability Institutions	136
VII. Conclusion	139
Further Reading.....	139
8. Courts and the Legal Constraint of the Government	140
I. Introduction.....	140
II. Court Structure.....	141
III. Judicial Control of Legislative, Executive and Administrative Power.....	142
IV. Judicial Independence and the Appointments Process.....	145
V. Security of Judicial Tenure	150
VI. Security of Judicial Remuneration	151
VII. The Profile of the Judiciary	153
VIII. Conclusion	155
Further Reading.....	156
9. Fundamental Rights and Judicial Power	157
I. Introduction.....	157
II. Constitutional Text: Competing Intellectual Traditions	159
III. Waning of Natural Law Influences.....	160
IV. The Move to Non-intervention	163
V. Standards of Review and Judicial Deference	171
VI. Administrative Action	173
VII. Crime	176
VIII. Emergencies and Exceptions.....	181
IX. Influence of the European Convention on Human Rights.....	182
X. Horizontality	185
XI. Processes of Rights Litigation.....	185
XII. Conclusion	188
Further Reading.....	189

10. Constitutional Change.....	191
I. Introduction.....	191
II. Informal Constitutional Change.....	192
III. The Forms and Limits of Constitutional Amendment	194
IV. Pattern of Constitutional Amendment.....	198
V. Constitutional Change: Dilution of Nationalistic and Catholic Characteristics.....	203
VI. The Constitutionalisation of Social Change: An Abdication of Political Responsibility?	206
VII. Constitutional Change and the Balance of Power	210
VIII. Conclusion	212
Further Reading.....	212
11. Conclusion	214
<i>Index</i>	221