

BRIEF CONTENTS

Detailed contents..... vii

List of tables..... xi

List of figures..... xiii

About the author..... xvii

Preface..... xix


Acknowledgements..... xxi


List of reviewers..... xxiii


How to use this book..... xxiv


How to use the online resources..... xxvi


Political updates..... xxix


 **1 Introduction: tradition and change**..... 3


 **Part 1 How are we governed?**..... 17


 **2 The Cabinet and the prime minister**.....19


 **3 The UK government**.....45


 **4 Parliament**.....69


 **5 The legal system and human rights**.....95


 **Part 2 How do people participate in politics?**..... 119


 **6 The party system**..... 121

 **7 Elections and voting**..... 145

 **8 Referendums**.....171




 **Part 3 How does society affect UK politics?**..... 193

 **9 Communication and public opinion**..... 195

 **10 Identity, equality, and power**..... 221



Part 4 What is 'the UK', and how does it relate to the rest of the world? 247

 11	Devolution and local government	249
 12	The nations and the union	275
 13	The UK and the outside world.....	303
	<i>List of abbreviations</i>	330
	<i>Glossary</i>	331
	<i>References</i>	339
	<i>Index</i>	353