

Unit 2, section 2.4 (The judiciary and civil liberties) background notes

Notes from textbook

Definitions

Judicial independence: The principle that members of the judiciary should retain independence from any influence by government or parties or other political movements.

Judicial neutrality: The principle that members of the judiciary should avoid allowing their political ideas to affect their decisions in cases. It also implies that judges should not show any systematic bias towards or against any groups in society.

Civil liberties: The rights and freedoms that citizens enjoy in relation to the state and its laws. These include, for example, the right of all to vote or stand for office, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and the right to a fair trial.

Rule of law: The principle that all citizens are equal under the law, that all are entitled to a fair trial if accused of a crime and that the government itself is subject to law. In other words, the rule of law insists that government should not be arbitrary but must always act within the constraints of the law.

University education of the members of the Supreme Court

- President of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers – *University College London*.
- Deputy President of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Hope of Craighead – *University of Cambridge*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe – *University of Cambridge*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond – *University of Cambridge*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood – *University of Oxford*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Mance – *University of Oxford*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore – *Queens University, Belfast*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon the Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony – *University of Cambridge*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Honourable Lord Dyson – *University of Oxford*.

- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon. Lord Wilson of Culworth – *University of Oxford*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon. Lord Sumption – *University of Oxford*.
- Justice of The Supreme Court, The Right Hon. Lord Reed – *University of Edinburgh, University of Oxford*.