

# CONTENTS

<i>Table of Statutes</i>	xii
1. INTRODUCTORY	1
2. CHOOSING A PRIME MINISTER	6
General election	7
Resignation through illness or old age	9
Voluntary retirement	14
Emergency coalition	15
Loss of the party Leadership	18
Conclusions	23
3. GOVERNMENT FORMATION FROM A HUNG PARLIAMENT	25
The political negotiations	28
The Queen	33
A caretaker government	39
The second dissolution	41
Conclusions	46
4. THE TRANSFER OF POWER	48
The Prime Minister takes office	51
Matters legal, conventional, and political	53
The Cabinet chooses itself	59
The Sovereign's influence	63
Ministers take office	66
5. THE PRIME MINISTER	69
The electorate's choice	71
Power over Ministers	72
The highest profile; patronage; dissolution	86
The direction of departments	92
A Prime Minister's weaknesses	95
Conclusions	100

6. THE CABINET	101
Cabinet business	101
Cabinet committees and ministerial meetings	109
Confidentiality of proceedings and papers	120
Conclusions	127
7. MINISTERS AND DEPARTMENTS	128
Ministerial titles	128
Departments	134
The use of non-departmental Ministers	137
Ministers' conduct	140
Ministers' pay and conditions	154
8. THE OPPOSITION	156
The Leader of the Opposition	156
Constitutional duties of the Opposition	163
The shadow government	167
Shadow into substance	173
9. CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY	179
The Queen's usual powers	180
The Queen's reserve powers	185
Continuity and succession	194
10. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS	197
Elections, Members, and parties	197
The Commons and the government	204
Members' influence on the government	213
Reform of the Commons	228
11. THE HOUSE OF LORDS	232
Acquiring and losing membership	232
Organization in the House	241
The work of the Lords	243
Lords and government in conflict	253
Assessment—and reform?	259
12. THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF THE JUDGES	263
Appointment, pay, and promotion	264

## CONTENTS

xi

Judges and Parliament	274
Extra-judicial activities	280
Tenure, discipline, and removal	287
Reform	296

### Appendices

A. Senior Ministers since 1945	300
B. The party Leadership election rules	303
C. The formal resignation and appointment of Ministers: A memorandum by the Clerk of the Privy Council	311
D. Changes in ministerial titles and government departments since 1900	317

### *Index*

321