2. The institutions of government and the separation of powers

Public Law
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Publisher: Oxford University Press  Print Publication Date: Feb 2018
Print ISBN-13: 9780198722939  Published online: Sep 2018
DOI: 10.1093/he/9780198722939.001.0001

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DOI: 10.1093/he/9780198722939.003.0002

This chapter explores the key institutions — the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary — and considers the relevance of the principle of the separation of powers in respect of the UK Constitution. It begins with a discussion of the functions fulfilled by these institutions, including an examination of their structure and key roles, allowing fuller exploration of the separation of powers doctrine in the UK Constitution. In respect of this, the chapter identifies a common distinction drawn between what is known as the pure and partial separation of powers. One favours total separation, the latter allowing a degree of overlap to the point of ensuring a system of checks and balances. Application of this distinction enables broader exploration of the UK's application of the separation of powers doctrine.
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