**Unit 2: The UK Constitution (SHJ)**

**Using your textbook, answer the following questions:**

**If you prefer to just make notes, then use the pages shown here to make notes from.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Define** the following terms:* Constitution
* Limited Government
* Codified Constitution
* Uncodified Constitution
* Entrenched
* Judicial Review

 *e.g. Constitution: laws, rules and practices by which a state is governed. Sets out govt institutions, where power rests and basic rights. Needs to be interpreted.* | **141-144** |
| ***Extension: Explain single-tier and two-tier legal systems. Can you give an example of each?*** |
| **Outline** the five sources of the UK Constitution with at least one example for each. *e.g. Authoritative Works – books accepted guides to UK Constitution, but no legal authority. Thomas Erskine May – Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament (1844); Walter Bagehot – The English Constitution (1867); A.V. Dicey An Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution (1884)* | **145-148** |
| **Explain** the four basic principles of the UK Constitution. *e.g. Parliamentary Sovereignty – parl. has ultimate law-making power, making law on any subject. No parl. is binding on any other.* | **148-152** |
| **Show** the theory of separation of powers and the fusion of powers as a diagram | **154-155** |
| ***Extension: Explain what Lord Hailsham meant by ‘elective dictatorship’. What do you think he meant by this and do you agree with his assessment?*** |
| Outline the five constraints on parliamentary sovereignty *e.g. Devolution – Parl. no longer makes all laws for all areas of UK, but retains supremacy so could take power back. Unlikely to, as would face severe opposition.* | **155-159** |
| ***Extension: Look up and define the phrases ‘de facto’ and ‘de jure’. Which do you think is more applicable to the idea of Parliament being sovereign?*** |
| Create a table showing the most important 5 strengths and 5 weaknesses of the UK Constitution | **161-162** |
| Constitutional reform under Labour: Using Table 6.1 on P164 as a guide, outline the following reforms undertaken by Labour and how they were successful or not - HRA, Devolution, Mayors, HoL, HoC, CRA, FoI *e.g. HoL reform – HoL Act 1999 removed all but 92 hereditary peers* *Success – Hereditary peers undemocratic. No party now has overall control* *Failure – No second stage, no fully/partly elected HoL* | **163-169** |
| ***Extension: Look at the four aims of Labour’s reforms on P171. How far do you think Labour achieved these aims?*** |
| Constitutional reform under the Coalition: Using Table 6.2 on P175 as a guide, outline reforms undertaken by the Coalition, **assess** their success. (FTP, MP recall, HoL, Devolution, EU referendum, AV referendum) | **174-178** |
| ***Extension: Table 6.2 only goes to early 2013 in terms of achievement what about since then? Google the ‘Coalition Agreement’ – P26 lays out their planned changes. What additions are there to your textbook, and have they achieved them?***  |
| Create a table to show the arguments for and against the UK codifying their constitution with an example for each point e.g. No – UK Constitution is flexible e.g. Succession to the Throne Act 2013 | **178-179** |