**Model Answers to Potential Exam Questions**

**Chapter 6**

Define the term “leapfrog” appeal and outline the circumstances in which it can be used.

In the appeal system, appeals are available from the High Court to the Court of Appeal and, ultimately, to the Supreme Court. However, in certain circumstances a case from the High Court can bypass the Court of Appeal and go straight to be heard in the Supreme Court. This is known as a “leapfrog” appeal.

A leapfrog appeal is only available in relation to a civil case. The case must have been heard at first instance in one of the divisions of the High Court. These are: Family Division, Chancery Division and the Queen’s Bench Division.

A leapfrog appeal is only allowed if the trial judge finds: a point of law of general public importance is involved; and the point of law is one in which the judge is bound following the doctrine of *stare decisis*; and the Supreme Court gives leave to appeal. Leapfrog appeals allow a case involving a point of law of general public importance to reach the Supreme Court more quickly than it would normally be able. This mitigates against the slow development of the law — a criticism which is often made in relation to the doctrine of judicial precedent.