PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

**SEMESTER ONE EXAMINATIONS, 2025/26**

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY**

# LC37720 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

**Time allowed: TWO hours**

**Answer TWO questions**

**Candidates are permitted to take ONE A4 page of handwritten or typed notes (both sides) into the examination.**

**Please state clearly which question(s) you are answering.**

**STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER WELSH OR ENGLISH**

**Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer book(s) and the attendance slip ONLY.**

**DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

1. Critically evaluate the extent to which human rights law can be used to protect the environment in the United Kingdom. In your answer, consider the role of the Human Rights Act 1998, relevant jurisprudence from the European Court of Human Rights, and recent developments such as the proposed Environmental Rights Bill and international instruments like the Aarhus Convention. Discuss the strengths and limitations of a human rights-based approach to environmental protection.

[50%]

2. Despite the existence of national and international legal frameworks aimed at halting biodiversity loss, the UK continues to face significant challenges in reversing ecological decline. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of UK environmental law in addressing biodiversity loss, with reference to the main national legal norms and the influence of international law.

[50%]

3. Answer both a) and b)

   a) What are the main goals and obligations established under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change?

   b) What climate targets have the UK government and devolved administrations adopted following the Paris Agreement, and what are the main regulatory and policy instruments they use to reach their obligations?

[50%]

4. Critically evaluate the rationale for, and aims of, the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility” in international environmental law. In your opinion, to what extent is this approach to addressing climate change challenges valid and effective?

[50%]

**END OF PAPER**