

TABLE 9.1

## The synthetic approach to accountability

|                           | <b>POLITICAL RESPONSIVENESS</b>   | <b>LEGAL RESPONSIVENESS</b>   | <b>SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS</b>   |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| Concept                   | Ministerial responsibility  | Rule of law   | Public interest  |
| Systems of Implementation | Formal controls<br>Rules and regulations  | Formal controls<br>Judicial review  | Informal controls<br>Subjective ideals/political action  |
| Actors                    | Governments<br>Ministers<br>Public servants<br>Political parties<br>Parliament<br>Citizens<br>Media                                       | Governments<br>Ministers<br>Public servants<br>Courts<br>Tribunals<br>Litigants<br>Media  | Governments<br>Ministers<br>Public servants<br>Political parties<br>Interest groups<br>Citizens<br>Media |
| Problems                  | Evaluation<br>Imposing discipline on parties and governments between elections  | Cost and complexity<br>Assessing merit of courts over tribunals   | Evaluation<br>Subjectivity   |
| Strengths                 | Establishing direct political control over the bureaucracy<br>Holding ministers and officials responsible to Parliament for their actions | Keeping bureaucratic power subject to the rule of law<br>Ensuring that governments must be responsible and answerable to the public | Facilitating ongoing public assessment of government actions   |