

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.3-5

1. What are the origins of the term “democracy”?

2. Identify the elements of a democratic system of government.

3. Why is it important for a democracy to have a constitution?

4. a) Who is known as the “father” of modern communism?

b) What did he believe about economic equality?

5. Complete the following chart comparing communism and capitalism.

Communist Economic System	Capitalist Economic System

6. Although communist countries seek to achieve *economic* equality, what types of inequalities often arise?

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7. Identify the elements of a fascist system of government.

The Structure of Canada's Government

Refer to your Student Workbook, p. 6-12

A. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate term(s).

In Canada we have a system of government called _____
_____ in which we elect representatives to act on our behalf. Each
representative belongs to a _____ party, such as the _____
Party which is currently in power here in Canada.

Our Government is also described as a _____
because Queen Elizabeth II is our _____. Her
representative in Canada is the _____. Neither
figure is very involved in the workings of Canada's government.

The three branches of Canadian government are _____,
_____, and _____. In parliament, the group
that carries out the executive functions of the government is called the _____.
It's leader, currently _____, is called the _____.
Cabinet Ministers are all members of the _____.
_____. When Cabinet Ministers meet together they are expected to show
cabinet _____. This means that they must all support the decisions of their
party. Each Cabinet Minister works with a _____ minister, as well as many public
_____. These civil servants, also known as the _____, perform
many of the administrative tasks of the government.

Members of the governing party who are not in the Cabinet are called _____.
These members must support their party while also keeping in mind the wishes of the

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_____. Opposite the Cabinet sits the _____.

This term refers to MPs from the Official _____ who have been chosen to shadow a specific minister from the Cabinet.

In the House of Commons, the _____ House maintains order and applies the rules of Parliament to all. The primary function of the House of Commons is to introduce and debate _____. The Opposition plays a very important role in this process, especially during _____ periods. Another government organization, the _____, was designed to serve as a final check on the decisions made by the House of Commons. Sometimes the Senate is called the _____ House, and the House of Commons is called the _____ House.

The Three Levels of Government

Refer to your Student Workbook p.10-11.

1. Why did Canada choose a federal system of government?

2. Complete the following chart outlining the areas of responsibility of the three levels of government:

Municipal	Provincial	Federal

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3. Referring to p.17 in the *Student Workbook*, what is the biggest difference between the structure of government at the federal and provincial level? How does this affect the law-making process?

4. a) What is the title of the head of government at the local level?

- b) Who is your local head of government?

- c) The elected representatives on a municipal council are called _____
or _____.

5. Describe the structure of aboriginal self-government.

How Laws are Made

1. Complete the following chart (moving from left to right) describing the process of how a law is made. (*Student Workbook p. 14*)

<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Committee Discussions and Report</u>
<u>Third Reading</u>	<u>The Senate</u>	<u>The Governor General</u>

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Canada's Constitution

Refer to your Student Workbook p.17-20.

1. a) What was the purpose of the British North American Act? (Constitution Act, 1867)

- b) How involved was Britain in the creation of the BNA Act?

2. a) Identify three British traditions maintained in Canada's "unwritten" Constitution.

- b) What does responsible government mean?

3. Identify the components of Canada's "written" Constitution.

- ---
- ---
- ---
- ---

4. Define the term "patriation".

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National Political Parties

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.21-22.

1. Complete the following chart by filling in the beliefs of each political group.

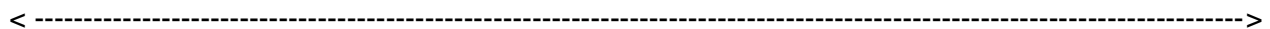
Attitude towards...	Left Wing	Centrist Moderate	Right Wing
Change			
Social Services			
Role of Government			
Criminals			
Solving Problems			

2. The following is a political spectrum. Based on their “philosophies” as stated in the *Student Workbook* p.23, place the following political parties along the line: Liberal Party, Conservative Party, New Democrat Party, and Bloc Quebecois.

(Left)

(Centrist)

(Right)



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The Political Spectrum and You

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.21-22

You may have heard people call themselves “left-wing” or “right-wing”. These terms refer to an individual’s political beliefs or stance.

Read through the following political propositions and identify whether each is a left-wing or right-wing concept. Afterwards, go back and identify the propositions with which you agree. This will give you some idea whether you can classify yourself as left or right wing.

Proposition	Left or Right	Agree or Disagree
1. Marijuana possession should be decriminalized.		
2. Canada should admit less immigrants and refugees.		
3. Capital punishment should be an option for some crimes.		
4. Taxes should be lowered even though this may mean increased cuts to government programs		
5. The government should make stricter laws against private ownership of firearms.		
6. People should be charged user fees every time they are hospitalized.		
7. The government should spend more money on programs for the poor and disadvantaged.		
8. Canada should expand its free trade agreement to include more blocs of countries such as Asia or Latin America.		
9. Tuition costs for post-secondary education should be lowered or eliminated to allow equal opportunity for all.		
10. Governments should strengthen preferential hiring treatment for minorities and women.		

Based on this questionnaire, are you left-wing or right-wing? _____.

- *If you agreed with an equal amount of left and right propositions, you are likely “moderate” or “centrist”.*

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The Election Process / Canada's Electoral System

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.24-27.

1. a) The right to vote for all adult citizens is called _____.

b) Do you think that the voting age should be lowered? Why/why not?

2. Explain the term "voter apathy".

3. Why might a government call an election before the end of its five-year term?

4. What strategies do politicians use during election campaigns?

5. a) Name the electoral system in Canada, and explain how this system works.

6. Analyze the pros and cons of the electoral system in Canada by completing the following table.

Advantages of FPTP	Disadvantages of FPTP

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7. Complete the following chart comparing two possible alternatives to FPTP.

Alternatives	Explanation	Disadvantages
Proportional Representation		
Preferential Ballot		

Influences on the Government

1. Why do people form interest groups?

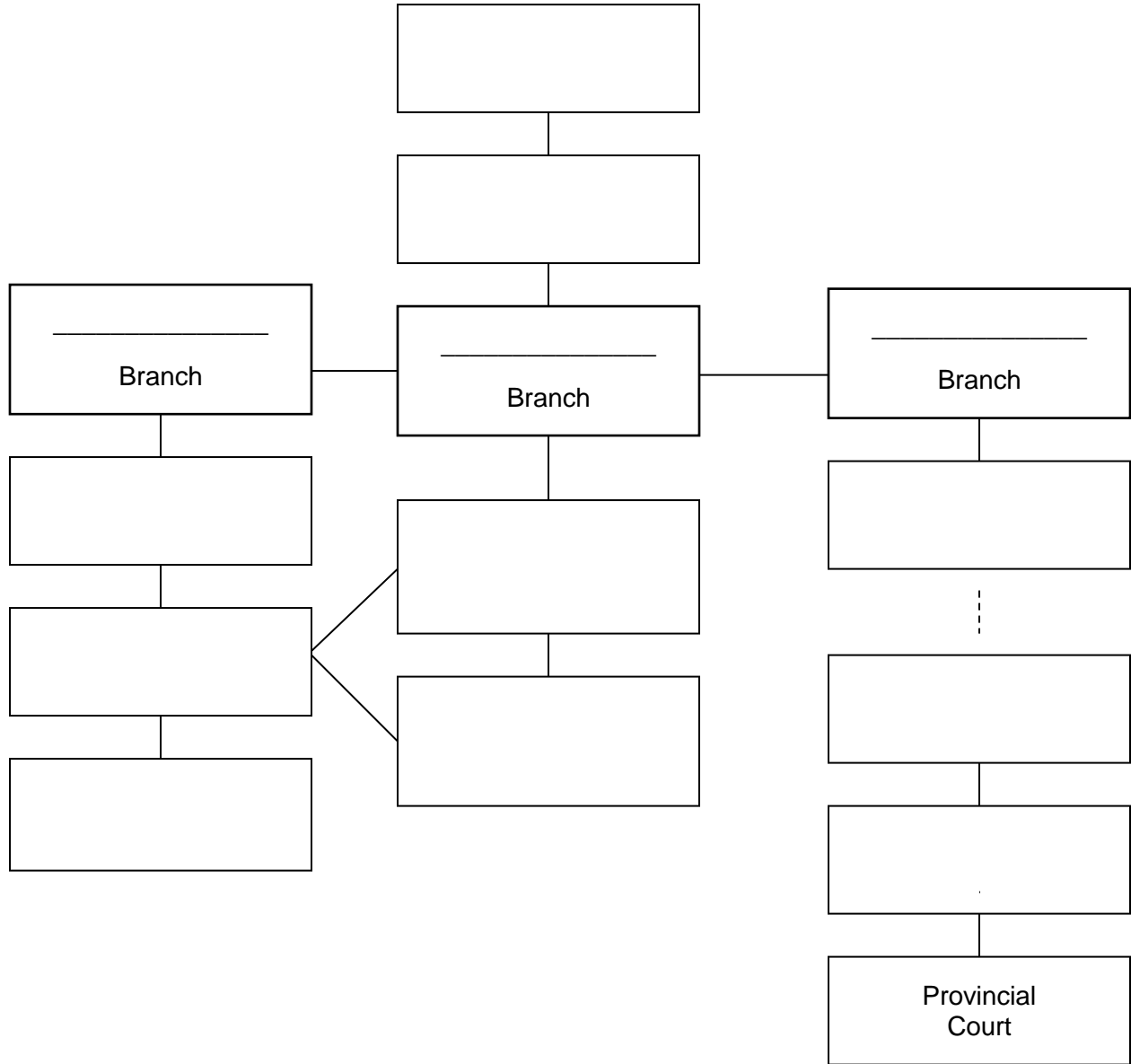
2. a) How do interest groups influence government decisions?

b) How do interest groups influence public opinion?

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Review: Canada's Federal Government

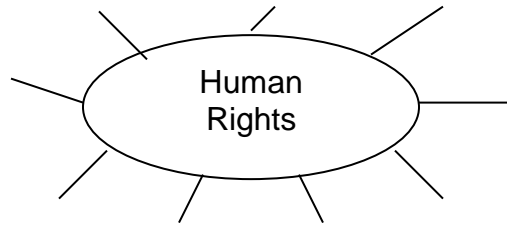
Complete the following diagram which outlines the basic structure of Canada's federal government. This exercise will help you to visualize the power structure of the various branches and levels of Canada's government.



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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Brainstorm some rights to which all humans are entitled.



2. Write your own definition of "human rights".

Refer to the Student Workbook p.29-30

3. a) What event provided the impetus for the creation of the United Nations?

b) Name some of the goals of the United Nations.

4. Name two reasons why the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is such an important document.

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5. Which of the rights contained within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights do you think are most important? Rank your top three rights, not necessarily according to severity, but according to what you think is most important to have **enshrined internationally**.

6. If a country is violating any of the rights in the Declaration, how does the global community respond?

The Charter of Rights & Freedoms

1. Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.31-32. Complete the following chart; see the example squares included.

Category	Specific Rights Included	An example of a “real-life” application of these rights
Fundamental Freedoms		e.g. A group of “pro-life” protestors assemble and set up a peaceful demonstration
Democratic Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to vote • to run for office • to hold elections every 5 years 	
Mobility Rights		
Legal Rights		

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Equality Rights		
Official Language Rights		e.g. Advertisements must include both English and French versions
Minority Language Educational Rights		

2. From the above table, which rights do you think are the most important? List the five rights that you could not imagine living without (#1 being most important).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

3. What is the notwithstanding clause, and why is it significant?

4. In what way did the Charter affect the traditional role of judges? Why?
