

Canadian Politics and Government Questions

Use the Counterpoints textbook to answer these questions – pages 290-317

1. What does active citizenship mean in a democracy?

2. Choose one of the “issues of importance to Canadians” listed on page 290. Why is this issue important to you?

3. In what ways can individuals influence government?

4. Why might pressure groups be more effective at influencing government policies and decisions than individuals?

5. What do lobbyists do?

6. Explain why using the courts to influence government and effect change can work. Why might it be difficult to use the courts to effect change?

7. What is the role of the media in government?

8. What is civil disobedience?

9. List the three principles of civil disobedience.

10. Do you think it is ever acceptable to break the law as a way of protesting government actions? Explain.

11. Why were blockades more effective at Clayoquot Sound than a violent protest might have been?

12. What do you think is the most effective way to influence government policies and decisions? Explain.

13. What is the difference between direct democracy and representative democracy?

14. Explain the two main principles of democracy.

15. Use the chart to list details of the following ideologies: socialism, liberalism, conservatism, communism, and fascism.

Ideology	Details
Socialism	
Liberalism	
Conservatism	
Communism	
Fascism	

16. What is the political spectrum?

17. Draw the political spectrum and label the various political ideologies.

18. Use the chart to list details of the left, centre, and right wings of the political spectrum.

Left Wing	Centre	Right Wing

19. Use the chart to list details of the five major political parties.

Party	Beliefs and Policies	Logo	Political Spectrum Place
Liberal Party			
Conservative Party			
New Democratic Party			
Bloc Quebecois			
Green Party			

20. What is a party platform?

21. Why do people join political parties?

22. Why is politics in B.C. so polarized?

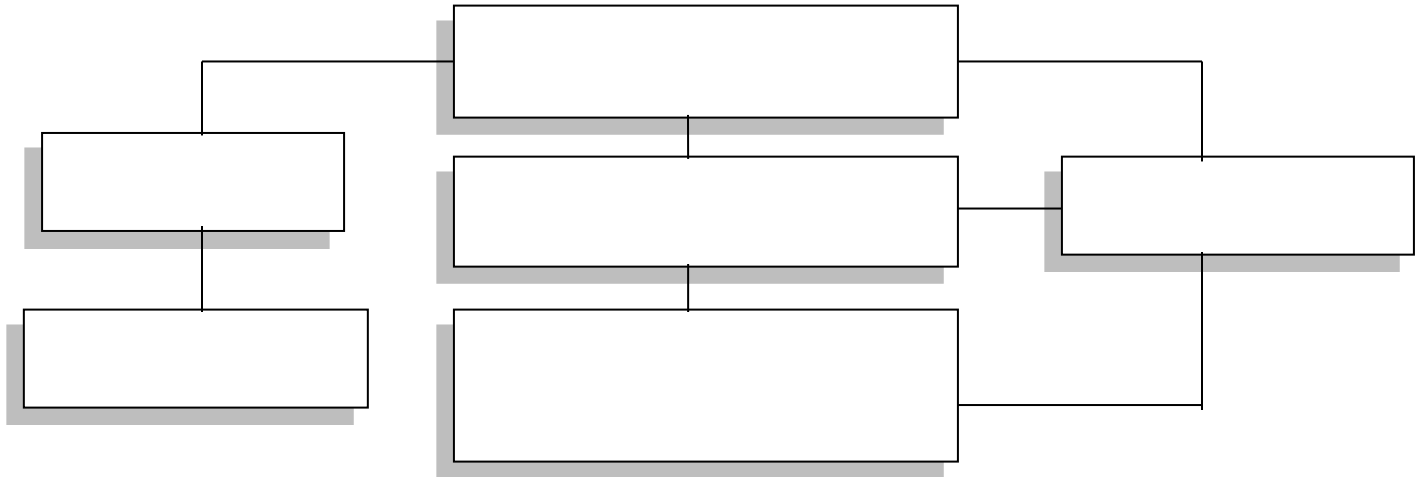
23. "Canada's government operates as a federal system." What is a federal system?

24. What do the legislative and executive branches of the federal government do?

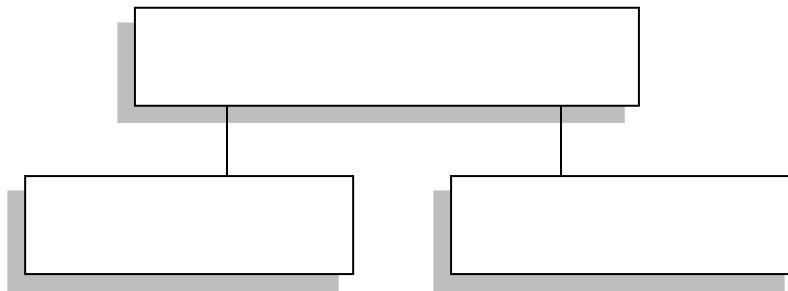
25. What does the judicial branch do?

26. Use figure 9-16 on page 304 to fill in the following table. Use different colours to distinguish between the three branches of government.

Parliament



Judiciary



27. Describe the processes of government taxation and spending.

28. What is the role of the civil service, or bureaucracy?

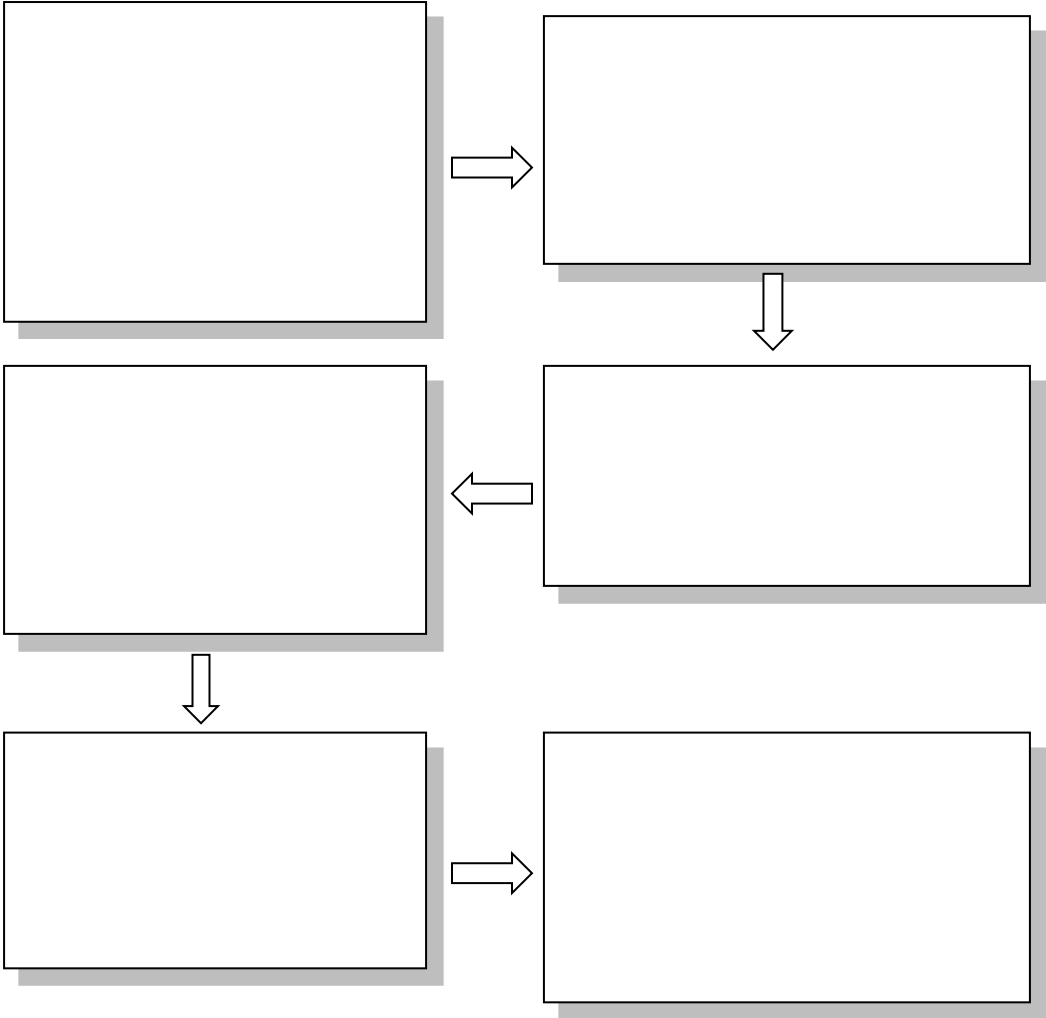
29. Together the prime minister and the Cabinet form the executive branch, which makes most of the important decisions in government. The prime minister has considerable powers. Explain some of the prime minister's powers.

30. What are the responsibilities of Cabinet ministers?

31. Explain the term "Order-in-Council." Why is it seen as being undemocratic?

32. Use figure 9-20 on page 308 to fill in the following table showing the process of making a law.

Law Making Process in Canada





33. Why do you think a bill must go through so many stages in order to become a law in Canada?

34. How do political parties ensure support among their members?

35. Explain free votes and private member's bills.

36. Why are private member's bills seldom passed?

37. Read the information about minority governments on page 310 and complete the following table.

Minority Government Disadvantages	Minority Government Advantages

38. Explain political coalitions and mergers.

39. Explain the term prorogue Parliament. Why might it be seen as undemocratic?

40. Under what circumstances might Parliament be dissolved?

41. Describe how our voting system works.

42. Why do you think we often have low voter turnout?

43. How do political parties choose candidates to run in elections?

44. What is meant by the term party platform? Why is it important?

45. Take some notes on the steps to a federal election in Canada (figure 9-25 on page 314.)

46. Why are public opinion polls valuable to political parties?

47. In what ways do volunteers participate in election campaigns? How are the campaigns funded?

48. Describe the process involved with a citizen casting a ballot on election day.

49. Describe the difference between first-past-the-post (FPTP) and single transferrable vote (STV) electoral systems.

50. Do you think that electronic voting is a good idea? Why or why not?