

## Federal Government of Canada

- 1) Describe the function of Canadian government.

### Definitions

- 2) Take notes on the role of the Governor General . . . Head of State.
- 3) Take notes on the role of the Prime Minister . . . Head of Government.
- 4) Take notes on the role of Cabinet Ministers.
- 5) Describe Parliament, and list the different groups making up Parliament.
- 6) The House of Commons is the heart of democracy in Canada, and the center of our Parliament.

Who sits in the House of Commons?

- 7) Describe the relationship between an MP and their riding.
- 8) Explain why the House of Commons is the focal point of parliamentary democracy.
- 9) A bill is a law that has not been passed through parliament yet, so explain the difference between regular bills and a Private Members Bill.
- 10) Describe the Senate, and explain its primary function.
- 11) Describe the function of the executive branch of government, and explain the make up at the federal level.
- 12) Describe the function of the legislative branch of government, and explain the make up at the federal level.
- 13) Describe the function of the judicial branch of government.

### Structure of the Canadian Federal Government

#### *Parliamentary Government*

- 14) Our parliamentary system of government is based on the British model. It fuses legislative and executive power in the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and the Governor General.

What does this mean?

For the record, this is a major difference between Canada and the United States. In America, legislative and executive powers are separated.

**Executive Branch**

- 15) Take notes on the most important information about the role of the Prime Minister, including the meaning of a vote of non-confidence.
- 16) Take notes on the most important information about role of Cabinet Ministers.
- 17) Take notes on the most important information about role of Backbenchers.
- 18) Take notes on the role of the Shadow Cabinet.
- 19) Take notes on the role of the Public Service.

**Legislative Branch**

- 20) Describe the function of the legislative branch of government.
- 21) Describe the role of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the House of Commons.
- 22) Describe the sessions of Parliament.
- 23) What happens to the party with the most seats in the House of Commons, and what happens to the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons?
- 24) What happens to the party with the second most seats in the House of Commons, and what happens to the leader of the party with the second most seats in the House of Commons?
- 25) Define . . . Question Period.
- 26) Describe the role of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition.

FYI . . . As this process can become rather intense, Questions Periods are refereed by the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Speaker is a MP selected for the task by other MPs.

- 27) Describe the function of the Senate.
- 28) Describe the controversy surrounding the Senate.

**Judicial Branch**

- 29) Describe the function of the judicial branch of government.
- 30) Describe why the judicial branch is independent from the executive and legislative branches of government.
- 31) Describe the role of the Supreme Court.