

Social Nine

Unit One:

Political System

Name:

Date Received:

Due Date:

Date In:

9. Define Executive Branch:

10. Who is the current Prime Minister of Canada and which political party does he/she belong to? (There will be a class discussion as well).

6. Assume you are the Prime Minister of a Majority Government. You have proposed a new law that bans the use of cell phones while driving.

a. Assume every person from your party votes in your favor, and every person not in your party votes against you. Will your proposed law (Bill) become legal? Explain why or why not:

b. If you lead a majority government, do you need to be concerned with the opinions and arguments brought forth by the opposition? Explain why or why not:

c. What are some points that support a Majority government?

d. What are some points that do NOT support a Majority government?

7. Assume you are the Prime Minister of a **Minority** Government. You have proposed a new law that bans the use of cell phones while driving.

a. If every person from your party votes in your favor, and all opposition parties vote against you, will your proposed law (Bill) become legal? Explain why or why not:

b. If you lead a Minority government, do you need to be concerned with the opinions and arguments brought forth by the opposition? Explain why or why not:

c. Is it possible for a Minority Government to be voted out of power by the opposition in Canada?

d. List some advantages and disadvantages of a Minority government?

(classroom discussion on the next two questions)

11. The Bloc Quebecois has a large number of seats in the federal government, EVEN though they only appear in Quebec. What would happen to the influence and power of this political party if each province and territory had equal ridings?

12. During the past two federal elections, FEWER and FEWER people from Alberta have cast their votes. Based on your own opinion and what you have learned; Why do you think this happening?

10. How does the structure of the Senate differ from the structure of the House of Commons?

11. Suppose our government was switched to the structure of the Senate. Why would people in Ontario strongly oppose this decision?

6. Why are there always an UN-even number of judges in the Supreme Court?

7. One of the main tasks of the judicial branch is to “interpret the law”

- Define Interpret:

- What does it mean to interpret the law?

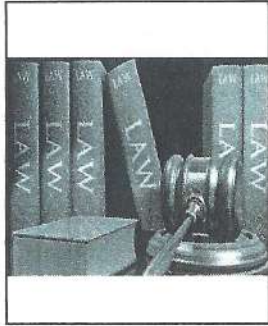
6. Read the newspaper article on page 39 of your textbook:

- What is the role of the auditor general within the government?
- Which political party is under investigation in this article?
- What did the political party do wrong according to this article?
- Based on what the political party did according to the article, why was the Federal Accountability Act formed?

7. The article spoke about how taxpayer money was being used improperly by the Federal Government - **(we will discuss its' impacts in a discussion).**

6. Read the captions on page 52 & 53 of your textbook:

- What is the main goal of Pierre Alvarez?
- Who does he work for?
- What is the main goal of the lobby group represented by Chris Severson-Baker?
- Which group does Chris Severson-Baker represent?



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Laws Begin with You

Because we elect our Members of Parliament (MPs) and pay them with our taxes, they are really working for us, and our ideas help them decide what laws to pass. If you wanted the government to pass a law, you could take your request to the MP for your constituency or you and other supporters of the law might even arrange to meet with relevant cabinet ministers.

If the MP or cabinet ministers you contact are convinced that most of their constituents want the law and that such a law would be beneficial, they would meet as a group, or caucus, with other members of their party and with department staff to work out the details of the proposed law. When members have resolved questions around the proposed law or bill, it can be drafted. A bill may propose an entirely new law or change an existing one.

How a Bill Becomes Law

1. Passage through the First House (usually the House of Commons)

a) MPs introduce bills during a **first reading**. The term "reading" comes from the early days of the British Parliament when printing was not very common and most people, including Members of Parliament, could not read or write. At that time, someone read the whole bill aloud in the House. Now the Clerk reads only the title and first reading means that the bill is formally introduced in the House. After first reading, MPs study the bill and decide whether to support all of it, just some parts of it or oppose it altogether.

b) The next stage of the bill is **second reading**, in which MPs debate the principle of the bill. Debate of bills is sometimes heated and has to be controlled. This is the Speaker's job. The Speaker of the House keeps the debate running as smoothly as possible, while giving all MPs a fair chance to speak. When MPs have finished debate on second reading, the Speaker calls a vote.

c) If the bill passes, it moves to the **committee stage**, where it goes through the following steps:

Step one: Ministers, department officials, experts and members of the public appear as witnesses before a committee.

Step two: Committee members study the bill, clause by clause.

Step three: The committee writes a report on the bill, recommending that it be accepted as is, or with amendments, or that it not be proceeded with further.

d) Next is the **report stage**, during which changes to the bill are considered, based on the committee's review and recommendations.

e) The final stage of a bill's journey through the House is **third reading**. Again, MPs have a chance to comment on, criticize or ask questions about the bill before voting on it for the last time. Voting is by simple majority. If a bill fails to pass any one of these stages, it cannot become law and must be reintroduced. Most government bills pass because the governing party normally has majority support in the House.

2. Passage through the Second House (usually the Senate). Stages a) through e) must be repeated in the second House.

3. Royal Assent by the Governor General makes the bill law.

4. In Force: Statute is in force:

- upon Royal Assent, or
 - when it is proclaimed by the Governor General, or
 - on a day specified in the act
-
- Different sections may come into force at different times.



Use this information sheet and tool:

- Strategies for Reading Non-narrative Texts
- Building Vocabulary I

3. Read the information provided in [How a Bill Becomes a Law](#) and fill in the following chart.

	<p>A bill is created by _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>because _____</p> <p>_____</p>
Step #1	<p>The bill is examined by _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The first reading is when _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The second reading is when _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The committee stage is when _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The report stage is when _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The third reading is when _____</p> <p>_____</p>
Step #2	<p>The bill is examined by _____</p> <p>_____</p>
Step #3	<p>The bill becomes a law when _____</p> <p>_____</p>

Social Studies 9

You're a Lobbyist!



Pretend you are a lobbyist for one of the following groups:

- Agriculture – Farmers or Ranchers
 - Tobacco Manufacturers
 - Gun Manufacturers
- International Toy Manufacturers
- National Food Safety Inspectors
- Music/entertainment industry
 - Doctors and Nurses

Your job is to approach a newly elected cabinet Minister and convince him or her to listen to your suggestions. Your hope? You obviously want to influence government policy on behalf of your group or issue. Decide what your issue will be. You may use the ones we discuss in class together or you may come up with one on your own.

Using the persuasive/position paragraph outline you were given in class, write a persuasive paragraph (10 sentences minimum) that will present your information to the Cabinet Minister and persuade him to your way of thinking. Outline what your issue is and why the government should follow your lead. You should also explain why this would benefit the government or the people of the country.

Be prepared to read (and possibly defend!) your lobbyist's paragraph in class. The class may be voting on whether or not it believes your paragraph does a good job of trying to influence government policy.

See the rubric on the back of this page to see how your paragraph will be evaluated. Do a good job – not only will you be presenting your paragraph to the class, but the mark will be applied to this term's report card (and writing is worth 30% of your mark!).



Persuasive Paragraph : I'm a Lobbyist

Student Name: _____

CATEGOR Y	3 - Above Standard s	2 - Meets Standard s	1 - Approaching Standard s	0 - Below Standard s
Position Statement	The topic sentence provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic.	The topic sentence provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic.	A topic sentence is present, but does not make the author's position clear.	There is no topic sentence – the paragraph launches directly into the issue without warning.
Support for Position	Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. The writer anticipates the reader's concerns, biases or arguments and has provided at least 1 counter-argument.	Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 2 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences).
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.
Conclu- sion or Clincher Sentence	The conclusion or clincher sentence is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. The student has used effective restatement of the position.	The conclusion or clincher sentence is recognizable. The author's position is restated.	The author attempts to restate the position in the conclusion or clincher sentence, but misses the mark.	There is no conclusion or clincher sentence - the paragraph just ends.
Grammar & Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.

TOTAL - _____/15 marks

Name: _____

Grade 9 Social Studies

Unit 1 Mid-Exam

Class: _____

Chapter 1 Exam

Section 1 - True/False – Indicate on the line whether the statement is true or false

- _____ 1. Members of parliament are appointed by the prime minister.
- _____ 2. A constituent is someone who lives in a riding and is represented by an elected official from that riding.
- _____ 3. Once a bill is approved by the cabinet it will become a law.
- _____ 4. The Senate can propose laws that create taxes or spend tax revenue.
- _____ 5. Canadian citizens can voice their views and perspectives by contacting their MP, a senator, or a cabinet minister. They can also organize a petition or take part in a rally on issues that concern them.
- _____ 6. In Canada, the executive, legislative and judicial are completely separate from one another and do not interact with one another.
- _____ 7. Currently in Canada, Steven Harper and his conservative party have a majority government.
- _____ 8. Senators can remain in office until the age of 75.
- _____ 9. The senate is an elected body of government.

Section 2 – Source Based Multiple Choice – Please place all answers for multiple choice on the scantron sheet provided

Please use the following source to answer the next question

“The big challenge for us is to get the truth.....You learn very quickly that the truth is not always what’s on the government website. It’s not in the first press release you pick up. You have to dig around. You have to find credible sources with credible information.”

1. The source is suggesting that different types of media sources
- a) Can be confusing and it is best to stick to one to get you information
 - b) All have a degree of bias in them and most news sources have faulty information
 - c) Can have degree of bias and we need to think critically before we make a decision
 - d) Create a better chance for reliable information to come forward

Please use the following two sources to answer questions # 2 and 3



Casting your ballot lets you speak your mind. It lets you be heard. This site shows you how. It's loaded with information for anyone who wants to know how elections work. You can look up the answers to election basics or go deeper to find information on Canada's electoral system. So have a look around and remember – next time you have a chance, **get involved** and **make sure your voice is heard!**

2. Elections Canada works hard to make it easy for everyone to vote. Based on the source taken from Election Canada's website, who is this information targeted towards?
 - a. All Canadian Citizens
 - b. New Canadian Citizens who immigrated to Canada
 - c. Canadian youth eligible to vote
 - d. Teenagers looking to join a political party

3. According to Elections Canada's point-of-view, the main reason people should vote is because
 - a. Everyone has the right and should use that right
 - b. It is unfair to criticize the government if you don't vote
 - c. It creates change
 - d. It gives people a voice in government

Please use the following source to answer question #4

With just days to go in the election, the Conservatives have stemmed their slide and reinforced a 10-point lead over the Liberals nationwide, according to a broader survey. The poll of 2,000 Canadians this week put Conservative support at 38 per cent, Liberals at 28, New Democrats at 19 and the Greens at 6.

Canseco says a majority government, once within Harper's reach, now seems gone, barring a last-minute turnaround. "This is definitely not where he thought he was going to be when he called the election."

4. Canseco is suggesting that the 2008 Federal Election will result in
 - a. A majority government
 - b. A minority government
 - c. An NDP government
 - d. Major conservative support

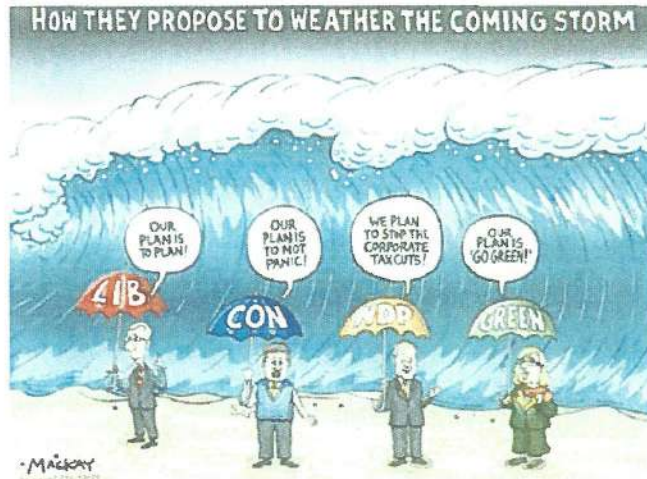
Please use the following source to answer question #5

Bill C-51 is a proposed new law that favors pharmaceutical companies & removes your right to natural health products



5. The visual claims that Bill C-51 will result in
- An end to natural health stores
 - People being forced to buy medicine at pharmacies
 - A flood of natural health products on the market
 - A lack of medicine for Canadians

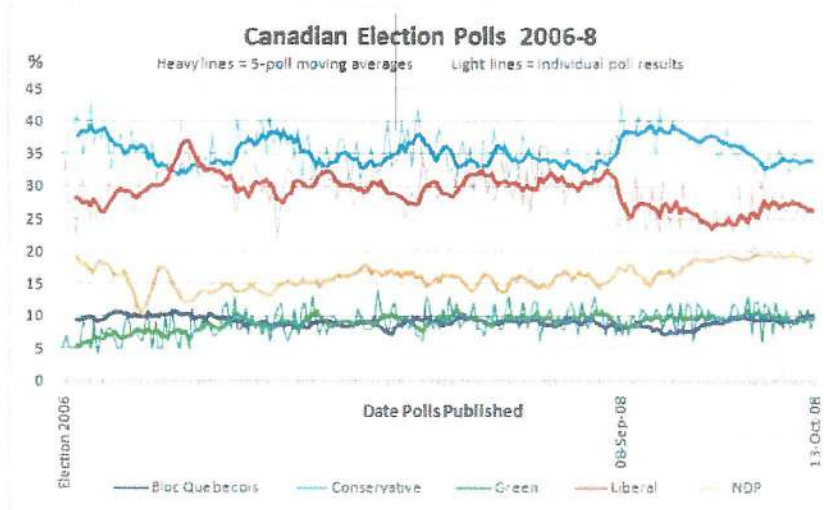
Please use the following source to answer question #6



6. The cartoonist in the above source is suggesting
- The Liberals will be the first to feel the effects of the coming issues that Canadians face
 - All major political parties running in the election are equally unprepared for the issues they will have to deal with
 - Only government officials will be safe from the coming issues that will hit Canada
 - Each political party has a strong political platform that will help solve many of the coming issues

Please use the following source to answer the questions #7 and 8

2008 Federal Election Public Opinion Polls



7. According to the chart above, it is estimated that which political party will win the 2008 Federal Election?
 - a. Conservative
 - b. Liberal
 - c. NDP
 - d. Green

8. Which two parties, according to the chart, are equally weighted in support (or votes)?
 - a. Conservative and Liberal
 - b. Green and Bloc Quebecois
 - c. NDP and Liberal
 - d. Green and NDP

Section 3 - Multiple Choice – Please continue placing all answers on the scantron sheet provided

9. Who is the head of state in Canada but does not play an active role its government?
 - A. Prime Minister
 - B. King or Queen of England
 - C. Senator
 - D. Supreme Court of Canada Judge

10. Stephen Harper became Canada's twenty-second prime minister in January 2006 with a _____ government. This means that his party won the most seats in the House of Commons but did not win over fifty percent of seats.
 - A. majority
 - B. Conservative
 - C. Liberal
 - D. minority

11. Once a bill goes from the House of Commons to the Senate, the Senate usually
 - A. quashes the bill
 - B. makes major changes to the bill
 - C. passes the bill
 - D. Bills do not go from the House of Commons to the Senate.
12. A bill can only become a law after it is given Royal assent by
 - A. the privy council
 - B. the prime minister
 - C. the Governor General
 - D. the House of Commons
13. Because Canadians have different identities, perspectives, needs, and priorities, Canada is known as which kind of country?
 - A. unique
 - B. diverse
 - C. large
 - D. democratic
14. Which of the following is an example of bias?
 - A. tobacco companies presenting research that indicates that smoking is not bad for your health
 - B. an advertisement by Mac that states that iPods are better than other MP3 players
 - C. a principal of a high school who says that his school's football team is the best in the city
 - D. all of the above
15. The executive branch is the part of the government responsible for putting laws into action and includes the prime minister and
 - A. the House of Commons
 - B. the senators
 - C. the monarchy
 - D. the cabinet
16. In order for an idea to become a bill, it must first get approval from the cabinet, and then it is proposed to the
 - A. House of Commons
 - B. monarchy
 - C. senate
 - D. Prime Minister
17. Which of the following outlines Canada's system of government, as well as the civil rights of all Canadian citizens?
 - A. Supreme Court of Canada
 - B. Prime Minister of Canada
 - C. The Senate
 - D. Canada's Constitution
18. Who represents the monarchy in Canada?
 - A. the prime minister
 - B. the governor general
 - C. the members of parliament
 - D. the cabinet ministers

Section 4 – Completion - Complete each statement.

1. The three branches of government in Canada are Executive, Legislative, and _____.
2. The legislative branch includes the House of Commons, the _____, and the governor general.
3. A political party needs to win the most _____ in the House of Commons in order to form the government.
4. Canadian citizens vote for Members of Parliament to _____ them in government.
5. The _____ branch of the government interprets and applies the law and decides on punishment for law-breakers.

Section 5 – Matching - Match the following words or terms to their correct description below.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| A. portfolios | E. accountable |
| B. executive branch | F. Senate |
| C. bill | G. law |
| D. legislative branch | H. constitution |

1. This is another name for a government departments or agencies, such as agriculture and health.
2. In order for this to be given Royal assent and become a law, it must first be introduced in the House of Commons and then the Senate.
3. This means that you must be answerable to someone for your actions.
4. The prime minister and the cabinet make up this part of the government.

Section 6 - Short Answer – Please fully and clearly answer the following question in complete sentences

1. Why is it important to have members from the opposition party in the House of Commons? (3)