

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Social Studies Grade 9

**W1 - Lesson 1: Citizenship, Government,
and Identity**

Important Concepts of Grade 9 Social Studies

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..... Media
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..... Consumers in the Economy
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Materials Required

Textbook Required
Issues For Canadians

Social Studies Grade 9

Version 6

Preview/Review W1 - Lesson 1

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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Nine Social Studies



Week 1 - Lesson 1:

***Citizenship, Government, and
Identity***

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- know the relationship between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of Canada's federal political system
- be aware of the processes used to determine Members of Parliament and Senators
- know to whom Members of Parliament and Senators are accountable
- understand the role of political parties within Canada's federal political system

GLOSSARY

accountable – to be responsible to someone for one's actions

constituent – a citizen who is represented in a government by officials for whom he or she votes

criteria – a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based

economic system – an organized way in which a state or nation allocates its resources and distributes goods and services in the national community

executive branch – the branch of government responsible for carrying out laws

govern – to direct and control the actions, affairs, policies, and functions of the government

governance – the activity of governing

government – the body with the power to make and/or enforce laws for a country, land area, people, or organization

issues – important questions in which there are differing views

judicial branch – a government's court system; this body is responsible for interpreting laws

legislative branch – the branch of government that is concerned with the making of laws

minority – a group that represents a smaller percentage of the total population than another group or groups

opinion – a personal belief or judgement that is not founded on proof or certainty

perspective – a position shared with others from which something is observed or considered

GLOSSARY continued...

point of view – a manner of viewing things based on personal experiences; a personal attitude

political system – the structure of a government

political party – a group of people with similar ideas about how government should support issues

popular vote – the process by which qualified voters choose candidates or vote on issues

quality of life – the general well-being of individuals and societies

rights – things due to a person or governmental body by law, tradition, or nature

society – a group of humans broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual interests, participation in characteristic relationships, shared institutions, and a common culture

unbiased – to be fair and impartial and free from prejudice

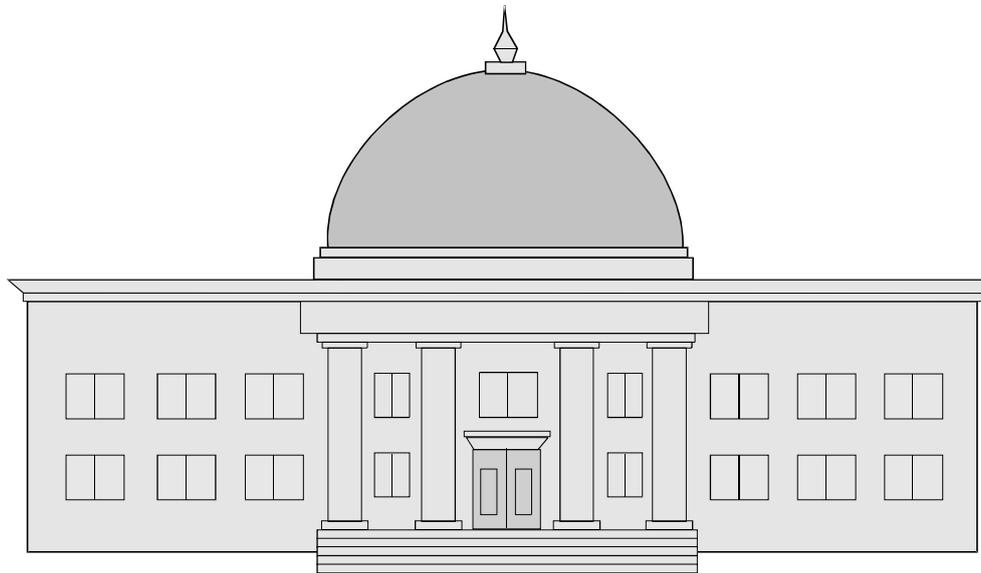
Week 1 – Lesson 1: Citizenship, Government, and Identity

Reading 1: An Introduction

The Social Studies 9 course is the study of the relationship between Canada’s political and legislative processes and how they determine **issues** regarding **governance**, **rights**, **citizenship**, and **identity**. The course also looks at issues of economics and the impact on your quality of life, and the role of citizenship and identity in Canada and the United States.

What is a **government**? How does government affect you in your daily life? What is your role as a citizen? What are your responsibilities and rights? How do Canada’s **economic system** and the decisions of government affect your **quality of life**?

Read pages 2 to 5 and pages 8 to 9 of your textbook, *Issues For Canadians* to find the answers to these and other similar questions. Then complete Activity 1.



Activity 1: An Introduction

To finish the activity, you must complete each given statement with the correct word on the provided line. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

1. An _____ is a topic on which well-informed people have different views.
2. Your individual _____ comes from your personal interests and experiences.
3. A _____ identity refers to a sense of belonging shared by a group of people.
4. _____ are what all individuals and groups can do in a society and are usually supported by law.
5. A social system in which a group of people shares a common geographic region, culture, and a common identity is referred to as a _____.
6. Your opinions and personal experiences provide you with your _____ _____
_____ (3 words).
7. _____ is about the way nations govern themselves.
8. A _____ _____ (2 words) is the structure and function of government.
9. An _____ _____ (2 words) is how societies develop the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
10. _____ _____ _____ (3 words) is about your values and what is important to you.
11. Your _____ is a personal reaction to an issue.
12. The standards for evaluating something are referred to as _____.
13. An open-ended _____ question is a question without preconceived ideas.

Reading 2: Canada's Government

Many governments are made up of three branches. The **legislative branch** is responsible for making the laws that govern the country. The **executive branch** is responsible for proposing new laws, putting laws into action, and running the day-to-day business of the government. The **judicial branch** interprets the law.

The **political system** of a government will determine how each branch operates. Some political systems roll all three branches into one, others have two, and in others the three branches are divided into three separate units.

Canada decided in 1867 to form a government using the parliamentary system. The formal head of state is currently the British Queen. The governor general represents the British monarch in Canada, and is part of both the executive and legislative branches of government. The individual who is the head of the executive branch is called the Prime Minister.

Turn to your textbook, *Issues For Canadians* and read pages 16, 22, and 24 to discover the role of the executive branch in Canada's government. Then complete Activity 2.



Activity 2: Canada’s Government

To finish this activity you must complete two parts. The first part is a chart. The second part is a series of questions based on the information provided in your textbook. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

Part 1: Canada’s Federal Political System

Complete the missing parts of the following chart. The first row is completed for you as an example.

Branch	Role	Examples
Monarch of Britain	Formal head of state of Canada	Governor General
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposes most laws • • 	
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • represents the interests and rights of Canada’s regions • 	
Judicial	Applies and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court • courts

Part 2: Governing and the Executive Branch of the Canadian Government

Answer the following questions.

1. Define the following terms.

a. govern – _____

b. governance – _____

c. government – _____

2. Who makes up the executive branch? What are the responsibilities of the executive branch?

Reading 3: The Legislative Branch of the Canadian Government

The legislative branch of the Canadian government is referred to as the Parliament. The Canadian Parliament consists of the Senate, the House of Commons, and the monarch of Britain, who is represented by the Governor General.

The Governor General appoints the Senators on the advice of the Prime Minister. The members of the House of Commons are elected by the **popular vote** of eligible Canadian voters. The House of Commons has become the most dominant branch of Parliament because its members are elected instead of being appointed.

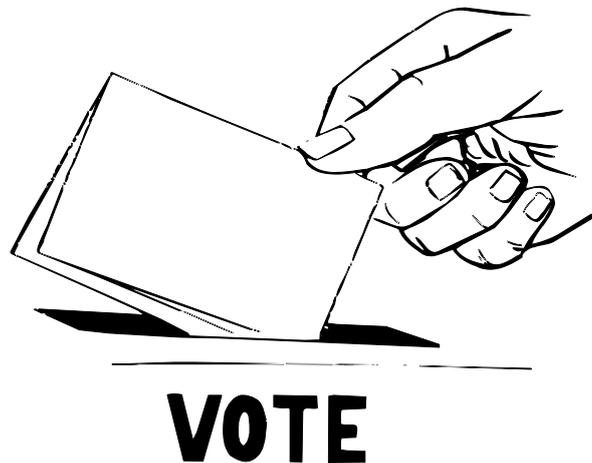
Currently there are 308 members of the House of Commons. The members are called Members of Parliament or MPs. Each MP represents a single electoral district. Because MPs are elected, they are **accountable** to their **constituents**.

Most MPs are members of a **political party**. Every party has a set of shared values that address various issues. Canada has a variety of political parties because Canadians have a number of different views and perspectives about what is best for Canada. The party that gets the most MPs elected forms the government and forms the executive branch.

Members of the Senate are appointed by the Prime Minister. Senators can remain in office until they reach 75 years of age. Senators represent the interests and rights of various regions of Canada. Senators often represent the views of Canada's **minorities**.

Today there are 105 Senators from six different regions of Canada.

To discover what the legislative branch does and the roles of MPs and Senators, read pages 27 to 29 and 31 to 33 of your textbook, *Issues For Canadians*. Then complete Activity 3.



Activity 3: The Legislative Branch of the Canadian Government

To finish the activity, you must choose the **best** word to complete each statement from the list of words provided. Write the correct words on the lines. The words will be used only once. Not all the words will be used. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

Alberta	bills	constituents	debate
elected	French	House of Commons	ineffective
languages	majority	minorities	Ontario
party	population	protect	question
reconsideration	regions	reject	Representation
Spanish	voters		

- The _____ (3 words) is the major law-making body in Canada's federal political system.
- Most MPs are members of a political _____.
- _____ in the House of Commons is by _____.
- All proceedings of the legislative branch are in Canada's two official _____: _____ and English.
- Each MP represents the _____ of one riding or district.
- If one political party wins a _____ of seats in the House of Commons, it forms the government.
- Members of Parliament have two key responsibilities. The first is to represent their _____.
- _____ is the region with the most Members of Parliament.
- Senators are not _____ but are appointed by the Prime Minister.
- The Senate has the power to _____ bills but rarely uses this power.
- The Senate gives careful _____ to all legislation proposed for Canada.

Reading 4: The Judicial Branch of the Canadian Government

The judicial branch includes all the courts of law in Canada from the provincial and territorial courts to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the court of last resort and is the final word regarding all legal questions in Canada.

To follow how a law is developed and how the judicial branch interprets and applies the law, read the cartoon on pages 21, 23, 26, 34 and read page 35 in your textbook, *Issues For Canadians*. Then complete Activity 4.



Activity 4: The Judicial Branch of the Canadian Government

Read each statement carefully. If the statement is true, write **T** on the lines provided. However, if the statement is false, write **F** on the lines provided. Then **rewrite the sentence correctly to make the statement true**. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

- _____ 1. The “Prime Minister of the Day” wants to pass a law in one day.

- _____ 2. The Prime Minister generally can pass a law by working alone.

- _____ 3. The Prime Minister appoints the members of his cabinet.

- _____ 4. The cabinet will accept all of the Prime Minister’s ideas for new laws.

- _____ 5. The House of Commons automatically passes bills proposed by the Prime Minister and the cabinet.

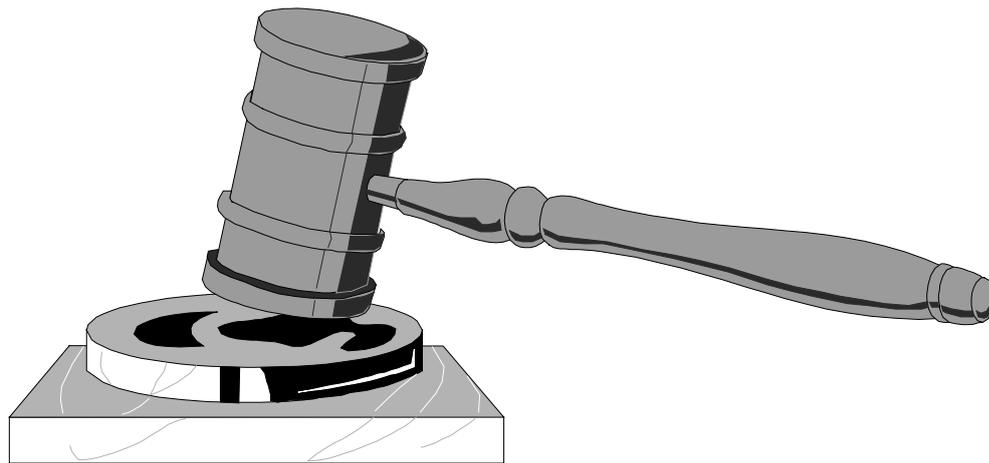
- _____ 6. After the House of Commons approves a bill, the Prime Minister signs it and the bill becomes law.

_____ 7. The Senate usually passes a bill with minor changes.

_____ 8. The Supreme Court cannot strike down a law that violates Canada's constitution.

_____ 9. The Supreme Court has the main responsibility for making sure the rights of Canadians are respected.

_____ 10. The Supreme Court has eight judges from three regions of Canada.



Week 1 - Lesson 1: Citizenship, Government, and Identity Review Assignment

Complete pages 11 to 13 as your review assignment for this lesson. If you are working in a classroom, you may be reviewing this together. If you are working individually, complete the assignment and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher. Use your notes and work from this lesson to help you. This assignment is worth 25 marks.

Section A: Short Answers

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. The value of each question is indicated at the end of the question. This section is worth 10 marks.

1. What are the **three** branches of the Canadian government? Identify **one** of the responsibilities for each branch. (6 marks)

2. Who appoints the members to the cabinet? (1 mark)

3. How do Canadians determine which political party forms the executive branch of government? (1 mark)

4. Why do Canadians consider a Member of Parliament more accountable than a Senator? (2 marks)

Section B: Matching

Match the concept or responsibility on the left with the correct position or branch of government on the right. Write the letter on the appropriate line to indicate your choice. An answer will only be used once. This section is worth 10 marks.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ makes laws | A. judicial branch |
| _____ assigned a portfolio | B. legislative branch |
| _____ debate, study, and vote on laws | C. Prime Minister |
| _____ appointed by the Prime Minister | D. cabinet minister |
| _____ interprets laws | E. executive branch |
| _____ head of Canada's government | F. Supreme Court |
| _____ one of nine from 4 regions | G. Members of Parliament |
| _____ highest court in Canada | H. Senator |
| _____ proposes most laws | I. judge |
| _____ decides who will represent them in the House of Commons | J. voters |

Section C: True or False

Read each of the statements carefully. If the statement is true, write **T** on the line provided. However, if the statement is false, write **F** on the line provided. Then **rewrite the sentence correctly to make the statement true**. This section is worth 5 marks.

_____ 1. The Governor General is part of the judicial branch.

_____ 2. The judicial branch has the main responsibility for making sure the rights of Canadians are respected.

_____ 3. The party with the most Members of Parliament usually forms the government.

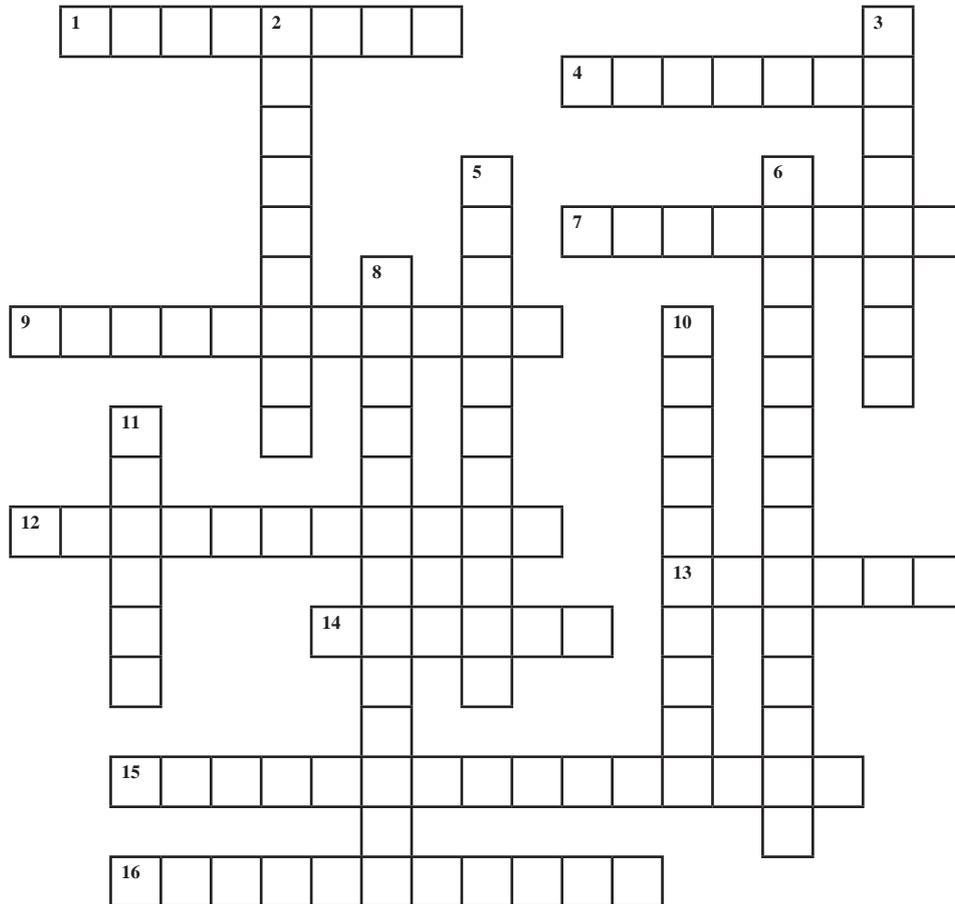
_____ 4. The Senate is the major law-making body in Canada's federal political system.

_____ 5. The British North America Act is the law that describes governance of Canada.

Total: _____
25 marks

Bonus Crossword Puzzle: Citizenship, Government, and Identity

Use the clues below to identify the words and phrases in the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 1 standards on which a judgment or decision may be based
- 4 a personal belief
- 7 the branch of government responsible for interpreting laws
- 9 a citizen who is represented in a government by officials for whom he or she votes
- 12 the branch of government concerned with the making of laws
- 13 important questions in which there are differing views
- 14 to direct and control the actions of the government
- 15 a system of government (2 words)
- 16 a position shared with others

Down

- 2 the branch of government that is responsible for carrying out the laws
- 3 to be fair and impartial
- 5 a manner of viewing things (3 words)
- 6 a way in which a state or nation allocates its resources and distributes goods and services (2 words)
- 8 the general well-being of individuals and societies (3 words)
- 10 groups that represent a smaller percentage of the total population than another group or groups
- 11 due to a person by law, tradition, or nature

