

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Social Studies Grade 9

**W3 - Lesson 4: Social Programs and
Political Parties**

Important Concepts of Grade 9 Social Studies

W1 - Lesson 1 Citizenship, Government, and Identity
W1 - Lesson 2 Making Laws in Canada and the Role of the
..... Media
W1 - Lesson 3 Youth Criminal Justice
W1 - Lesson 4 The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
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..... Consumers in the Economy
W3 - Lesson 3 . Quality of Life, Consumerism, and the Economy
W3 - Lesson 4 Social Programs and Political Parties
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W3 - Quiz

Materials Required

Textbook Required
Issues For Canadians

Social Studies Grade 9

Version 6

Preview/Review W3 - Lesson 4

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Publisher: Alberta Distance Learning Centre

Written by: Tom Dirsá

Reviewed by: Donna Klemmer

Project Coordinator: Jerry Pon

Preview/Review Publishing Coordinating Team:

Heather Martel and Marlyn Clark



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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Nine Social Studies



Week 3 - Lesson 4:

***Social Programs and Political
Parties***

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- understand the societal values that underlie social programs in Canada and the United States
- know how the underground economy impacts the federal and provincial tax base and social programs
- understand how the economic platforms of political parties differ from one another
- realize how a political party's philosophy reflects its platform

GLOSSARY

black market – a market in which all commerce is conducted without regard to taxation, laws, or regulations of trade

conservatives – individuals who favour a political philosophy that upholds current conditions and opposes change (often referred to as right wing)

economic continuum – a continuous series of economic theories with a planned economy on the left, a mixed economy in the middle, and a market economy on the right

Goods and Service Tax (GST) – a tax on the supply of most goods and services in Canada

health insurance – a contract between an insurance company and an individual that pays for coverage against financial loss from illness or bodily injury

income tax – a tax placed on net personal or business income

liberals – individuals who favour a political philosophy of progress and reform, the protection of civil liberties, and tolerance of change (often called left wing)

moderates – individuals who are not extreme in their political views

perspective – a point of view

platform – statements that put forth a political party's positions on issues

plank – an individual issue stated in a political party's platform

political parties – groups of citizens who agree on major issues facing a nation and create policies to reflect their views

GLOSSARY continued...

private health care – all forms of health insurance that are not funded by the government

profit – gain left over after expenses are subtracted

public health care – a form of health care financing designed to meet the cost of all or most health care needs from a publicly managed fund

sales tax – a tax charged at the point of purchase for certain goods and services

social programs – programs provided by the government to assist individuals economically and socially

tax base – the total resources of the community or individual that are legally available for taxation

tax evasion – deliberate failure to pay taxes or avoiding the payment of taxes

taxation model – the system the government uses to raise revenue by taxes

underground economy – all market exchanges that go unreported either because they are illegal or because those involved want to evade taxes

Week 3 - Lesson 4: Social Programs and Political Parties

Reading 1: Social Programs in Canada and The United States

In Canada, most people tend to believe that individuals must consider each other and set aside individual interests to achieve what is best for society. To accomplish this type of society, the Canadian government has established a number of **social programs** to meet the needs of all citizens. **Public health care**, the Canadian Pension Plan, and unemployment insurance are just a few programs that help all Canadians.

The United States has fewer social programs compared to Canada. In the United States, most people believe that what is best for the individual is what is best for society. This has resulted in the United States government limiting the amount of social programs it provides to citizens. For example, the United States depends on **private health care** to deliver health care to its citizens.

To understand the differences between the Canadian and the United States approaches towards social programs, read pages 270 to 275 in your textbook, *Issues for Canadians*. Then complete Activity 1.



Activity 1: Social Programs in Canada and the United States

To finish the activity you must complete two sections. The first section is a series of questions. The second section includes a chart and three diagrams. 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.

Section 1: Fill-in-the-Blanks

Complete each given statement by writing the correct word or phrase on the lines provided.

1. Social programs are services provided by _____ and paid for by _____.
2. Social programs aim to reduce economic _____ in society and promote the _____ of all citizens.
3. It is the different _____ philosophies and different _____ of governments that influence the decisions by government to provide or not provide social programs.
4. Canada has _____ (2 words) care and the United States has _____ (2 words) care.
5. In the United States, health services are offered to make a _____.
6. In the United States, people buy _____ (2 words) to cover the costs of health care.
7. In Canada, the _____ have the responsibility for providing health care.
8. The *Canada Health Act* is a federal law that establishes _____ principles for health care in Canada.
9. The *Canada Health Act* does not apply to _____ and _____ care.

Section 2: Chart and Diagrams

Chart: The *Canada Health Act* – Complete the chart by explaining the principles established in the *Canada Health Act*. The first one is provided for you as an example.

Principle	Explanation
Publicly administered	Run by government for no profit
	For care provided by hospitals, physicians, and surgeons
Accessible	
Portable	
	Available to everyone

Diagram 1: Health Care – This diagram shows the differences between the United States and Canada in the delivery of health care and is an example.

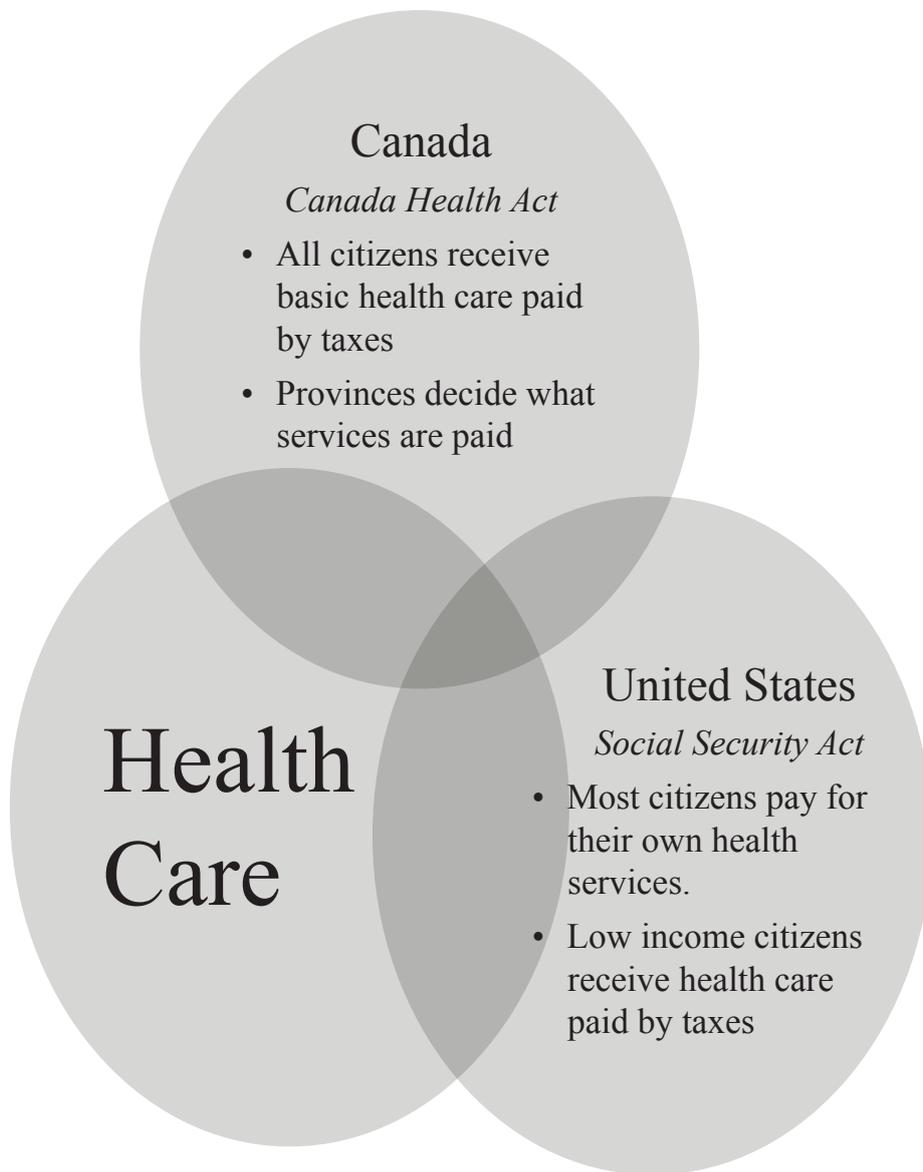


Diagram 2: Pensions – Complete the diagram by identifying how Canada and the United States provide pensions to citizens. Be sure to identify any legislation that Canada or the United States has passed covering the issue, or indicate if there is no legislation.

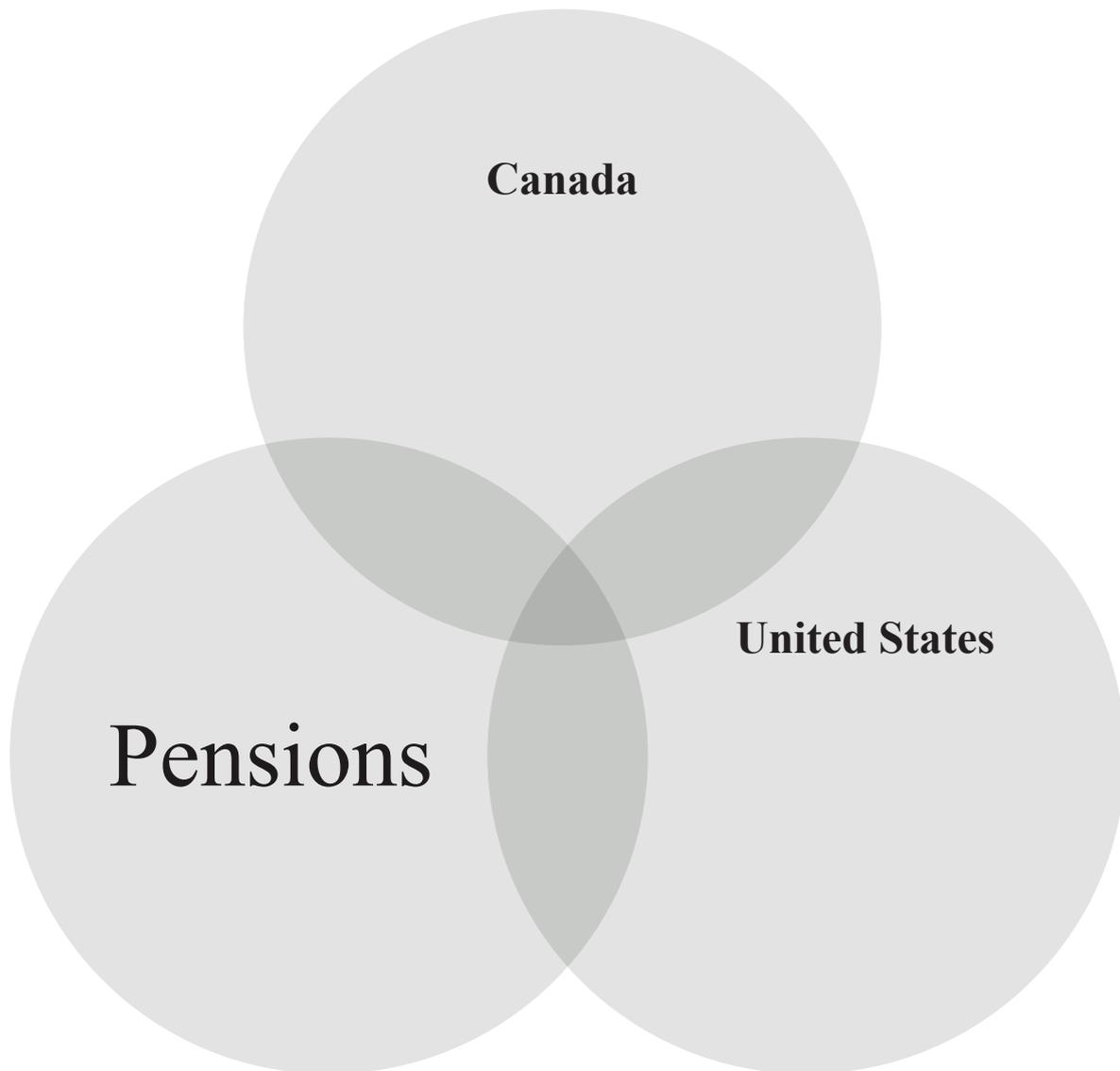


Diagram 3: Income Assistance – Complete the diagram by identifying how Canada and the United States provide income assistance to citizens. Be sure to identify any legislation that Canada or the United States has passed covering the issue, or indicate if there is no legislation.



Reading 2: Taxes and the Underground Economy

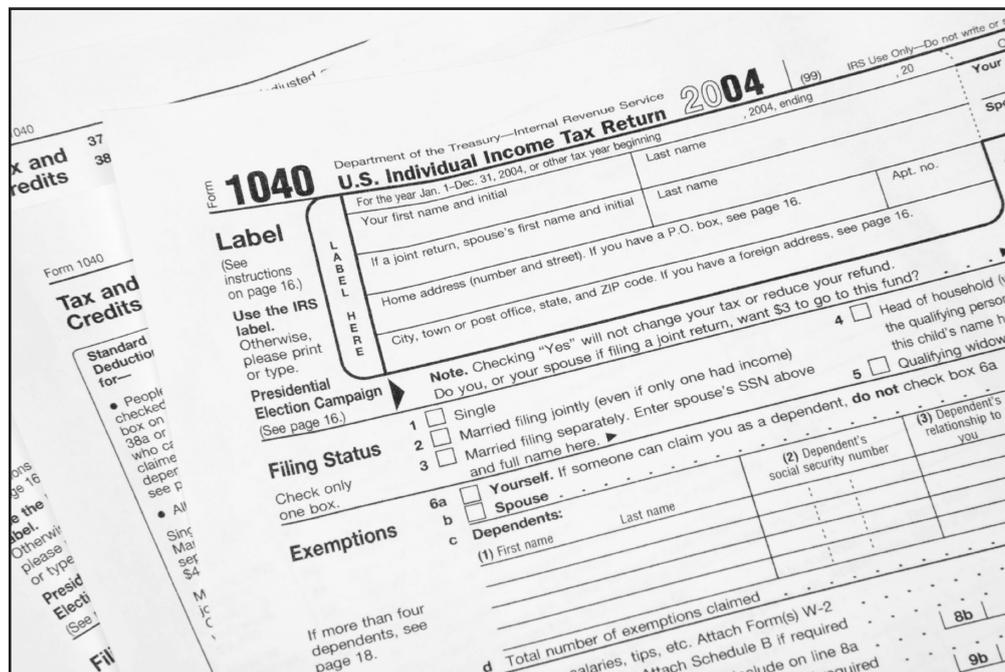
Where does a government get the money to pay for social programs? For the most part, governments raise funds through taxation. The Canadian government requires individuals to pay income taxes, corporations to pay taxes based on their profits, and all Canadians to pay a tax on goods and services they purchase. In addition, there are a number of other taxes the government uses to provide funds for social programs.

Because the United States government has a limited role in providing social programs, the taxes in the United States are generally lower than in Canada.

Governments use the country's **tax base** to determine the services a government will be able to provide. The tax base helps a government to develop a taxation model that is used to develop a policy to describe what to tax, how much to tax, and how to spend taxes.

Is there a way to avoid paying taxes? **Tax evasion** is illegal in all countries. Individuals who avoid paying taxes become part of the **underground economy** or **black market**.

To understand the connection between taxation and social programs, read pages 281 to 285 in your textbook, *Issues for Canadians*. Then complete Activity 2.



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Activity 2: Taxes and the Underground Economy

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. 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. What is the difference between an income tax and a sales tax?

2. Who can collect taxes in Canada? How does the federal government assist the provinces?

3. According to the charts on page 282, what are the **three** largest budget items for the Canadian government? What are the **three** largest budget items for the Alberta government? Identify the percentage each of the three items consumes of the total budget.

Reading 3: Political Parties and Platforms

In both Canada and the United States, **political parties** developed when groups of citizens who agreed on major issues facing the country came together. These groups of citizens work to create public policies that reflect their views and elect individuals who will support their policies.

To get elected, political parties will establish a **platform**. A platform is a set of statements that puts forward the public policies that reflect the political party's views on the issues such as health care, education, and foreign policy. Each issue in the platform is called a **plank**.

Most people, generally, agree about many issues. This usually results in political parties taking a **moderate** stand in their platforms and moving away from extreme positions. Political parties will nominate people who they believe will best reflect their platform and draw voters who are not members of their party.

Canada has a multi-party system. Currently, there are four major parties in Canada. The two largest parties with the longest traditions are the Liberal and Conservative parties. The Liberal Party of Canada believes that Canada has the ability to improve the lives of Canadians and that it is important for the government to help all Canadians across the country experience an equality of opportunity. As such, the Liberals generally support more government involvement and a larger role for government in providing social programs to citizens.

The United States has a two-party system. The views of the Democratic Party are often similar to those of the Canadian Liberal Party. Members of the Democratic Party usually feel that the federal government has a responsibility to help those in need through government social programs.

The Conservative Party of Canada believes that Canadians pay too much tax and would like to see less government involvement in the everyday lives of Canadians. However, Conservatives do support the provision of some social programs such as health care. The party generally supports the reduction of taxes.

The other major American political party is the Republican Party. The views of the Republican Party are similar to the views of the Canadian Conservative Party. Most Republicans believe that less government regulation is best. They believe this will give people a greater ability to help themselves. As a result, the Republican Party supports the government having a smaller role in the provision of social programs to its citizens.

Two additional political parties in Canada are the Bloc Quebecois and the New Democratic Party (NDP). The Bloc Quebecois concerns itself with issues that are important to the province of Quebec while the NDP is focused on issues concerning providing assistance to working-class people and the under-privileged. A new party has recently developed in Canada over the issue of improving and protecting our environment. This party is called the Green Party.

When a third party develops in the United States, the two majority parties will generally adopt the most popular aspects of the third party's platform. This prevents the third party from growing and developing enough to challenge the two major parties.

To understand how political platforms reflect the views of various political parties, read pages 287 to 290 in your textbook, *Issues For Canadians*. Then complete Activity 3.



John A. Macdonald

Activity 3: Political Parties and Platforms

To finish the activity you must complete three charts. 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.

Chart 1 – Identify the Canadian political party or parties that are associated with some of the key issues facing Canada. An example is provided below.

Issue	Political Party or Parties
Aboriginal peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Party • Liberal Party • New Democratic Party
Climate change	
Child care	
Health care	
Poverty	
Lower taxes	

Chart 2 – Identify each platform plank as being part of a *planned economy political party*, *mixed economy political party*, or a *market economy political party*. An example is provided for you.

Platform Plank	Political Party
Individuals should be responsible for their own well-being.	Market Economy Political Party
Government should play a central role in the economy.	
Taxes are low and spent on a minimum of government programs and services.	
Government provides some social programs.	
No one should live in poverty.	
Economic inequalities are unjust.	

Chart 3 - Identify **two** economic or social policies or planks that each of the following political parties support.

Political Party	Social or Economic Policies/Planks
Liberal Party	
Democratic Party	
Bloc Quebecois	
Conservative Party	
Green Party	
Republican Party	
New Democratic Party	

Week 3 – Lesson 4: Social Programs and Political Parties Review Assignment

Complete pages 15 to 18 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: Matching

Match the term on the right with the correct definition on the left. Write the letter on the appropriate line to indicate your choice. An answer will only be used once. This section is worth 10 marks.

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------|
| _____ | gain left over after expenses are subtracted | A. moderate |
| _____ | an individual issue stated in a political party's platform | B. perspective |
| _____ | individuals who favour a political philosophy that upholds current conditions and opposes change | C. platform |
| _____ | the total resources of a community that are legally available for taxation | D. plank |
| _____ | a deliberate failure to pay taxes | E. black market |
| _____ | a market conducted without regard to laws or taxation | F. conservatives |
| _____ | programs provided by the government to assist individuals economically and socially | G. profit |
| _____ | statements that put forth a political party's position on issues | H. tax base |
| _____ | an individual who is not extreme in political beliefs | I. tax evasion |
| _____ | a point of view | J. social programs |

Section B: 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. Public health care in Canada is provided by the profits from Canadian businesses.

- _____ 2. Health care in the United States is very similar to Canada's and is paid with public funds.

- _____ 3. One of the principles of Canada's Health Act is that health care is available to everyone.

- _____ 4. Canadian citizens are only required to pay an income tax.

- _____ 5. It is against the law to avoid paying taxes.

Section C: Fill-in-the-Blanks

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. This section is worth 5 marks.

black	debate club	higher	issues	lower
political party	sales tax	tax base	tax evasion	taxation
model	underground			

1. When a group of citizens agree on major issues facing a nation and create policies to reflect their views, they may come together and form a _____ (2 words).
2. People who work without paying taxes are part of the _____ economy.
3. _____ can change in response to local, national, and world events.
4. The American Republican Party supports _____ taxes.
5. Governments pay for social programs through their _____ system.

Section D: 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 5 marks.

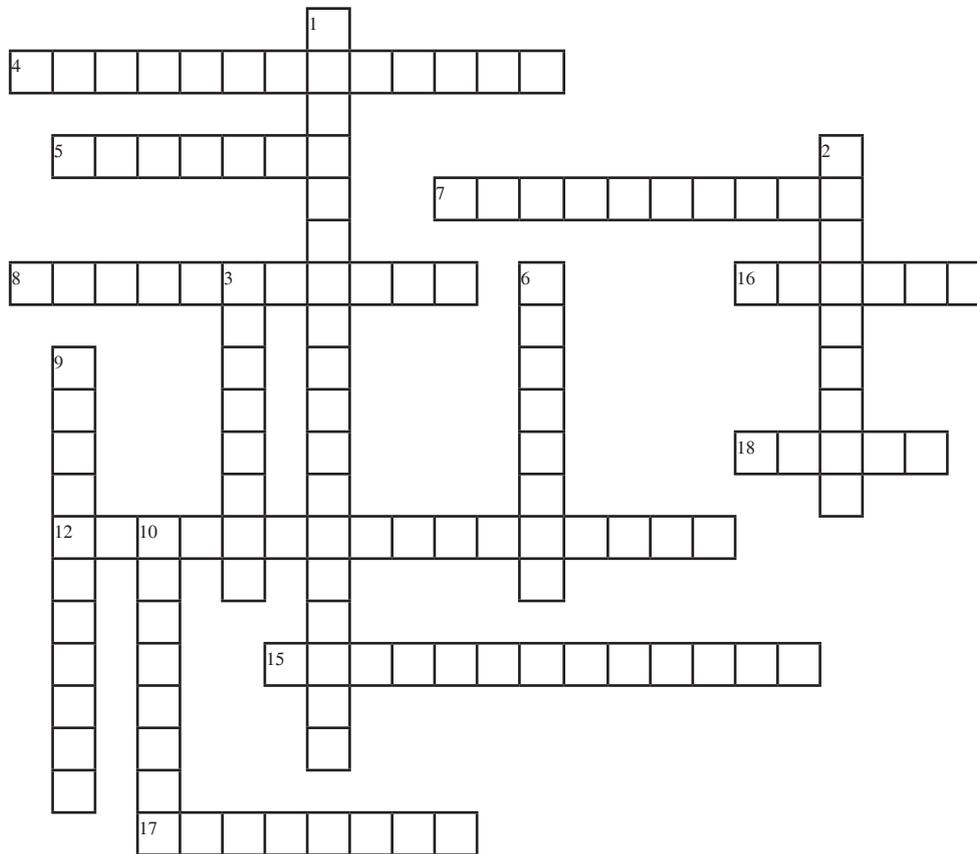
- 1. Identify the **two** main (traditional) Canadian political parties and the role they believe government should play in the lives of citizens. Then identify which American party has a similar belief in the role of government. (2 marks)

- 2. Identify and explain **three** of the five principles established in the *Canada Health Act*. (3 marks)

Total: _____
25 marks

Bonus Crossword Puzzle: Social Programs and Political Parties

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



Across

- 4 the system the government uses to raise revenue by taxes (2 words)
- 5 the total resources of the community that are legally available for taxation (2 words)
- 7 the deliberate avoiding the payment of taxes (2 words)
- 8 a market where all commerce is conducted without regard to taxation (2 words)
- 12 the groups of citizens who agree on major issues (2 words)
- 15 often referred to as the right wing
- 16 the gain left over after expenses are subtracted
- 17 a tax charged at the point of purchase (2 words)
- 18 an individual issue in a party's platform

Down

- 1 all market exchanges that go unreported (2 words)
- 2 a tax placed on net personal or business income
- 3 an individual who is not extreme in a political context
- 6 statements that put forth a political party's positions
- 9 a point of view
- 10 the individuals who favour a political philosophy of progress and reform

