



# Complete Study Notes 2026

Canadian Citizenship Test Preparation

242 Key Facts Across 12 Chapters

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# Chapter 1: The Oath of Citizenship

## **What is the Oath of Citizenship?**

The Oath of Citizenship is a solemn promise made by new citizens to be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, King of Canada, and to faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil duties as a Canadian citizen.

## **When do you take the Oath of Citizenship?**

You take the Oath of Citizenship at the citizenship ceremony, which is the final step in becoming a Canadian citizen. This may be in person or virtual.

## **To whom do new citizens swear allegiance in the Oath?**

New citizens swear allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, King of Canada, His Heirs and Successors. Canada is a constitutional monarchy.

## **What responsibilities does the Oath commit you to?**

The Oath commits you to faithfully observe the laws of Canada, including the Constitution, and fulfil your duties as a Canadian citizen.

## **Can you take the Oath in either official language?**

Yes. New citizens may take the Oath of Citizenship in English, French, or both official languages of Canada.

## Chapter 10: Canadian Symbols

### What is on the Canadian flag?

The Canadian flag features a red maple leaf on a white background with red vertical bars on each side. It was adopted on February 15, 1965.

### What is the national anthem of Canada?

The national anthem is 'O Canada'. It was originally composed in French by Calixa Lavallée in 1880. It became the official anthem on July 1, 1980.

### What is the royal anthem of Canada?

'God Save the King' (or Queen) is the royal anthem of Canada, played on occasions when the Sovereign or their representative is present.

### What is Canada's motto?

Canada's motto is 'A Mari Usque Ad Mare', which is Latin for 'From Sea to Sea'. It comes from Psalm 72:8 and reflects Canada's geography from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

### What are the national colours of Canada?

The national colours of Canada are red and white. They were declared by King George V in 1921.

### What is the maple leaf's significance?

The maple leaf has been a symbol of Canada since the 1700s. It appears on the flag, the coat of arms, and the penny. The sugar maple is particularly associated with eastern Canada.

### What animal is an official symbol of Canada?

The beaver is an official symbol of Canada, representing the importance of the fur trade in Canadian history. It appears on the five-cent coin (nickel).

### What is on the Canadian coat of arms?

The coat of arms features a shield with the royal symbols of England, Scotland, Ireland, and France, plus three maple leaves. It has a lion and a unicorn as supporters, and the Crown on top.

### What is Canada Day?

Canada Day is celebrated on July 1 each year. It marks the anniversary of Confederation in 1867, when the British North America Act united Canada. It was formerly called Dominion Day.

### What is Victoria Day?

Victoria Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the Monday before May 25. It honours Queen Victoria's birthday and marks the official birthday of the reigning Canadian Sovereign.

### What is Remembrance Day?

Remembrance Day is observed on November 11. It honours members of the armed forces who died in service. Canadians wear red poppies as a symbol of remembrance.

### What is the significance of the poppy?

The red poppy is worn on Remembrance Day to honour fallen soldiers. It was inspired by the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by Canadian military doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

### Who wrote 'In Flanders Fields'?

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian military doctor, wrote 'In Flanders Fields' in 1915 during World War I. It is one of the most famous war poems ever written.

### What is the Parliament Buildings?

The Parliament Buildings are located on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. The Centre Block features the Peace Tower, which has a memorial chamber honouring Canada's war dead.

**What is the Peace Tower?**

The Peace Tower is a prominent clock tower on Parliament Hill, built to commemorate Canadian soldiers who died in World War I. It contains the Memorial Chamber and a 53-bell carillon.

**Where is Canada's capital city?**

Ottawa, Ontario is the capital of Canada. Queen Victoria chose Ottawa as the capital in 1857. Parliament Hill and many national institutions are located there.

**What are the official Canadian emblems?**

Official emblems include the maple leaf, the beaver, the Canadian horse, the maple tree, and the Canadian flag. The loon appears on the one-dollar coin (loonie).

**What is the Vimy Ridge memorial?**

The Vimy Ridge memorial in France honours the 11,285 Canadians who died in France during WWI and have no known grave. The battle (April 1917) is considered a defining moment of Canadian nationhood.

**What holidays are statutory holidays in Canada?**

Federal statutory holidays include New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and Christmas Day.

**What is the loonie and the toonie?**

The loonie is the one-dollar coin featuring a loon (water bird). The toonie is the two-dollar coin. Canada phased out the one-cent penny in 2013.

**What appears on Canadian paper currency?**

Canadian banknotes feature prominent Canadians and national symbols. The \$5 features Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the \$10 features Viola Desmond, the \$20 features Queen Elizabeth II/King Charles III.

**Who is Viola Desmond?**

Viola Desmond was a Black Nova Scotian businesswoman who challenged racial segregation in 1946 by refusing to leave a whites-only section of a movie theatre. She appears on the \$10 bill.

**What is the Canadian horse?**

The Canadian horse is an official animal symbol of Canada. Descended from French horses brought to New France in the 1600s, it is known for its strength, endurance, and hardiness.

**What is Thanksgiving in Canada?**

Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October. It gives thanks for the harvest and blessings of the past year. It predates American Thanksgiving.

**What is the significance of the Crown in Canada?**

The Crown represents the Canadian state. All government authority flows from the Crown. Canada's form of government — constitutional monarchy — makes the Crown a symbol of continuity and stability.

**What is O Canada's first line?**

'O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love in all of us command.' The English version was written by Robert Stanley Weir in 1908.

**What are the colours on the Canadian flag and what do they represent?**

Red and white are Canada's national colours. Red represents sacrifice and valour, while white represents peace and tranquillity. These were officially declared in 1921.

**What is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation?**

September 30 is a federal statutory holiday established in 2021 to honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools. It is also known as Orange Shirt Day.

**What is the War of 1812 significance in Canadian identity?**

The War of 1812 is considered important in establishing a distinct Canadian identity separate from the United States. It demonstrated that Canadians would defend their territory.

**What is the Canadian Forces?**

The Canadian Armed Forces consist of the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy, and Royal Canadian Air Force. Service is voluntary. The Governor General is the Commander-in-Chief.

**What is the Stanley Cup?**

The Stanley Cup is the championship trophy for the National Hockey League (NHL). It was donated in 1892 by Lord Stanley of Preston, the Governor General of Canada. It is the oldest professional sports trophy in North America.

**What is the Grey Cup?**

The Grey Cup is the championship trophy of the Canadian Football League (CFL). It was donated in 1909 by Governor General Earl Grey.

**What is Heritage Day?**

Heritage Day, celebrated in February, recognises the diverse cultural heritage that has shaped Canada. It is not a statutory holiday but is observed in some provinces.

**What is the Order of Canada's highest level?**

The Order of Canada has three levels: Companion (C.C.) — the highest, Officer (O.C.), and Member (C.M.). The Governor General is Chancellor of the Order.

**What is Rideau Hall?**

Rideau Hall in Ottawa is the official residence of the Governor General. It is used for state occasions, ceremonies, and official functions.

**What is 24 Sussex Drive?**

24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa is the official residence of the Prime Minister of Canada, though it has been undergoing renovations. The PM also has Harrington Lake as a country retreat.

**What is the significance of the inukshuk?**

The inukshuk is an Inuit stone landmark traditionally used as a navigational aid or marker in the Arctic. It has become a symbol of Canadian identity and was featured in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics logo.

**What is the fleur-de-lis?**

The fleur-de-lis is a symbol of French heritage in Canada. It appears on the flag of Quebec and represents the province's French-Canadian identity.

**What is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?**

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa contains the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier from WWI. It honours all Canadians who died in service.

**What is National Flag of Canada Day?**

February 15 is National Flag of Canada Day, celebrating the first raising of the maple leaf flag in 1965. It replaces the Canadian Red Ensign.

## Chapter 11: Canada's Economy

### What type of economy does Canada have?

Canada has a mixed economy — a market economy with significant government involvement in areas like healthcare, education, and natural resources.

### What are Canada's major industries?

Canada's major industries include natural resources (oil, gas, mining, forestry), manufacturing, services (finance, technology), agriculture, and fishing.

### Who is Canada's largest trading partner?

The United States is Canada's largest trading partner. About 75% of Canadian exports go to the US. The two countries share the world's longest undefended border.

### What is CUSMA (formerly NAFTA)?

CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement) is the free trade agreement between the three North American countries. It replaced NAFTA in 2020 and governs trade, investment, and intellectual property.

### What is the G7?

The Group of Seven (G7) is a forum of the world's seven largest advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

### What natural resources is Canada known for?

Canada is rich in oil (Alberta oil sands), natural gas, minerals (gold, nickel, potash, uranium), forests, fresh water, and hydroelectric power.

### What is the importance of the service sector?

The service sector employs the majority of Canadians (about 75% of the workforce). It includes banking, retail, healthcare, education, technology, and government services.

### What role does immigration play in Canada's economy?

Immigration is essential to Canada's economic growth. Canada welcomes hundreds of thousands of immigrants annually to fill labour shortages, drive innovation, and grow the population.

### What is the Bank of Canada?

The Bank of Canada is the country's central bank, responsible for monetary policy, issuing currency, and maintaining the stability of the Canadian financial system.

### What are the Atlantic provinces known for economically?

The Atlantic provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick) are known for fishing, shipbuilding, agriculture, mining, and offshore oil.

### What is Alberta known for economically?

Alberta is known for its oil and gas industry. The Alberta oil sands are one of the largest petroleum reserves in the world. Agriculture (cattle ranching, grain) is also important.

### What is Ontario's role in the Canadian economy?

Ontario is Canada's most populous province and its economic heartland. It is the centre of manufacturing (auto industry), finance (Bay Street in Toronto), and technology.

### What is British Columbia known for economically?

British Columbia's economy is based on forestry, mining, fishing, natural gas, film production, technology, and Pacific Rim trade through the Port of Vancouver.

## Chapter 12: Canada's Regions

### **How many provinces and territories does Canada have?**

Canada has 10 provinces and 3 territories, for a total of 13 jurisdictions. Territories differ from provinces in that they receive their authority from the federal government.

### **What are the Atlantic provinces?**

The Atlantic provinces are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. They are located on Canada's east coast.

### **What are the Prairie provinces?**

The Prairie provinces are Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. They are known for agriculture (wheat, canola), ranching, oil and gas, and wide open landscapes.

### **What are Canada's three territories?**

Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. They cover about 40% of Canada's land mass but have very small populations, primarily in the Arctic and subarctic.

### **What is the capital of Ontario?**

Toronto is the capital of Ontario. It is also Canada's largest city and the financial capital, home to Bay Street and the Toronto Stock Exchange.

### **What is the capital of Quebec?**

Quebec City is the capital of Quebec. Montreal is the largest city in Quebec and the second-largest in Canada. Quebec is the largest province by area.

### **What is the capital of British Columbia?**

Victoria is the capital of British Columbia. Vancouver, on the mainland, is the largest city in BC and the third-largest metropolitan area in Canada.

### **What is the capital of Alberta?**

Edmonton is the capital of Alberta. Calgary is the largest city and is known as the energy capital of Canada due to the oil and gas industry.

### **What is the capital of Manitoba?**

Winnipeg is the capital and largest city of Manitoba. It is located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers and is known as the 'Gateway to the West'.

### **What is the capital of Saskatchewan?**

Regina is the capital of Saskatchewan. Saskatoon is the largest city. Saskatchewan is known as 'Canada's Breadbasket' for its large grain production.

### **What is the smallest province?**

Prince Edward Island (PEI) is the smallest province in both area and population. Its capital is Charlottetown, known as the 'Birthplace of Confederation'.

### **Why is Charlottetown important?**

Charlottetown, PEI, is known as the 'Birthplace of Confederation' because the Charlottetown Conference of 1864 was the first meeting to discuss uniting the British colonies into Canada.

### **What is the capital of Nova Scotia?**

Halifax is the capital and largest city of Nova Scotia. It has one of the largest natural harbours in the world and is an important Atlantic port.

**What is the capital of New Brunswick?**

Fredericton is the capital of New Brunswick. Saint John is the largest city. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada.

**What is the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador?**

St. John's is the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is the most easterly city in North America. The province joined Confederation in 1949.

**What is the capital of Yukon?**

Whitehorse is the capital and largest city of Yukon. The territory was established during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.

**What is the capital of Northwest Territories?**

Yellowknife is the capital of the Northwest Territories. It is known for diamond mining and is one of the best places to see the northern lights (aurora borealis).

**What is the capital of Nunavut?**

Iqaluit is the capital of Nunavut. Nunavut means 'our land' in Inuktitut. It is the newest (1999) and largest territory, and the majority of its population is Inuit.

**What is the largest province by area?**

Quebec is the largest province by area (over 1.5 million square kilometres). Ontario is the second-largest. Among territories, Nunavut is the largest.

**What is the most populous province?**

Ontario is the most populous province, with about 40% of Canada's total population. Quebec is the second most populous, followed by British Columbia and Alberta.

**What major bodies of water border Canada?**

Canada is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean (east), the Pacific Ocean (west), and the Arctic Ocean (north). It also has the Great Lakes shared with the United States.

**What are the Great Lakes?**

The Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario — are shared with the United States. They form the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world by total area.

**What is the longest river in Canada?**

The Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories is Canada's longest river at approximately 4,241 km. The St. Lawrence River is the most commercially important.

**What is Niagara Falls?**

Niagara Falls is a famous waterfall on the border between Ontario, Canada, and New York, USA. It is one of the most visited natural attractions in the world and a major source of hydroelectric power.

**What are the Rocky Mountains?**

The Rocky Mountains run through British Columbia and Alberta. They include famous landmarks like Banff and Jasper National Parks and are important for tourism, mining, and forestry.

**What is the Canadian Shield?**

The Canadian Shield is a vast geological formation covering about half of Canada. It is one of the oldest rock formations on Earth and is rich in minerals, lakes, and boreal forest.

**What are the time zones in Canada?**

Canada spans six time zones: Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern, Atlantic, and Newfoundland. This reflects the country's vast east-to-west distance of over 5,500 km.

**What is the Bay of Fundy known for?**

The Bay of Fundy, between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, has the highest tides in the world — up to 16 metres. It is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

**What connects Prince Edward Island to the mainland?**

The Confederation Bridge, completed in 1997, connects Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick. At 12.9 km, it is the longest bridge over ice-covered water in the world.

## Chapter 2: Applying for Citizenship

### **Who must take the Canadian citizenship test?**

All applicants between the ages of 18 and 54 at the time of signing the application must take the citizenship test. Those under 18 or 55 and older are exempt.

### **What is the official study guide for the citizenship test?**

The official study guide is 'Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship', published by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

### **How many questions are on the citizenship test and how long do you have?**

The test has 20 multiple-choice questions and you have 45 minutes to complete it. You need to answer at least 15 correctly (75%) to pass.

### **How long must you have lived in Canada to apply for citizenship?**

You must have been physically present in Canada for at least 1,095 days (3 years) within the 5 years before the date of your application.

### **What happens if you fail the citizenship test?**

If you fail the first time, you can retake it. If you fail a second time, you will be invited for an interview with a citizenship judge who will determine your knowledge.

## Chapter 3: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

### **What is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?**

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is part of the Constitution (since 1982). It protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people in Canada, including freedom of expression, religion, peaceful assembly, and association.

### **What document preceded the Charter as a bill of rights?**

The Canadian Bill of Rights (1960), introduced by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, was the first federal law to protect human rights. However, it was not part of the Constitution and could be overridden.

### **What is the Magna Carta and why is it important to Canada?**

The Magna Carta (Great Charter of Freedoms), signed in 1215 in England, is the foundation of many rights Canadians enjoy today, including the right not to be imprisoned without due process of law.

### **What are the four fundamental freedoms in the Charter?**

Freedom of conscience and religion; freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression (including press); freedom of peaceful assembly; and freedom of association.

### **What is habeas corpus?**

Habeas corpus is the right not to be detained without being charged. It means everyone has the right to challenge unlawful detention in court. This principle comes from English common law.

### **What are mobility rights in the Charter?**

Mobility rights allow Canadian citizens to live and work anywhere in Canada, to enter and leave the country freely, and to apply for a Canadian passport.

### **What are the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship?**

Responsibilities include obeying the law, taking responsibility for oneself and family, serving on a jury, voting in elections, helping others in the community, and protecting the environment.

### **What does equality rights mean in the Charter?**

Everyone is equal under the law and has the right to equal protection without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

### **What are language rights in Canada?**

English and French are the two official languages of Canada. All federal institutions must provide services in both languages. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province.

### **What is multiculturalism in Canada?**

Canada's Multiculturalism Act (1988) recognises and promotes the understanding that multiculturalism reflects the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society. It is a fundamental characteristic of Canadian heritage and identity.

### **Is voting a right or a responsibility?**

Voting is both a right and a responsibility for Canadian citizens. Every citizen 18 years or older has the right to vote in federal and provincial elections.

### **What is jury duty?**

Serving on a jury when called is a responsibility of Canadian citizenship. When you receive a jury summons, you are legally required to serve unless exempt for specific reasons.

### **What does the right to legal counsel mean?**

Everyone has the right to retain and instruct a lawyer without delay and to be informed of that right upon arrest or detention.

**What is the presumption of innocence?**

Everyone charged with an offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal.

**What are Aboriginal peoples' rights in the Constitution?**

The Constitution Act, 1982 recognises and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

**Can the government limit Charter rights?**

Section 1 of the Charter allows rights to be subject to reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

**What is the notwithstanding clause?**

Section 33 of the Charter allows Parliament or provincial legislatures to temporarily override certain Charter rights for up to five years, though this is rarely used.

**Do non-citizens have rights under the Charter?**

Yes. The Charter protects everyone in Canada, not just citizens. However, certain rights such as voting and mobility rights apply only to citizens.

**What are democratic rights in the Charter?**

Democratic rights include the right of every citizen to vote in elections and to be a candidate, and that no Parliament or legislature can continue for more than five years without an election.

**What is the duty to defend Canada?**

There is no compulsory military service in Canada today, but serving in the Canadian Forces is a noble way to contribute to the country. In the past, there was conscription during the World Wars.

## Chapter 4: Who We Are

### Who are the three founding peoples of Canada?

Aboriginal peoples, the French, and the British are the three founding peoples of Canada. They shaped Canada's identity, laws, and institutions.

### Who are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada?

Aboriginal peoples include three groups: First Nations (Indian), Inuit, and Métis. They were the first inhabitants of Canada, with diverse cultures, languages, and traditions.

### What percentage of Canada's population is Aboriginal?

About 4% of Canada's population identifies as Aboriginal. There are more than 600 First Nations bands and over 60 Aboriginal languages still spoken.

### Who are the Métis?

The Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people descended from early French and English fur traders who married First Nations women. They developed a unique culture, language (Michif), and way of life.

### Who are the Inuit?

The Inuit live in the Arctic regions of Canada, mainly in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, northern Quebec (Nunavik), and Labrador. 'Inuit' means 'the people' in Inuktitut.

### What are the two official languages of Canada?

English and French are the two official languages of Canada. The Official Languages Act (1969) established this, and it is enshrined in the Constitution.

### Why is French an official language of Canada?

French colonists settled in Canada in the early 1600s. Quebec, the largest province, is primarily French-speaking. The French influence shaped Canada's legal system, culture, and institutions.

### What is the Canadian mosaic?

Canada is often described as a cultural mosaic — a society where people of different cultural backgrounds live together while maintaining their cultural identities. This contrasts with the American 'melting pot'.

### Where do most immigrants to Canada come from today?

Since the 1970s, most immigrants to Canada have come from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. Canada's population growth depends heavily on immigration.

### What is the population of Canada?

Canada has a population of approximately 40 million people. It is the second-largest country in the world by area but relatively sparsely populated.

### What are the main religions in Canada?

The majority of Canadians identify as Christian (Catholic and Protestant). There are also significant Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and Jewish communities. Many Canadians are non-religious.

### What sports are popular in Canada?

Ice hockey is Canada's most popular sport and its national winter sport. Lacrosse is the national summer sport. Other popular sports include Canadian football, soccer, basketball (invented by Canadian James Naismith), and curling.

### What is the significance of hockey in Canadian culture?

Hockey is deeply embedded in Canadian identity. Canada has produced many of the world's greatest players. The Stanley Cup is the oldest professional sports trophy in North America.

**What is the Group of Seven?**

The Group of Seven were famous Canadian landscape painters in the 1920s who created a distinctly Canadian art style by painting the Canadian wilderness. Their work is iconic.

**Who is Terry Fox?**

Terry Fox was a Canadian athlete who ran across Canada on one leg (Marathon of Hope) in 1980 to raise money for cancer research after losing his leg to cancer. He is a national hero.

**What Canadian invented basketball?**

Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian from Ontario, invented basketball in 1891 while teaching at a YMCA training school in Springfield, Massachusetts.

**What Canadian invented the telephone?**

Alexander Graham Bell, who lived in Canada, is credited with inventing the telephone. He made the first long-distance phone call between Brantford and Paris, Ontario, in 1874.

**What is the significance of English and French speaking communities?**

About 58% of Canadians speak English as their first language, and about 22% speak French. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province. Quebec has French as its sole official language.

**What are the Acadians?**

The Acadians are descendants of French colonists who settled in the Maritime provinces (especially New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) beginning in 1604. Many were deported by the British in 1755 (the Great Upheaval).

**What are Quebecois?**

Quebecois are the people of Quebec, the majority of whom speak French. They have a distinct culture, legal system (civil law), and have played a central role in Canadian history and politics.

**What is the significance of Canadian diversity?**

Canada has one of the highest per-capita immigration rates in the world. Diversity is considered a source of strength, and the Multiculturalism Act of 1988 formally recognises this.

**What are some notable Canadian achievements in science and technology?**

Canadians have made major contributions including insulin (Banting and Best), the Canadarm (robotic arm used in space), IMAX film technology, and the Blackberry smartphone.

## Chapter 5: Canada's History

### **When did the first European explorers arrive in Canada?**

John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) reached the east coast of Canada in 1497, claiming it for England. Jacques Cartier arrived in 1534, claiming the land for France.

### **What year did Canada become a country?**

Canada became a self-governing Dominion on July 1, 1867, through the British North America Act (now called the Constitution Act, 1867). This date is celebrated as Canada Day.

### **What was Confederation?**

Confederation in 1867 united the Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into the Dominion of Canada. It created a federal system of government.

### **Who is considered the 'Father of Confederation'?**

Sir John A. Macdonald was the leading figure in Confederation and became Canada's first Prime Minister. He served from 1867 to 1873 and again from 1878 to 1891.

### **What was the significance of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham (1759)?**

The Battle of the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City was the decisive battle of the Seven Years' War in North America. The British defeated the French, leading to British control of Canada.

### **What was the Quebec Act of 1774?**

The Quebec Act allowed French-speaking Catholics to hold public office, restored French civil law for private matters, and protected the French language and Catholic religion in Quebec.

### **What was the War of 1812?**

The War of 1812 was fought between British North America (including Canadian militia) and the United States (1812–1815). It helped define Canadian identity and secured Canada's border.

### **Who was Laura Secord?**

Laura Secord was a heroine of the War of 1812 who walked 30 kilometres through enemy territory to warn the British forces of an American attack, helping to prevent an ambush.

### **What was the Great Upheaval (1755)?**

The Great Upheaval was the deportation of more than two-thirds of the Acadian population from the Maritime provinces by the British. Many later returned, and some settled in Louisiana (Cajuns).

### **When did the Canadian Pacific Railway get completed?**

The Canadian Pacific Railway was completed on November 7, 1885, when the last spike was driven at Craigellachie, British Columbia. It connected eastern and western Canada.

### **What was Canada's role in World War I?**

Canada fought alongside Britain in WWI (1914–1918). The Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 1917) is considered a defining moment in Canadian nationhood. Over 60,000 Canadians were killed.

### **What happened at Vimy Ridge?**

At the Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 9–12, 1917), all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together for the first time and captured the ridge from the Germans. It is seen as a symbol of Canadian unity and sacrifice.

### **What was Canada's role in World War II?**

Canada declared war on Germany in September 1939. Over one million Canadians served. Canada played key roles at D-Day (Juno Beach), the Battle of the Atlantic, and the liberation of the Netherlands.

**What was the significance of D-Day for Canada?**

On June 6, 1944, Canadian forces stormed Juno Beach as part of the Allied invasion of Normandy. About 14,000 Canadian soldiers landed on that day alone.

**What is Remembrance Day?**

Remembrance Day is observed on November 11 each year to honour Canadians who served and died in wars and peacekeeping missions. The red poppy is worn as a symbol of remembrance.

**What was the Hudson's Bay Company?**

The Hudson's Bay Company, founded in 1670, was a major fur trading company that played a critical role in the exploration and settlement of western and northern Canada.

**Who were the United Empire Loyalists?**

United Empire Loyalists were colonists who fled the American Revolution (1776–1783) to remain loyal to the British Crown. They settled in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario.

**What was the Rebellions of 1837–38?**

Rebellions broke out in Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec) demanding responsible government. Though they failed militarily, they led to political reforms and eventually self-government.

**What was responsible government?**

Responsible government means the government must have the support of the majority of elected representatives. Nova Scotia was the first British colony to achieve this in 1848.

**When did Manitoba join Confederation?**

Manitoba joined Confederation in 1870 after the Red River Rebellion led by Louis Riel, who fought for the rights of the Métis people.

**Who was Louis Riel?**

Louis Riel was a Métis leader who led two resistance movements (Red River, 1870; North-West Rebellion, 1885). He is honoured as a founder of Manitoba. He was controversially executed in 1885.

**When did British Columbia join Confederation?**

British Columbia joined Confederation in 1871, with the promise that a railway would be built to connect it to eastern Canada (the Canadian Pacific Railway).

**When was the Statute of Westminster passed?**

The Statute of Westminster (1931) granted Canada full legislative independence from Britain. Canada could now make its own laws without British approval.

**When did Newfoundland and Labrador join Canada?**

Newfoundland and Labrador joined Confederation in 1949, becoming the 10th and most recent province. Before this, it was a British colony.

**What was the Quiet Revolution?**

The Quiet Revolution (1960s) was a period of rapid social, political, and cultural change in Quebec. It modernised the province and strengthened French-Canadian identity and Quebec nationalism.

**When was the Constitution patriated?**

The Constitution was patriated (brought home from Britain) in 1982 under Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. This added the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to the Constitution.

**What was the gold rush?**

The Klondike Gold Rush (1896–1899) brought tens of thousands of prospectors to the Yukon Territory. It helped open up the Canadian North and led to Yukon becoming a territory in 1898.

**What was the Underground Railroad?**

The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses used by enslaved Black people to escape from the United States to freedom in Canada in the 1800s.

**Who was Sir Wilfrid Laurier?**

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Canada's first French-Canadian Prime Minister (1896–1911). He is known for promoting national unity and compromise between English and French Canadians.

**What is the significance of the Treaty of Paris (1763)?**

The Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years' War and ceded New France (most of French Canada) to Britain. It fundamentally changed the political landscape of North America.

## Chapter 6: Modern Canada

### **When was the Official Languages Act passed?**

The Official Languages Act was passed in 1969, making English and French the official languages of the Government of Canada. It was updated in 1988.

### **What is the Canadian Multiculturalism Act?**

The Canadian Multiculturalism Act (1988) recognises the diversity of Canadians as a fundamental characteristic of Canadian society and promotes the full participation of all ethnic groups.

### **When was the Canadian flag adopted?**

The red and white maple leaf flag was adopted on February 15, 1965, replacing the Canadian Red Ensign. February 15 is now National Flag of Canada Day.

### **What are Canada's international alliances?**

Canada is a member of NATO, the United Nations, the G7, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, NORAD, and the Organization of American States (OAS).

### **What is Canada's role in peacekeeping?**

Canada has a proud tradition of international peacekeeping. Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson proposed the first UN peacekeeping force during the Suez Crisis (1956) and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

### **Who was Lester B. Pearson?**

Lester B. Pearson was Prime Minister from 1963 to 1968. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for proposing UN peacekeeping during the Suez Crisis. He introduced the Canadian flag and universal healthcare.

### **Who was Pierre Elliott Trudeau?**

Pierre Elliott Trudeau was Prime Minister (1968–1979, 1980–1984). He patriated the Constitution and added the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, promoted bilingualism, and implemented the National Energy Program.

### **What is Canada's universal healthcare system?**

Canada has a publicly funded universal healthcare system called Medicare. It is administered provincially but funded through federal transfers. Tommy Douglas, Premier of Saskatchewan, is considered the 'Father of Medicare'.

### **What happened in the Quebec referendums?**

Quebec held two referendums on sovereignty: in 1980 (60% voted No) and in 1995 (50.6% voted No). Both referendums asked whether Quebec should become a sovereign state.

### **What is the significance of the October Crisis (1970)?**

The October Crisis occurred when the Front de libération du Québec (FLQ) kidnapped a British diplomat and murdered a Quebec cabinet minister. PM Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act.

### **What is NORAD?**

NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) is a joint Canadian-American military organisation that provides aerospace warning and defence for North America.

### **When was Nunavut created?**

Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999, as a separate territory carved from the Northwest Territories. It is the homeland of the Inuit and is Canada's newest and largest territory.

### **What is the significance of women's suffrage in Canada?**

Women in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta gained the right to vote in provincial elections in 1916. All Canadian women gained the right to vote in federal elections in 1918 (except Quebec, which followed in 1940).

**What was the Persons Case (1929)?**

The Persons Case established that women are 'persons' under the law and eligible for appointment to the Senate. The Famous Five — five Alberta women — successfully challenged the existing interpretation.

**Who are the Famous Five?**

Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney, and Henrietta Muir Edwards. They successfully petitioned to have women recognised as 'persons' under the law, enabling women to serve in the Senate.

**What was the residential school system?**

The residential school system forcibly removed Aboriginal children from their families to assimilate them. It operated from the 1880s to 1996. In 2008, PM Harper issued a formal apology.

**What is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2008–2015) documented the experiences of residential school survivors and issued 94 Calls to Action to address the legacy of residential schools.

**What is the Canadian Space Agency?**

The Canadian Space Agency was established in 1989. Canada contributed the Canadarm and Canadarm2 robotic arms to NASA's Space Shuttle and the International Space Station.

**Who was Terry Fox?**

Terry Fox ran the Marathon of Hope in 1980 to raise money for cancer research after losing his leg to cancer. He ran 5,373 km before cancer forced him to stop. He died in 1981 aged 22.

**What is the Order of Canada?**

The Order of Canada is the country's highest civilian honour, established in 1967. It recognises outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation.

**What year was the Citizenship Act passed?**

The first Canadian Citizenship Act was passed on January 1, 1947. Before that, Canadians were considered British subjects. It was updated in 1977.

**What is the significance of the Trans-Canada Highway?**

The Trans-Canada Highway, completed in 1962, spans 7,821 km from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia. It is one of the longest national highways in the world.

**What was the Korean War's significance for Canada?**

Canada sent 26,791 troops to the Korean War (1950–1953). 516 Canadians died. It was the first major Canadian military commitment to a UN operation.

**What is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)?**

The CBC, established in 1936, is Canada's national public broadcaster. It broadcasts in English and French across television, radio, and digital platforms.

**What is the significance of Expo 67?**

Expo 67, the World's Fair held in Montreal, celebrated Canada's centennial in 1967. It was attended by over 50 million visitors and showcased Canada to the world.

**What major trade agreement does Canada have with the US and Mexico?**

The Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), which replaced NAFTA in 2020, governs trade among the three North American countries. The US is Canada's largest trading partner.

## Chapter 7: How Canadians Govern Themselves

### **What type of government does Canada have?**

Canada is a federal state, a parliamentary democracy, and a constitutional monarchy. Power is shared between the federal government and the provinces/territories.

### **What are the three parts of Parliament?**

Parliament consists of the Sovereign (represented by the Governor General), the Senate (upper house, appointed), and the House of Commons (lower house, elected).

### **What is the role of the Governor General?**

The Governor General represents the Sovereign (King) in Canada. They carry out the duties of Head of State, including giving Royal Assent to bills, opening Parliament, and swearing in the PM and Cabinet.

### **Who is the Head of State of Canada?**

The Head of State of Canada is the Sovereign — currently King Charles III. The King is represented in Canada by the Governor General at the federal level and by Lieutenant Governors at the provincial level.

### **Who is the Head of Government of Canada?**

The Head of Government is the Prime Minister, who leads the federal government. The PM is the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons.

### **What is the Senate?**

The Senate is the upper house of Parliament. Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. They review and revise legislation passed by the House of Commons.

### **What is the House of Commons?**

The House of Commons is the elected lower house of Parliament. Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected by voters in their riding (electoral district). There are 338 seats.

### **What is the Cabinet?**

The Cabinet is made up of government ministers chosen by the Prime Minister, usually from among members of the House of Commons. The Cabinet makes key government decisions and policies.

### **What is the difference between federal and provincial governments?**

The federal government handles national matters (defence, immigration, banking, criminal law). Provincial governments handle local matters (education, healthcare, highways, natural resources).

### **How is a law passed in Canada?**

A bill must be passed by the House of Commons and the Senate, then receive Royal Assent from the Governor General. A bill can be introduced by any MP but government bills have the best chance of passing.

### **What is a riding (electoral district)?**

A riding is a geographic area represented by one Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons. Each riding elects one MP through a first-past-the-post system.

### **What is the role of the Opposition?**

The Official Opposition is the party with the second-most seats in the House of Commons. Its role is to hold the government accountable, question policies, and propose alternatives.

### **What levels of government exist in Canada?**

Canada has three levels of government: federal (national), provincial/territorial, and municipal (local). Each has its own areas of responsibility as defined by the Constitution.

**What is responsible government?**

Responsible government means the government must have the support (confidence) of a majority of elected representatives in the House of Commons to stay in power.

**What is a constitutional monarchy?**

In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch (King or Queen) is the head of state, but their powers are limited by the Constitution. The monarch acts on the advice of elected officials.

**What are Lieutenant Governors?**

Lieutenant Governors represent the Sovereign in each province, similar to how the Governor General represents the Sovereign at the federal level. Each province has one.

**What is a minority government?**

A minority government occurs when the governing party has the most seats but not a majority (more than half) in the House of Commons. It must rely on support from other parties to pass legislation.

**What is a vote of non-confidence?**

If the government loses a vote of non-confidence in the House of Commons, it must resign. The Governor General may then ask another party to form government or call an election.

**What does the Constitution Act, 1867 establish?**

The Constitution Act, 1867 (originally the British North America Act) created Canada's federal structure, dividing powers between federal and provincial governments. It remains the foundation of Canada's Constitution.

## Chapter 8: Federal Elections

### **How does the Canadian voting system work?**

Canada uses a first-past-the-post system. In each riding, the candidate with the most votes wins the seat. The party that wins the most seats usually forms the government.

### **Who can vote in federal elections?**

Every Canadian citizen who is 18 years of age or older on election day has the right to vote. You must be on the voters list or register at your polling station.

### **How often are federal elections held?**

Federal elections must be held at least every five years, but elections can be called sooner by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, or after a vote of non-confidence.

### **What is Elections Canada?**

Elections Canada is an independent, non-partisan agency responsible for conducting federal elections and referendums. It maintains the National Register of Electors.

### **What is a secret ballot?**

The secret ballot means your vote is private. No one can watch you vote or force you to tell them how you voted. This protects voters from intimidation.

### **What are the major federal political parties in Canada?**

The major parties include the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), the Bloc Québécois, and the Green Party.

### **How do you vote in a federal election?**

You go to your assigned polling station, receive a ballot, mark an X next to the candidate of your choice in a private voting booth, and place the ballot in the ballot box.

### **What is advance voting?**

Advance voting allows you to vote before election day if you cannot vote on the official day. Advance polls are usually held on specific days before the election.

### **Can you run for public office?**

Any Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old can run for election to the House of Commons. You need to be nominated as a candidate and meet certain requirements.

### **What is the voters list?**

The voters list is the National Register of Electors maintained by Elections Canada. You must be on this list to vote. You can register in advance or at the polling station on election day.

### **What happens after the votes are counted?**

The candidate with the most votes in each riding wins a seat in the House of Commons. The leader of the party with the most seats is usually asked by the Governor General to form the government.

### **What is a by-election?**

A by-election is held to fill a single vacant seat in the House of Commons between general elections, for example if an MP resigns, dies, or is disqualified.

### **Who calls a federal election?**

The Governor General calls an election on the advice of the Prime Minister. Elections can also be triggered if the government loses a vote of confidence in the House of Commons.

**What is an election platform?**

An election platform is a set of policies and promises that a political party presents to voters during an election campaign. Voters use these to decide who to support.

**What is the difference between a majority and minority government?**

A majority government has more than half the seats in the House of Commons. A minority government has the most seats but fewer than half, requiring cooperation with other parties.

**Why is voting considered a civic responsibility?**

Voting is how citizens participate in democracy and choose their representatives. While not legally required in Canada, it is considered a fundamental responsibility of citizenship.

## Chapter 9: The Justice System

### What is the rule of law?

The rule of law means that no person or group is above the law. Everyone — including the government, police, and courts — must follow the law. It is a founding principle of Canadian democracy.

### What is the presumption of innocence?

In Canadian law, everyone charged with an offence is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a fair trial. The prosecution must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

### What is the Supreme Court of Canada?

The Supreme Court of Canada is the highest court in the country. It has nine judges, including a Chief Justice. Its decisions are final and binding on all other courts.

### What are the levels of courts in Canada?

Canada has four levels: provincial/territorial courts (most cases), superior courts, provincial courts of appeal, and the Supreme Court of Canada (highest court).

### What is the difference between civil and criminal law?

Criminal law deals with offences against society (theft, assault, murder). Civil law deals with disputes between individuals or organisations (contracts, property, family matters).

### Who enforces the law in Canada?

The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) is the federal police force. Provinces also have their own police forces (e.g., Ontario Provincial Police, Sûreté du Québec), and many cities have municipal police.

### What is the RCMP?

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is Canada's national police service. It enforces federal laws and serves as the provincial police in many provinces. It was founded in 1873 as the North-West Mounted Police.

### What rights do you have if arrested?

You have the right to be informed of the reason for your arrest, to retain and instruct a lawyer without delay, and to be tried within a reasonable time.

### What is due process?

Due process ensures that the government respects all legal rights owed to a person. It means legal procedures must be fair, and no one can be punished without going through proper legal channels.

### What is the Federal Court of Canada?

The Federal Court deals with cases involving the federal government, including immigration appeals, intellectual property disputes, and maritime law.

### What is Quebec's legal system?

Quebec uses a civil law system based on the French Napoleonic Code for private law matters. All other provinces use the common law system based on English legal tradition.

### What is a jury trial?

In serious criminal cases, the accused has the right to a trial by jury — 12 citizens who listen to the evidence and decide guilt or innocence. Serving on a jury is a responsibility of citizenship.

### Who makes criminal law in Canada?

Criminal law is a federal responsibility. The Criminal Code of Canada applies across all provinces and territories. Provincial governments are responsible for the administration of justice.

**What is the Canadian Human Rights Act?**

The Canadian Human Rights Act (1977) prohibits discrimination in employment and services under federal jurisdiction based on race, sex, religion, disability, and other grounds.

**What is the role of judges in Canada?**

Judges interpret and apply the law impartially. Federal judges are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the PM. They serve independently from political influence.

**What is the difference between provincial and federal courts?**

Provincial courts handle most criminal cases, family law, and civil disputes. Federal courts handle immigration, intellectual property, and disputes involving the federal government.

**What happens if a law violates the Charter?**

If a law is found to violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the courts can strike it down or declare it invalid. The Supreme Court has the final say on Charter issues.