

Citizenship Test Glossary

40 key terms for the Canadian Citizenship Test

Aboriginal peoples The first inhabitants of Canada: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.	Ch 2	Immigration The process of coming to Canada to live permanently.	Ch 1
Bilingualism Official policy making English and French the two official languages of Canada.	Ch 6	Inuit Indigenous people of the Arctic regions of Canada.	Ch 2
British North America Act The 1867 act that created the Dominion of Canada (now Constitution Act, 1867).	Ch 4	Jury duty A civic responsibility to serve on a jury when called upon.	Ch 3
Cabinet Senior members of government chosen by the PM from elected MPs to run departments.	Ch 7	Lieutenant Governor The King's representative in each province.	Ch 7
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Part of the Constitution (1982) guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms.	Ch 3	Magna Carta The 1215 English charter that established the principle of the rule of law.	Ch 3
Citizenship ceremony The official event where new citizens take the Oath of Citizenship.	Ch 1	Member of Parliament (MP) An elected representative in the House of Commons.	Ch 7
Confederation The union of British colonies into the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.	Ch 4	Métis People of mixed First Nations and European ancestry with a distinct culture.	Ch 2
Constitution The supreme law of Canada, including the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982.	Ch 3	Multiculturalism Policy celebrating diversity; Canada was the first country to adopt it (1971).	Ch 6
Constitutional monarchy A system where the King/Queen is head of state but governed by elected parliament.	Ch 7	Oath of Citizenship The solemn promise new citizens make to be faithful to Canada and the King.	Ch 1
Crown The institution of the monarchy; part of Parliament alongside Senate and Commons.	Ch 7	Official Languages Act The 1969 act making English and French equal in federal institutions.	Ch 6
Democracy Government by the people, through elected representatives.	Ch 7	Parliament Canada's legislative body: the Crown, Senate, and House of Commons.	Ch 7
Electoral district (riding) A geographic area that elects one Member of Parliament.	Ch 8	Permanent resident A person who has been granted permanent residence status but is not yet a citizen.	Ch 1
Equalization payments Federal transfers to less wealthy provinces to ensure comparable public services.	Ch 7	Prime Minister The head of government; leader of the party with the most seats in the Commons.	Ch 7
Fathers of Confederation The leaders who negotiated Confederation, led by Sir John A. Macdonald.	Ch 4	Privy Council A formal body of advisors to the Crown, including current and former cabinet ministers.	Ch 7
Federal state A system where powers are divided between national and provincial governments.	Ch 7	Responsible government A system where the government must have the confidence of the elected legislature.	Ch 7
First Nations Indigenous peoples of Canada who are neither Inuit nor Métis.	Ch 2	Royal Assent The Governor General's approval that makes a bill into law.	Ch 7
First-past-the-post The electoral system where the candidate with the most votes wins.	Ch 8	Rule of law The principle that everyone, including government, is subject to the law.	Ch 3
Governor General The King's representative in Canada who performs ceremonial duties.	Ch 7	Senate The upper house of Parliament with 105 appointed members.	Ch 7
Habeas corpus The legal right not to be detained without fair trial.	Ch 9	Supreme Court of Canada The highest court, with 9 justices, final court of appeal.	Ch 9
House of Commons The elected chamber of Parliament with 338 MPs.	Ch 7	Treaty A formal agreement between the Crown and Indigenous peoples.	Ch 2