CHAPTER 15: The Executive

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. A fusion of powers means that the legislative powers and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ powers are linked.
2. executive
3. right-wing
4. judicial
5. bureaucratic

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 412

1. The formal executive branch of government consists of the Queen, the Privy Council, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. governor
3. Senators
4. leader of the Opposition
5. Governor General

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 412

1. Because of the nature of the executive, Canada is described as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. republic
3. constitutional monarchy
4. British colony
5. common democracy

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 413

1. The monarch’s representative may use discretionary prerogative powers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. appoint or dismiss the prime minister
3. prosecute legal cases
4. raise taxes
5. appoint members of the House of Commons

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 414

1. Which among the following is a good example of the Governor General’s use of the discretionary prerogative power?
2. William Lyon Mackenzie King’s grandfather’s decision to lead the upper Canada Rebellion in 1837.
3. Jean Chrétien’s decision to not participate in the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.
4. Lord Aberdeen’s rejection of Charles Tupper’s recommendations for Senate appointments.
5. The 2008 coalition agreement between the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 414

1. In 2008, when Governor General Michaëlle Jean granted Prime Minister Harper’s request to prorogue Parliament, she was using the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ power.
2. judicial
3. prerogative
4. legislative
5. appointment

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 415

1. What happened in the King-Byng Affair?
2. Lord Byng refused King’s request to dissolve the House and call an election.
3. King asked Lord Byng to prorogue Parliament in order to avoid a vote on the budget.
4. Lord Byng refused to approve King’s appointment of Liberal Senators.
5. Lord Byng called an election that King’s government lost.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 415

1. The political executive is made up of the prime minister, ministers of state, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the First Minister
3. the Queen’s Office
4. Cabinet ministers
5. the Senate

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 416

1. Even though the written constitution is silent on the existence and operation of the prime minister and political executive, this office has formidable powers as a result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the Constitution Act, 1982
3. constitutional convention
4. federalism
5. the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 412

1. The text mentions three categories of office in the ministry (Cabinet). One is the prime minister, another is ministers of state, and a third is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. ministers who head departments
3. Parliamentary consultants
4. committee members
5. the formal executive

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 418

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ministers lead government departments that deliver services directly to the public at large or segments of the public.
2. First
3. Executive
4. Secretary
5. Line

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 418

1. Responsible government is the chief means by which the legislature can exercise some control over the business of government in a Parliamentary system. The legislature does this by ensuring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. a majority of elected members of the House provide continued support for the Cabinet
3. the balance of seats in the House matches a party's percentage of the popular vote
4. funding is available to all of the political parties that run candidates in an election
5. the existence of the welfare state so that all citizens have access to a social safety net

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 420

1. The text mentions two related aspects of responsible government with regard to the Cabinet: individual ministerial responsibility and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ responsibility.
2. formal
3. collective
4. correct
5. direct

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 420-421

1. This term is used to describe the model of representative and responsible government used in the United Kingdom and in other countries that emulate it.
2. Minority Model
3. Westminster Model
4. Elected Model
5. Coalition government

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 412

1. The text describes three general aspects of collective Cabinet responsibility: responsibility to the monarch, to the House, and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the country
3. the law
4. itself
5. the media

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 421

1. The basic principle that ministers must avoid public disagreement and must vote in unison in the House is termed Cabinet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. solidarity
3. unison
4. privacy
5. uniformity

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 421

1. Executive dominance is most often weaker when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. there is a minority government
3. the budget is in deficit
4. Cabinet is united
5. the House is in session

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 424

1. Which of the following is one of the “five Ps of power” enjoyed by the prime minister?
2. Proper follower
3. Privileged voice
4. Party leader
5. Proactive member

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 424

1. Which among the following is/are *not* appointed by the prime minister?
2. Ambassadors
3. Leader of the Opposition
4. Head of the RCMP
5. Senators

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 426

1. According to the text, which among the following is an important limit on the prime minister’s power?
2. Lobby groups
3. Executives
4. Police
5. Public opinion

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 428

1. David A. Good presents a nuanced perception of cabinet governance, describing four sets of actors that affect federal government spending: spenders, guardians, watchdogs, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. priority setters
3. lobbyists
4. opinion makers
5. limiters

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 433

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are government party members chosen by the prime minister to assist a minister, or occasionally more than one minister.
2. Parliamentary secretaries
3. Parliamentary whips
4. Parliamentary interns
5. Parliamentary pages

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 419

1. What is the term for groups of Cabinet ministers who examine policy proposals from related policy fields and recommend to the plenary (full) Cabinet what action should be taken?
2. Cabinet colleagues
3. Cabinet solidarity
4. Cabinet committees
5. Inner Cabinet

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 435

1. Which one of the following strategies did Mackenzie King use to keep Cabinet on course when he was prime minister?
2. Supplied members with cabinet papers
3. Made the cabinet agenda available before meetings
4. Kept detailed minutes of cabinet discussions
5. Encouraged rivalries between his ministers to prevent them from uniting against him

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 436

1. Which one of the following ideas has been advanced to decrease or reform the powers of the prime minister?
2. Reducing the number of appointments that the prime minister can make
3. Reducing the number of parties in Parliament
4. Eliminating Question Period in the House of Commons
5. Increasing the size of the Prime Minister’s Office

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 438

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. The government’s authority comes ultimately not from Parliament but from the Crown.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 413

1. The powers of the prime minister are explicitly set down in the Constitution Act, 1867.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 413

1. In Canada, the party’s parliamentary caucus chooses the prime minister, and the caucus can remove him or her.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 438

1. All ministers must take an oath committing them to secrecy in Cabinet deliberation.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 423

1. The Supreme Chancellor presents the budget to Parliament.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 437

1. Members of the Cabinet also must be appointed Senators.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 426

1. Some writers have argued that the institutionalized cabinet has replaced the prime minister-centred cabinet.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 432

1. The formal name given to cabinet is the Governor in Council.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 417

1. In Canada, the Parliamentary caucuses of the Liberal and Conservative parties select members of the ministry.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 417

1. Resignations from cabinet on matters of principled disagreement are few and far between.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 422

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. What is meant by a “departmentalized Cabinet”?

*Answer:*  A departmentalized Cabinet emphasizes ministerial autonomy and relies on the prime minister and full Cabinet to achieve coordination. In Canada, a departmentalized Cabinet characterized the period from the 1920s to the 1960s.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 431

1. What is the purpose of Cabinet secrecy?

*Answer:*  Cabinet secrecy protects the process, but not the content, of decision making in Cabinet by protecting the expression of views by ministers to encourage frankness. It also shields ministers from having to defend themselves in public, protects public servants, and provides a forum for brokering regional interests.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 423

1. What is meant by “executive dominance”?

*Answer:*  This means that the prime minister and Cabinet dominate the legislative branch by directing its business and originating policies.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 423

1. List at least two of Cabinet’s executive functions.

*Answer:*  The text describes four executive functions of the Cabinet: leadership role for the whole system; source of policy generation; acts collectively in the name of the Crown; and coordinates all the activities of government.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 429