CHAPTER 14: The Federal System

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. When Premier Danny Williams of Newfoundland and Labrador ordered the Canadian flag removed from all provincial buildings, he was objecting to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. change in the wording of the Canadian Constitution
3. reduction in equalization payments to the province
4. federal government decision to appoint a Supreme Court justice
5. decision to overturn a piece of provincial legislation

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 382

1. In a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ state, authority is divided between a central government and provincial governments, with each deriving its authority from the constitution.
2. federal
3. sovereign
4. shared
5. unitary

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 383

1. The Constitution Act, 1867, gives authority to both Parliament and provincial legislatures in two policy areas: agriculture and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. defence
3. religion
4. immigration
5. welfare

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 384

1. The Constitution Act, 1867, grants control over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the provinces rather than to the federal government.
2. defence
3. health
4. diversity
5. good government

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 385

1. In general, the federal government in Canada is responsible for things like trade and commerce, the postal service, and criminal law. In contrast, the provincial governments are responsible for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and education.
2. the rule of law
3. fundamental freedoms
4. municipal institutions
5. the census

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 384

1. In the Constitution Act, 1867, this clause granted residual power to the federal government.
2. Peace, Order, and Good Government
3. Distinct Society
4. Education and Culture
5. Notwithstanding

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 385-386

1. Rulings of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the mid-1890s helped to shift Canada away from a highly centralized federal system.
2. Supreme Court
3. Senate
4. Judicial Committee of the Privy Council
5. Cabinet

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 385-386

1. The courts interpreted this clause as a narrow emergency power that gives the federal government the authority to act during special circumstances.
2. Legislative Powers
3. Federal Powers
4. Peace, Order, and Good Government
5. Disasters and Emergencies

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 386

1. The Judicial Committee ruled that federal authority over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ applied only to international and interprovincial trade.
2. good government
3. trade and commerce
4. property and civil rights
5. labour regulation

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 387

1. The Supreme Court of Canada pointed out in 1990 that this policy area was not assigned exclusively to either level of government.
2. Health insurance
3. Trade and commerce
4. The environment
5. Labour regulation

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 388

1. The Constitution Act, 1867, gave the Canadian Cabinet the right to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provincial legislation within one year of its passage.
2. legalize
3. reduce
4. amend
5. disallow

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 389

1. One reason why the Canadian federal system has become more decentralized is the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the provinces.
2. moderation
3. diversity
4. knowledge
5. weakness

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 395

1. If a federal system can be described as highly centralized, this means that a large amount of power is placed in the hands of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. municipal governments
3. federal government
4. United Nations
5. provincial or state governments

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 390

1. The term *intrastate federalism* describes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. relations between local and national governments at the executive level
3. an international trade agreement between federal nations
4. the representation of provincial interests within national institutions
5. a nation with at least two levels of government

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 398

1. An important weakness of Canada’s system of interstate federalism is a lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. provincial representation in federal government institutions
3. money for provincial infrastructure projects
4. judicial review of exclusive areas of authority
5. opportunities for interest groups to lobby government institutions

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 398

1. The most recent trend in Canadian federalism has been toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ federalism.
2. closed
3. open
4. intrastate
5. centralized

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 394

1. Which among the following is an important component of a federal system?
2. Powers that are determined by Parliament
3. Constitutional division of authority
4. Tendency to be highly centralized
5. Legal subordination of the provinces to a federal government

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 383

1. What is an important criticism that has been made of executive federalism?
2. It is undemocratic.
3. It limits the federal spending power.
4. It undermines interstate federalism.
5. It is unconstitutional.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 397

1. A *fiscal imbalance* is defined in the text as the view that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. federal imports exceed exports
3. the federal spending power is too narrow
4. provincial governments do not have a proper share of revenue
5. sales taxes should be harmonized between the federal and provincial levels

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 394

1. Payments that provide unconditional grants from the Canadian government to the poorer provinces that bring revenue-raising capabilities up to a national standard are termed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ payments.
2. budget
3. taxation
4. equalization
5. revenue

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 405

1. The tendency for provinces to have different powers and a different relationship with the federal government is termed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ federalism.
2. legal
3. contemporary
4. conservative
5. asymmetrical

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 399

1. What federal power gives the Canadian Parliament the right to declare any “local works or undertakings” within a province to be “for the general Advantage of Canada or for the Advantage of Two or more of the Provinces” and then legislate on that matter?
2. Disallowance power
3. Reservation power
4. Declaratory power
5. Spending power

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 389

1. The development of a dynamic and assertive form of nationalism in Quebec in the 1960s is partially responsible for the development of a more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system.
2. competitive federal
3. cooperative federal
4. executive federal
5. quasi-federal

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 392

1. To some extent, the Social Union Framework Agreement (1999) reflected a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approach to federalism.
2. contested
3. competitive
4. collaborative
5. classical

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 393

1. The power and reach of any government depends not only on the authority granted to it by the Constitution, but also to a considerable extent on its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. gender composition
3. party solidarity
4. popularity
5. financial capabilities

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 400

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. In the Constitution Act, 1867, the residual power was given to the provincial governments.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 385

1. *Classical federalism* refers to a view that each level of government should be autonomous.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 387

1. The federal government’s spending power is explicitly provided for in the Constitution Act, 1867.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 392

1. Canada’s federal system has been largely symmetrical but with some asymmetrical elements.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 399

1. Generally, the powers of disallowance and reservation are viewed as obsolete.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 390

1. *Interstate federalism* refers to a federal system in which provincial interests are represented in national political institutions.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 398

1. It was not until 1982 that annual meetings of the premiers were established.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 398

1. Overall, provincial governments receive on average about one-fifth of their revenue from the federal government.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 401

1. The method of calculating equalization payments in Canada takes into account the costs of providing services in different provinces.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 405

1. Canada’s Constitution makes local government the exclusive legislative responsibility of provincial governments.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 406

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. What is the Council of the Federation?

*Answer:* The Council of the Federation is an organization established by the premiers to enable cooperation among the provinces.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 398

1. Explain the difference between intrastate and interstate federalism.

*Answer:* Intrastate federalism is a system in which provincial interests are represented in national institutions, while interstate federalism is a system in which provincial interests are represented primarily by provincial governments.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 398

1. Which two cases led the Supreme Court of Canada to rule on legislative authority of the two levels of government in environmental questions?

*Answer:* The two cases that led to rulings on environmental questions were the 1980 Crown Zellerbach case and the 1990 Hydro-Quebec case.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 388

1. What is the principal difference between block grants and conditional grants?

*Answer:* Block grants are unconditional transfers provided to help provinces pay for health care, social programs, post-secondary education, and child-related programs. Conditional grants involve national programs established by the federal government in areas in which the provinces have legislative authority. Accordingly, these grants have to meet conditions set by the federal government to receive money for these programs.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 401-403