CHAPTER 7: Political Participation and Civic Engagement

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. In 2010, downtown Toronto became “ground zero” in a violent clash between police and demonstrators outside a meeting of the G20. Why had the G20 summit been convened?
2. To discuss water exports under the free trade agreement
3. To discuss the recovery from the global recession and the European debt crisis
4. To discuss nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and nuclear technology
5. To discuss industrial air pollution

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 179

1. According to the text, what two forms can political participation take?
2. Conventional or unconventional
3. Electoral or non-electoral
4. Public or private
5. Legal or illegal

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 180

1. Political activities that employ online communications such as websites, emails, blogs, Facebook, and Twitter are termed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. cyberactivism
3. social networking
4. civic participation
5. e-protest

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 180

1. Essentially, political participation is defined as actions to raise awareness, influence choice of government personnel, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. increase the size of the state
3. change the minds of the public
4. shape the content of legislation
5. change the terms of contracts

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 180

1. Which of the following is the best example of civic engagement, as defined in the text?
2. Organizing a violent protest
3. Raising funds for a political party
4. Initiating a court case
5. Joining or helping a local voluntary organization

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 180

1. Canadians who are active in political affairs tend to be better educated, wealthier, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. newcomers
3. women
4. younger
5. older

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 181

1. Classical democratic theorists are optimistic about the potential for individuals from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to participate in politics.
2. lower income brackets
3. different religious faiths
4. diverse backgrounds
5. immigrant communities

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 182-183

1. What is the best example of deliberative democracy provided in the text?
2. Mandatory community service in high schools
3. The Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform
4. Greenpeace’s protest against the Alberta government
5. The Military Voters Act

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 184

1. Of the following groups, who is likely to be the most politically informed?
2. Urban dwellers
3. Working people
4. University graduates
5. Poor people

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 186

1. What was the principal reason for passing the Military Voters Act in 1917?
2. To increase support for conscription
3. To advance equality between men and women
4. To encourage political education
5. To broaden the electorate

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 187

1. In Canada, voter turnout has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_over the past 25 years.
2. increased significantly
3. decreased significantly
4. stayed the same
5. increased slowly

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 189

1. In Canada, the decline in voter participation rates in federal elections in the early twenty-first century has been blamed on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. generational replacement
3. changes to the electors list
4. media coverage of elections
5. deliberative democracy

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 191

1. Of the following, who is *least* likely to be knowledgeable about international politics?
2. Italians
3. Finns
4. Canadians
5. Americans

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 193

1. One explanation for the decline in volunteering during election campaigns is that campaigns are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. longer
3. more professionalized
4. shorter
5. less organized

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 198

1. Which of the following is an example of *unconventional* political participation?
2. Volunteering for a political party during an election
3. Demonstrating against industrial logging
4. Giving financial donations to a food bank
5. Participating in a citizens’ assembly on election reform

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 199

1. The *digital divide* refers to the gap between\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. immigrants and native-born Canadian youth
3. American and Canadian communications networks
4. public and private sector internet users
5. wealthier urban internet users and poorer rural residents

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 204

1. While young Canadians are less knowledgeable about politics than older Canadians, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_may have a role to play in igniting their interest in politics.
2. political demonstrations
3. industrial action or strikes
4. internet-based communication technologies
5. commercial boycotts

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 186

1. In the text, voluntary associations and non-governmental organizations directed toward achieving a common goal are termed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. civil society
3. cultural groups
4. protest movements
5. franchise groups

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 204

1. One criticism that has been made of mandatory community service requirements in high schools is that they are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. not part of graduation requirements
3. not contributing to political knowledge
4. resented by students who are forced to volunteer
5. too costly to enforce

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 207

1. According to social capital theorists, mutual cooperation and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_between individuals living in the same society are necessary for democracies to thrive.
2. friendship
3. respect
4. trust
5. harmony

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 205

1. Which of the following is *not* a voluntary association?
2. Religious association
3. Student or campus club
4. Human rights organization
5. Crown corporation

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 204

1. Since the late 1980s, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_have relied heavily on the World Wide Web to raise awareness about issues and to mobilize members to take online and offline action.
2. business groups
3. environmental groups
4. counter-globalization groups
5. religious groups

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 182

1. Participation rates in municipal elections are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_federal or provincial elections.
2. lower than
3. higher than
4. the same as
5. declining much faster than

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 190

1. In their 1963 study of political cultures in five contemporary democracies, Almond and Verba argued that the majority of citizens expressed only a weak commitment to democratic norms and that their active involvement in politics could lead to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. a greater desire for deliberative democracy
3. political instability and the emergence of authoritarian politics
4. a reinvigorated public involvement in political affairs
5. the growth of cyberactivism

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 183-184

1. More Canadians, particularly\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, feel they have a better chance to influence public policy by joining an interest group rather than a political party.
2. recent immigrants
3. visible minorities
4. wealthy Canadians
5. younger Canadians

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 199

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. As in other countries, the internet is the leading source of political information for Canadians.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 185

1. At the time of Confederation, the poor were excluded from voting.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 187

1. Low levels of voter turnout have sometimes been blamed on Canada’s electoral system.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 189

1. The small minority of Canadians who do join parties are not typical of broader society.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 198

1. Civic engagement, like voting and campaign involvement, has declined over time.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 205

1. The Occupy movement, which encouraged protesters to converge on the financial centres of the world to protest income inequality, began with a single tweet.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 203

1. Foreign-born Canadians vote less often than Canadian-born citizens.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 196

1. Voter turnout among Aboriginal Canadians is lower than among non-Aboriginals.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 194

1. By international standards, Canadians rarely join in illegal protest activity.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 200

1. Social movements are networks of groups and individuals that seek major social and political changes, often by acting inside (or with) established political institutions.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 199

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. What is one principal difference between classical elite and democratic theory?

*Answer:* While classical democratic theory supports mass participation by citizens of diverse backgrounds, elite theory argues that a small minority of individuals with more education and political experience is better.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 183

1. What is social capital?

*Answer:* Social capital refers to the social networks, norms of reciprocity, and interpersonal trust that foster cooperation for mutual benefit.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 204

1. Discuss two critiques that have been made regarding cyberactivism’s effect on political participation.

*Answer:* Some have argued that cyberactivism may lack face-to-face interaction and undermines trust between people since identities can be forged. Others have also argued that there are too many inequalities in internet access and usage in Canada.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 203

1. How can the lower participation rates in federal elections of Aboriginal Canadians on reserves be explained?

*Answer:* First, many Aboriginals question the legitimacy of the Canadian state. There are also differences in the social profile and living conditions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. Finally, Canadian institutions, laws, and political parties deter Aboriginal Canadians from voting.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 194-195