CHAPTER 1: Introduction

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. Politics as an activity can be defined as a process of influencing, making, and implementing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. collective decisions
3. individual responsibility
4. harm reduction
5. survival mechanisms

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 3

1. Those in governing positions who possess the right to exercise power are said to have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. values
3. authority
4. identities
5. unity

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 4

1. A country whose governing institutions are able to make and enforce binding rules for people living in a particular territory is termed a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. region
3. community
4. society
5. state

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 4

1. Why is the distribution of power a key feature in the analysis of politics?
2. Governments are run in ways that prevent open competition.
3. Governments value diversity more than effectiveness.
4. Decisions reflect the interests and values of those with more political power.
5. Collective decisions are more difficult to achieve than individual ones.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 3-4

1. In the analysis of politics, power is defined as the ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. achieve unity rather than diversity
3. affect the behaviour of others
4. reduce the levels of violence
5. change governmental institutions

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 3

1. Governments can exercise power either through the use of force or the exercise of legitimate authority. While coercion is based on the use of force, legitimacy is based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. security
3. acceptance
4. intelligence
5. resolve

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 4

1. How is social democracy different from other forms of democracy?
2. It focuses on a more active government that seeks to reduce inequalities.
3. It advocates the use of referendums, plebiscites, and recalls.
4. It involves the election of representatives rather than direct democracy.
5. It is more elite-oriented than public-oriented.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 12

1. A form of democracy in which citizens are directly involved in making decisions is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. rule-based democracy
3. global democracy
4. reform democracy
5. direct democracy

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 6

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ democracy is often viewed as the most practical way of applying the democratic ideal to large, modern, complex societies.
2. Majoritarian
3. Rational
4. Representative
5. Equal

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 6

1. This form of democracy involves participation through referenda, initiatives, or recalls.
2. Electoral
3. Plebiscitary
4. Representative
5. Social

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 7

1. Liberal democracy is a political system based on, among other things, fair elections that involve free competition. What is one other key defining feature of liberal democracy?
2. Government that is limited by law.
3. Arbitrary government decision making.
4. Unlimited and absolute majority rule.
5. A system that prevents consensus.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 9

1. Deliberative democracy is different from plebiscitary democracy because it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. gives citizens extra opportunities to vote
3. involves citizens in governing through discussion
4. involves the use of referendums, initiatives, and recalls
5. reduces rather than increases social diversity

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 8-9

1. The Quebec referendum of 1995 is a good example of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ democracy.
2. parity
3. plebiscitary
4. social
5. electoral

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Pages:* 2, 8

1. Why is diversity both a challenging and a positive feature of Canadian society?
2. It means treating everybody the same without assigning special privileges.
3. It means that freedoms must be restricted in the public interest.
4. It involves accommodating differences while maintaining some consensus.
5. It requires everyone to fit in to one unified Canadian community.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 2, 12-13

1. Which among the following criteria can be used to judge what “good government” is?
2. Transparency
3. Permanence
4. Resolution
5. Regionalism

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 16

1. One of the criteria for good government is accountability, which requires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. improving the quality of life
3. reducing inequalities
4. changing the constitution
5. responding to criticisms

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 15

1. Why have governments in Canada rarely had to resort to force to exercise their power?
2. There have been few instances of law-breaking in Canada.
3. The public generally accepts the governments’ authority.
4. Discrimination has been rare in Canada.
5. Law enforcement is a provincial matter.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 4

1. To some extent, the politically relevant values and beliefs that people hold relate to their position in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the extended family
3. society and the economy
4. voluntary associations
5. the corporate hierarchy

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 19

1. Which political institution in Canada tends to contribute to the underrepresentation of women and minorities in the House of Commons and provincial legislatures?
2. The Supreme Court
3. The Crown
4. The bureaucracy
5. The electoral system

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 10-11

1. The text discusses several types of democracy. Which system applies to Canada?
2. Liberal democracy
3. Good government
4. Public democracy
5. Evolutionary democracy

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Pages:* 9-10

1. Liberal democracies also feature constitutional government—that is, a government that consistently acts according to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. collective decisions made by religious authority
3. collective decisions made by referenda
4. established fundamental rules and principles
5. established interests and paid lobbyists

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 9

1. Despite Canada’s reputation for democracy, government power has become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. more and more subject to the demands of opposition parties in Parliament
3. more and more subject to the power of transnational social movements
4. more and more concentrated in the Governor General’s hands
5. more and more concentrated in a small number of hands

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 10

1. Repressing diversity may be more likely to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than embracing diversity.
2. foster a sense of national unity
3. create fragmentation and disunity
4. aid in the integration of new immigrants
5. stem the flow of international migration

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 13

1. Generally, the various groups that make up Canadian society share a sense of solidarity, even though some people identify more strongly with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. their province or cultural group than with Canada
3. their social class than with Canada
4. their gender identity than with Canada
5. their religious faith than with Canada

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 13

1. How is identity politics different from interest politics?
2. The absence of competition among and within identity groups
3. A focus on culture, respect, and group equality among identity groups
4. The inability of various identity groups to exert power effectively
5. Identity politics has become less politically significant in recent times.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 20

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. The collective decisions of a political community tend to mirror the distribution of political power.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 3

1. The idea of deliberative democracy has made little impact on the processes of government decision making in Canada.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 8-9

1. Political parties have become less democratic in their organizational structure.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 21

1. Liberal democracy necessarily involves establishing a private sphere where government should not intervene.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 9

1. National unity is guaranteed by the Canadian constitution.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 15

1. Elections are not an essential feature of representative democracies.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 6

1. Initiativesare drafted by a government or a legislature.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 7

1. Strict party discipline is a feature of the House of Commons and Canada’s provincial legislatures.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 10

1. The majority of Canadians tend to view laws and public policies as separate from religious doctrine.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 19

1. Canada developed from a colony to a sovereign country in a fairly short period of time.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 22

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. What are the three key features of liberal democracy?

*Answer:*  Liberal democracy refers to a political system in which the powers of government are limited by law, the rights of people to freely engage in political activity are established, and there are fair elections with free competition.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page*: 9

1. Describe the three main instruments of plebiscitary democracy.

*Answer:* The three main instruments of plebiscitary democracy are referendums, initiatives, and recalls. Referendums involve a vote on a particular question; initiatives are proposed new laws or changes to an existing law; and a recall is a procedure that allows citizens to recall their representative and hold a new election.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 7-8

1. Describe three criticisms made of representative democracy as a form of government.

*Answer:* Three criticisms of representative democracy are (1) elections may not ensure that representatives act according to the wishes of the people; (2) representatives may follow their own interests, perspective, or values, which may be different from those of the public; and (3) parties may not offer a clear choice for voters and representatives may not respect their campaign promises.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 6-7

1. How does transparency foster good government?

*Answer:* Governments have a strong tendency to withhold information that may reflect negatively on them. However, hiding information can hinder governments from making use of constructive criticism to correct their mistakes and better their performance. Transparency facilitates informed public participation in politics. Access to information (also known as freedom of information) legislation, backed up by the ability of the courts or an independent body to require that information be released in a timely manner, is important in making transparency more than mere rhetoric.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 16