CHAPTER 10: Elections, the Electoral System, and Voting Behaviour

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. An electoral system is one which translates the votes that people cast into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the House of Commons.
2. rules of procedure
3. representation of parties
4. committee decisions
5. Senate seats

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 281

1. Which among the following is at present not included among the legal requirements to vote in Canada?
2. proof of address
3. another registered voter to vouch for you
4. three consecutive hours off work during voting hours
5. proof of property ownership

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 281-282

1. In Canada, a candidate for elected office must legally\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. have a party affiliation
3. be on the voter’s list
4. live in the district where they are running
5. be at least eighteen years of age

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 283

1. Canada’s electoral system is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system.
2. popular representation
3. single-member plurality
4. complex majoritarian
5. populist recall

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 288

1. Which among the following is an exception to the principle of representation by population?
2. the proposal to allow voting by internet or cellphone
3. restrictions that prevent young people below the age of eighteen from voting
4. the allocation of a minimum number of seats in the House to provinces
5. the requirement that one hundred voters sign a candidate’s nomination papers

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 285

1. The drawing of boundaries of electoral districts for partisan advantage is termed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. gerrymandering
3. readjustment
4. territorialism
5. vote tampering

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 286

1. In Canada, this person has the constitutional authority to decide when an election will be held.
2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
3. The Governor General
4. The Speaker of the House
5. The Leader of the Senate

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 286

1. One argument in favour of fixed election dates is that these would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. improve the representativeness of Parliament
3. make it more difficult for Elections Canada
4. create a more level playing for parties
5. reduce confidence in the House

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 287

1. One of the criticisms of Canada's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ electoral system is that it does not accurately translate votes into seats.
2. single-member plurality
3. Prime Ministerial
4. representational
5. multiple member

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 288

1. At times, as a consequence of Canada's electoral system, it is possible for a party to win a majority of seats in Parliament, even if it has a lower percentage of the popular vote than its rivals. This is because Canada's electoral system \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. is biased in favour of elections in which there is a high voter turnout
3. is too complicated for most people to understand
4. does not reward parties in proportion to their share of the popular vote
5. underwent reforms that changed the way votes are counted

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 288

1. Proponents of Canada's electoral system argue that it\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. fosters stability by facilitating the creation of a majority government
3. strengthens the hand of the executive branch
4. rewards parties whose support is widely distributed across the country
5. encourages gerrymandering

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 290

1. In Canada’s electoral system, a candidate wins a constituency only when he or she receives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. more votes than any other candidate
3. a set percentage of the popular vote
4. a majority of votes
5. more votes than all other candidates combined

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 288

1. Canada's electoral system is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which one person is elected to represent the citizens of a constituency.
2. transferable vote
3. single-member constituency
4. representative party
5. majority riding

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 285

1. Canada's electoral system discriminates against parties that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. appeal to middle of the road ideologies
3. have a national rather than regional perspective
4. focus on Canadian foreign rather than domestic policies
5. strategically field candidates only at the regional levels

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 289

1. A proportional representation system \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. increases voter turnouts
3. increases provincial equality
4. produces less diverse parties
5. reduces the total number of parties

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 291

1. According to the text, PR systems tend to promote \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. pragmatic parties
3. a larger number of parties
4. multiple constituencies
5. interest groups

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 291

1. Under a proportional representation electoral system, the number of members elected by each party is roughly equal to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the number of seats in the Senate
3. the total number of votes cast in the election
4. its proportion of the popular vote
5. its percentage of the country's total population

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 291

1. Arguments in favour of a proportional representation system are most likely to stress which of the following attributes?
2. low cost
3. stability of government
4. representativeness
5. ease of use

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 291

1. Under the SMP electoral system, parties have little incentive to appeal to voters in areas of the country where there support is weak. An exception to this strategy occurred in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, when the PC party led by Brian Mulroney successfully appealed to Quebecers.
2. 1993 federal election
3. 1997 federal election
4. 2000 federal election
5. 1984 federal election

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 290

1. In 2008, the Conservatives produced an ad that unfairly portrayed the Liberal party’s ‘green shift’ proposal. This type of ad is sometimes termed an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ad.
2. oppositional
3. irrelevant
4. election
5. attack

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 297

1. In reaction to criticism of their campaign coverage, some media have used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which involves a critical analysis of campaign statements.
2. disclosure statements
3. government censors
4. reality checks
5. impact assessments

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 298

1. In the past, the pattern of corporate election and party finance led to criticism that the leading parties favoured \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the interests of non-profit organizations
3. the interests of large corporations
4. the public interest
5. the interest of foreign governments

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 299

1. Individual donations are limited to a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per year to each registered political party.
2. $1200
3. $1000
4. $100
5. $500

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 299

1. In national politics, there is a complex relationship between social characteristics and voting because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the complexity of modern elections
3. generational differences
4. Canada’s great diversity
5. the timing of elections

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 302

1. A sense of attachment to a particular political party is known as?
2. party identification
3. party representation
4. party consideration
5. party devotion

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 304

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. In Canada, the voting age is 19.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Pages:* 280, 282

1. Constitutionally, a province can have fewer seats in the House of Commons than it has Senators.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 285

1. In Canada, an election can result in a majority government in the House even when a majority of votes went to other parties.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 288

1. In a PR electoral system, coalition governments are more likely than in a single-member plurality system.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 291

1. In Canada, parties must pay for all of the broadcasting time they use during an election campaign.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 296

1. Unlike the broadcast media, the Internet has no restrictions on its use.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 298

1. Canadian federal elections generally result in minority governments.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 288

1. In 2011, the Liberal party of Canada received the largest proportion of individual campaign contributions.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 301

1. Contributions by corporations, unions, and unincorporated associations are illegal in Canada.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 299

1. With the focus on the party leaders in an election campaign and in politics generally, it is not surprising that evaluations of the party leaders are generally the most important short-term influence on the vote.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 306

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. What are two criticisms that have often been made of media coverage of election campaigns?

*Answer:* Media coverage of election campaigns have often been criticized for focusing on the ‘horserace’ rather than on analysis of the issues. Debates are often discussed in terms of whether one leader scored a ‘knockout punch’ on another leader, and they have been criticized for paying too much attention to gaffes, and to ignore certain issues.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 298

1. What two key changes to campaign donations rules have been introduced in recent times?

*Answer:* The two important changes that have been introduced to campaign finance rules are: donations by business and labour organization have been banned, and; strict limits have been placed on the amounts that individuals can donate.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 299-300

1. What are three long-term influences on voter behaviour discussed in the text?

*Answer:* Three long-term influences on voter behaviour are discussed in the text: social characteristics, values, and party identification.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 301-304

1. Describe at least two differences between a proportional electoral (PR) system and Canada’s electoral system.

*Answer:* In PR, there is a close relationship between the proportion of votes received by a party and the proportion of legislative seats it obtains. Voter turnout tends to be higher in countries with PR systems, and PR systems tend to have a wider range of viewpoints and a higher proportion of women and minority legislative members. PR systems also tend to result in more coalition governments.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 288-291