**Social Studies 9**

**Unit 1: Section 2**

**Assignment 3**

**File Name: 9ssA3**

**Total Marks: /44 = %**  
**Part A:** Use the information from the pages you have read in the textbook **and** course webpages to answer the following questions. Type the letter of the **best** answer in the brackets provided.

< > 1. The constitution of Canada does all of the following **except**

1. sets out the roles of the governor general and the three branches of government
2. sets out other important institutions such as the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
3. describes how governance and the economic system in Canada will function
4. describes how the three branches of government will work together to make decisions

< > 2. Which of the following statements about the monarch of Britain is **false**?

1. The governor general is part of the executive and legislative branches of government.
2. The monarch plays an active role in Canada’s government.
3. The king or queen of Britain is Canada’s formal head of state.
4. The governor general represents the monarch in Canada.

< > 3. Which of the following branches of government is correctly matched with its function?

1. Executive Branch – proposes laws and puts laws into action
2. Legislative Branch - applies and interprets laws
3. Judicial Branch – makes laws

Read the information in the chart below and answer the question that follows.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Executive Branch**   * Prime Minister * House of Commons * Cabinet | **Legislative Branch**   * House of Commons * Senate * Governor General | **Judicial Branch**   * Supreme Court * Provincial and Territorial Courts * Cabinet |

< > 4. Which branch of government is identified correctly with its components in the chart above?

1. Legislative Branch
2. Judicial Branch
3. Executive Branch

< > 5. Which of the following is **not** one of the steps to becoming prime minister in Canada?

1. Be elected as the leader of a political party
2. Be elected as a member of parliament (MP)
3. Be the leader of the party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons
4. Be the leader of the party that wins the majority of the seats in the House of Commons

< > 6. Which of the following statements about the cabinet is **false**?

1. Most of the ideas that become laws are proposed by the cabinet
2. Voters determine which portfolio cabinet ministers will be assigned.
3. Members of the cabinet are chosen and appointed by the prime minister.
4. The prime minister and cabinet run the day-to-day business of government.

< > 7. What is the purpose of a political party?

1. To construct legislation that is in the best interests of all Canadians
2. To initiate debate and to question the policies and actions of the government
3. To put forth candidates in elections and seek to form the government
4. To represent the various regions of Canada and to protect the interests of minority groups

< > 8. Which of the following statements about the House of Commons is **false**?

1. The House of Commons is the major law-making body in Canada’s federal government.
2. Members of the House of Commons debate, study, and vote on bills proposed for Canada.
3. Each Member of Parliament (MP) represents one electoral district or riding.
4. Representation in the House of Commons is determined by region.

< > 9. What is the role of the opposition in the House of Commons?

1. To get as many members of the party in the cabinet as possible
2. To represent the interests and rights of Canada’s regions and various minority groups
3. To act as a watchdog and question the governing party about its actions and decisions
4. To propose most bills that will become law in Canada

< > 10. What is necessary for a political party to receive a majority in the House of Commons?

1. The party wins more than half of the seats in the House of Commons.
2. The party wins fewer than half of the seats in the House of Commons.
3. The party must have the support of the prime minister and the cabinet.
4. The party’s leader wins the most seats in his or her riding.

< > 11. The party with the second largest number of seats in the House of Commons is called the

1. majority party
2. party in power
3. official opposition party
4. governing party

< > 12. Why might having a *minority government* be challenging when passing legislation?

1. The minority government will not act in the best interest of all Canadians.
2. The government will be able to pass almost all bills introduced in the House of Commons.
3. The other political parties in the House will not question or debate the government’s proposed bills.
4. The government will need to seek support from members of other parties.

< > 13. What is the key difference between the members of the House of Commons (MPs) and the members of the Senate?

1. MPs are not able to propose laws that create or spend taxes; Senators are allowed to propose laws of this kind.
2. MPs are elected to their positions by voters; Senators are appointed to their positions by the prime minister.
3. Senators debate, study, and vote on bills but MPs do not perform these duties.
4. There are no differences between MPs and Senators.

< > 14. Which of the following statements about the Senate is **false**?

1. The Senate provides “sober second thought” to all proposed legislation.
2. The Senate represents the interests and rights of Canada’s regions and minorities.
3. The Senate needs to pass legislation for it to become law in Canada.
4. The Senate often uses its power to reject bills from the House of Commons.

< > 15. The voting area represented by a Member of Parliament (MP) is called a

1. riding
2. constituent
3. region
4. party

/15

**Part B:**

1. a. Choose **three** political parties from the links you investigated in Activity 2. Complete the chart below by summarizing, in point-form, the party’s platform on each topic in the chart.   
(5 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Party 1** < > | **Party 2** < > | **Party 3** < > |
| **Economy** | < > | < > | < > |
| **Environment** | < > | < > | < > |
| **Health care** | < > | < > | < > |
| **Education** | < > | < > | < > |

b.Imagine that the federal government has just announced that an election will be held and you are of voting age. You must make a decision about which party meets your needs and the needs of your community best. **Use the information in the chart you completed above to help you make your decision.** (10 marks)

Write a journal entry of **two or three** paragraphs in which you

* identify which political party you would vote for in this upcoming election
* explain why you have chosen this political party
* explain **four** reasons this political party is your choice

Be sure to identify the **areas of your chosen party’s platform that you support** and explain **why these items/issues are important to you and how they impact your quality of life.**

Read the scoring criteria below to ensure your understanding of how this part of your assignment will be evaluated.

Type your response between the blue brackets provided.

< >

**Scoring Criteria:** (mark x2 = 10 marks)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | You have ... |
| ****5**** ****Excellent**** | * provided **thoughtful ideas** and **thorough explanations** * provided **specific**, **relevant**, and **accurate** support for your ideas * demonstrated effective connections between your position and the research * written **clearly**, **accurately**, and **effectively** with **well-organized ideas** |
| ****4**** ****Proficient**** | * provided **meaningful ideas and appropriate explanations** * provided **relevant** and **appropriate** support for your ideas * demonstrated clear connections between your position and the research * written in an **organized way** with **effective vocabulary** and few errors |
| ****3**** ****Satisfactory**** | * provided **straightforward ideas** and **general explanations** * provided **general** and adequate support for your ideas * demonstrated some connections between your position and the research * written **satisfactorily** (Minor errors do not interfere with the message.) |
| ****2**** ****Limited**** | * provided **limited** ideas with **simplistic** or **unrelated explanations** * provided **obvious, simplistic and/or irrelevant support** for your ideas * demonstrated few connections between your position and the research * written **unclearly** with **inappropriate vocabulary** (Major errors interfere with the message.) |
| ****1**** ****Poor**** | * provided **few or no ideas** or explanations * provided **superficial**, **irrelevant**, or **incomplete support** for your ideas * demonstrated no connections between your position and the research * written **unclearly** with **disorganized ideas** (Many errors interfere with the message.) |

**Part C:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Type your responses between the blue brackets provided.

Retrieve the notes you have recorded about Members of Parliament and Senators in Activity 3 of this workbook. Answer the following questions.

1. Identify **three** roles of Members of Parliament that you are think are important. Choose **one** of these roles and explain why it is the most important role of MPs. (5 marks)

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1. Identify **three** roles of Senators that you think are important. Choose **one** of these roles and explain why it is the most important role of senators. (5 marks)

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1. Why is the Senate considered to be the house of “sober second thought”? How is this beneficial in the formation of new legislation? (2 marks)

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1. Review the definition of *accountable* in Activity 3. Which group of representatives, Members of Parliament (MPs) or Senators, are most accountable to Canadians? Why is this so?   
   (2 marks)

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**Total Assignment: /44 = %**

**Submit your completed assignment for marking.**