



## 5.11: Economic Systems and Liberal Values

[Here is a link to the instruction video also found on the assignment download page](#)

### Big Ideas



- *Explore the extent to which governments should encourage economic equality.*
- *Appreciate various perspectives regarding the promotion of liberalism within economic systems.*
- *Examine the extent to which the practices of economic systems reflect the values of liberalism.*
- *Explore an issue and defend a position regarding this question: How far should governments go to provide economic equality for their citizens?*



- *This is a two-part assignment.*

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## Instructions

1. Read through part one.
2. Fill in the charts for Canada and Sweden.
3. Plan your response in the outline and email it to your teacher.
4. Write out your final draft of your response using your outline approved by your teacher.

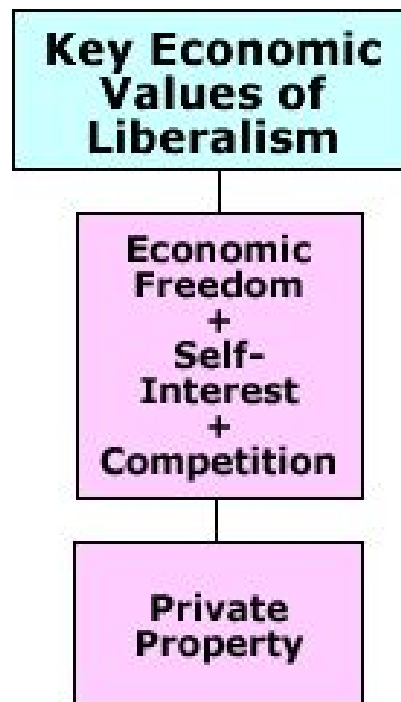
## Background

In this assignment, you will **assess** the extent to which the practices of selected economic systems reflect the values of liberalism. You will also be asked to **defend** your ratings.

### Review of Liberal Economic Values

Review the values of a liberal economy. Examine the following diagram carefully.

This diagram is explained in the section “Liberal Democracy and Economic Equality” in Unit 5.



# Researching and Rating Selected Economic Systems

You will research:

- Canada
- Sweden

Rate the economic practices of the two countries according to the degree to which they reflect liberal values. You first need to research each country to determine how its economic system reflects the following liberal economic values:

- economic freedom
- self-interest
- Competition
- private property

Use pages 328–332 of your textbook to gather your information.



## Part 1: Charts

Total /8

Rate the economic practices of each of the countries according to the degree to which they reflect liberal values in the following charts.

**Rating Scale:** Put your rating number beside each of the criteria (values) in the charts below.

1	2	3	4
Not at All Liberal	Not Very Liberal	Somewhat Liberal	Strongly Liberal

Canada		
Criteria (values) for a Liberal Economy	Rating	Evidence for Your rating in your own words
Economic Freedom		

<b>Self-Interest</b>		
<b>Competition</b>		
<b>Private Property</b>		
<b>Cite Sources:</b>		
<b>Mark:    /4</b>		

<b>Sweden</b>		
<b>Criteria (values) for a Liberal Economy</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Evidence for Your Rating &gt; in your own words</b>
<b>Economic Freedom</b>		
<b>Self-Interest</b>		

<b>Competition</b>		
<b>Private Property</b>		
<b>Cite Sources:</b>		
<b>Mark: /4</b>		

## Part 2: Written Response

**How far should governments go to provide economic equality for their citizens?**

Use the information you researched in the above charts as examples to help support your position (position paragraph).

**Your written response should** specifically refer to the countries in the above charts.

**Total /15** \*Based on the Position Paragraph rubric found at the end of the assignment

## Suggested Format

### Introduction (3–5 sentences)

- Give a brief introduction regarding the countries and how much governments should provide economic equality in general.
- Answer the following yes or no question as your thesis: Should governments provide economic equality?

### Body (7–10 sentences)

- What economic equality does Sweden provide for citizens? List some and be specific.
- What economic equality does Canada provide for citizens? List some and be specific.
- Do you think Sweden's amount of economic equality provided is superior to Canada's? Why or why not?
- How much should the governments do for citizens? Is there an example to support your statements? Use the chart information and terminology to answer these questions.
- How much should the government not provide assistance? Is there an example to support your statements? Use the chart information and terminology to answer these questions.
- Include examples from the course or current events that support you.

### Conclusion (3–5 sentences)

- Conclude with overall statements and opinions.
- Include examples from the course or current events that support you.

## Suggestions for Success

- Avoid only summaries of the countries.
- Make this response a large paragraph of 15–20 sentences.
- Avoid including statements with no examples.
- Make sure you include specific terms and examples from the chart in your response.



<Write your response here.>

## Rubric for Position Paragraph(s)

Scoring Criteria:  Position Paragraph	Explanations and Support 10 marks	Communication 5 marks
	When marking <b>Explanations and Support</b> , markers should consider the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quality of explanations</li> <li>• selection and quality of support</li> </ul>	When marking <b>Communication</b> , markers should consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organization and coherence</li> <li>• vocabulary (specificity and accuracy)</li> <li>• sentence construction (clarity and completeness)</li> <li>• grammar and mechanics (consistency of tense, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization)</li> </ul>
<b>Excellent</b>  <b>E</b>	Explanations are thorough and comprehensive, revealing a perceptive understanding. Support is specific and accurate. Errors, if present, do not detract from the response. <b>10</b>	The writing is fluent and organized effectively. Vocabulary is precise and effective. The writing demonstrates confident control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. The occurrence of error is rare. <b>5</b>
<b>Proficient</b>  <b>Pf</b>	Explanations are appropriate and purposeful, revealing a clear understanding. Support is relevant and appropriate but may contain some minor errors. <b>8</b>	The writing is organized clearly. Vocabulary is accurate and appropriate. The writing frequently demonstrates effective control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. The occurrence of error is infrequent. <b>4</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>  <b>S</b>	Explanations are general and straightforward, revealing an acceptable understanding. Support is relevant but general, may be incompletely developed, and/or contains errors. <b>6</b>	The writing is generally clear and organized functionally. Vocabulary is generally accurate but not specific. The writing demonstrates basic control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. Errors do not seriously interfere with communication. <b>3</b>
<b>Limited</b>  <b>L</b>	Explanations are overgeneralized and/or redundant, revealing a confused, though discernable, understanding. Support is superficial, may not always be relevant, and may contain significant errors. <b>4</b>	The writing is uneven and incomplete but is organized discernibly. Vocabulary is imprecise and/or inappropriate. The writing demonstrates faltering control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. Errors hinder communication. <b>2</b>
<b>Poor</b>  <b>P</b>	Explanations are tangential or minimal, revealing a negligible understanding. Support, if present, is incomplete, may be marginally relevant, and contains significant and/or frequent errors. <b>2</b>	The writing is unclear and disorganized. Vocabulary is ineffective and frequently incorrect. The writing demonstrates lack of control of sentence construction, grammar, and mechanics. Errors impede communication. <b>1</b>
<b>Total: /15</b>		
<b>Areas of Strength</b>		
<b>Areas to Improve</b>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Charts: /8                      Response: /15                      Total: /23</b> Once your assignment is graded, always review the comments and the feedback file. You will be expected to use those comments and feedback in your next assignment.	

## Student Exemplars

ex.

### 90-100%

Economic equality should be pursued by a government to an extent where each citizen's basic needs are provided for. However at the same time I think individual economical freedoms need to be respected and preserved as much as possible. This is why I believe the best economical system is a mixed economy that balances values of liberalism and collectivism.

In order to provide for the basic needs of citizens, I think social programs that are funded through taxation are necessary. Although varying in degree, one similarity between Canada and Sweden is their commitment to social welfare programs such as programs in education, healthcare, childcare and employment insurance. Every citizen in my view should have access to a basic level of healthcare no matter how much money they make. This is an example of what I mean by every citizen's basic needs should be provided for. However social programs can cause taxation rates to increase greatly which is one issue to think about when considering the economical freedom of individuals. Higher taxes translate to less disposable income which means less economical freedom for the individual. I don't think every service needs to be provided through social programs funded by taxation, especially those that go beyond providing for people's basic needs. One of the main components of economical liberalism is competition. My view on this issue may be more aligned with values of liberalism, but even here I believe a balance is necessary for the sake of both economical equality and freedom of the individual. A far left collectivist view is that means of production should be owned publicly and all citizens should be limited to earning around the same amount of money. This leaves very little room for competition.

I think competition is very important because it promotes innovation, development and growth in a country. Public ownership of means of production and equal wages may secure economical equality, but it removes a great deal of economical freedom for the individual. Even Sweden who economically is positioned more towards the left of the spectrum has 90% of their industry privately owned and wages of workers vary greatly depending on the work. Canada is very similar in this respect. On the other hand, in order to not create an economical environment where everything is left entirely to up to competition and people's self-interests, the governments of both Canada and Sweden are able to intervene. Governments intervene by implementing regulations and restrictions on trade and business both domestically and internationally. In Canada sometimes the government aids companies who are crucial to the country's economy. Through having crown corporations and being able to aid or regulate certain elements of the economy, the Canadian government is able to better stabilize the economy. In this way I think in some cases government intervention is necessary, but at the same time there needs to be competition. When I look at how some people are lacking the most basic of needs such as healthcare or housing I feel the government needs to play a greater role in securing better economical equality. Taking the United States for example, there are millions of people who do not have health insurance. Living in Japan where similarly to Canada there is universal healthcare, it is strange to me that a country as developed as the United States cannot have a system where everyone's



basic need for health care is met. However I am equally concerned about the government pursuing collectivist ideas to the extent where a large part of individual freedom is taken away.

I value my own economic freedom and I do not believe it is necessary to sacrifice our individual freedoms completely for the sake of economic equality. I think everyone has the ability to make decisions that contribute to society and the collective without having to be forced to do so by the government. I definitely support the government's intervention for the purpose of securing greater economic equality when necessary and helping those in need, but at the same time I hope equal concern is given to the freedoms of the individual. Like many of the other issues on the spectrum of collectivism and individualism, I believe a balance is important.

**Marker's Response:** You applied terms to statements and examples. You also included an introduction and conclusion, great job.

## **50-60%**

Every country must have an economic system to answer these three things, form of government, objectives and ideologies. To me I think the government should provide economic equality to protect against the worst elements of capitalism but also to not limit too much of their freedoms. The government should take a role in the economy while allowing private enterprises because such involvement would eliminate the negative aspects of capitalism while adopting the positive aspects of Socialism. I think this would benefit the economy in variety of ways, it allows businesses to remain in the private hands while removing some of the worst abuses of pure capitalism also it protects the consumers, producers, and the community as a whole. **Background information needs to be addressed regarding the degrees of economic equality. You need to provide examples from the chart you researched. What specific programs do you think should be in an ideal country's programs offered by the government?**