

Social Studies 30-2



Unit 6.12: Is Liberalism Viable?

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

Big Ideas



- *Evaluate the extent to which the values of liberalism are viable in the context of contemporary issues.*
- *Explore the extent to which governments should promote individual and collective rights.*



- *This is a two-part assignment.*

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Instructions

1. Read through part 1.
2. Read the textbook pages and unit readings.
3. Research the issue and fill out the chart.
4. Plan your response.
5. Type your response.

Part One Research



In this assignment, you will assess the extent to which contemporary issues that challenge liberalism are addressed effectively by actions that either reflect liberal values or do not reflect liberal values.

Below is a list of general categories of issues (with examples) that have affected liberal democracies in the last five years or could impact them in the next five years.

- **environmental concerns** (examples: climate change, pollution, water shortages)
- **resource use and development** (examples: Arctic development, pipeline development, water shortages)
- **racial profiling and racism** (examples: no-fly lists, questioning or detention due to race or ethnicity)
- **pandemics** (example: H1N1 flu, Zika virus)
- **terrorism** (examples: terrorist attacks, countries that support terrorism)
- **censorship** (examples: TV, print, Internet)
- **natural disasters** (examples: earthquakes, hurricanes such as Katrina in New Orleans, tsunamis like the one in the Indian Ocean, forest fires and floods in Alberta)
- **man-made disasters** (examples: oil spill in Gulf of Mexico, war, Darfur)

Research **one example** from the issues above and fill in the information about that example in the chart below.

- Describe **what action was taken** to deal with the issue.
- Did the action have a **negative or positive impact** on liberal values? Use the **rating scale** to indicate the impact that the action had on liberal values. **Give a reason** for your rating.

An issue (terrorism: Patriot Act) has been completed in the chart as an example for you.

Total /8 (4 marks for Action Taken and 4 marks for Rating/Reason)

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

-2 Very Negative Impact	-1 Modest Negative Impact	0 No Impact	+1 Modest Positive Impact	+2 Very Positive Impact
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Issue Names	Action Taken	Rating -2 -1 0 +1 +2 and Reason for Rating
EXAMPLE Terrorism: Patriot Act	In response to the events of September 11, 2001, the U.S. government created the Patriot Act to give American law enforcement agencies sweeping powers to apprehend people who may be involved in terrorism on U.S. soil.	-2 Individual rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are violated. Law enforcement agencies have sweeping powers like arrest and detention without cause and can listen in on phone calls and access mail, emails, and bank accounts any time without the knowledge of individuals, whether they are innocent or not. However, those who support the Act argue that such powers are necessary to protect American citizens.
Your Issue? Respond using your own words		
Cite Sources:		

Part Two Written Response



Are there times when violation of liberal values is appropriate?

Yes, or no? Explain using your issue from the chart.

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

Your written response should defend your position about whether or not there are times when violation of liberal values is appropriate.

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

Suggested Format

Introduction (1–3 sentences)

- Give a brief introduction addressing the question in general.
- Are there times when the government should violate liberal values?
- Answer the following yes or no question as your thesis: Are there times when violation of liberal values are okay?

Body (7–10 sentences)

- Use details from the chart to support your thesis.
- You should have 2–3 examples from the charts with supporting statements.
- Please use terminology from the course.
- You may introduce current events to support yourself.

Conclusion (3–5 sentences)

- Include a conclusion on the general topic.

Suggestions for Success

- Avoid only summarizing the events.
- Make this a paragraph of 15–20 sentences long.
- Avoid arguing both sides of the argument.
- Write a thesis statement.
- Specifically refer to your issue in the above chart.



<Write your response here.>

Rubric for Position Paragraph(s)

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

The logo consists of the letters "ex." in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange square.

90-100%

I firmly believe there are times when the violation of liberal values is necessary. I greatly value my individual freedom and freedom to pursue my self-interests. I am glad that the government does not interfere with my every decision in life. However I also recognize that I am not an isolated being. I am a part of many groups as small as my family, to as big as my country. I believe being a part of a group means we have a responsibility to more than ourselves and that we must accept limits on our individual freedom for the sake of the common good to some extent when necessary. I think how the Canadian government dealt with the threat of the Ebola virus is a good example of how at times the common good needs to be put above individual freedom. The Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa has resulted in at the very least 28,616 suspected cases and 11,310 confirmed deaths. The virus was highly contagious and many countries feared its spread. In order to protect Canadians from the virus and the virus' spread in the country, the government implemented certain restrictions and protocol involving travel. All passengers arriving from severely affected areas such as Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia were referred to a PHAC Quarantine Officer for a full health assessment and screening including temperature checks. People were then given information kits that contained thermometers to use for the next 21 days. If a traveler experienced any symptoms, they were required to immediately notify public health authorities. As of October 31st, 2014, Citizenship and Immigration Canada would not accept any new visa applications or continue processing pending visa applications for people who were in Sierra Leone, Guinea or Liberia within 3 months prior to the application having been received. These requirements and restrictions made by the government was an exercise of government power and definitely would have interfered with some people's self-interests. The government made a decision putting the safety of the country above some individual freedoms. I believe the actions taken by the government were a necessary violation of liberalism because the threat of a virus that has an average fatality rate of 50% cannot be ignored. If the Ebola virus were to spread in Canada, thousands of people or more could be at risk of losing their lives. Potentially it would only take one individual's bad judgement to cause an entire country to enter into the highest level of emergency in terms of health. In situations such as these, I believe the priority shifts from upholding liberal values to taking action that puts the common good first. When the most fundamental of rights such as life, safety and security are threatened, I believe it is necessary to sacrifice some liberal values.

Source of information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebola_virus_disease

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>

Marker's Response: Thank you for include recent examples. You applied terminology to your statements and your examples great job. Great introduction and conclusion. I appreciate you citing your example sources.

50-60%

A small introduction regarding the question is a great way to start this response. Yes, if someone looks suspicious then they have every right to do something though keeping someone from leaving Canada or going into Canada may be little harsh even if you suspect someone to be a danger to others. In this article I read this man from Pakistan came to Canada but then was not allowed to leave and he was in Canada for three years before the finally let him return to his family. I think when the government or airports see that someone may be a tourists **Are we afraid of tourists? Or did you mean terrorists?** or someone illegal well it makes everyone uncomfortable. I mean I don't want to be racist but when you see those guys with wrapping around their head I honestly feel unconformable on a plan with them. And it is not because I don't like them or I think something wrong with them it is just the things I have heard over the years and you think to yourself. "Is this just a normal person or are they a tourists?" There are violation that I guarantee the government crosses all the time. Most times it is probably appropriate but other times not so much. After the September 11 attack we see foreign people differently know. Tourists are everywhere and no one knows if they could suddenly pop out of nowhere and threaten someone. So yes- I think at most times I think that the values of people being suspected are appropriate. **(Are there any OTHER types of situations where government needs to step in?)**