

EXERCISE #11
The Election Process

Block _____ Date _____ Name _____

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.20-24

1. a) The right to vote for all adult citizens is called _____.

b) Do you think that the voting age should be lowered? Why/why not?

2. Explain the term "voter apathy".

3. Why might a government call an election before the end of its five-year term?

4. What strategies do politicians use during election campaigns?

5. Controversy exists around the issues of campaigning. Do you think it is a fair process?

6. Volunteers are very important to election campaigns. During campaigns, what kind of jobs do volunteers perform?

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7. a) Name the electoral system in Canada, and explain how this system works.

8. Analyze the pros and cons of the electoral system in Canada by completing the following table.

Advantages of FPTP	Disadvantages of FPTP

Assignment:

What do you think of Canada's current electoral system? Should it be changed? Discuss the election process as a whole (including if you wish the role of political parties), clearly state your opinion, and include at least one comparison with an alternative to FPTP in your answer. You should be persuasive in tone.

Write rough notes below. Complete your paragraph(s) on a separate sheet of paper.

EXERCISE #12
Types of Government in Canada

Block _____ Date _____ Name _____

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.21-22

1. Complete the following chart.

Type of Government	Explanation
Majority	
Minority	
Coalition	

2. Why is it advantageous for a party in power to hold a majority government?

3. What are the dangers to the party in power when a minority government occurs?

4. In a coalition government, how are Cabinet Ministers selected?

EXERCISE #13
The First-Past-The-Post System

Block _____ Date _____ Name _____

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.22-24

1. The following is a hypothetical example in which the winning party does not win the most votes. Read through carefully and fill in the blanks below.

Riding A (10,000 people)

100% voter turnout
 10,000 people voting
 All 10,000 voted for the same person

→ 1 candidate elected by 10,000 people

Riding B (10,000 people)

30% voter turnout
 3,000 people voting
 All 3,000 voted for the same person

→ 1 candidate elected by 3,000 people

- Based on the above, if the PC Party wins **two** ridings and **10,000** people voted in each riding the PC Party would have _____ votes and _____ seats in parliament.
- If another party such as the NDP wins **five** ridings and only **3,000** people voted in each riding the NDP would have _____ votes and _____ seats in parliament.

- a) Which party has the most votes? _____
 b) Which party wins the election? _____

2. Complete the following table on the 1997 election and then answer the questions below.

Party	# of seats	% of seats	% of votes
Bloc Quebecois	44		10.7%
Canadian Alliance	59		19.4%
Liberal	156		38.4%
New Democratic Party	21		11.1%
Progressive Conservative	19		18.9%
Others	2		1.5%
Total Seats	301	100%	100%

- a) Explain why the Liberal Party won despite having less than 50% of the popular vote.

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- b) Compare the results for the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservative parties. Despite a nearly identical percentage of the popular vote, why do their number of seats in parliament differ so significantly? (*Referring back to #1 may help you answer.*)

3. Complete the following chart comparing two possible alternatives to FPTP.

Alternatives	Explanation	Disadvantages
Proportional Representation		
Preferential Ballot		

EXERCISE #14
Pressure Groups

Block _____ Date _____

Name _____

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.24

1. Why do people form interest groups?

2. a) How do interest groups influence government decisions?

b) How do interest groups influence public opinion?

3. Do you think interest groups are beneficial to our government/society? Complete the table below and then write a paragraph answer to the above question.

Pros	Cons

EXERCISE #15
Influences on the Government

Block _____ Date _____ Name _____

Refer to the *Student Workbook* p.24-25

1. Identify three influences on government decisions.

2. a) How does the media affect government focus?

b) Do you think that the government should consider the media when deciding policy?
Why/why not?

3. a) In your own words, explain the term "media concentration".

b) Were you aware of this trend before learning about it in school? Do you think the public
should be more aware of media-related issues?

4. a) Identify the three principles of civil disobedience.

b) Would you be willing to commit civil disobedience for a cause in which you believed?
Why/why not?
