

## Social Studies 9: Government Unit

**Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how Canada's political processes impact citizenship and identity in an attempt to meet the needs of all Canadians.**

**9.1.4 examine the structure of Canada's federal political system by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues:**

- How are laws passed in the federal political system?
- What is the relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Canada's federal political system?
- What processes are used to determine Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators?
- To whom are Members of Parliament and Senators accountable?
- What is the role of political parties within Canada's federal political system?
- What is the role of the media in relation to political issues?
- How do lobby groups impact government decision making?
- To what extent do political and legislative processes meet the needs of all Canadians?

**9.2.6 assess, critically, the interrelationship between political decisions and economic systems by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues:**

- How do the economic platforms of political parties differ from one another (i.e., Democrat versus Republican; Liberal versus Conservative)?
- How is a political party's philosophy reflected in its platform (i.e., social programs, specific taxes, taxation model)?
- How do government decisions on environmental issues impact quality of life (i.e., preservation, exploitation and trade of natural resources)?

### How does the organization of Canada's democratic systems meet the needs of all Canadians?

What are some other key questions to be discovered in this lesson/unit?

- How does the political process work?
  - What are the branches of government and what are their responsibilities?
  - How are members elected/appointed to those branches of government?
  - Why do we need political parties and how do their platforms differ?
  - What role does the media play?
  - How are laws passed?
  - What are lobby groups and why are they important?
- How does all of this impact citizenship and identity?

<p><b>Key Terms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Apathy</li> <li>• Bias</li> <li>• Bill</li> <li>• Cabinet Minister</li> <li>• Civil Servant/Service</li> <li>• Constitution</li> <li>• Constitutional Monarchy</li> <li>• Constituent/Constituency</li> <li>• Democracy                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Direct democracy</li> <li>○ Representative democracy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dictatorship</li> <li>• Electorate</li> <li>• Executive branch</li> <li>• Federal system</li> <li>• Federal government</li> <li>• Fixed Date Elections</li> <li>• Governance/Government</li> <li>• Head of State</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Government</li> <li>• House of Commons</li> <li>• Judicial branch</li> <li>• Left wing</li> <li>• Legislation</li> <li>• Legislative branch</li> <li>• Lobby group</li> <li>• MLA</li> <li>• MP</li> <li>• Majority government</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Minority groups</li> <li>• Minority government</li> <li>• Opposition Party</li> <li>• Parliamentary</li> <li>• Periodic elections</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Political party</li> <li>• Popular vote</li> <li>• Prime Minister</li> <li>• Proportional representation</li> <li>• Republic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible government</li> <li>• Riding</li> <li>• Right wing</li> <li>• Senate</li> <li>• Slogan</li> <li>• Sovereignty</li> <li>• Suffrage</li> <li>• Vote of non-confidence</li> <li>• Fair and Equitable</li> <li>• Justice</li> <li>• Justice System</li> <li>• Legislation</li> <li>• Youth Criminal Justice Act</li> <li>• 3 Objectives of Youth Criminal Justice Act</li> <li>• Community Service</li> <li>• Criminal Record</li> <li>• Sentence</li> <li>• Jurors/Jury</li> </ul>
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