CHAPTER 16: Parliament

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. Pierre Trudeau once called these people “trained seals” who did the bidding of the government without thinking for themselves. Who was he talking about?
2. Members of Cabinet
3. Liberal backbenchers
4. The Speakers of the House
5. Committee chairs

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 442

1. Which among the following is considered to be an important function of Parliament?
2. Representation
3. Sublimation
4. Delegation
5. Origination

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 443

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means that we feel obligated to obey laws that are fairly considered and duly passed.
2. Consensus
3. Response
4. Participation
5. Legitimation

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 443

1. The three main elements of Canada’s Parliament are the House of Commons, the queen, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Supreme Court
3. Senate
4. monarch
5. ministers

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 443

1. Canada's legislature is bicameral. It includes the House of Commons and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. House of Representatives
3. National Assembly
4. Senate
5. Congress

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 444

1. What three parts of Parliament vied for power from its earliest history in Britain?
2. The Crown, the nobility, and the common people
3. The Courts, the military, and the Governor General
4. The Senate, the legislature, and the Ministry of Finance
5. The Congress, the conquerors, and the knights

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 444

1. What important event marked the rise of the Crown in 1066?
2. The Act of Union
3. The American Revolution
4. The Barbarian Invasion
5. The Norman Conquest

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 444

1. Which government is described by the following statements?

“Members of the executive are not allowed to be members of the legislative branch.”

“The legislative branch can approve or reject appointments made by the executive.”

“Legislative committees have a great deal of power.”

1. Canada
2. The United States
3. Britain
4. Quebec

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 447

1. Responsible government encourages \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which means that elected members of a party in the House will tend to act as a unified bloc on most matters.
2. long speeches
3. bureaucracy
4. party discipline
5. legislative gridlock

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 449

1. Compared to the Senate, the House of Commons is representative because its members are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. elected
3. qualified
4. vocal
5. confident

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 447, 467

1. One of the problems with representation by population in the House of Commons is that it leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. weak budgetary decisions
3. uncivilized behaviour
4. bureaucratic wrangling
5. dominance by central Canada

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 448

1. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is described as an MP who relies on their personal judgment when making decisions for their constituents and country.
2. trustee
3. delegate
4. party member
5. symbol

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 448

1. In this role, the representative in the House of Commons follows the wishes of their constituents and acts as instructed by them.
2. Lower house member
3. Party member
4. Delegate
5. Trustee

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 448

1. Which of the following is considered to be an advantage of the system of party discipline used in the House of Commons?
2. MPs are able to act as delegates.
3. Parties can work together more easily.
4. The positions of each party are clearer.
5. MPs tend to spend less money.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 449

1. What are the two leading occupational backgrounds of members of the House of Commons since Confederation?
2. The working class and the unemployed
3. Women and visible minorities
4. Lawyers and farmers
5. Immigrants and lobbyists

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 450

1. The high rate of turnover in the legislature, its relatively short sessions, the focus of media coverage, and executive federalism all tend to contribute to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the legislature.
2. representativeness
3. executive domination
4. lack of diversity
5. educational function

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 450

1. Critics sometimes argue that the Parliamentary system may be unstable if a party is unable to elect a majority of seats in the House of Commons. Why this is considered a weakness?
2. The Constitution does not permit minority governments.
3. The government may be too overbearing.
4. There are fewer checks on the prime minister’s power.
5. The government may not be able to govern effectively.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 452-453

1. The statement delivered at the beginning of each new session of Parliament, explaining the legislative priorities of the government, is called the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Speech from the Throne
3. Main Estimates
4. expenditure budget
5. joint address to Parliament

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 457

1. In establishing the Senate, Sir John A. Macdonald viewed it as a body that would provide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. “experience and expertise”
3. “sober second thought”
4. “balance and budgeting”
5. “security and scrutiny”

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 466

1. Among the many criticisms of the Senate, this problem focuses on the fact that the public is less likely to accept its right to affect public policy. This is the problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. legitimacy
3. flexibility
4. exclusiveness
5. visibility

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 467

1. Although its legislative powers are equal to the House of Commons, practically the Senate lacks the legitimacy to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ legislation approved by the House.
2. review
3. defeat
4. amend
5. revise

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 468

1. More common than the occasional dramatic confrontations between the Senate and the government is the Senate’s important contribution to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of legislative proposals.
2. disallowance
3. technical review
4. veto
5. reservation

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 469

1. The Senate has been especially good at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. defending regional interests
3. policy work
4. defending minority interests
5. demonstrating a strong attendance record

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 470

1. Stephen Harper is an advocate of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. abolishing the Senate
3. providing guaranteed representation for Aboriginal people in the Senate
4. providing guaranteed representation for women in the Senate
5. an elected Senate

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 472

1. In May 2012, the Quebec government filed a reference motion with the Quebec Court of Appeal seeking an opinion on the constitutionality of the Senate Reform Act (Bill C-7). What is the reason for Quebec’s legal action?
2. They are challenging the idea that Quebec will have fewer Senators.
3. They are challenging the contention that the changes require the approval of the federal Parliament alone.
4. They are interested in abolishing rather than reforming the Senate.
5. They want the changes to be submitted to Canadians in a referendum.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 473

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. All bills for the raising and spending of public money must originate in the House of Commons.

*Answer:* True Difficulty: moderate Page: 443

1. The House of Commons is the more important of the two chambers of Parliament because it is a confidence chamber.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 447

1. Compared to the Canadian House of Commons, legislation is easier to pass in the U.S. Congress because of domination by the executive branch.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 447

1. A delegate style of representation means that MPs use their own judgment in acting in what they view as the best interests of their constituents.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 448

1. In a minority government, the prime minister and Cabinet are reliant upon the support of the opposition for passing legislation.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 452

1. Only private members’ bills can involve taxation or spending.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 458

1. Private bills have an impact on the whole of society or are designed to promote the general welfare.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Pages:* 458-459

1. A motion in the House of Commons to limit debate on a bill is called prorogation.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 460

1. The Canadian Parliament requires that bills be approved on three separate occasions, or “readings,” in the House of Commons and three times in the Senate.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 459

1. A proposed law changing legislation on a large number of unrelated topics is called an omnibus bill.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 461

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. What are two possible consequences for members of the governing party who vote against government legislation that is considered a matter of confidence?

*Answer:* There are two possible consequences for governing party members who fail to maintain party discipline: one is to be ousted from the party’s caucus; another is to be denied their party’s nomination for a seat.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 449

1. Which government department is responsible for tabling the budget in the House of Commons?

*Answer:* The Ministry of Finance is always responsible for the budget.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 458

1. What are the five different types of committees of the House of Commons?

*Answer:* The different types of committees include standing committees, legislative committees, special committees, committees of the whole, and joint committees.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 462

1. List three responsibilities of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

*Answer:* The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer, who is responsible for applying the rules and procedures, maintaining order in debate, and overseeing the administration of the Commons. The Speaker also must see that Parliamentary privilege is protected and that the rights and prerogatives of both the majority and minority are recognized and upheld. He or she is expected to be impartial in the exercise of their duties. The Speaker does not cast a vote unless it is to break a tie.

*Difficulty:* challenging  *Pages:* 455-456