

Review: Government and Justice System

True/False

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

1. Education, Environment, and Justice are all portfolios in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet.
2. Another name for Canada's parliament is the House of Commons.
3. Members of parliament are appointed by the prime minister.
4. A constituent is someone who lives in a riding and is represented by an elected official from that riding.
5. Senators are not elected. They are appointed by the prime minister.
6. The *Federal Accountability Act* was established to deal with issues like accountability of government spending, protection of civil servants, and the need for more lobbyists.
7. Once a bill is approved by the cabinet it will become a law.
8. MPs have three key responsibilities: to represent their constituents; to create legislation for the peace, order, and good government of all Canadians; and to provide a second round of study or debate on laws proposed for Canada.
9. The number of ridings in a province is based on population. Since Alberta has a population of 3.3 million (in 2006) there are 28 ridings.
10. In order to win a popular vote, a political party must get elected in all of its ridings.
11. The Senate can propose laws that create taxes or spend tax revenue.
12. Whenever a new prime minister is elected he or she can appoint a new senate to replace the one that was appointed by the previous prime minister.
13. Canadian citizens can voice their views and perspectives by contacting their MP, a senator, or a cabinet minister. They can also organize a petition or take part in a rally on issues that concern them.
14. Treating young offenders with fairness and equity is an objective of the justice system.
15. A just society is fundamental to peoples' quality of life in a country.
16. If you are arrested, you have the right to have your parents present during questioning.
17. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) deals with youth between the ages of 13–18.

- ___ 18. The *Criminal Code of Canada* is the law that defines the consequences youth will face for criminal offences.
- ___ 19. A judge has the choice of passing an adult sentence to a youth 14 years and older who has committed a crime.
- ___ 20. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) ensures that young people who commit the same crime face the same consequences.
- ___ 21. Police consider the circumstances of a young offender when administering a consequence for a crime committed.
- ___ 22. Young people do not understand their actions in the same way adults are expected to.
- ___ 23. Research shows that the younger a person is when they break the law, the more likely they are to commit a crime again.
- ___ 24. If you are chosen for jury duty, employers must pay you for your time away from work.
- ___ 25. When you get caught breaking the law, you no longer have choices about what happens to you.

Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- ___ 1. Who is the head of state in Canada but does not play an active role its government?
- A. Prime Minister
 - B. King or Queen of England
 - C. Governor General
 - D. Supreme Court of Canada Judge
- ___ 2. Once a bill goes from the House of Commons to the Senate, the Senate usually
- A. quashes the bill
 - B. makes major changes to the bill
 - C. passes the bill
 - D. Bills do not go from the House of Commons to the Senate.
- ___ 3. A bill can only become a law after it is given Royal assent by
- A. the privy council
 - B. the prime minister
 - C. the Governor General
 - D. the House of Commons
- ___ 4. Which of the following is an example of bias?
- A. tobacco companies presenting research that indicates that smoking is not bad for your health
 - B. an advertisement by Mac that states that iPods are better than other MP3 players
 - C. a principal of a high school who says that his school's football team is the best in the city
 - D. all of the above

- ___ 5. The executive branch is the part of the government responsible for putting laws into action and includes the prime minister and
- A. the House of Commons
 - B. the senators
 - C. the monarchy
 - D. the cabinet
- ___ 6. Who represents the monarchy in Canada?
- A. the prime minister
 - B. the governor general
 - C. the members of parliament
 - D. the cabinet ministers
- ___ 7. A justice system that is fair and equitable means that laws
- A. provide more protection for victims.
 - B. provide more protection for criminals.
 - C. take into account individual needs and circumstances.
 - D. take into account people's income.
- ___ 8. Instead of going to court, a young offender might be required to
- A. do community service.
 - B. attend mental health counselling.
 - C. pay for damaged property.
 - D. do any or all of the above.
- ___ 9. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) was passed by Parliament to
- A. ensure adult offenders were not treated as young offenders.
 - B. protect victims from media exploitation.
 - C. treat young offenders differently from adult offenders.
 - D. deal fairly with 11–19 year old victims of crime.
- ___ 10. The media may publish the name of a young offender if
- A. the crime committed is murder.
 - B. he or she receives an adult sentence.
 - C. the judge allows it.
 - D. he or she has a criminal record.
- ___ 11. All the following factors are considered when determining consequences for young offenders, **except**
- A. the seriousness of the crime.
 - B. the history of the young offender.
 - C. the ethnicity of the young offender.
 - D. the attitude of the young offender.
- ___ 12. Aboriginal sentencing circles believe all of the following statements, **except**
- A. culture is the root of one's identity.
 - B. the community must become involved in solutions.
 - C. in all cases, young offenders should be banished from the community.
 - D. traditional knowledge is important for young people.
- ___ 13. Which of the following statements about the John Howard Society is incorrect?
- A. It operates together with the government.
 - B. It stands up for the rights of accused people.
 - C. It educates the public about the justice system.
 - D. It assists both men and women.

- ___ 14. In Canada's justice system, a person is
- A. assumed innocent until proven guilty.
 - B. assumed guilty until proven innocent.
 - C. always tried as an adult.
 - D. always tried as a young offender.
- ___ 15. Since the introduction of the YCJA, the number of youths charged with crimes has
- A. gone up slightly.
 - B. gone up exponentially.
 - C. gone down.
 - D. remained about the same.

Completion

Complete each statement.

1. The three branches of government in Canada are Executive, Legislative, and _____.
2. The legislative branch includes the House of Commons, the _____, and the governor general.
3. A political party needs to win the most _____ in the House of Commons in order to form the government.
4. To be a good politician, you must be _____: able to influence people to act or think in a certain way.
5. The _____ branch of the government interprets and applies the law and decides on punishment for law-breakers.
6. Members of parliament are the members of the _____.
7. The youth justice system aims to be fair and _____ to both offenders and victims.
8. The *Criminal Code of Canada* sets out the consequences for _____ offenders.
9. As respected members of their communities, _____ have an important role in many Aboriginal systems of justice.
10. The Elizabeth Fry Society focuses on justice issues for _____.

Matching

Match the following terms to the best description below.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| A. justice system | E. reintegrate |
| B. legislation | F. jury |
| C. criminal record | G. advocacy |
| D. rehabilitate | H. sentence |

- ___ 1. The YCJA allows most young offenders to avoid a _____.

- _____ 2. A _____ deliberates and uses evidence to reach a verdict.
- _____ 3. A _____ is a consequence for a crime.
- _____ 4. Another word for law is _____.
- _____ 5. To instill positive behaviours and attitudes is to _____.
- _____ 6. Canada's _____ strives to protect society and the innocent, and ensures that those who break the law face appropriate consequences.
- _____ 7. Finding positive ways for young offenders to participate in their communities helps them _____ into society.
- _____ 8. _____ groups try to solve underlying reasons for crime.

Short Answer

1. How do you think the cabinet's portfolio in 1950 would compare to the portfolios of today's cabinet? Would the portfolios be the same? Please give some examples to defend your answer.
2. Why is it important to have members from the opposition party in the House of Commons?
3. Young offenders should be administered harsher consequences for crimes to ensure that they do not become repeat offenders.

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Explain why or why not.

Essay

1. Write a persuasive argument about whether lobbyists are a good or bad part of our government. How do they influence the government, and what are the benefits and drawbacks of including them in our political debate?
2. When a young offender has committed a crime do you think their identity should be revealed to the public? Is it more important to protect the young offender or be concerned about public safety? Make sure to express **your** opinion and to provide reasons for your answer. You should add examples where applicable.