

Question 1. What is Canada?

To best define Canada, it is important to describe the composition of the country. Canada, like any other state, is best described from cultural and political backgrounds. From the cultural background, the state comprises people from different ethnic and linguistic groups with specific customs and cultural alignments. Canada's majority groups are from English origin, French origin, the indigenous group, and immigrants. This description, therefore, makes Canada a multinational state. The structure of the Canadian regime, under the political background, is described as a nation made up of people with similar citizenship. As we learned in class, citizenship is gained based on laws set out in the constitution. Being a constitutional monarch, Canada has a Prime Minister, who is the head of Government, and the queen of England, represented by the governor-general is the head of state. The Prime Minister is chosen by parliament, which is elected by citizens.

The roles of the head of state and head of government are set out in the constitution. From what we have learned, the Canadian constitution is both written and unwritten. For instance, the written parts include the constitution act 1867, which looks at the structure of the state and the organization of parliament. From this act, we find meaning in Canada's political structure. Canada is a state, under the monarch, a federal government, under the prime minister with provinces, and a parliamentary system of governance, where parliament makes laws and chooses the Prime Minister to head the government. The constitution act 1982 looks at the rights and freedoms of Canadian citizens. The act describes Canada as a democratic state, with the citizens having rights such as the right to vote in the government. The unwritten part includes conventions, which are laws inherited from the traditions of the British state such as the Prime Minister being the head of government.

Conclusively, we can infer from what we have learned that the structure of the Canadian regime is described based on both cultural and political backgrounds. The nation is a multinational state made up of people from different origins. On the political background, the government of Canada uses both written and unwritten constitutions. The written constitution presents Canada as a constitutional monarch, with the Queen of England as head of state and the prime minister as head of government. The nation is also divided into provinces, making it a federal government, with the party with the majority of members of parliament electing the Prime Minister to head the government. Moreover, the rulers are also limited by the constitution which sets out the rights and freedoms of citizens. Ultimately, the unwritten constitution, which is made-up conventions dictate the British ways of life, such as the existence of a Prime Minister, which is applied in Canada.

Question 2. Elections in Canada

To best describe how elections in Canada work, I will look at the district, the ballot, the franchise, and the formula as we learned in class. First, elections in Canada are carried out at the district level, with each of the 338 districts electing a member to parliament. The ballot is used to select the MPs. Only the MP's names for the district will appear, making it easy to select the contestant. Franchise describes those eligible to vote and how voting is conducted. Over the years, changes have come in place such as including women to vote as well as the use of a secret ballot box. The formula describes the person that wins an election. At the district level, the person with the most votes becomes the winner. As we have learned, the system is known as First-Past-the-Post and is the easiest to understand. However, to avoid the weaknesses of this formula, other formulas have been adopted such as the ranked ballot system, which as we have learned was used in the London, Ontario Municipal elections in 2020. The formula enables

voters to rank their choices. For example, from the best to the least desired candidate. The formula ensures that the selected representative has the highest majority.

One of the ways that Canada's election might be considered unfair or inadequate is the use of the First-Past-the-Post-election formula. Candidates elected are by some of the majority and not the majority. Other alternatives such as the ranked ballot system should be adopted in the districts to ensure that the candidate with the majority votes wins the elections, and not just the simple majority.

Another way that Canada's election might be considered unfair or inadequate is through voter polarization. We learned that, in Canada, the political parties determine voter behavior. This should not be the case because it means the voters are not selecting the leader, but they are selecting the party. To correct this, voter education needs to be carried out so that the voters can best determine the leaders they choose and not just make decisions to vote for a candidate because he comes into the election under a popular party.

Also, Canada's election might be considered unfair or inadequate based on the duration of the campaigns. The current 30-40 days window is not enough for the activities that accompany an election campaign. More time needs to be added so that the voters get to know the leaders well. Adding the campaign duration would also reduce voter polarization because the voters will have the opportunity to adequately interact with leaders, know their weaknesses and what they are bringing to the people.

Likewise, Canada's election might be considered unfair or inadequate based on the role of the media. In Canada, the media is used to promote propaganda and hate speech in favor of a specific candidate. For instance, television ads are used, and also fake news to portray a

particular leader with scandals to make him less popular. This move, in my opinion, leads to chaos and unnecessary election violence. Therefore, the media should change and try to promote all the candidates equally and without bias.

Last in what I have learned in the class as an unfair or inadequate election practice in Canada is the lack of term limits for the Prime Minister and other leaders. In Canada, I have realized that the constitution does not set limits for leaders. With term limits, leaders are made to accomplish their agenda because they know their term is limited. Also, competing with a long-term serving member in an election is difficult because of the popularity that such a member holds. Moreover, setting term limits will allow for new representatives who will come in with fresh ideas.