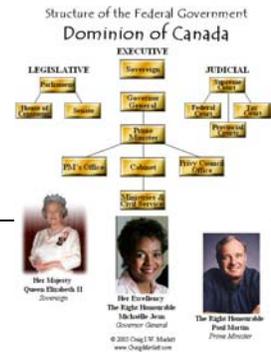


Political Classifications Guide



Slideshow Overview

- Supranational Political Systems
- National Political Systems
- Governments by Mode of Succession
- Governments by Type of Rule
- Governments by Structure
- Levels of Government
- Branches of Government

Questions – Levels of Government

1. What are the powers of the federal government in Canada?
2. What are the powers of the provincial governments in Canada?
3. What are the powers of the regional governments in Ontario?
4. What are the powers of the local governments in Ontario?
5. What are the powers of the school boards in Ontario?
6. **Watch for more discussion of the *devolution* process in Unitary Systems and *federal-provincial relations* in Federal Systems in Unit 2's "Sovereignty" lesson.

Questions – Branches of Government

1. What are the roles of the elected politicians and the non-elected civil servants in the executive? Which do you believe has a greater impact on government policy? Why?
2. List the duties performed by the Governor General. Which do you consider the most important? Why?
3. Why is the principle of cabinet solidarity important in the parliamentary system?
4. Why would the selection of a cabinet be a difficult task for the incoming Prime Minister of Canada? (*N.B. This process is *not* as difficult for a Prime Minister of the UK, for the same reason.)
5. What is the purpose of a cabinet shuffle?
6. How is the executive office in the presidential systems different from the prime minister's office in the parliamentary system?
7. What limitations are placed on the power of the American president?
8. Should Canada have a position similar to the American post of vice-president? Why or why not?
9. Describe the roles of the president and the prime minister in a "semi-presidential system" such as France. What problems or benefits do you see in a system such as this?
10. What are many legislatures bicameral?
11. What role does party discipline play in Canada? in the United States?
12. How does a bill become law?
13. What legislation can *not* begin in the Canadian Senate?
14. What is the purpose of a "filibuster" and what does it look like in Canada? in the United States?
15. Where does most of the decision making go on within the legislative process?
16. Why are American legislative committees more powerful than the Canadian ones?
17. When is "legislative theatre"?
18. Describe Canada's court system before and after 1982 when considering *judicial restraint v. judicial activism* and *judicial review*. (*N.B. UK courts do not have the power of judicial review.)