

Canadian Government and Politics
PhD Comprehensive Examination
March 2014

If this is your *major* field, you must choose TWO (2) questions from the core and ONE question each from the subfield lists, for a total of FOUR (4) questions. The questions are of equal value. The exam must be completed in FIVE (5) hours.

If this is your *minor* field, you must choose TWO (2) questions from the core and one question from your specific subfield list, for a total of THREE (3) questions. The questions are of equal value. The exam must be completed in FOUR (4) hours.

CORE

1. How has the presence of Quebec affected the overall evolution of the Canadian political system? Discuss with reference to: the party system, the legislative process, and executive-federalism.
2. Give three clear examples, with perspectives from the literature, on how one or more institutions of Canadian government have adapted to changes in other institutions. Discuss how those changes as a whole have affected the overall operation of Canada's constitutional order.
3. How has Canada's federal structure affected: citizens, political parties, elected officials, and public policy?
4. How important are the outcomes of Canadian elections? To what extent has it mattered which party forms the government? In your answer be sure to discuss some examples of both significant legislation and changes to Canada's political institutions.

PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND PUBLIC OPINION

1. In what ways are the characteristics of Canadian political parties connected to patterns of citizens' electoral preferences and the formation of these preferences. In your answer be sure to discuss both the impact of parties and party systems on voter decision making processes as well as the impact of the latter on the former (i.e., voter decision making processes on parties and/or party systems).
2. Identify three distinct theories of political behavior that were developed in analyses focusing on the U.S. and which have been modified to account for features of the Canadian case. For each theory, provide comments on the extent of theoretical modifications to the original American formulation and to that theory's success in understanding the political behaviour of Canadians.
3. Scholars studying institutions such as the constitution and federalism highlight the challenges associated with governing a 'diverse' (i.e. multi-linguistic, multi-ethnic, geographically dispersed) country. What can research on Canadian citizens and political parties tell us about these cleavages and challenges?