Canadian citizenship test: questions and answers

The study questions from Discover Canada, answered; practice questions from each chapter; and the key dates and people to know.

Test format: 20 questions, 45 minutes, 15 to pass. Checked on October 17, 2026 · Source: IRCC.

1 · THE GUIDE'S STUDY QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

1. **What are three responsibilities of citizenship?**
IRCC's sample answer: obey the law, take responsibility for yourself and your family, and serve on a jury when called. The guide also counts voting, helping your community and caring for Canada's heritage and environment. · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship › Citizenship Responsibilities**

2. **What is the meaning of the Remembrance Day poppy?**
IRCC's sample answer: the poppy honours the Canadians who served or gave their lives in wars, from the past to today. Remembrance Day falls on November 11. · **Canada's History › Women Get the Vote**

3. **How are Members of Parliament chosen?**
IRCC's sample answer: they are elected by voters in their local constituency, or riding. Each riding elects one member of Parliament. · **Federal Elections**

4. **Which two key documents set out our rights and freedoms?**
Magna Carta (1215) and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, entrenched in the Constitution in 1982. · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

5. **Identify four (4) rights that Canadians enjoy.**
From the Charter: mobility rights (live and work anywhere in Canada), Aboriginal peoples' rights, official language and minority language education rights, and multiculturalism. Habeas corpus is another. · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

6. **Name four (4) fundamental freedoms that Canadians enjoy.**
Freedom of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press; of peaceful assembly; and of association. · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

7. **What does equality between women and men mean in Canada?**
Men and women are equal under the law. Gender-based violence, such as spousal abuse or forced marriage, is a crime and severely punished. · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship › The Equality of Women and Men**

8. **How can you take responsibility for yourself and your family? Give some examples.**
Getting a job, taking care of your family and working hard in keeping with your abilities. · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship › Citizenship Responsibilities**

9. **Who were the founding peoples of Canada?**
The Aboriginal, French and British peoples. · **Who We Are**

10. **Who are the Métis?**
A distinct people of mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry. Most live in the Prairie provinces, and they speak their own dialect, Michif. · **Who We Are › Aboriginal Peoples**

11. **What does the word "Inuit" mean?**
"The people," in the Inuktitut language. · **Who We Are › Aboriginal Peoples**

12. What is meant by the term "responsible government"?

To govern, the ministers of the Crown need the backing of most of the elected members. A government that loses a vote of confidence has to resign. · **Canada's History › Responsible Government**

13. Who was Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine?

A champion of democracy and French language rights who, in 1849, became the first head of a responsible government in the Canadas. · **Canada's History › Responsible Government**

14. What did the Canadian Pacific Railway symbolize?

National unity: completed in 1885, it linked the country from sea to sea and fulfilled a national dream. · **Canada's History › A Railway from Sea to Sea**

15. What does Confederation mean?

The union of provinces that created Canada on July 1, 1867, with two levels of government: federal and provincial. · **Canada's History › Confederation**

16. Why is it important that Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best discovered insulin?

Insulin is a hormone that treats diabetes. The guide says it has saved 16 million lives worldwide. · **Modern Canada › Arts and Culture in Canada**

17. What does it mean that Canada is a constitutional monarchy?

Canada's head of state is a hereditary Sovereign, today King Charles III, who reigns according to the Constitution and the rule of law. · **How Canadians Govern Themselves › Constitutional Monarchy**

18. What are the three branches of government?

The executive, the legislative and the judicial. · **How Canadians Govern Themselves › Constitutional Monarchy**

19. How does the Sovereign's role differ from the Prime Minister's?

The Sovereign (today King Charles III) is the head of state, a non-partisan symbol of Canada. The Prime Minister is the head of government and actually directs how the country is governed. · **How Canadians Govern Themselves › Constitutional Monarchy**

20. What is the highest honour that Canadians can receive?

The Victoria Cross, for the most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy. · **Canadian Symbols › The Order of Canada and Other Honours**

21. What do you do when you go to vote on election day?

Go to the polling station on your voter information card with proof of identity and address. Behind the screen, mark an X in the circle next to your candidate, fold the ballot and put it in the ballot box. · **Federal Elections › Voting Procedures During an Election Period**

22. Who is entitled to vote in Canadian federal elections?

Canadian citizens aged 18 or older on voting day whose names are on the voters' list. · **Federal Elections › Voting**

23. Do you have to tell anyone how you voted in Canada?

No. The law secures the right to a secret ballot, and no one, including your family or employer, can insist that you tell them. · **Federal Elections › Secret Ballot**

24. After an election, which party forms the government?

Normally the party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons. The Governor General asks its leader to form a government, and that leader becomes Prime Minister. · **Federal Elections › After an Election**

25. Who is your member of Parliament?

It depends on your riding. You can look it up by postal code on the House of Commons website, and the guide asks you to write it down. · **Federal Elections › How Much Do You Know About Your Government?**

26. **What are the three levels of government?**
Federal, provincial or territorial, and municipal (local). · **How Canadians Govern Themselves › Federal State**

27. **What is the role of the courts in Canada?**
The courts settle disputes. Laws are made by elected representatives and enforced by the police. · **The Justice System**

28. **Can you ask questions about how the police serve you or behave in Canada?**
Yes. Almost all police forces have a process for raising concerns and asking for action. · **The Justice System › Police**

29. **Name two Canadian symbols.**
For example the maple leaf and the beaver. Others include the Crown, the flag, the fleur-de-lys and the coat of arms. · **Canadian Symbols**

30. **What provinces are referred to as the Atlantic Provinces?**
Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. · **Canada's Regions › The Atlantic provinces**

31. **What is the capital of your province or territory?**
St. John's, Charlottetown, Halifax, Fredericton, Québec City, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton or Victoria for the provinces; Iqaluit, Yellowknife or Whitehorse for the territories. Ottawa is Canada's capital. · **Canada's Regions › Provinces and Territories**

2 · PRACTICE QUESTIONS, 2 PER CHAPTER

1. **When you're called to serve on a jury, you are legally required to serve.**
Answer: True · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship › Citizenship Responsibilities**

2. **Which of these is a responsibility of Canadian citizens, according to Discover Canada?**
Answer: Obeying the law · **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship › Citizenship Responsibilities**

3. **Which three distinct groups make up Aboriginal peoples in Canada, according to the guide?**
Answer: First Nations, Inuit and Métis · **Who We Are › Aboriginal Peoples**

4. **Which is Canada's only officially bilingual province?**
Answer: New Brunswick · **Who We Are › English and French**

5. **Where does the name Canada come from?**
Answer: The Iroquoian word kanata, meaning "village" · **Canada's History › Exploring a River, Naming Canada**

6. **Who was the first to map Canada's Atlantic shore, in 1497?**
Answer: John Cabot · **Canada's History › The First Europeans**

7. **What is the era of rapid change in Quebec in the 1960s called?**
Answer: The Quiet Revolution · **Modern Canada › Canada and Quebec**

8. **In what year did Parliament pass the Official Languages Act?**
Answer: 1969 · **Modern Canada › Canada and Quebec**

9. **What are the three key facts about Canada's system of government?**
Answer: It's a constitutional monarchy, a federal state and a parliamentary democracy · **How Canadians Govern Themselves**

10. **What are the three parts of Parliament?**
Answer: The Sovereign, the Senate and the House of Commons · **How Canadians Govern Themselves › Parliamentary Democracy**

11. **What is an electoral district, or riding?**
Answer: A geographical area represented by a member of Parliament · **Federal Elections**

12. **Who can vote in a federal election?**
Answer: A Canadian citizen, at least 18 on voting day, who is on the voters' list · **Federal Elections › Voting**

13. **What does the presumption of innocence mean?**
Answer: Everyone is innocent until proven guilty · **The Justice System**

14. **What is Canada's highest court?**
Answer: The Supreme Court of Canada · **The Justice System › Courts**

15. **In what year was the new Canadian flag raised for the first time?**
Answer: 1965 · **Canadian Symbols › Flags in Canada**

16. **What does Canada's motto, A Mari Usque Ad Mare, mean?**
Answer: "From sea to sea" · **Canadian Symbols › Coat of Arms and Motto**

17. **What are the three main types of industries in Canada's economy?**
Answer: Service, manufacturing and natural resources · **Canada's Economy › Canada's Economy Includes Three Main Types of Industries**

18. **Which industries employ more than 75% of working Canadians?**
Answer: Service industries · **Canada's Economy › Canada's Economy Includes Three Main Types of Industries**

19. **Who chose Ottawa as Canada's capital, in 1857?**
Answer: Queen Victoria · **Canada's Regions › The National Capital**

20. **How many provinces and territories does Canada have?**
Answer: 10 provinces and 3 territories · **Canada's Regions › Provinces and Territories**

3 · KEY DATES

1215	Magna Carta is signed in England.
1497	John Cabot maps Canada's Atlantic shore.
1534–1542	Jacques Cartier makes three voyages across the Atlantic.
1604	De Monts and Champlain found the first European settlement north of Florida.
1608	Champlain builds a fortress at what is now Québec City.
1670	The Hudson's Bay Company receives exclusive trading rights.
1755–1763	The Great Upheaval: more than two-thirds of the Acadians are deported.
1758	The first representative assembly is elected in Halifax.
1759	The British defeat the French at the Plains of Abraham.
1763	The Royal Proclamation first guarantees Aboriginal territorial rights.
1774	The Quebec Act gives Catholics religious freedom and restores French civil law.
1791	The Constitutional Act creates Upper and Lower Canada.
1793	Upper Canada moves toward abolishing slavery.
1812–1814	The War of 1812: the American invasion of Canada fails.
1833	Slavery is abolished throughout the British Empire.

1837–1838	Armed rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada fail.
1840	Upper and Lower Canada are united as the Province of Canada.
1847–1848	Nova Scotia becomes the first colony with full responsible government.
1857	Queen Victoria chooses Ottawa as the capital.
July 1, 1867	Confederation: the Dominion of Canada is born. Sir John A. Macdonald becomes the first Prime Minister.
1870	Manitoba becomes a province after the Red River uprising.
1871	British Columbia joins Canada.
1873	The North West Mounted Police is created. Prince Edward Island joins Canada.
November 7, 1885	The last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway is driven.
1905	Alberta and Saskatchewan become provinces.
1916	Manitoba is the first province to give women the vote.
April 9, 1917	The Canadian Corps captures Vimy Ridge.
November 11, 1918	The Armistice ends the First World War.
1921	Agnes Macphail becomes the first woman MP.
1934	The Bank of Canada is created.
June 6, 1944	D-Day: Canadians capture Juno Beach in Normandy.
1949	Newfoundland and Labrador joins Canada.
1960	Aboriginal people gain the right to vote.
1965	The new Canadian flag is raised for the first time.
1967	The Order of Canada is created, for the centennial.
1969	The Official Languages Act is passed.
1980	O Canada is proclaimed the national anthem.
1982	The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is entrenched in the Constitution.
1999	Nunavut is created.

4 · PEOPLE TO KNOW

Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best	Discovered insulin, which treats diabetes.
Alexander Graham Bell	Had the idea for the telephone while staying at his summer home in Canada.
Joseph-Armand Bombardier	Invented the snowmobile.
Joseph Brant	Led thousands of Loyalist Mohawks into Canada.
Sir Isaac Brock	Captured Detroit in the War of 1812 and was killed at Queenston Heights.
John Cabot	First to map Canada's Atlantic shore, in 1497.
Emily Carr	Painted West Coast forests and Aboriginal artifacts.
Sir George-Étienne Cartier	Key architect of Confederation from Quebec.

Jacques Cartier	Made three voyages between 1534 and 1542 and claimed land for the King of France.
Thérèse Casgrain	Her work helped Quebec women win the vote in 1940.
Samuel de Champlain	Built a fortress at what is now Québec City in 1608.
Sir Arthur Currie	Canada's greatest soldier, commander of the Canadian Corps in 1918.
Gabriel Dumont	The Métis' greatest military leader.
Lord Durham	Reported on the 1837–38 rebellions and recommended responsible government.
Sir Sandford Fleming	Invented the world system of standard time zones.
Terry Fox	Ran the Marathon of Hope in 1980 to raise money for cancer research.
Wayne Gretzky	One of the greatest hockey players of all time.
Rick Hansen	Wheeled around the world in 1985 to raise funds for spinal cord research.
Paul Henderson	Scored the winning goal of the 1972 Canada-Soviet Summit Series.
Dr. John A. Hopps	Invented the first cardiac pacemaker.
Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine	First head of a responsible government in the Canadas, in 1849.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier	First French-Canadian prime minister since Confederation.
Sir John A. Macdonald	Canada's first Prime Minister, in 1867.
Agnes Macphail	First woman member of Parliament, in 1921.
John McCrae	Medical officer who wrote "In Flanders Fields" in 1915.
Marquis de Montcalm	French commander killed at the Plains of Abraham in 1759.
James Naismith	Invented basketball in 1891.
Louis Riel	Led the Métis uprisings of 1869 and 1885; seen by many as the father of Manitoba.
Charles de Salaberry	Turned back an American invasion at Châteauguay in 1813.
Laura Secord	Walked about 30 km in 1813 to warn of an American attack.
John Graves Simcoe	Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor; moved it toward abolishing slavery.
Dr. Emily Stowe	Founded the women's suffrage movement in Canada.
Chief Tecumseh	Led the Shawnee in the defence of Canada in the War of 1812.
Sir Leonard Tilley	Suggested the name Dominion of Canada in 1864.
Queen Victoria	Chose Ottawa as the capital in 1857.
James Wolfe	British commander killed at the Plains of Abraham in 1759.

Practice questions written by Recite from Discover Canada. Not the official test questions. Checked on October 17, 2026. Free from recitecitizen.com · Not affiliated with IRCC.