



POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND PARTIES

Suggested time: 1 hour

What's important in this lesson: To gain an understanding about where you may sit on the political spectrum and thus which political party you would vote for once you are able to. To know the names of our political parties in Canada and what their policies would be on certain topics of political importance.

Complete these steps:

1. Complete the questionnaire: WHERE DO YOU SIT ON THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM? – calculate your score.
2. Complete the Student Handout: POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND PARTIES.

Hand in the following to your teacher:

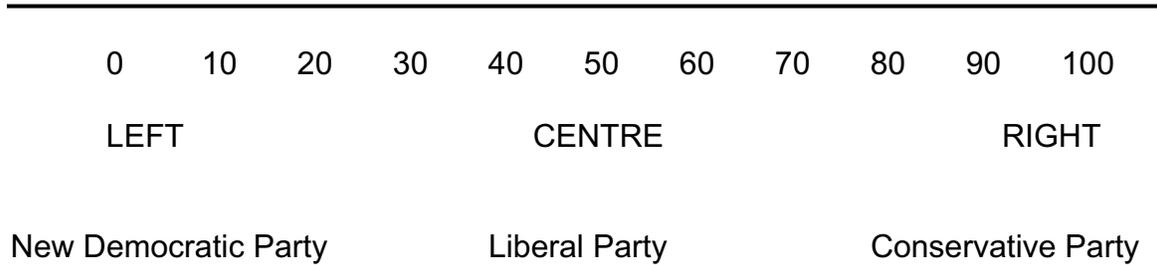
1. Hand in to your teacher your completed handout for checking and then record your results in the Course Checklist with the appropriate information.

Questions for the teacher:



POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND PARTIES

1. Where did you sit on the Political Spectrum?



Read over pages 127-129 and answer the following questions.

2. What is a POLITICAL PARTY?

3. What are PARTY PLATFORMS?

4. Copy the information in the table/chart entitled in Infosource 4-13 Political Spectrum

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

LEFT WING	CENTRE	RIGHT WING



Canada's Major Political Parties

As you have seen on page 128, some of Canada's political parties at the federal level are shown in Infosource 4-14. Please note: the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservative Party have merged together and are now called: The Conservative Party of Canada.

5. List the four largest registered Federal Political Parties. (Remember that the Canadian Alliance Party and the Progressive Conservative Party are now The Conservative Party of Canada).

6. Identify two "other" registered Federal Political Parties that have never achieved Official Party Status in elections in Canada, but do have continuing support:

See Infosource 4-15 in order to answer the next two questions.

7. What two requirements does a political party need to fulfil in order to receive Official Party Status?

8. What are three benefits that Official Political Parties receive?

9. What is an **independent** candidate?



WHERE DO YOU SIT ON THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM?

Read each question carefully.

Answer each question indicating whether you:

Strongly Agree – SA

Partly Agree – PA

Neutral – N

Partly Disagree – PD

Strongly Disagree – SD

Once finished, find out how you scored by calculating your results as follows:

For questions 1-12, give yourself:

4 points for every SA

3 points for every PA

2 points for every N

1 point for every PD

0 points for every SD

For questions 13-25, give yourself:

4 points for every SD

3 points for every PD

2 points for every N

1 point for every PA

0 points for every SA

The highest score possible is 100. The lowest score would be 0. The higher the score, the more right wing you are – the lower the score, the more left-wing you are.

- ___ 1. Less government interference in the economy is desirable
- ___ 2. The police and courts are too “easy” on accused criminals
- ___ 3. Poor people should learn to fend for themselves and not expect “government hand-outs” (welfare)
- ___ 4. Labour unions once served a purpose, but they have become too powerful
- ___ 5. All students should stand for our national anthem
- ___ 6. Capital Punishment (the death penalty) should be used for those who murder
- ___ 7. Change should not happen too quickly – most often it is for the worst
- ___ 8. Immigration should be severely limited
- ___ 9. People who are on welfare are usually: lazy, ignorant or don’t want to work
- ___ 10. No matter what, we should always stand up for what Canada does
- ___ 11. Highly educated people have good ideas, but it is the person who runs their own business who contributes the most to our society

Student Handout Unit 2 Lesson 3



- ___ 12. Self-discipline and control are important for successful society
- ___ 13. Senior citizens deserve higher pensions
- ___ 14. Governments should regulate certain businesses such as hydro, airlines etc.
- ___ 15. A truly just society will ensure that wealth is distributed evenly.
- ___ 16. Pensions, welfare and other social assistance must be maintained at the same rate as inflation
- ___ 17. Aboriginal groups should not be discriminated against
- ___ 18. Government should monitor unfair prices hikes and try to control inflation
- ___ 19. Canada needs to spend less on national defense and the armed forces
- ___ 20. Capital Punishment (the death penalty) is inhumane and barbaric
- ___ 21. Canada has become the great country that it is because of Immigration
- ___ 22. We should never have “conscription” – which would “force” someone to enlist in the armed forces
- ___ 23. The government should always provide free or universal health care
- ___ 24. The best education system is based on giving students choices
- ___ 25. The government and religion should always remain separate

_____ Total Score