

Released Items
2010
Achievement Test

**Knowledge
and Employability**
Social Studies

GRADE
9



**Government
of Alberta** ■

Alberta ■

Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

This document contains released items from the 2010 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Social Studies Achievement Test.

A test blueprint and an answer key that includes the difficulty, reporting category, curricular content area, and item description for each test item are also included. These materials, along with the *Program of Studies* and subject bulletin, provide information that can be used to inform instructional practice.

For further information, contact

Ray Shapka, Knowledge and Employability Examination Manager, at
Ray.Shapka@gov.ab.ca; or

Darren Lux, Knowledge and Employability Examiner, at
Darren.Lux@gov.ab.ca; or

Ken Marcellus, Director, Achievement Testing, at
Ken.Marcellus@gov.ab.ca; or

Learner Assessment (780) 427-0010.
To call toll-free from outside Edmonton, dial 310-0000.

The Alberta Education Internet address is education.alberta.ca.

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2010 Achievement Test Released Items

The items presented in this document are from the secured 2010 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Social Studies Achievement Test. These items are released by Alberta Education.

Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Social Studies Achievement Test Released Items 2010

Use the following illustration to answer questions 1 and 2.



1. The illustration above portrays Canadian citizens who are
 - A. seeking election to political office
 - B. endorsing local political candidates
 - C. campaigning in support of a political party
 - D. demonstrating to express political opinions

2. The Canadian citizens illustrated above are trying to influence the decisions of
 - A. local business owners
 - B. provincial court judges
 - C. federal government leaders
 - D. international peace activists

3. An individual participates directly in Canada's justice system by
- A. protesting against government action
 - B. writing letters to politicians
 - C. voting in an election
 - D. serving on a jury
4. Canadian citizens participate **most directly** in government when they
- A. vote in an election
 - B. volunteer during an election
 - C. campaign during an election
 - D. contribute money to a candidate in an election

Use the following information to answer question 5.

“Nearly 59% of Canada's immigrants are in the skilled worker and business immigrant categories. They help fill shortages in our labour market...”

—from *Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2007*

5. According to the information, the majority of immigrants are admitted into Canada in order to
- A. provide assistance to refugees
 - B. strengthen the economy
 - C. enhance border security
 - D. bring families together

6. An organization of people seeking election who share the same ideas on how Canada should be governed is called a
- A. lobby group
 - B. labour union
 - C. media group
 - D. political party
7. Which of the following bodies of Canada's government is a part of the judicial branch?
- A. Senate
 - B. Cabinet
 - C. Federal court
 - D. House of Commons

Use the following information to answer question 8.

Some Events in the Federal Electoral Process

- W** People who are eligible to vote cast their votes at polling stations.
- X** Elected officials are sworn in as members of Parliament.
- Y** Candidates campaign in an attempt to win people's votes.
- Z** The prime minister calls an election.

8. Which of the following sequences identifies the correct order of events in the federal electoral process?
- A. X, Y, W, and Z
 - B. Y, X, Z, and W
 - C. Z, Y, W, and X
 - D. Z, Y, X, and W

9. Which of the following advertisements is unlawful according to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Wanted
Waitress for restaurant
Must be under 25

A.

Workers Required
Must be strong

B.

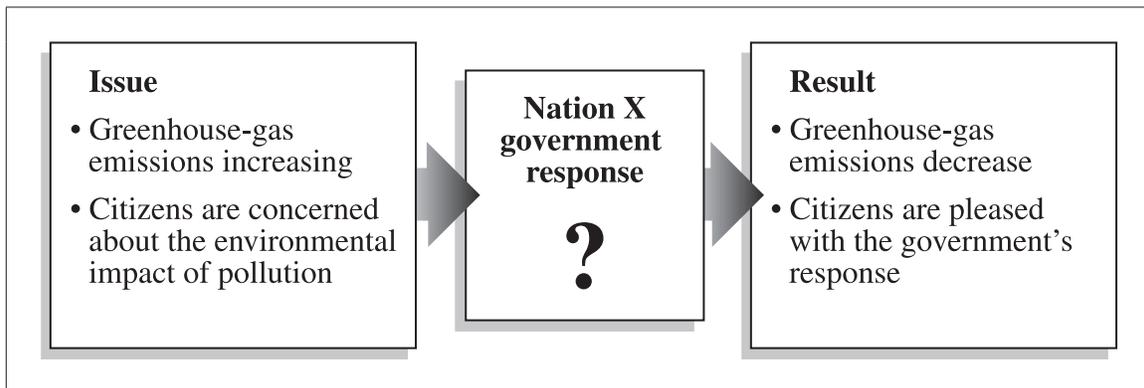
Apartment for Rent
No pets

C.

Employees Needed
Computer skills required

D.

Use the following information to answer question 10.



10. Which of the following statements **most clearly** completes the information above?

- A. Natural resources are used more often.
- B. Legislation is passed to reduce pollution.
- C. Tax breaks are given to industrial polluters.
- D. Investments are made in non-renewable energy.

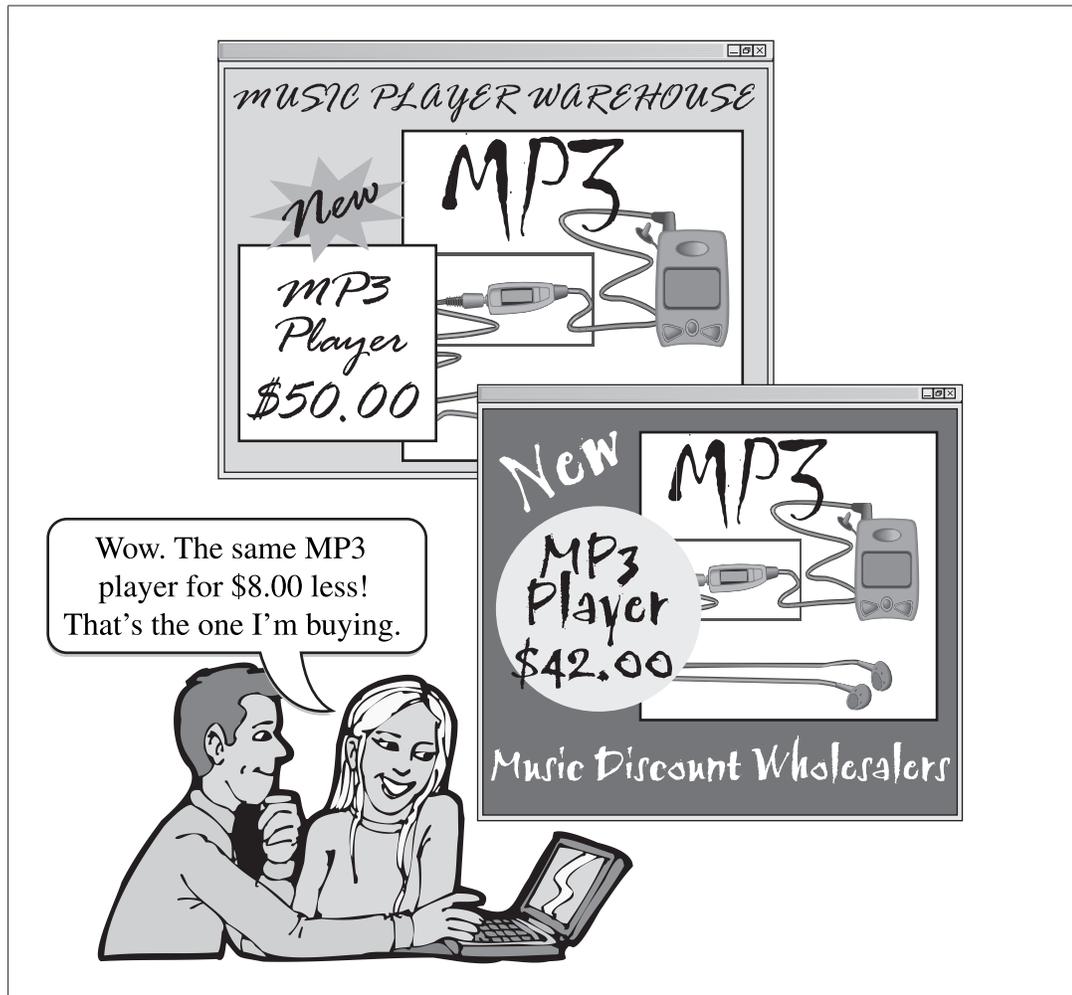
11. In Canada, the federal government raises money to pay for services **mainly** by collecting
- A. user fees
 - B. legal fines
 - C. income taxes
 - D. charitable donations

Use the following information to answer questions 12 and 13.

The Political Platforms of Four Political Parties	
<p>Party A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce business taxes• Give incentives to entrepreneurs• Support private business	<p>Party B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancel tax credits• Increase business taxes• Support consumers
<p>Party C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support public education• Increase health-care spending• Increase social assistance to create equality among people	<p>Party D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect national parks• Protect old-growth forests• Decrease logging to protect wildlife

12. Which of the parties listed above would **most likely** be in favour of building more hospitals?
- A. Party A
 - B. Party B
 - C. Party C
 - D. Party D
13. Which of the parties listed above would **most likely** be supported by someone who wants to start a new business?
- A. Party A
 - B. Party B
 - C. Party C
 - D. Party D

Use the following illustration to answer question 14.



14. The illustration above shows how
- A. consumers are influenced by friends
 - B. advertising affects consumer choice
 - C. advertising misleads consumers
 - D. consumers have little choice

Knowledge and Employability Social Studies—2010 Test Blueprint and Item Descriptions

The following table provides information on 14* of the test items that appeared on the 2010 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Social Studies Achievement Test.

TOPICS	Reporting Category		Number and Proportion of Questions on 2010 Provincial Achievement Test
	Knowledge and Understandings	Skills and Process	
Canada: Governance and Citizenship (9.1)			
Students examine the relationship between Canada’s political and legislative processes and their impact on issues pertaining to governance, rights, citizenship, and identity (Canada’s federal political system, justice system, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and immigration).	3, 4, 6, 7	1, 2, 5, 8, 9	28 (56%)
Canada and the United States: An Economic Relationship (9.2)			
Students examine and explore issues of economics and their impact on quality of life, citizenship and identity in Canada and the United States (market and mixed economies, consumerism, quality of life, political decision-making).	11	10, 12, 13, 14	22 (44%)
Number and Proportion of Questions (on 2010 Provincial Achievement Test)	19 (38%)	31 (62%)	50 (100%)

Knowledge and Understandings – Knowledge includes social studies facts, events, information, concepts, evidence, ideas, opinions, and terminology as identified in the Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Program of Studies (2007).

Skills and Processes – Skills include specific social studies skills of critical and creative thinking, historical thinking, geographic thinking, decision making and problem solving, research process, and media literacy as identified in the Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Program of Studies (2007).

***Please Note:** 36 items have **not** been released from the 2010 Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability Social Studies Achievement Test.

The table below provides information about each question: the keyed response, the difficulty of the item (the percentage of students who answered the question correctly), the reporting category, the topic, and the item description.

Question	Key	Difficulty (%)	Reporting Category	Topic	Item Description
1	D	62.9	S&P	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Interpret an illustration to identify how citizens can responsibly influence the Canadian political system.
2	C	61.6	S&P	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Interpret an illustration to identify the level of government individuals are attempting to influence.
3	D	42.8	K&U	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Identify how an individual can participate in Canada's justice system.
4	A	70.4	K&U	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Identify how citizens can participate directly in government.
5	B	67.7	K&U	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Interpret information to draw a conclusion about the benefits of new immigrants to Canada.
6	D	46.9	K&U	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Identify the definition of federal political parties in Canada's political system.
7	C	34.7	K&U	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Identify a body of Canada's judicial branch of government.
8	C	56.3	S&P	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Interpret information to categorize a sequence of events in Canada's federal electoral process.
9	A	63.1	S&P	Canada: Governance and Citizenship	Interpret information to identify a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Question	Key	Difficulty (%)	Reporting Category	Topic	Item Description
10	B	43.8	S&P	Canada and the United States: An Economic Relationship	Analyze information to make an inference regarding action taken on an issue.
11	C	84.5	K&U	Canada and the United States: An Economic Relationship	Recall a purpose of taxation.
12	C	84.1	S&P	Canada and the United States: An Economic Relationship	Analyze information to draw a conclusion related to the political platforms of given political parties.
13	A	70.0	S&P	Canada and the United States: An Economic Relationship	Analyze information to make a generalization about the political platforms of given political parties.
14	B	72.8	S&P	Canada and the United States: An Economic Relationship	Analyze information to identify how advertising influences consumer choice.