

Course Information Sheet

Canadian and World Studies: Civics

CHV 2O - Grade 10, Open



This course explores what it means to be an informed, participating citizen in a democratic society. Students will learn about the elements of democracy in local, national, and global contexts, about political reactions to social change, and about political decision-making processes in Canada. They will explore their own and others' ideas about civics questions and learn how to think critically about public issues and react responsibly to them.

CHV 2O focuses on these key expectations from the Ministry of Education's curriculum:

- demonstrate an understanding of the need for democratic decision making;
- explain the legal rights and responsibilities associated with Canadian citizenship;
- describe the main structures and functions of municipal, provincial, and federal governments in Canada;
- explain what it means to be a "global citizen" and why it is important to be one.
- demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs and values underlying democratic citizenship and explain how they guide citizens' actions;
- describe the diversity of beliefs and values of various individuals and groups in Canadian society;
- analyse responses, at the local, national, and international levels, to civic issues that involve multiple perspectives and differing civic purposes.
- apply appropriate inquiry skills to the research of questions and issues of civic importance;
- demonstrate an understanding of the various ways in which decisions are made and conflicts resolved in matters of civic importance, and the various ways in which individual citizens participate in these processes.

Your final mark will be calculated based on the Ministry of Education's Achievement Chart for this course as follows: Knowledge/Understanding: 25%; Thinking: 25%; Communication: 25%; Application: 25%. 70% of the final mark will be based on work completed throughout the course. 30% will be based on the final evaluation. Details are included below.

The Role of Students:

Students have many responsibilities with regard to their learning in school. Students who are willing to make the effort required and who are able to apply themselves will soon discover that there is a direct relationship between this effort and their achievement, and will therefore be more motivated to work. There will be some students, however, who will find it more difficult to take responsibility for their learning because of special challenges they face. For these students, the attention, patience, and encouragement of teachers can be extremely important factors for success. However, taking responsibility for one's progress and learning is an important part of education for all students, regardless of their circumstances.

Successful mastery of concepts and skills in Canadian and World Studies requires a sincere commitment to work, study, and the development or strengthening of appropriate skills. As well, students should be encouraged to actively pursue opportunities outside the classroom to extend and enrich their understanding of these subjects. For example, it is recommended that they create their own files on current events that relate to their areas of study, or that they explore subject-related volunteer opportunities, recreational reading materials, movies or documentaries, or public affairs programs on television.

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The course is broken down into 3 units of study:

Unit 1: Government and Democracy: Origins, Ideas, and Issues

The first unit of this course focusses on the basic ideas and issues that are fundamental to democratic government, to democratic practices, and to democratic citizenship. Students begin with a consideration of why we have a government and its role in our lives. They will examine the five major systems of government in the world, and explain the pros and cons of each. Finally, they will consider the fundamental principles associated with democratic government and how they impact on their own lives.

Unit 2: Democracy: The Canadian Context

In the second unit students will learn about important events, issues and personalities in Canada's political and legal systems. They will study how Canada's system of government works, the role of political parties, and how average citizens are involved in decision making. Students will consider the rights we enjoy in a democratic society, and the responsibilities that we have as Canadian citizens. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the criminal justice system, and the Youth Criminal Justice Act are all topics in this unit.

Unit 3: Democracy: The World Citizen

In the final unit of study the students will consider Canada's role in international organizations such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and the Francophonie. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the role Canadians play as Global Citizens by studying a current world issue such as poverty or child labour, and proposing ways that we can help to address these problems.

The final mark in CHV 2O will be calculated based on the Ministry of Education's Achievement Chart for the course as follows:

<i>ACHIEVEMENT CHART CATEGORY</i>	<i>WEIGHT</i>	<i>EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS USED TO EVALUATE STUDENT LEARNING</i>
Knowledge and Understanding	25%	Tests, quizzes, oral and written reports
Thinking and Inquiry	25%	Rubrics for reports and research projects
Application/Making Connections	25%	Rubrics for group work, roll playing, and research
Communication	25%	Journals, portfolio reflections, rubrics for presentations

Students will be assigned a final mark out of 100 that is calculated mathematically with 70% being based on term work and 30% based on final evaluation activities. These marks will be based on the following:

Term Work (70%)	Tests /quizzes	(20%)
	Assignments & Projects:	
	Government on the Moon	
	3 levels of Government Media assignment	(50%)
Final Evaluations (30%)	Class Parliament	
	The Citizen's Handbook	
	The Global Citizen Assignment	(10%)
	Final Exam	(20%)

Well developed learning skills such as INDEPENDENT WORK HABITS, TEAMWORK, ORGANIZATION OF NOTES, GENERAL WORK HABITS, and INITIATIVE play a vital role in a student's success and will be consistently monitored by teachers and reported on in the Learning Skills section of the report card. Each student's future success will be contingent on his/her ability to "learn how to learn" and master of these learning skills. However, any assessment and evaluation of learning skills will not be used in the calculation of final marks.

When evaluating student performance, teachers will assign a level of achievement on the performance demonstrated using a scale from -1 to 4+ with 3 being used to indicate a solid, consistent performance which meets the provincial standard. "R" is used to indicate that a student has not demonstrated the expectations well enough to earn even a level 1. Even when an actual numerical mark is assigned (e.g. 64%), a scale mark (-1 to 4+) will also be assigned. **A final mark of 50% or better must be earned for a credit to be granted.**