



UPDATED FOR
2026

—  PROUD TO BE CANADIAN  —
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP PRACTICE TEST
PREPARE • PRACTICE • PASS

CANADA'S **JUSTICE** **SYSTEM**

✦ Understanding Laws, Courts and Justice in Canada ✦



LEARN THE BASICS

Understand the rule of law, the Charter, courts and your rights.



KEY TOPICS

Supreme Court, police, jury service, criminal & civil law and more.



CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITIES

Respect the law, help keep communities safe and support justice for all.

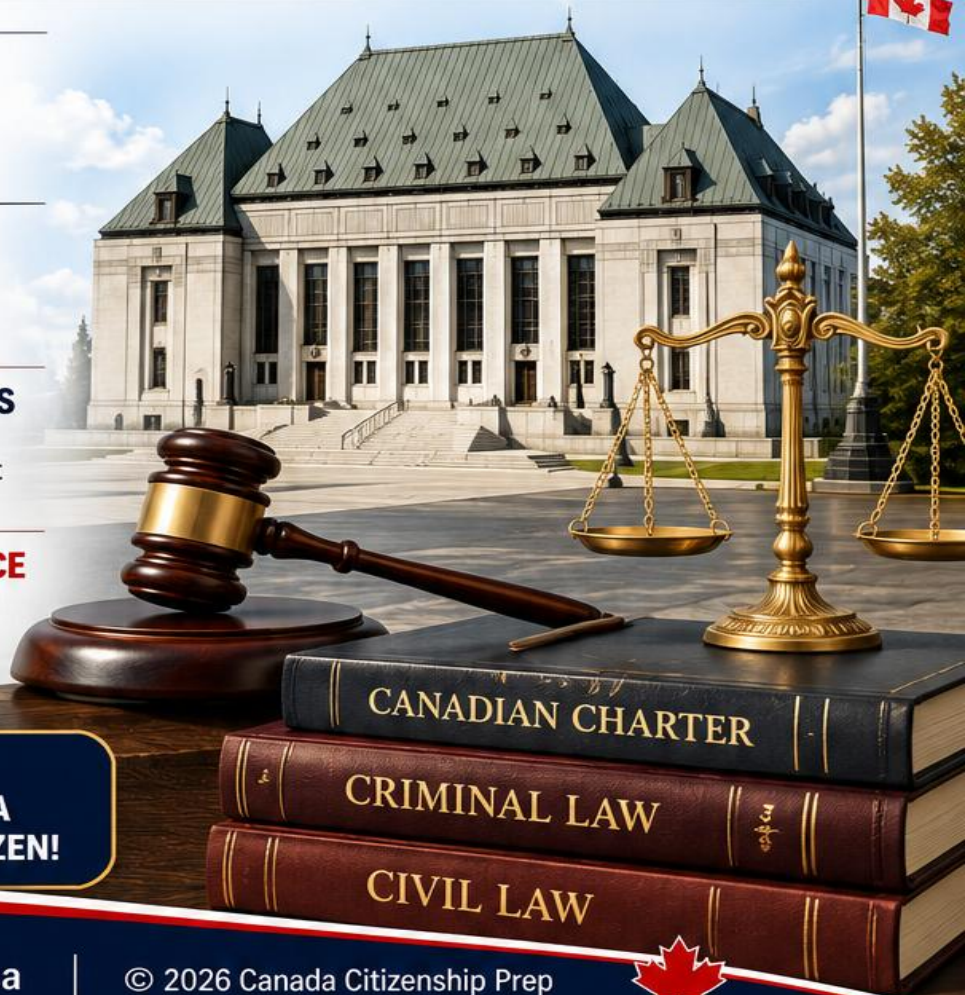


STUDY WITH CONFIDENCE

Clear explanations and helpful tips to help you prepare and pass your test.



**YOUR JOURNEY
TO BECOMING A
CANADIAN CITIZEN!**



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Canada's Justice System Explained

Understanding Laws, Courts, and Justice in Canada

Canada's justice system protects the rights and freedoms of everyone living in the country. It helps keep communities safe, resolves disputes fairly, and ensures that everyone is treated equally under the law.

Understanding Canada's justice system is an important part of preparing for the Canadian citizenship test.

⚖️ What Is the Rule of Law?

One of Canada's most important principles is the **rule of law**.

This means:

- Everyone must obey the law.
- No person is above the law.
- Laws apply equally to everyone.
- Government officials must also follow the law.

The rule of law helps protect fairness, equality, and democracy.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** is part of Canada's Constitution.

It protects many important rights and freedoms, including:

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of religion
- Democratic rights
- Equality rights
- Mobility rights
- Legal rights

The Charter helps ensure that governments respect the rights of individuals while balancing the rights of others.

What Do Courts Do?

Courts interpret and apply Canadian laws.

Judges hear evidence, apply the law fairly, and make decisions based on the facts presented.

The courts help resolve disputes and ensure justice is carried out according to the law.

The Supreme Court of Canada

Police Services

Police officers help:

- Enforce the law.
- Protect people and property.
- Prevent crime.
- Respond to emergencies.
- Keep communities safe.

Police officers must also follow Canadian laws and respect the rights of individuals.

Equality Before the Law

Every person in Canada is entitled to equal treatment under the law.

No one should receive unfair treatment because of characteristics such as race, religion, ethnic origin, sex, age, or disability.

Equality is one of Canada's fundamental values.

Jury Service

Eligible Canadian citizens may be asked to serve on a jury.

Jurors listen to evidence during a trial and help decide the outcome based on the law and the facts presented in court.

Jury service is considered an important civic responsibility.



Criminal and Civil Law

Canada's legal system deals with different types of legal matters.

Criminal Law

Criminal law deals with offences against society, such as theft, assault, or fraud.

The government prosecutes criminal offences.

Civil Law

Civil law deals with disputes between individuals or organizations.

Examples include:

- Contracts
- Property disputes
- Personal injury claims

Civil cases are generally brought by one party against another.

⚖️ Why an Independent Judiciary Matters

Judges must make decisions fairly and independently.

This means they are expected to decide cases according to the law and the evidence, without improper influence from government, political parties, or private interests.

An independent judiciary helps protect justice and public confidence in the legal system.

Respect for the Law

One of the responsibilities of living in Canada is respecting the law.

Canadians help build strong communities by:

- Following the law.
 - Respecting others.
 - Resolving disagreements peacefully.
 - Cooperating with legal authorities when required.
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Study Tips

When preparing for the citizenship test:

- ✓ Understand the meaning of the rule of law.
- ✓ Learn what the Charter protects.
- ✓ Know that the Supreme Court is Canada's highest court.
- ✓ Remember why jury service is important.
- ✓ Understand the difference between criminal and civil law.

★ Quick Review

Remember these key facts:

- ✓ Everyone is equal before the law.
- ✓ The Charter protects important rights and freedoms.
- ✓ The Supreme Court is Canada's highest court.
- ✓ Police enforce the law.
- ✓ Judges apply the law fairly and independently.
- ✓ Jury service is an important civic responsibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the rule of law?

It means that everyone, including government officials, must obey the law.

What is the highest court in Canada?

The **Supreme Court of Canada**.

What does the Charter protect?

It protects many fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under Canada's Constitution.

Why is jury service important?

It allows eligible citizens to participate in the justice system by helping decide certain court cases.

Do judges have to follow the law?

Yes. Judges make decisions based on the law and the evidence presented in court.

Ready to Practice?

Questions about Canada's justice system regularly appear on the citizenship test. Strengthen your understanding with realistic practice questions and prepare with confidence.

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Official Resources

- **[Government of Canada – Canadian Citizenship](#)**
- **[Official *Discover Canada* Study Guide](#)**