

Part III, Section 2

Additional Essay Questions: Canada in the World

Of hockey, Medicare and Canadian dreams (p. 191)

Stephen J. Toope

1. In the second paragraph, Toope says: “It is too bad that the national game is dominated by an NHL that seems greedier, insensitive to the expectations of fans and dominated by the need to satisfy a US market.” Do you agree or disagree? Argue your position, including a vision of the future for professional hockey in Canada.
2. Toope says that Canadians “have lots to celebrate.” Focus on one area of Canadian endeavour (e.g., the arts, science, politics, etc.) and use examples to explore this idea.
3. What do you think “Canadian identity” means? Write an essay in which you define this term.

When Canada goes viral: The Canada Party and the circulation of political satire (p. 194)

Kimberley McLeod

1. In her concluding paragraph, McLeod suggests that it is difficult “to produce satire for audiences in dispersed contexts.” Outline the evidence she provides to support this claim and suggest ways in which a more contemporary satirical message (directed at the policies of Justin Trudeau, or Donald Trump, for example) might be misunderstood outside of North America.
2. We hear a lot about “fake news” in the media these days. How does “fake news” compare to the fake election campaign described in this essay? Consider the purpose and potential audience for each of these types of media presentation.

3. One of the purposes of the prank campaign described in this article was to draw attention to similarities between Canada and the United States. Summarize the examples of such similarities provided in paragraph 9, and then add to this list.

Sovereignty and Security in the Canadian North: (re)learning the Lessons (p. 199)

P. Whitney Lackenbauer

1. Lackenbauer argues for the importance of learning from historical incidents, and applies this claim to the Canadian North and the changes the region is currently undergoing. Challenge this claim about the relevance of historical knowledge with reference to one or more of the drastic changes which the North has undergone in the last twenty years.
2. Stephen Harper claimed that “Canada’s Arctic is central to our national identity as a northern nation.” Discuss this claim with reference to your view of Canadian identity.
3. Lackenbauer suggests that both improving the “security” of the Canadian North in relation to other countries, and improving the standard of living of people living in this region are important goals. Describe one or more strategies which might address these goals simultaneously, as well as potential challenges.

Being CBC: The ambivalent identities and belonging of Canadian-born children of immigrants and Security (p. 203)

Audrey Kobayashi and Valerie Preston

1. The authors of this study include numerous descriptions of racism faced by Canadian-born children of Chinese immigrants. From your perspective, do these examples indicate a serious problem in Canadian society? Do you think the prejudice is based primarily on ignorance, a fear of the unknown, or other causes?
2. One possible argument is that the “in-between” identity and experiences of the children of immigrants is inevitable, and that with time it will disappear (as it has, for the most part, with Canadians of Italian or Irish descent, for example). Support or challenge this argument with reference to information provided in this study of children of Chinese immigrants.
3. The authors opt to use focus groups as their primary form of research. Summarize the advantages of this procedure as outlined in paragraph 5, and suggest possible limitations. What other forms of research might be used to study the attitudes of a specific social group?

Causes and Consequences of Canada’s Resettlement of Syrian refugees (p. 213)

Anne-Marie Bélanger McMurdo

1. This essay outlines Canada’s “extraordinary” intake of Syrian refugees since 2015. Categorize the motives the author suggests for this action, identifying those which are altruistic and those

which are politically motivated. You may find that some of the reasons identified fit within both of these categories. You may also choose to suggest other motivations.

2. McMurdo states that Canada's decision to accept a large number of Syrian refugees was very much a choice. What arguments might be made to suggest that assisting refugees is a moral imperative and/or an international responsibility?
3. In paragraph 10, the author refers to the "long-term political implications" of accepting this large group of Syrian refugees. The suggestion is that these implications will be problematic, but what might be some positive long-term effects on Canadian society?