



Part I: Mapping the Canadian Public Service

Suggested Essay Topics, Chapters 1-5

1. The concept and status of employment has changed considerably over the past two centuries in the federal public service. Identify and examine this relationship from the concept of a "personal servant" to an employee of the Crown.
2. Identify and examine several of the key responsibilities of the Treasury Board specifically related to the administration of human resources in the federal public service.
3. Examine the political process that introduced the rights of public service workers to enter into the collective bargaining process in Canada in 1967.
4. Explain the concept of the merit principle that is defined within the *Public Service Employment Act* (PSEA) and its relevancy for both qualifications and appointment into the federal public service.
5. Identify and discuss the ambiguity of the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act* and the belief that it does not go far enough to promote a culture of accountability within the federal public service.
6. Examine the dichotomy that public servants encounter, in light of their duty of loyalty to the Government of Canada, which at the same time limits their right to free speech.
7. In supporting the case for provincial and local government jurisdictions, examine the principle of subsidiarity and public choice theory which are advocated as legitimate reasons for the organization of public affairs.

8. Briefly examine the case for intergovernmental transfers as advocated for and supported in nineteenth-century Canada, particularly as delineated in *The Constitution Act 1867*.
9. Compare and contrast the perceived benefits from Canada's initial CHST with its division into two separate funding programs to the provinces, the CHT and the CST.
10. Identify and explain the “First Generation Theory” of fiscal federalism by Oates (2005), who identified four broad categories of reasons for assigning functions to the central government in a federation.
11. Identify and describe some of the positive and negative implications of federal intergovernmental transfer payments to the provinces.