The Charter of Rights & Freedoms and the Treatment of Japanese Canadians: Answer Key

Rights and Freedoms (from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)	Were Japanese Canadians treated equally and fairly with respect to these rights?	Evidence
Simplified version	(yes/no/uncertain)	(Use specific examples to explain how you know.)
Section 2: Fundamental Freedoms		
You are allowed to: - say whatever you want to say except for	No	The government shut down Japanese language newspapers in December 1941. The English language newspaperserving the Japanese Canadian community, The New Canadian, was
telling lies about other people.		censored. Letters were censored. (resource 8.8)
 have your own opinion, and believe what you want to believe (including religious beliefs). 	Yes	Japanese Canadians were still allowed to pray, attend church, have religious ceremonies, etc.
Sections 3-5: Democratic Rights		
You are allowed to:	No	Japanese Canadians were not granted the right to vote or be elected until 1949. (8.13, 8.15)
– vote in an election.		
– run for an elected position (e.g. Member of Parliament).		
Section 6: Mobility Rights		JCs were not allowed to live in the "protected"
You are allowed to:	No	area along the coast of BC. Many were forced out of BC to Alberta, Ontario, or to Japan [travel permit, registration cards "No Japs" poster,
– travel anywhere in the country.		repatriation poster] (travel: 8.1, 8.2, 8.7), (move:
– move to any province or territory.		8.10, 8.14), (job: 8.15)
 look for a job in any province or territory. 		

Sections 7–14: Legal Rights		
Your personal possessions are protected.	No	JCs were stripped of their possessions and property (which was later sold to pay for their imprisonment). They were never tried and were
You cannot be searched or thrown in jail		not given the opportunity to prove their
without reason.		innocence in a trial (with or without a lawyer).
		The reasons for their imprisonment varied:
If you are arrested, you must be told of		"they could be potential spies" (even though no
your crime.		one should be imprisoned because they <u>could</u>
You are allowed to:		commit a crime), "for their own protection," or "military necessity." Note that none of these
Tod are allowed to.		"reasons" are actual crimes or legal charges.
– get a lawyer.		Also, not one single JC was ever charged with a
		disloyal act. (8.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9, 8.10)
– have a trial as soon as possible.		
have a jumpet value trial and they are		
 have a jury at your trial, and they can determine if you are guilty or not (only in 		
serious crimes).		
– You are thought to be innocent until		
someone proves you guilty.		
Section 15: Equality Rights		
	No	JCs were imprisoned due to racial reasons. They
– Everyone is to be treated equally (by	NO	were stripped of their possessions and
law).		incarcerated because they were of Japanese descent. [The Canadians Encyclopedia p. 1207]
– You have equal protection (under the		(8.1, 8.11, 8.12, 8.14, 8.15)
law) and cannot be treated unfairly		German Canadian and Italian Canadian families
because of the colour of your skin, where		were not treated this way even though Canada
your family came from originally, what		was also at war with Germany and Italy.
you believe in (like religion), your gender,		[Encyclopedia of BC] (8.12)
or if you are mentally or physically disabled.		
uisavicu.		
– You have the right to fight for your		
country.		