

LESSON 3 HANDOUT 3.6 MOCK QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period developed as an opportunity for the opposition parties to ask the government questions related to policy issues, pending legislation, and issues of importance to the Canadian public. Typically, question period lasts about 45 minutes and is conducted from Monday through Friday whenever parliament is sitting. Questions may be posed to the Prime Minister, or any Minister in the Cabinet. Question period has a reputation for being chaotic and loud because it is common practice to jeer, heckle, cat-call, and harass the speakers from the back benches and non-participating MPs. In this activity, the class will take on the roles of the government and opposition parties in 1942 as policy was formulated around what to do with Japanese Canadians and their property.

Mock Question Period

1. Review the key points learned about Order-in-Council PC 469. Recall that this is the policy which gave the Custodian the authority to confiscate and care for the property of Japanese Canadians after they were interned.
2. Next, look over the notes and points discussed by the three key bureaucrats: Read, Coleman, and McPherson. Keep in mind all three of these men were employed as bureaucrats and were not elected government representatives. They would not have appeared to answer questions in the House of Commons but they were answerable to the Ministers that oversaw the creation of policies like Order-in-Council PC 469.
3. Depending on which role you have been assigned prepare a question, or prepare to answer a question. Remember that opposition members ask questions and the government is accountable to answer questions.
4. As a member of an opposition party it is common practice to be very critical of the government's position on important issues, and as a member of the government it is common practice to anticipate what questions may come to you during question period.
5. Each group will be allowed 20–30 minutes prep time at the discretion of the teacher. As a member of the opposition your task is to prepare questions that criticize or call into question Order-in-Council PC 469. As a member of the government you need to assign roles and consider the kinds of questions that may come your way. All groups should prepare speaking notes and have information at their fingertips. Good luck!
6. Refer to the assessment rubric on the reverse for the specific criteria that will apply to your performance and participation in the Mock Question Period. Your teacher may revise or highlight different criteria as appropriate.

LESSON 3 HANDOUT 3.6 MOCK QUESTION PERIOD RUBRIC

CATEGORY	Does Not Meet	Minimally Meets	Fully Meets	Exceeds
Poise	Slouches; leans on things; does not look at audience	Rarely looks at audience; fidgets	Stands tall & relaxed; engages audience with gestures; good eye contact	Moves expressively; relaxed demeanour; keeps eye-contact
Projection	Mumbles	Hard to hear	Easy to hear	Good tenor and timbre
Fluency & Speed	Stumbles frequently; reads from script	Reads prepared speech; too fast	Good conversational speed; pauses to consult notes	Good conversational speed; no hesitation
Clarity	Barely intelligible	Unclear at times	Familiar with material; clear delivery	Easy delivery; very understandable
Expression	Monotonic	Slight expression; mainly monotonic	Lots of vocal expression	Engagingly expressive
Introduction	No introduction	Very short introduction	Clear introduction	Full introduction to topic
Content & Originality	Scarcely informative	Marginal information on topic	Provides information on original topic	Provides novel information on original topic
Conclusion/Closing	No conclusion	Brief concluding paragraph	Full conclusion	Thought-provoking conclusion
Time	Less than 90 seconds	90 – 119 seconds or greater than 180 seconds	120 – 180 seconds	