

Grade 12 Social Studies: Indigenous Rights, Law, and Reconciliation in Canada

Read the assigned materials on Indigenous–state relations, colonial policy, and contemporary self-determination in Canada. Complete all sections below. Use complete sentences for short-answer questions.

Part 1: Historical and Legal Foundations (Fill in the Blanks)

1. The _____ **Act** remains a central piece of federal legislation governing Indigenous peoples in Canada, despite originating in the 19th century.
 2. In British Columbia, many Indigenous Nations assert that their lands are _____, meaning they were never surrendered through treaty or agreement.
 3. Colonial policies such as the _____ **system** and land _____ fundamentally altered Indigenous relationships to land and governance.
 4. Early Indigenous political advocacy often took the form of _____, **memorials**, and petitions addressed directly to Canadian political leaders.
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Part 2: Governance, Law, and Rights (Multiple Choice)

1. Which statement best describes the concept of **Indigenous self-determination**?
 - a) The delegation of authority from provinces to Indigenous communities
 - b) The inherent right of Indigenous Nations to govern themselves according to their own laws
 - c) A policy replacing treaties with municipal governance
 - d) A temporary administrative arrangement
2. **Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982** is significant because it:
 - a) Defines Indigenous rights in precise legal terms
 - b) Recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights
 - c) Transfers responsibility for Indigenous affairs to provinces
 - d) Applies only to historic treaties
3. The idea that Indigenous governments form a **“third order of government”** suggests that they:
 - a) Operate under provincial authority
 - b) Function as municipalities
 - c) Derive authority from inherent rights, not delegated power
 - d) Exist only through federal legislation

4. **UNDRIP** is best understood as:
- a) A legally binding treaty that overrides Canadian law
 - b) An international human rights framework guiding state behaviour
 - c) A federal Indigenous policy
 - d) A provincial consultation process
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Part 3: Contemporary Frameworks (Fill in the Blanks)

- 1. Modern treaty and self-government negotiations increasingly reject the policy of _____ or modification of Indigenous rights.
 - 2. A _____ **agreement** allows Indigenous Nations to exercise authority over governance areas such as education, health, and justice.
 - 3. Supreme Court decisions such as _____, **Delgamuukw**, and **Tsilhqot'in** affirmed the legal existence of Aboriginal Title in Canadian law.
 - 4. Reconciliation is increasingly framed as a **-to-** relationship between Indigenous Nations and the Canadian state.
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Part 4: Short Written Response (Answer in 3–4 Sentences Each)

- 1. Explain how historical colonial policies continue to shape present-day land and governance issues in Canada.
- 2. Why is recognizing Indigenous legal systems essential to meaningful reconciliation, rather than symbolic change alone?
- 3. Assess one ethical challenge Canada faces in balancing Indigenous rights with provincial or economic interests.