TD 1: Introduction to Other Common Law Countries.

1. **Readings**: Your lectures on Introduction to the Commonwealth and Canada. You will need the input from the lectures to work in the TDs.

2. **Prepare** and **bring** the following questionnaire on the Commonwealth (page 2) to class.

3. Also **bring** the **questionnaire** on the BNA Act which you **do not** have to prepare before the class.

4. **Choose** one of the common law countries to prepare an **oral presentation**. The presentation topics will be given out during the first TD together.
TD 1: Commonwealth Questionnaire

1. Give a definition of the Commonwealth.
2. What set of agreed values does it stand for?
3. How is the Commonwealth financed?
4. Does it have a written constitution? If not what is it based upon?
5. Name the Declaration which stipulates the goals and objectives of the association.
6. What was the main aim of the Balfour Report of 1926?
7. In what form was this report legally formalized?
8. Why was the Old Commonwealth interesting for the mother country, economically speaking?
9. Did the Old Commonwealth have political engagements toward Britain?
10. When and why did the Modern Commonwealth come into being?
11. Which Declaration marked the beginning of it?
13. Can the association exert political pressure on its members? Give examples to support your answer?
14. Who is the Head of the Commonwealth? Is this position hereditary?
15. When was the Commonwealth Secretariat established? What is its main task?
16. What does CHOGM stand for?
17. Who is the current Secretary-General and what role does he/she play?
18. What shared cultural heritage do Commonwealth members have in common today? Give examples.
19. What Commonwealth event takes place every 4 years?
20. What does the Commonwealth focus on promoting today as priorities?
The BNA Act 1867 Questionnaire

1. What does the abbreviation BNA stand for?

2. What exactly was the BNA Act?

3. What is the definition of a dominion?

4. Name the provinces concerned by this Act?

5. What provinces prior to this Act constituted Upper Canada and Lower Canada?

6. What were the main reasons behind Canada’s move to confederation?

7. What other name is given to the BNA Act?

8. Which of the following communities are not mentioned in the drafts of the BNA Act, 1867?
   A. Roman Catholics
   B. Quakers
   C. Protestants
   D. Métis
   E. Moravians

9. On which of the following topics did the delegates find common ground during the first three days of the Québec Conference?
   A. Canada would be a federal state
   B. Canada would have a constitution similar in principle to the U.K.
   C. Canada would be a monarchy
   D. Journalists would be barred from the conference
   E. All of the above

10. Drafts of the BNA Act, 1867 defined the word “person” and included a provision to ensure that use of male pronouns such as “he” or “him” would be interpreted by the courts in a gender neutral manner.
    A. True
    B. False
11. At the Québec Conference, there was discussion as to what powers would be allocated to the federal government. Which of the following was not considered by the delegates for inclusion in the list of matters of exclusive federal responsibility?

A. the making of Canadian foreign policy  
B. regulations pertaining to fire and life insurance companies  
C. roads and bridges linking provinces  
D. penitentiaries  
E. lighthouses

12. According to the BNA Act, 1867, which of the following was to be conjointly owned by the provinces of Ontario and Québec?

A. Hudson’s Bay Company  
B. the Law Society of Upper Canada  
C. the property on which the Parliament Buildings were erected in Ottawa  
D. Upper Duck Island  
E. all bridges crossing the Ottawa River between Hull and Ottawa

13. What issue or feature of the BNA Act, 1867 garnered the most discussion at the conference in Québec City in October 1864?

A. funding for education and hospitals  
B. taxation  
C. the division between federal and provincial powers  
D. Senate appointments  
E. French language rights

14. The BNA Act, 1867 or its drafts included a reference to:

A. Truro, Nova Scotia  
B. the District of Algoma in Ontario  
C. Rivière-du-Loup, Québec  
D. Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E. All of the above

15. The provisions of the BNA Act, 1867 were relatively unique and distinct, designed by its colonists to address the country’s particular circumstances.

A. True  
B. False
TD 1: Canada’s example to the world
Liberty moves north
Oct 29th 2016: The Economist

It is uniquely fortunate in many ways—but Canada still holds lessons for other Western countries

WHO will uphold the torch of openness in the West? Not America’s next president. Donald Trump, the grievance-mongering Republican nominee, would build a wall on Mexico’s border and rip up trade agreements. Hillary Clinton, the probable winner on November 8th, would be much better on immigration, but she has renounced her former support for ambitious trade deals. Britain, worried about immigrants and globalisation, has voted to march out of the European Union. Angela Merkel flung open Germany’s doors to refugees, then suffered a series of political setbacks. Marine Le Pen, a right-wing populist, is the favourite to win the first round of France’s presidential election next year.

In this depressing company of wall-builders, door-slammers and drawbridge-raisers, Canada stands out as a heartening exception. It happily admits more than 300,000 immigrants a year, nearly 1% of its population—a higher proportion than any other big, rich country—and has done so for two decades. Its charismatic prime minister, Justin Trudeau, who has been in office a year, has welcomed some 33,000 Syrian refugees, far more than America has. Bucking the protectionist mood, Canada remains an eager free-trader. It was dismayed by the EU’s struggle to overcome a veto by Walloons on signing a “comprehensive” trade agreement that took seven years to negotiate. Under Mr Trudeau, Canada is trying to make amends for its shameful treatment of indigenous peoples, and is likely to become the first Western country to legalise recreational cannabis on a national level.

Go, Canada!
Irredeemably dull by reputation, less brash and bellicose than America, Canada has long seemed to outsiders to be a citadel of decency, tolerance and good sense. Charles Dickens, bewildered by a visit to America in 1842, found relief in Canada, where he saw “public feeling and private enterprise in a sound and wholesome state; nothing of flush or fever in its system.” Modern Canada’s social safety net is stronger than America’s; its gun-control laws saner. Today, in its lonely defence of liberal values, Canada seems downright heroic. In an age of seductive extremes, it remains reassuringly level-headed.

Many of Canada’s virtues spring from its history and geography and are not readily exportable. It is easier to be relaxed about immigration when your only land border is protected by a wall the size of the United States. Appreciation for the benefits of trade comes more easily to countries next door to big markets. British Brexiteers might justifiably claim that they voted for exactly what Canada already has: control of immigration and the freedom to negotiate trade deals with any country willing to reciprocate.
Despite such luck, Canada suffers from some of the stresses that feed populism in other rich countries. It has experienced a decline of manufacturing jobs, stagnant incomes for most of its citizens and rising inequality. It, too, frets about a shrinking middle class. Canadians worry about Islamist terrorism, though the country has so far been spared a big attack. Some right-of-centre politicians, playing on fears that one will happen, indulge in Trumpian rhetoric. Yet Canada does not seem tempted to shut itself off from the world. What can other Western countries learn from its example?

First, Canada not only welcomes newcomers but works hard to integrate them. Its charter of rights and freedoms proclaims the country’s “multicultural heritage”. Not every country will fuse diversity and national identity in the same way that Canada does. Indeed, French-speaking Quebec has its own way of interpreting multiculturalism, which gives priority to the province’s distinct culture. But other countries can learn from the spirit of experimentation that Canada brings to helping immigrants find employment and housing. Its system of private sponsorship, in which groups of citizens take responsibility for supporting refugees during their first year, not only helps them adapt but encourages society at large to make them welcome. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has called on other countries to copy it.

Follow the moose
The second lesson is the value of knowing when fiscal austerity does more harm than good. Canada has been managing its public finances conservatively for the past 20 years or so. Now in charge of a sluggish economy, Mr Trudeau can afford to give growth a modest lift by spending extra money on infrastructure. His government has given a tax cut to the middle class and raised rates for the highest earners to help pay for it. These economic policies deserve to “go viral”, the head of the IMF has said. Canada has a further economic lesson to impart in how it protects people hurt by globalisation. Compared with America, its publicly financed health system lessens the terror of losing a job; it also provides more financial support and training to people who do. And its policy of “equalisation” gives provincial and local governments the means to maintain public services at a uniform level across the country.

Perhaps most important, this mixture of policies—liberal on trade and immigration, activist in shoring up growth and protecting globalisation’s losers—is a reminder that the centrist formula still works, if politicians are willing to champion it. Instead of folding in the face of opposition to liberal policies, Mr Trudeau and his ministers have instead made the case for them. Although free trade is not the hot-button issue in Canada that it is in America, they have been tireless in listening to critics and trying to take their concerns into account.

Canada is far from perfect. It remains a poorer, less productive and less innovative economy than America’s. While championing freer international trade, Canada has yet to eliminate obstacles to trade among its provinces. For many liberals, Canada’s emphasis on “peace, order and good government”, enshrined in its constitution, is inadequate without an infusion of American individualism. But for now the world owes Canada gratitude for reminding it of what many people are in danger of forgetting: that tolerance and openness are wellsprings of security and prosperity, not threats to them.
Watch the documentary on India and answer the following questions:

1. How does the documentary’s opening images reflect India’s British inheritance?
2. During the 18th C the Moguls ruled the North of India, what was the situation in the South?
3. Based on which criteria does the narrator consider India to be a great nation?
4. In the 18th Century which European country competed with the British for power in the South?
5. Name the first uprising against the British in Southern India. When did it take place?
6. Which Indian ruler was known for having brought together both Muslims & Hindus?
7. What was the name of the company which established itself in Surat? What commodity did it specialize in?
8. What were the causes of the Great Rebellion of 1857?
9. How did 1857 mark a break in Indian history?
10. Who was the Englishman who spoke out for Indian self-government in the Freedom Movement? What was his view on Indian independence?
11. What was the Raj and how did it function?
12. What is the Amritsar Massacre and which consequences did it have?
13. Who were the leaders to emerge after this massacre & what did they all have in common?
14. In 1946 Britain tried to negotiate a loose Federation comprising groups of Hindu and Muslim states under a Central Government. What did this result in?
15. When did partition emerge as a proposal?
16. Among the Indian leaders at this time, who was for partition & who was against it?

17. Who eventually drew up the lines of partition and how did they decide to divide the country?

18. Mohammed Jinnah stated that “after we have divided then we can come together, then we can co-operate” but what comment did Gandhi cynically make to this?

19. What happened after Partition took place?

20. Which regions became the property of the Muslims and which became those of the Hindus?