Politics and public institutions

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each term with its definition.

1 separation of powers	____	a the branch that interprets and applies the law
2 legislature	____	b a party or politician currently holding office
3 executive	____	c authority granted by voters to pursue a programme
4 judiciary	____	d a system allocating seats broadly in line with vote share
5 electoral mandate	____	e permanent officials who administer public policy
6 proportional representation	____	f the division of authority among branches of government
7 incumbent	____	g the elected body responsible for making laws
8 opposition	____	h a court's examination of whether official action is lawful
9 civil service	____	i the parties that do not form the government
10 judicial review	____	j the branch that implements laws and runs the administration

2 Choose the term that best completes each sentence.

1 Low *voter turnout / electoral mandate* means that relatively few eligible citizens voted.

2 A proposed change to a bill is called an *amendment / incumbent*.

3 Parliamentary *scrutiny / sovereignty* involves examining government decisions closely.

4 Ministers are expected to be *accountable / proportional* for the way public money is spent.

5 Publishing contracts and evidence can improve institutional *transparency / legitimacy*.

6 The court ruled that the measure was *unconstitutional / unelected*.

7 The governing party claimed a clear *mandate / opposition* for tax reform.

8 A referendum allows the entire *electorate / judiciary* to decide a specific question.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form formal political collocations.

1 exercise	____	a legislation
2 secure	____	b an amendment
3 scrutinise	____	c a public inquiry
4 table	____	d the rule of law
5 hold	____	e executive authority
6 uphold	____	f an electoral mandate
7 launch	____	g the government to account
8 form	____	h a minority government

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4 Complete the analysis with the terms in the box.

accountability | coalition | constitutional | executive | legislature | mandate | opposition | proportional representation | scrutiny | turnout

Following a closely contested election in Caledon, held under **1** _____, voter **2** _____ rose significantly. The incumbent party remained the largest but lacked a majority. It therefore sought a **3** _____ partner and argued that the combined programme provided a clear **4** _____. The agreement promised stronger parliamentary **5** _____ of the **6** _____, together with monthly ministerial hearings intended to improve **7** _____. The **8** _____ welcomed these commitments but warned that any **9** _____ change must be debated fully by the **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

A citizens' assembly in Meridia

In response to declining public trust, Parliament established an 80-member citizens' assembly to consider electoral reform. Members were selected by a stratified lottery so that the assembly broadly reflected the population. It is an advisory, deliberative body rather than a rival legislature: members receive evidence, question experts and interest groups, and publish recommendations. The government is not legally bound to accept them, but it must issue a formal response and schedule a parliamentary debate within 60 days. Supporters argue that citizens can deliberate without party discipline and broaden participation. Critics reply that an unelected body lacks an electoral mandate and may allow ministers to postpone difficult decisions. The assembly's credibility therefore depends on transparent selection, balanced evidence, public access and a clear explanation of which recommendations are accepted or rejected.

1 Why was the assembly established, and how were its members selected?

_____

2 How does the text distinguish the assembly from a legislature? _____

3 What is the government formally required to do? _____

4 Give one argument for and one objection to the assembly. _____

5 Which factors are said to determine the assembly's credibility? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation from this worksheet.

1 The **number of eligible people who voted** was unusually low. _____

2 Courts can **examine whether an official decision is lawful**. _____

3 Parliament must **examine proposed laws closely**. _____

4 The electorate gave the government **authority to carry out its programme**. _____

OVER TO YOU

Policy brief: Should citizens' assemblies and referendums play a larger role in representative democracy? Prepare a two-minute response and write **160-190 words**.

Present two benefits, two risks and a reasoned conclusion. [ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include three political collocations. [ ] Use concession and contrast in a formal register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Match the terms and definitions

1 **f** 2 **g** 3 **j** 4 **a** 5 **c** 6 **d** 7 **b** 8 **i** 9 **e** 10 **h**

2 Choose the correct term

1 **voter turnout** 2 **amendment** 3 **scrutiny** 4 **accountable** 5 **transparency** 6 **unconstitutional** 7 **mandate** 8 **electorate**

3 Formal political collocations

1 e	exercise executive authority	**5 g**	hold the government to account
2 f	secure an electoral mandate	**6 d**	uphold the rule of law
3 a	scrutinise legislation	**7 c**	launch a public inquiry
4 b	table an amendment	**8 h**	form a minority government

4 Political analysis

1 **proportional representation** 2 **turnout** 3 **coalition** 4 **mandate** 5 **scrutiny** 6 **executive** 7 **accountability** 8 **opposition** 9 **constitutional** 10 **legislature**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 It was established because of declining trust; members were chosen by stratified lottery to reflect the population.
2 It advises and deliberates but does not make laws as a legislature does.
3 The government must issue a formal response and arrange a parliamentary debate within 60 days.
4 For: it broadens participation and reduces party discipline. Against: it is unelected and lacks a mandate.
5 Transparent selection, balanced evidence, public access and clear responses to recommendations.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 **voter turnout** 2 **conduct judicial review** 3 **scrutinise legislation** 4 **an electoral mandate**

Over to you: Answers will vary. Look for balanced evaluation, a defensible conclusion, accurate use of advanced political vocabulary and consistent formal register.