

Inside the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Student Review Questions

Part 1: Inside the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

1. How often does a Provincial Election typically happen in Manitoba?
2. What shape is Manitoba's Legislative Chamber?

Part 2: Rules of the House

3. Who establishes the rules of the House?
4. What is a Point of Order?
5. What is a Matter of Privilege?
6. Who rules on Points of Order and Matters of Privilege?
7. What is a motion?
8. Name one action a motion can perform.
9. How many Members must support a request for a recorded vote?

Part 3: The Speech from the Throne

10. What is contained in the Speech from the Throne?
11. Who reads the Speech from the Throne?
12. How long is debate on the Speech from the Throne?
13. Who usually moves a non-confidence motion?
14. What could be triggered if this non-confidence motion passes?

Part 4: Routine Proceedings

15. How can members of the public watch routine proceedings?
16. What is the Order Paper?
17. Who produces the Order Paper?
18. What is the first step of routine proceedings?
19. What happens during the committee reports stage?
20. What happens during the tabling of reports stage?
21. Who can give a Ministerial statement? About what?
22. What is the purpose of Members' statements?
23. How long is oral question period?
24. What is the purpose of oral questions?
25. What happens during the petitions stage?
26. How often can a Member present a grievance?

Part 5: How a Bill becomes a Law

27. What steps does a bill take to become law in Manitoba?

28. What motion does the MLA introducing a bill move first?
29. What can all Members do during second reading?
30. Where does the bill get sent by the Government House Leader after second reading is concluded?
31. Who has an opportunity to present to the committee of MLAs during the committee stage of the lawmaking process?
32. What is an amendment?
33. Can Members move amendments at the report stage?
34. If a Bill passes concurrence and third reading, what is the final step in the lawmaking process, and who typically performs this step in Manitoba?

Part 6: The Budget

35. What is the role of the Legislative Assembly when it comes to the budget?
36. Who delivers the budget speech to the House?
37. What does the budget motion ask the House to approve?
38. What might the Leader of the Official Opposition move?
39. How long is debate on the budget speech?
40. Which committee is responsible for the consideration of departmental estimates of expenditure?
41. How many hours are provided for this, and how many sections sit at once?

Part 7: Standing Committees

42. What do standing committees do?
43. How many Members are on a standing committee?
44. How many minutes do public presenters have for their presentations?
45. What is clause-by-clause consideration?
46. When reviewing reports from crown corporations, who does the committee hear from?
47. Which committee is the only one chaired by a Member from the Opposition party?

Part 8: The Speaker of the House

48. What role does the Speaker play during House sittings?
49. How is the Speaker chosen in Manitoba?
50. Why might a newly chosen Speaker appear reluctant to take the role?
51. What must the Speaker maintain during House sittings?
52. Who leads the Speaker's procession?
53. What does the leader of the procession carry?
54. What is the object a symbol of?
55. Does the Speaker participate in debates?
56. How do the Clerks at the table assist the Speaker?
57. At what point can a Speaker's portrait be hung in the Legislative Building?

***BONUS:** What is significant about the number of questions in this quiz?

ANSWER KEY

Part 1: Inside the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

1. Every 4 years
2. Horseshoe

Part 2: Rules of the House

3. Members of the Assembly
4. A Member believes another Member has broken the rules or procedures of the House
5. A Member believes that their rights as an MLA have been infringed upon
6. The Speaker of the House
7. A written proposal from a Member suggesting that the Assembly take certain actions
8. Consider a Bill, interrupt a debate, receive a committee report, etc.
9. A Member must have the support of three other Members for a recorded vote to take place

Part 3: The Speech from the Throne

10. Outlines the Provincial Government's policies and programs for the upcoming year
11. The Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
12. Six days
13. The Leader of the Official Opposition
14. A provincial election

Part 4: Routine Proceedings

15. From the public gallery, on cable television, or streamed on the Legislative Assembly website
16. The order paper serves as a "menu" of potential House business.
17. The Journals Branch
18. Introduction of Bills, the first step in the Legislative Process
19. The MLA serving as a committee chairperson can report back to the House about the work of the committee.
20. Ministers provide the House with copies of reports relating to Government business, crown corporations
21. Members of Cabinet including the Premier of Manitoba. Critics from the Opposition can then reply to these statements
22. Members have 5 minutes to give a statement, which can be about achievements of residents of their constituency, or comments on issues of the day.
23. 40 Minutes
24. Provide an opportunity for Opposition MLAs to ask the Cabinet Ministers and the Premier about issues in Manitoba or the work of the Government
25. Members can present a petition signed by members of the public calling for action on an issue
26. Once each Legislative Session

Part 5: How a Bill becomes a Law

27. First reading (Introduction of Bills), second reading, committee stage, report stage (if necessary), concurrence and third reading, Royal assent
28. Moves a motion asking that the Bill be read for a first time in the House
29. Discuss/debate the Bill in the House

30. To a standing committee for further consideration
31. Members of the public
32. A proposed change to the Bill
33. Yes report stage amendments can be made
34. Royal assent, granted by the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba

Part 6: The Budget

35. Deciding how to spend public money
36. The Minister of Finance
37. To approve the budgetary policy of the Government
38. A motion of non-confidence in the Government
39. Six days
40. The committee of supply sitting in three sections at the same time
41. 100 hours

Part 7: Standing Committees

42. Provide an opportunity to hear feedback from members of the public, and allows MLAs to review Bills in greater detail
43. 11 MLAs representative of the number of MLAs each party has in the House
44. 10 minutes
45. The committee can consider each individual clause of the Bill separately. A detailed review of the contents of the Bill
46. The Minister responsible for the crown corporation, as well as the Opposition critic and representatives from the crown corporation
47. The Public Accounts Committee

Part 8: The Speaker of the House

48. The Speaker maintains order and decorum during a House sitting according to the Rules, Orders, and Forms of Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
49. A secret ballot election in which all MLAs vote
50. Tradition stemming from a time when being the Speaker of the House was a dangerous job
51. Order and decorum
52. The Sergeant-at-Arms
53. The Mace
54. The Mace is a symbol of the authority of the Legislature
55. No, the Speaker cannot participate in debate, instead oversees the discussion
56. The Clerks provide advice on past practice, procedure, and the rules of the House
57. After the Speaker is no longer a Member of the Assembly

***BONUS:** There are 57 questions, and 57 Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba (MLAs)