Key Historical Dates

Revision sheet — Canadian citizenship test

Before Confederation

1215	Magna Carta signed in England — the root of Canadian freedoms *(p.8)*
1497	John Cabot explores Canada's East Coast *(p.14)*
1534–1542	Jacques Cartier crosses the Atlantic 3 times; the word “kanata” gives the country its name *(p.14)*
1604	Pierre de Monts and Champlain found the earliest European settlement north of Florida (today's Maine) *(p.15)*
1670	King Charles II gives the Hudson's Bay Company a trading monopoly *(p.15)*
1755–1763	Great Upheaval (deportation of the Acadians) *(p.10)*
1759	Battle of the Plains of Abraham — end of the French empire in America *(p.15)*
1763	Royal Proclamation of George III — secures Indigenous land rights *(p.10)*
1774	Quebec Act — rights of French-speaking Catholics protected *(p.15)*
1776	The 13 colonies south of Quebec declare independence and become the USA; the Loyalists flee to Canada *(p.15)*
1791	Constitutional Act — creates Upper and Lower Canada; the name Canada becomes official *(p.16)*
1793	Upper Canada is the first colony in the Empire to start abolishing slavery *(p.16)*
1812–1814	War of 1812 — Canadians and First Nations push back the American invasion *(p.17)*
1832	Montreal Stock Exchange founded *(p.16)*
1837–1838	Rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada *(p.17)*
1840	Upper Canada + Lower Canada united = Province of Canada *(p.18)*
1847–1848	Nova Scotia becomes the first colony with responsible government *(p.18)*

Since Confederation

July 1, 1867	British North America Act: Dominion of Canada created — Canada Day *(p.18)*
1869–1870	Louis Riel leads the Métis resistance; Manitoba is created *(p.19)*
1873	North West Mounted Police created (later the RCMP) *(p.19)*
Nov. 7, 1885	Canadian Pacific Railway completed *(p.20)*
Apr. 9, 1917	Capture of Vimy Ridge — Vimy Day *(p.21)*
Nov. 11, 1918	Armistice — end of the First World War *(p.21)*
1918	Women aged 21 and over win the federal vote *(p.21)*
1921	Red and white become Canada's official colours *(p.38)*
1929	Stock market crash — start of the Great Depression *(p.22)*
1934	Bank of Canada founded *(p.22)*

June 6, 1944	D-Day — Canadians take Juno Beach in Normandy *(p.23)*
1947	Oil discovered in Alberta *(p.24)*
1960	Federal vote extended to Indigenous peoples *(p.24)*
1965	The new Canadian flag is raised for the first time *(p.38)*
1969	Official Languages Act — French and English as official languages *(p.24)*
1980	O Canada is proclaimed the national anthem (first sung in 1880) *(p.40)*
1982	The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms becomes part of the Constitution *(p.8)*
1988	Canada–U.S. Free Trade Agreement *(p.42)*
1994	North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) *(p.42)*
1999	Nunavut created *(p.51)*
2008	Formal apology to former students of residential schools *(p.10)*