** History Assignment 3:**

**Events of Confederation**

**Date:** Due

**Overview:**

John A. Macdonald looked at the government of the United States and decided Canada’s government should be different. In the U.S., the states have many important powers. The federal government has only the leftover powers, and matters of foreign policy and national defence. This is why, for instance, criminal law is different in every state in the United States. Some states practise capital punishment for first-degree murder, while others have abolished executions altogether.

Macdonald believed that the Americans had not arranged things well. He thought that giving individual states too much power makes a nation less united. He believed that this had, in part, caused the American Civil War (1861-1865). Some states believed that they should have the right to practise slavery and refused to give up this right. This crisis nearly tore the country apart.

If the federal government had all the important powers, Macdonald believed, Canada could avoid having provinces leave the nation.

Not everything has gone to plan. Some powers that were considered unimportant and given to the provinces – such as health care and education – have since become important. Nova Scotia elected a separatist government in 1867. Quebec held referendums on separation in 1980 and 1995. By and large, however, the division of powers has helped to keep Canada together.

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| **Sect** | **Clause** | **Item** | **Example** |
| 91Fed | 3 | Taxation | Income tax, taxes on corporations, import duties |
| 7 | National Defence | The military |
| 24 | Aboriginal Affairs | Indian reserves and support (like health care and education) |
| 27 | Criminal Law | Making murder, smuggling, and theft illegal |
| 29 | Residual Powers | Licensing of television stations and items not invented before 1867 |
| 92Prov. | 2 | Limited Taxation | Income tax, taxes on corporations, provincial sales tax |
| 7 | Health Care | Hospitals and licensing of doctors |
| 8 | Local Government | The City of Toronto, Essex County, etc. |
| 10 | Roads and Bridges | Maintaining provincial highways |
| 93Prov. | 1 | Education | School boards, colleges, and universities |

**Preparation Work and Tasks:**

1. For one week, look through local and national newspapers or magazines. Find issues connected to government, such as health care, Aboriginal issues, revenues from oil and natural gas. Keep a list of the topics, note which government is responsible and whether or not there is a conflict between the two levels of government. Record your findings.
2. Do some research to find out about a recent dispute between the federal government and the provinces about one of the following areas: Aboriginal people, health care, the environment, trade, or telecommunications. Explain (a) the federal position in the disagreement, (b) the provincial position, and (c) which position you feel makes more sense, and why.

**Evaluation:**

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| **Category** | **Level 4** | **Level 3** | **Level 2** | **Level 1** | **%** |
| Research and Knowledge | The assignment demonstrates exceptional knowledge of how powers are divided between the federal and provincial governments. | The assignment demonstrates adequate knowledge of how powers are divided between the federal and provincial governments. |  |  | 30 |
| Information | The information describes many significant cause and effects that has allowed for the success between both governments. | The information describes a few significant cause and effects that has allowed for the success between both governments. |  |  | 30 |
| Design and Presentation | The assignment’s design and layout is very attractive and inviting. | The assignment’s design and layout is fairly attractive and inviting. |  |  | 40 |