

Wilfrid Laurier – Key

<p>What was Laurier's background? When did he become prime minister?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Born in Québec, practised law in Montréal ○ Liberal party member, defended Louis Riel in Parliament ○ First French-Canadian PM from July 11, 1896 to October 6, 1911 ○ Respected British liberal tradition ○ Remained as Leader of Opposition after defeat in 1911 	<p>What were the most important questions to Laurier as prime minister?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canadian unity; respect for diversity ○ Making Canada known and respected on international stage ○ Francophone-anglophone relations: he believed in two identities, French-Canadian and English-Canadian ○ Developing economy (free trade with U.S., developing agriculture, immigration) ○ Although Catholic, believed in separation of church and state
<p>What were some of his leadership qualities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong orator ○ Persuasive to anglophones and francophones alike ○ Very optimistic and positive ○ Good negotiator; had a "sunny ways" compromise approach ○ Future-oriented ○ Charismatic personality 	<p>List and explain two of Laurier's most important actions as prime minister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Settled Manitoba schools question by a compromise that allowed some French and some Catholic instruction in MB without creating separate schools ○ Oversaw creation of Yukon Territory in 1898; settlement of Alaska Boundary Dispute in 1903 ○ Maintained Canadian independence from Britain in matters of international relations ○ Oversaw construction of a second transcontinental railway in 1903 ○ Promoted immigration policies that encouraged settlement and development of the West ○ Oversaw creation of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905 ○ Formed Department of External Affairs in 1909; developed relations with other countries
<p>What was the main reason he was defeated in 1911?</p> <p>Free trade with U.S.</p>	<p>Note an interesting story or detail about Laurier.</p> <p>E.g., accepted the traditional knighthood reluctantly; was at times criticized by Catholic Church because of his views on role of Church</p>

The above are suggested guidelines, and may be expanded or varied.