

A Quick Guide to the Question Time Role-play Senate

Role-play stages	<i>Interpretation</i>
<p>Entrance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Clerk rings the bell and asks senators to stand. 2. The Usher of the Black Rod leads the President into the chamber, announces the President and places the Black Rod in its stand. 3. The President sits and asks everyone in the chamber to sit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing is a sign of respect.</i> • <i>Traditionally the Usher of the Black Rod protects the President.</i>
<p>Commencement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President makes announcements and asks the Clerk to read the rules. 2. The Clerk reads the rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The rules ensure that an orderly atmosphere is maintained in the chamber.</i>
<p>Optional: Party meeting to distribute portfolios and to plan questions and strategies.</p>	
<p>Opposition question</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President calls an opposition senator to ask the first question. 2. The opposition senator directs a question to a minister and sits down. 3. The President directs the minister to answer the question. 4. The minister answers the question and sits down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Questions to ministers are rotated between opposition, government and Independent senators.</i> • <i>Ministers can only be asked questions that relate to their portfolio.</i>

<p>Government question</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President calls a government backbencher to ask a question. 2. The government backbencher directs a question to a minister. 3. The President directs the minister to answer the question. 4. The minister answers the question and sits down. 5. The President repeats the process (alternating between government and non-government questions) until there is either no more time or no more questions. 6. The Leader of the Government in the Senate requests that all further questions be placed on the Notice Paper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Question Time runs for sixty to ninety minutes daily when the Parliament is sitting.</i>
<p>Adjournment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President announces that Question Time is over. 2. The Clerk asks senators to stand. 3. The Usher of the Black Rod leads the President from the chamber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing is a sign of respect.</i> • <i>By tradition, the Usher of the Black Rod protects the President.</i>