

American Government CLEP Prep Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. How many total members are there in the United States Senate?**
 - A. 50.**
 - B. 100.**
 - C. 435.**
 - D. 538.**
- 2. Who has the power to grant pardons for federal crimes in the United States?**
 - A. President.**
 - B. Supreme Court.**
 - C. Congress.**
 - D. State governors.**
- 3. How many total members are there in the United States Senate?**
 - A. 50.**
 - B. 100.**
 - C. 435.**
 - D. 538.**
- 4. Which amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to protection against unreasonable searches and seizures?**
 - A. First Amendment.**
 - B. Fourth Amendment.**
 - C. Sixth Amendment.**
 - D. Eighth Amendment.**
- 5. What is the term for the process of redrawing electoral district boundaries in the United States?**
 - A. Gerrymandering.**
 - B. Lobbying.**
 - C. Filibustering.**
 - D. Redistricting.**

- 6. Which amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms?**
- A. First Amendment.**
 - B. Second Amendment.**
 - C. Fourth Amendment.**
 - D. Eighth Amendment.**
- 7. How many total members are there in the United States Senate?**
- A. 50.**
 - B. 100.**
 - C. 435.**
 - D. 538.**
- 8. Which amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to a trial by jury in criminal cases?**
- A. First Amendment.**
 - B. Fourth Amendment.**
 - C. Sixth Amendment.**
 - D. Eighth Amendment.**
- 9. Who has the power to veto legislation in the United States?**
- A. President.**
 - B. Supreme Court.**
 - C. Congress.**
 - D. State governors.**
- 10. What is the term for the distribution of political power among different levels of government in the United States?**
- A. Separation of powers.**
 - B. Checks and balances.**
 - C. Federalism.**
 - D. Due process.**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. A**
- 3. B**
- 4. B**
- 5. D**
- 6. B**
- 7. B**
- 8. C**
- 9. A**
- 10. C**

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Explanations

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1. How many total members are there in the United States Senate?

- A. 50.
- B. 100.**
- C. 435.
- D. 538.

There are 100 total members in the United States Senate. Option A is incorrect because 50 is the number of states in the US, not the number of senators in the Senate. Option C is incorrect because 435 is the number of members in the House of Representatives, not the Senate. Option D is incorrect because 538 is the total number of members in the US Congress, which includes both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 100 members, and the House of Representatives has 435 members. Therefore, the total number of members in Congress is 535, not 538.

2. Who has the power to grant pardons for federal crimes in the United States?

- A. President.**
- B. Supreme Court.
- C. Congress.
- D. State governors.

Pardons for federal crimes in the United States can only be granted by the President. This is stated in the Constitution under Article II, Section 2. Therefore, while the other options may hold significant political power, such as the Supreme Court, Congress, and state governors, they do not have the authority to grant pardons for federal crimes. Only the President has this power.

3. How many total members are there in the United States Senate?

- A. 50.
- B. 100.**
- C. 435.
- D. 538.

The total number of members in the United States Senate is 100, with two Senators representing each of the 50 states. Option A is incorrect because 50 is the number of states in the United States, not the number of Senators. Option C is incorrect because 435 is the number of members in the House of Representatives, not the Senate. Option D is incorrect because 538 is the total number of members in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

4. Which amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to protection against unreasonable searches and seizures?

- A. First Amendment.
- B. Fourth Amendment.**
- C. Sixth Amendment.
- D. Eighth Amendment.

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. This amendment provides protection against any government official, such as a police officer, searching or seizing your property without a valid reason and without a warrant. The First Amendment, on the other hand, guarantees the freedom of speech, religion, and press. The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to a fair and speedy trial, while the Eighth Amendment prohibits the government from imposing excessive bail or fines, as well as cruel and unusual punishments. These amendments, while important in their own right, do not address the right to protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, making options A, C, and D incorrect.

5. What is the term for the process of redrawing electoral district boundaries in the United States?

- A. Gerrymandering.
- B. Lobbying.
- C. Filibustering.
- D. Redistricting.**

Redistricting is the term used to describe the process of redrawing electoral district boundaries in the United States. This is done every 10 years following the census to ensure that each district has a relatively equal population. Gerrymandering is a controversial practice which involves manipulating district boundaries to benefit a particular political party or group. Lobbying and filibustering are not related to redrawing district boundaries and involve different processes in the political system.

6. Which amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms?

- A. First Amendment.
- B. Second Amendment.**
- C. Fourth Amendment.
- D. Eighth Amendment.

The Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms. This amendment gives citizens the right to own and possess firearms, subject to certain regulations from the government. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they refer to other amendments that do not pertain to the right to bear arms. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, religion, and press while the Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. Therefore, the Second Amendment is the only correct answer for this question.

7. How many total members are there in the United States Senate?

- A. 50.
- B. 100.**
- C. 435.
- D. 538.

The United States Senate is made up of 100 members, with each state being represented by two senators. Option A is incorrect because there are not 50 states in the United States. Option C is incorrect because 435 is the total number of members in the United States House of Representatives, not the Senate. Option D is incorrect because 538 is the total number of Electoral College members, which includes both the 100 senators and 435 representatives. Therefore, the correct answer is B, 100 members.

8. Which amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to a trial by jury in criminal cases?

- A. First Amendment.
- B. Fourth Amendment.
- C. Sixth Amendment.**
- D. Eighth Amendment.

The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to a trial by jury in criminal cases. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, religion, and press. The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Eighth Amendment prohibits excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishment. These amendments do not explicitly mention the right to a trial by jury in criminal cases, making them incorrect choices.

9. Who has the power to veto legislation in the United States?

- A. President.**
- B. Supreme Court.
- C. Congress.
- D. State governors.

The President of the United States has the power to veto legislation. This means that the President can reject a bill passed by Congress and prevent it from becoming a law. This is an important part of the system of checks and balances in the US government. The Supreme Court does not have veto power and can only review laws for their constitutionality. Congress also does not have veto power, although they can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds majority vote. State governors only have veto power within their own state.

10. What is the term for the distribution of political power among different levels of government in the United States?

A. Separation of powers.

B. Checks and balances.

C. Federalism.

D. Due process.

Federalism refers to the distribution of political power among different levels of government, in this case referring to the three branches of the United States government. Separation of powers and checks and balances are both important concepts in the US government, but they refer specifically to the division of power within the federal government itself and the checks and balances between the three branches. Due process, on the other hand, refers to the legal procedures that must be followed when an individual is accused of a crime. While federalism plays a role in this process, it is not the term used to describe the distribution of political power among different levels of government. Therefore, C is the correct answer.