

American Government CLEP Prep Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

- 1. Which of the following is an example of a delegated power of the federal government in the United States?**
 - A. Regulating education.**
 - B. Establishing local governments.**
 - C. Printing money.**
 - D. Conducting elections.**
- 2. Who has the power to declare a state of emergency in the United States?**
 - A. President.**
 - B. Supreme Court.**
 - C. Congress.**
 - D. State governors.**
- 3. Who has the power to declare a federal law unconstitutional in the United States?**
 - A. President.**
 - B. Supreme Court.**
 - C. Congress.**
 - D. State governors.**
- 4. What is the term for the system of government where power is divided between a central government and regional governments?**
 - A. Democracy.**
 - B. Monarchy.**
 - C. Federalism.**
 - D. Totalitarianism.**
- 5. 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.**

- 6. Who has the power to interpret and apply laws in the United States?**
- A. President.**
 - B. Supreme Court.**
 - C. Congress.**
 - D. State governors.**
- 7. How often are members of the House of Representatives elected in the United States?**
- A. Every 2 years.**
 - B. Every 4 years.**
 - C. Every 6 years.**
 - D. Every 8 years.**
- 8. Which of the following is a power specifically granted to the President of the United States?**
- A. Declaring war.**
 - B. Regulating commerce.**
 - C. Establishing courts.**
 - D. Pardoning individuals.**
- 9. What is the term for the formal approval of a proposed law by the President in the United States?**
- A. Ratification.**
 - B. Judicial review.**
 - C. Veto.**
 - D. Signing into law.**
- 10. How many amendments are there in the United States Constitution?**
- A. 10.**
 - B. 27.**
 - C. 50.**
 - D. 100.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is an example of a delegated power of the federal government in the United States?

- A. Regulating education.**
- B. Establishing local governments.**
- C. Printing money.**
- D. Conducting elections.**

An example of a delegated power of the federal government in the United States is the ability to print money. This refers to the federal government's power to control and regulate the country's currency and monetary policy. Option A is incorrect because the regulation of education is a power granted to the states. Option B is incorrect because the establishment of local governments is also a power granted to the states. Option D is incorrect because the responsibility for conducting elections lies primarily with individual states, although the federal government may intervene in certain cases.

2. Who has the power to declare a state of emergency in the United States?

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

In the United States, the President has the power to declare a state of emergency. Although Congress can pass legislation and allocate funds in response to the emergency, they do not have the power to declare it. The Supreme Court also does not have the authority to declare a state of emergency. While state governors can declare a state of emergency within their own state, this question is specifically asking about the United States as a whole. Therefore, the President is the correct answer.

3. Who has the power to declare a federal law unconstitutional in the United States?

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

The Supreme Court has the power to declare a federal law unconstitutional in the United States. This is because the Judicial Branch of government, which includes the Supreme Court, is responsible for interpreting the Constitution and determining the constitutionality of laws. The President, Congress, and state governors do not have this specific power, although they may have other powers related to making and enforcing federal laws. Choosing options A, C, or D is incorrect because these branches or individuals are not recognized as having the authority to declare laws unconstitutional.

4. What is the term for the system of government where power is divided between a central government and regional governments?

A. Democracy.

B. Monarchy.

C. Federalism.

D. Totalitarianism.

A, Democracy is a form of government in which citizens have the power to choose their leaders and make decisions through voting. This system does not necessarily involve power being divided between a central and regional governments. B, Monarchy is a form of government in which a single ruler holds all political power and authority. While this system does involve a central government, the power is not divided between central and regional governments. D, Totalitarianism is a system of government in which the state holds total power over the society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private life. This system does not involve any division of power between central and regional governments. Therefore, the correct answer is C, Federalism, as it specifically refers to a form of government in which power is divided between a central government and regional governments. This allows for a balance of power between the two levels of government

5. 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 other options are incorrect because -The First Amendment protects the rights to freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion. -The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. -The Eighth Amendment protects against cruel and unusual punishment. The Sixth Amendment specifically guarantees the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury for all criminal cases. Therefore, only option C is the correct answer in this case.

6. Who has the power to interpret and apply laws in the United States?

A. President.

B. Supreme Court.

C. Congress.

D. State governors.

The Supreme Court is responsible for interpreting and applying laws in the United States. The President is in charge of enforcing laws, but does not have the power to interpret them. Congress is responsible for making laws, not interpreting them. State governors are responsible for enforcing state laws, but do not have the authority to interpret federal laws. Therefore, the Supreme Court is the only choice that accurately matches the question.

7. How often are members of the House of Representatives elected in the United States?

- A. Every 2 years.**
- B. Every 4 years.**
- C. Every 6 years.**
- D. Every 8 years.**

Members of the House of Representatives are elected every 2 years. This allows for more frequent reevaluation of representatives and ensures that the House remains closely tied to the will of the people. Option B is incorrect, as this term length is reserved for the President of the United States. Option C is incorrect, as this term length is reserved for members of the Senate. Option D is incorrect, as this term length is not used for any elected federal office in the United States.

8. Which of the following is a power specifically granted to the President of the United States?

- A. Declaring war.**
- B. Regulating commerce.**
- C. Establishing courts.**
- D. Pardoning individuals.**

A possible explanation for this answer would be that the power to pardon individuals is explicitly mentioned in the United States Constitution as a power that belongs solely to the President. None of the other options are mentioned as specific powers granted to the President in the Constitution. Additionally, declaring war is a power granted to Congress, not the President. Regulating commerce is also primarily the responsibility of Congress, with the President able to negotiate treaties related to commerce with foreign countries. Establishing courts is also primarily the responsibility of Congress, with the President able to nominate judges and justices, subject to Senate confirmation. In summary, option D is the correct answer because it is the only power explicitly stated in the Constitution as belonging solely to the President.

9. What is the term for the formal approval of a proposed law by the President in the United States?

- A. Ratification.**
- B. Judicial review.**
- C. Veto.**
- D. Signing into law.**

The term for the formal approval of a proposed law by the President in the United States is called "signing into law". "Ratification" refers to the official validation or confirmation of a treaty, constitution, or law. "Judicial review" is the process by which the courts interpret and evaluate the constitutionality of laws or governmental actions. "Veto" is the power of the President to reject a proposed law. Therefore, D is the most appropriate answer for this question.

10. How many amendments are there in the United States Constitution?

A. 10.

B. 27.

C. 50.

D. 100.

The other options are incorrect because the United States Constitution currently has 27 amendments. Option A (10) is the number of amendments that were initially added with the Bill of Rights. Option C (50) and Option D (100) are significantly higher than the actual number of amendments and may confuse someone who is not familiar with the United States Constitution. Therefore, 27 is the best choice and the correct answer.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://americangovernmentcleppractice.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!