

# AP Gov - Elections and Campaigns Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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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. 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.**

## **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. 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!**

## Questions

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- 1. What is raiding in the context of elections?**
  - A. A type of election strategy**
  - B. A form of voter fraud**
  - C. An organized attempt by voters of one party to influence another party's results**
  - D. A method of increasing voter turnout**
  
- 2. What is the function of the Federal Election Commission?**
  - A. To collect taxes from political donations**
  - B. To enforce campaign finance laws**
  - C. To oversee the election process in all states**
  - D. To mandate voter registration in all states**
  
- 3. What does cross-over voting refer to?**
  - A. Voting in a primary that is not your party's**
  - B. Influencing the vote of another party's members**
  - C. Voting only for independent candidates**
  - D. Taking part in a general election**
  
- 4. Which term describes short, memorable phrases used in media coverage?**
  - A. Grassroots Activity**
  - B. Sound Bytes**
  - C. Electioneering Communication**
  - D. Public Communication**
  
- 5. What is the primary function of a Super PAC?**
  - A. To donate money directly to candidates**
  - B. To fund communications and advertisements for a candidate**
  - C. To coordinate with a political party**
  - D. To raise funds through the mail**

- 6. Which type of advocacy focuses on influencing issues rather than direct candidate support?**
- A. Express advocacy**
  - B. Issue advocacy**
  - C. Direct mailing**
  - D. Political Action Committees**
- 7. Which type of organization is allowed political activity as long as it is not the primary goal?**
- A. 501 organizations**
  - B. 501(c) 4 organizations**
  - C. Super PACs**
  - D. PACs**
- 8. What is a potential consequence of gerrymandering on electoral outcomes?**
- A. Increase in independent voters**
  - B. Enhanced voter registration rates**
  - C. Disproportionate representation of political parties**
  - D. Strengthened bipartisan efforts**
- 9. Which of the following describes voting for candidates of one party on a ballot?**
- A. Ballot splitting**
  - B. Party-line voting**
  - C. Mixed-party voting**
  - D. Joint voting**
- 10. Voting for candidates solely from one political party is referred to as what?**
- A. Straight-ticket voting**
  - B. Single-party voting**
  - C. Block voting**
  - D. Unified voting**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is raiding in the context of elections?

- A. A type of election strategy
- B. A form of voter fraud
- C. An organized attempt by voters of one party to influence another party's results**
- D. A method of increasing voter turnout

Raiding refers to the organized effort by members of one political party to participate in another party's primary election with the intention of influencing the outcome in a way that benefits their own party. This tactic is often used to support a weaker candidate in the opposing party's primary, potentially making it easier for their preferred candidate to win in the general election. This strategy is strategically advantageous because it can disrupt the expected outcomes of the opposing party's primary process, thus altering the dynamics of the general election. Raiding can take various forms, such as a group of voters from one party deliberately registering to vote in the primary of another party, or actively campaigning for a specific candidate within that party who they believe would be easier to defeat in the general election. Considering the other options, a type of election strategy is too broad and does not capture the specific intent behind raiding. A form of voter fraud inaccurately implies illicit activity when raiding can occur legally within the election framework, provided that participants follow the rules governing primary elections. Increasing voter turnout also does not accurately represent the nature of raiding, as it focuses on boosting participation rather than manipulating the electoral process for strategic advantage.

## 2. What is the function of the Federal Election Commission?

- A. To collect taxes from political donations
- B. To enforce campaign finance laws**
- C. To oversee the election process in all states
- D. To mandate voter registration in all states

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) plays a critical role in enforcing campaign finance laws, which regulate the raising and spending of money in federal elections. Established in 1974, the FEC administers and enforces compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). This includes overseeing the disclosure of campaign finance information, ensuring that candidates and political committees report their contributions and expenditures accurately, and regulating the limits and sources of campaign contributions. The agency's primary goal is to promote transparency and fairness in the electoral process, preventing corruption and promoting public confidence in government. By ensuring that political donations are reported and regulated, the FEC helps maintain an equal playing field in elections, allowing voters to make informed decisions based on how campaigns are financed. In contrast, collecting taxes from political donations is not within the FEC's scope; tax collection is generally under the purview of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The FEC also does not have authority over the general election process or voter registration, as those functions are largely managed by individual states. Each state establishes its own systems for managing elections and voter registration, within the broader framework of federal law.

### 3. What does cross-over voting refer to?

- A. Voting in a primary that is not your party's**
- B. Influencing the vote of another party's members**
- C. Voting only for independent candidates**
- D. Taking part in a general election**

Cross-over voting refers to the act of a voter participating in a primary election of a political party to which they do not belong. This phenomenon often occurs in states with open primary systems, where voters are allowed to choose the primary they wish to participate in, regardless of their registered party affiliation. This can influence the selection of candidates by allowing members of one party to vote in the primary of another party, potentially swaying the outcome in favor of a candidate who appeals to a broader audience or undermining a preferred candidate of the opposing party. In contrast, the other options describe different electoral behaviors that do not specifically define cross-over voting. Influencing another party's members or voting exclusively for independent candidates does not capture the essence of participating in a primary outside one's registered party. Additionally, taking part in a general election does not involve party primaries and therefore is not relevant to the concept of cross-over voting.

### 4. Which term describes short, memorable phrases used in media coverage?

- A. Grassroots Activity**
- B. Sound Bytes**
- C. Electioneering Communication**
- D. Public Communication**

The term that describes short, memorable phrases used in media coverage is sound bytes. These are succinct and impactful snippets of speech or text that are designed to capture the essence of a message or a candidate's stance on an issue. Sound bytes are particularly important in the context of media coverage and political messaging, as they provide a way for candidates to communicate their points clearly and effectively to the public, often in a way that is easy to remember and repeat. Given the fast-paced nature of news reporting and the limited attention span of audiences, sound bytes serve as a communication strategy that allows candidates to distill their ideas into a few memorable words or phrases, which can be easily broadcasted and shared across various media platforms. This phenomenon can significantly influence public perception and media narratives during campaigns. Other options, while related to political communication, do not specifically refer to these concise phrases. Grassroots activity focuses on local-level organizing and mobilization, electioneering communication refers to broader strategies used by candidates to promote their campaign and influence voters, and public communication is a more general term that encompasses all forms of communication intended for a public audience.

## 5. What is the primary function of a Super PAC?

- A. To donate money directly to candidates
- B. To fund communications and advertisements for a candidate**
- C. To coordinate with a political party
- D. To raise funds through the mail

The primary function of a Super PAC is to fund communications and advertisements for a candidate. Super PACs, or "independent expenditure-only committees," are capable of raising and spending unlimited amounts of money to promote candidates or influence electoral outcomes as long as they do not coordinate directly with the candidates' campaigns. This ability to finance substantial campaign advertisements and communications makes Super PACs a crucial element in the modern electoral landscape, as they can significantly amplify a candidate's message and reach a broader audience. While a candidate's campaign can coordinate its spending directly with political parties, Super PACs are specifically designed to operate independently in their fundraising efforts, which distinguishes them from traditional political action committees that do have limits on contributions and expenditures. They do not directly donate money to candidates, nor are they primarily focused on raising funds through the mail, although some may utilize various fundraising strategies. The emphasis on funding communications and advertisements encapsulates their role in shaping the political narrative and leveraging substantial financial resources for electoral advantage.

## 6. Which type of advocacy focuses on influencing issues rather than direct candidate support?

- A. Express advocacy
- B. Issue advocacy**
- C. Direct mailing
- D. Political Action Committees

The correct choice is issue advocacy, which specifically targets influencing public opinion and policy on certain issues rather than endorsing or supporting specific candidates. Issue advocacy involves campaigns or efforts that aim to raise awareness, educate the public, and mobilize supporters around particular topics, such as healthcare, environmental policy, or education reform. This type of advocacy can include advertisements, grassroots activism, and public relations campaigns focused on driving discussion and action regarding specific legislative matters or social issues without directly linking to a candidate's campaign. This approach is distinct from express advocacy, which explicitly supports or opposes particular candidates for office, making clear endorsements about who individuals should vote for. Additionally, direct mailing refers to a method of communication used by campaigns, interest groups, or organizations to relay information, findings, or requests directly to individuals or stakeholders, but it is not solely focused on influencing issues independently. Political Action Committees (PACs) involve fundraising and contributing to candidates' campaigns and therefore are more closely aligned with express advocacy rather than the broader influence of issues that issue advocacy embodies.

**7. Which type of organization is allowed political activity as long as it is not the primary goal?**

- A. 501 organizations**
- B. 501(c) 4 organizations**
- C. Super PACs**
- D. PACs**

The correct choice is the organization classified under 501(c)(4). These entities are classified as social welfare organizations. They are permitted to engage in political activities, but it is vital that such political engagement is not their primary purpose. Specifically, these organizations can promote social welfare and, as a secondary function, participate in political advocacy, campaigns, and related activities. In contrast, other organizations have different regulations regarding political activities. For example, 501 organizations, generally, are charitable entities that are strictly prohibited from participating in any political activities. Super PACs, while vastly influential in political funding, are primarily dedicated to independent political spending and cannot contribute directly to candidates or parties. Political Action Committees (PACs) can engage in political activities but are subject to more stringent regulations, especially concerning contribution limits and disclosure. Understanding this distinction is crucial in the context of campaign finance and the role of various organizations in the electoral process.

**8. What is a potential consequence of gerrymandering on electoral outcomes?**

- A. Increase in independent voters**
- B. Enhanced voter registration rates**
- C. Disproportionate representation of political parties**
- D. Strengthened bipartisan efforts**

Gerrymandering involves manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts to favor one political party over another. A significant consequence of this practice is the disproportionate representation of political parties in legislative bodies. When district lines are drawn in such a way, they can create a scenario where one party wins a greater number of seats than its overall share of the popular vote would suggest. For instance, if a party has concentrated its voters into fewer districts, it may win those districts by large margins while losing others by narrow margins, leading to a situation where the overall seat count does not equitably reflect the voters' preferences. This manipulation can distort the electoral landscape, making it challenging for opposing parties to gain representation and may ultimately contribute to increased polarization within the political system. In contrast, while the other options may be factors of the electoral environment, they do not directly stem from the intent of gerrymandering, which is specifically aimed at securing advantageous outcomes for particular parties rather than promoting independence, voter registration, or bipartisan cooperation.

**9. Which of the following describes voting for candidates of one party on a ballot?**

- A. Ballot splitting**
- B. Party-line voting**
- C. Mixed-party voting**
- D. Joint voting**

Voting for candidates of one party on a ballot is referred to as party-line voting. This term specifically captures the practice where a voter chooses candidates from a single political party across various offices, thereby indicating strong support for that party's platform and candidates. Party-line voting often reflects a cohesive ideology among voters, where they align with the beliefs and policies promoted by their chosen party. This practice is significant in electoral politics as it can influence the overall outcome of elections, especially in situations where partisan divisions are pronounced. Voters who engage in party-line voting reinforce party cohesion and can lead to dominant party control in different levels of government if a majority consistently supports the same party's candidates. While ballot splitting might suggest that a voter is choosing candidates from different parties for different offices, and mixed-party voting emphasizes a blend of choices across party lines, these do not accurately depict the scenario of selecting candidates solely from one party. Joint voting is not commonly recognized in the context of party alignment in elections. Thus, party-line voting accurately represents the act of consistently supporting one political party in elections.

**10. Voting for candidates solely from one political party is referred to as what?**

- A. Straight-ticket voting**
- B. Single-party voting**
- C. Block voting**
- D. Unified voting**

Voting for candidates solely from one political party is referred to as straight-ticket voting. This term describes the practice where voters select all candidates from a specific party on their ballot, rather than choosing candidates from multiple parties. This method simplifies the voting process for those who strongly align with a particular political party and wish to express that loyalty across all offices. The practice of straight-ticket voting is often associated with party loyalty and can be influenced by factors such as political socialization, partisanship, and the presence of party branding in a voter's decision-making. Understanding this concept is essential as it can have significant implications for election outcomes, particularly in systems where party affiliation strongly influences voter behavior.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://apgoelectionscampaign.examzify.com>**

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

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