

# Articles of Confederation 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. Which document replaced the Articles of Confederation?**
  - A. The Magna Carta**
  - B. The Federalist Papers**
  - C. The Constitution**
  - D. The Declaration of Independence**
  
- 2. How many states needed to agree in order to modify the Articles of Confederation?**
  - A. A simple majority**
  - B. Three-fourths of the states**
  - C. All states**
  - D. Just two states**
  
- 3. How did the Articles of Confederation influence the writing of the U.S. Constitution?**
  - A. They established a working government model**
  - B. They revealed the need for a stronger federal government**
  - C. They promoted a bill of rights**
  - D. They encouraged state alliances**
  
- 4. What aspect of government was particularly strengthened in the new Constitution?**
  - A. The judicial branch only**
  - B. The power of states over the federal government**
  - C. Revenue and commerce powers of the federal government**
  - D. The power of the electorate**
  
- 5. What were the Articles of Confederation known as in American history?**
  - A. America's first constitution**
  - B. The second constitution**
  - C. A federal law**
  - D. A state agreement**

- 6. What did the uprising in Massachusetts highlight regarding the Articles of Confederation?**
- A. The effectiveness of state power**
  - B. The need for a strong national government**
  - C. The supremacy of local governance**
  - D. The ability of states to handle crises**
- 7. What was the structure of the first attempt at government under the Articles of Confederation?**
- A. Each state had equal power in a strong central government**
  - B. Each state had its own independent government**
  - C. There was a president overseeing all decisions**
  - D. Congress had multiple votes per state**
- 8. How many votes did each state have in Congress under the Articles of Confederation?**
- A. Two votes per state**
  - B. Three votes per state**
  - C. One vote per state**
  - D. No votes per state**
- 9. Which aspect of governance was most affected by the lack of executive authority under the Articles?**
- A. The establishment of international treaties**
  - B. The enforcement of laws and regulations**
  - C. The creation of a national postal service**
  - D. The development of a judicial system**
- 10. What was a primary goal of the new Constitution compared to the Articles of Confederation?**
- A. To limit federal power**
  - B. To centralize governmental authority**
  - C. To ensure states' rights**
  - D. To eliminate political parties**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Which document replaced the Articles of Confederation?

- A. The Magna Carta
- B. The Federalist Papers
- C. The Constitution**
- D. The Declaration of Independence

The Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation as the governing document of the United States. The Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781, established a framework for a national government but ultimately proved to be ineffective due to its weakness in central authority, specifically in taxation and regulation of commerce. In response to these issues, the Constitutional Convention convened in 1787, where delegates designed a new system of government. The resulting document, the Constitution, created a stronger federal structure with a clear separation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. This was intended to provide a more effective and stable governance, allowing for better control over taxing, commerce, and defense, which were significant challenges under the Articles of Confederation. The remaining options do not directly relate as replacements for the Articles. The Magna Carta is a historical document from 1215 that established certain legal principles but is not connected to the establishment of American governance. The Federalist Papers are writings that advocated for the ratification of the Constitution, serving as commentary rather than a governing document themselves. The Declaration of Independence, adopted in 1776, announced the colonies' separation from Britain and established foundational principles of governance but preceded the Articles of Confederation and did not serve as

## 2. How many states needed to agree in order to modify the Articles of Confederation?

- A. A simple majority
- B. Three-fourths of the states
- C. All states**
- D. Just two states

To modify the Articles of Confederation, all states needed to agree. This requirement stemmed from the belief that significant changes to the governing document would only be legitimate if they represented the consensus of all states, reflecting a commitment to unity and collaboration among the thirteen original states. The framers understood that any modification would impact the delicate balance of power and cooperation that the Articles aimed to establish, so requiring unanimous consent ensured that all states had a say in the process. This high threshold for making changes ultimately contributed to the weaknesses of the Articles, as it became nearly impossible to accomplish reforms even when there was widespread recognition of the need for improvements. The requirement for unanimous agreement illustrates the challenges of governance and consensus-building that early American leaders faced.

### **3. How did the Articles of Confederation influence the writing of the U.S. Constitution?**

- A. They established a working government model**
- B. They revealed the need for a stronger federal government**
- C. They promoted a bill of rights**
- D. They encouraged state alliances**

The Articles of Confederation significantly influenced the writing of the U.S. Constitution by exposing the limitations of a weak federal government. Under the Articles, the central government lacked necessary powers, such as the ability to levy taxes or regulate interstate commerce, which proved problematic for maintaining order and effectively managing the nation. The inability to address issues like economic turmoil and interstate disputes highlighted the urgent need for a stronger federal framework that could provide stability and enhance governance. This realization led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, where delegates aimed to create a new governing blueprint, ultimately resulting in a Constitution that established a more robust federal government with the power to tax, regulate commerce, and enforce laws. The shift toward a stronger central authority was directly influenced by the experiences and challenges faced under the Articles of Confederation, making this choice the most accurate reflection of their impact on the Constitution.

### **4. What aspect of government was particularly strengthened in the new Constitution?**

- A. The judicial branch only**
- B. The power of states over the federal government**
- C. Revenue and commerce powers of the federal government**
- D. The power of the electorate**

The new Constitution significantly strengthened the revenue and commerce powers of the federal government as part of the need to create a more effective national framework for governance. Under the Articles of Confederation, the federal government struggled with weak authority, particularly regarding taxation and regulating interstate commerce, which led to various economic challenges and inefficiencies. The Constitution addressed these issues by granting Congress the explicit power to levy taxes, regulate commerce among the states, and establish a uniform monetary system. This expansion of authority was critical for ensuring that the federal government could raise revenue to support its functions and promote economic stability, making it a key aspect of the new framework intended to unify the states and improve overall governance. Strengthening the federal government's role in revenue generation and commerce was pivotal in creating a system that could respond to the needs of the nation more effectively than the previous system, which had left considerable power and autonomy exclusively in the hands of the states.

**5. What were the Articles of Confederation known as in American history?**

- A. America's first constitution**
- B. The second constitution**
- C. A federal law**
- D. A state agreement**

The Articles of Confederation are recognized in American history as America's first constitution. They were adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777 and served as the governing document for the newly independent states until they were replaced by the U.S. Constitution in 1789. The Articles established a loose confederation of sovereign states and a weak central government, which limited its authority and effectiveness. This initial framework was significant because it set the stage for the development of a more balanced system of government that addressed the shortcomings and challenges faced under the Articles. The distinction of being the first constitution highlights its foundational role in American governance and constitutional development, providing a crucial learning experience that informed the creation of the stronger federal system that followed.

**6. What did the uprising in Massachusetts highlight regarding the Articles of Confederation?**

- A. The effectiveness of state power**
- B. The need for a strong national government**
- C. The supremacy of local governance**
- D. The ability of states to handle crises**

The uprising in Massachusetts, known as Shays' Rebellion, exposed significant weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and underscored the need for a strong national government. This rebellion illustrated how the federal government lacked the authority and resources to effectively deal with civil unrest and economic struggles faced by the states. Under the Articles, the national government did not have the power to raise an army or enforce laws directly; it relied on the states to manage such issues. When local authorities in Massachusetts struggled to maintain order during the rebellion, it became clear that a more centralized authority would be necessary to ensure stability and respond to crises effectively. Thus, Shays' Rebellion served as a catalyst for the call to revise the Articles and ultimately led to the drafting of the U.S. Constitution, which established a stronger federal government capable of managing internal conflicts and enforcing laws uniformly across states.

**7. What was the structure of the first attempt at government under the Articles of Confederation?**

- A. Each state had equal power in a strong central government**
- B. Each state had its own independent government**
- C. There was a president overseeing all decisions**
- D. Congress had multiple votes per state**

The structure of the government under the Articles of Confederation was characterized by a system in which each state retained its independence and exercised its own governance. This meant that the states operated like individual entities with their own governments, laws, and regulations. There was a central government established through the Articles, but it was deliberately weak and lacked the authority to enforce laws or levy taxes. This design reflected the delegates' wariness of a strong central authority, stemming from their experience under British rule, which led them to prioritize the sovereignty and independence of individual states. Therefore, while there was a system of confederation intended to bring the states together for common purposes, it mainly allowed each state to maintain its power and make its own decisions, leading to a loose alliance rather than a unified national government. The other choices reflect misunderstandings of the Articles. For instance, suggesting that each state had equal power in a strong central government misrepresents the weak nature of central authority in this framework. The idea of a president overseeing all decisions implies a governance structure akin to that of a strong executive branch, which did not exist under the Articles. Moreover, the concept of Congress having multiple votes per state does not align with the one-vote-per-state system established by

**8. How many votes did each state have in Congress under the Articles of Confederation?**

- A. Two votes per state**
- B. Three votes per state**
- C. One vote per state**
- D. No votes per state**

Under the Articles of Confederation, each state had one vote in Congress, regardless of its size or population. This provision was a fundamental part of the framework of the Articles, reflecting the desire for equality among the states in their representation. The framers of the Articles aimed to create a loose confederation where each state had equal say in decisions, ensuring that smaller states would not be overshadowed by larger ones. The decision to allocate one vote per state was rooted in the context of the time when the primary concern was to maintain unity among the states, following independence from British rule. This arrangement, however, led to challenges in passing legislation, as it required a supermajority of states to agree on most decisions, which often resulted in gridlock and inefficiency in governance. This understanding helps to clarify the significance of the voting system under the Articles and how it laid the groundwork for later shifts in governance, ultimately leading to the formation of a more robust federal system with the U.S. Constitution.

**9. Which aspect of governance was most affected by the lack of executive authority under the Articles?**

- A. The establishment of international treaties**
- B. The enforcement of laws and regulations**
- C. The creation of a national postal service**
- D. The development of a judicial system**

The lack of executive authority under the Articles of Confederation significantly impacted the enforcement of laws and regulations. With no executive branch to ensure that laws passed by Congress were implemented, the federal government struggled to maintain order and compliance among the states. Each state operated with considerable independence and was not compelled to enforce national laws unless they chose to do so. This decentralization led to inconsistencies and a lack of uniformity in law enforcement, undermining the effectiveness of the government as a whole. In contrast, while international treaties required coordination and cooperation, the absence of a strong executive primarily hampered the ability to enforce existing laws rather than to establish or negotiate treaties. Similarly, the creation of a national postal service and the development of a judicial system were also challenging but less directly tied to the immediate lack of enforcement capabilities that a strong executive would have provided. Hence, the enforcement of laws and regulations most clearly exemplifies the consequences of the ineffective governance structure established under the Articles of Confederation.

**10. What was a primary goal of the new Constitution compared to the Articles of Confederation?**

- A. To limit federal power**
- B. To centralize governmental authority**
- C. To ensure states' rights**
- D. To eliminate political parties**

The primary goal of the new Constitution compared to the Articles of Confederation was to centralize governmental authority. The Articles of Confederation established a weak national government, which proved inadequate for addressing issues like interstate commerce, taxation, and national defense. This decentralization led to significant challenges, such as an inability to raise funds or maintain a standing army. In contrast, the Constitution aimed to create a stronger federal government with the power to enforce laws, collect taxes, and regulate commerce more effectively. By doing so, it sought to provide a cohesive framework that could respond to the needs of the nation as a whole, thereby ensuring stability and unity among the states. This centralization was essential for fostering a more effective and responsive government capable of addressing the challenges facing the young country.

## 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://articlesofconfederation.examzify.com>**

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

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