

CASAS Government and History (965) Listening Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Where is Mexico located in relation to the United States?**
 - A. North of the U.S.**
 - B. South of the U.S.**
 - C. East of the U.S.**
 - D. West of the U.S.**
- 2. Who do we honor on Veteran's Day?**
 - A. Civilians**
 - B. Healthcare workers**
 - C. Teachers**
 - D. Soldiers**
- 3. Which historic figure's birthday is celebrated on President's Day, alongside Washington?**
 - A. John Adams**
 - B. Thomas Jefferson**
 - C. Abraham Lincoln**
 - D. Teddy Roosevelt**
- 4. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**
 - A. The Bill of Rights**
 - B. The Constitution's Preamble**
 - C. The Articles of Confederation**
 - D. The Declaration of Independence**
- 5. Which document officially ended the American Revolution?**
 - A. The Constitution**
 - B. The Declaration of Independence**
 - C. The Treaty of Paris 1783**
 - D. The Articles of Confederation**
- 6. What is the purpose of the United Nations?**
 - A. To govern the world**
 - B. To resolve world problems**
 - C. To promote trade**
 - D. To enforce international law**

7. What is the primary function of the United Nations?

- A. To promote sports and entertainment**
- B. To regulate international trade**
- C. To promote peace and cooperation among countries**
- D. To provide military support to member nations**

8. Which amendment abolished slavery?

- A. The Twelfth Amendment**
- B. The Thirteenth Amendment**
- C. The Fifteenth Amendment**
- D. The Nineteenth Amendment**

9. Who was the first President of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson**
- B. George Washington**
- C. Abraham Lincoln**
- D. Theodore Roosevelt**

10. What is the supreme law of the land?

- A. The Constitution**
- B. The Supreme Court decisions**
- C. The Declaration of Independence**
- D. The federal statutes**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where is Mexico located in relation to the United States?

- A. North of the U.S.**
- B. South of the U.S.**
- C. East of the U.S.**
- D. West of the U.S.**

Mexico is located directly to the south of the United States. This geographic positioning places Mexico as a neighboring country, sharing a long border that stretches approximately 1,954 miles (3,145 kilometers). The relationship between the two countries is significant in terms of trade, culture, and demographics. The only country that lies to the north of the United States is Canada. To the east and west, you would find oceanic borders, with the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Therefore, identifying Mexico's location as south of the United States accurately reflects this geographic reality.

2. Who do we honor on Veteran's Day?

- A. Civilians**
- B. Healthcare workers**
- C. Teachers**
- D. Soldiers**

Veteran's Day is a holiday dedicated to honoring military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Celebrated on November 11 each year, it provides an opportunity to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of these individuals in defending the country and ensuring national security. The day is marked by various ceremonies, parades, and moments of reflection, specifically aimed at acknowledging the bravery and commitment of former service members. The other options do not align with the purpose of Veteran's Day. Civilians, while significant to society, do not fall under the category of those we specifically honor on this day. Healthcare workers and teachers play crucial roles in the community, but their recognition comes on different days dedicated to their fields, such as National Nurses Day or World Teachers' Day. Thus, the focus of Veteran's Day remains squarely on soldiers and veterans who have served in the military.

3. Which historic figure's birthday is celebrated on President's Day, alongside Washington?

- A. John Adams**
- B. Thomas Jefferson**
- C. Abraham Lincoln**
- D. Teddy Roosevelt**

President's Day is celebrated in honor of two significant American presidents, most notably George Washington, the first president, and Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president. Lincoln's birthday falls on February 12, and while President's Day itself is observed on the third Monday of February, it serves as a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of both presidents to American history. Lincoln is particularly celebrated for leading the nation during the Civil War and for his efforts in the abolition of slavery, making his legacy profoundly impactful. This day is a reflection of the nation's respect for both leaders' roles in shaping the United States and their lasting influence on its governance and values.

4. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

- A. The Bill of Rights**
- B. The Constitution's Preamble**
- C. The Articles of Confederation**
- D. The Declaration of Independence**

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. This foundational document was ratified in 1791 and serves to protect the individual liberties of American citizens against potential government overreach. The Bill of Rights includes essential rights such as freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, and the rights of the accused in criminal cases, among others. The other options refer to significant documents in American history but do not pertain to the first ten amendments. The Preamble outlines the purpose and guiding principles of the Constitution itself, the Articles of Confederation served as the first governing document of the United States but were replaced by the Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence was a statement declaring the colonies' separation from British rule. Each of these plays a crucial role in American government and history but does not represent the first ten amendments, which specifically safeguard individual rights.

5. Which document officially ended the American Revolution?

- A. The Constitution**
- B. The Declaration of Independence**
- C. The Treaty of Paris 1783**
- D. The Articles of Confederation**

The document that officially ended the American Revolution is the Treaty of Paris 1783. This treaty was signed by representatives of the United States and Great Britain, concluding a prolonged conflict that began with colonial unrest over British policies. The Treaty recognized American independence and established borders for the new nation, marking a decisive pivot in the relationship between England and its former colonies. The other choices represent important milestones but do not fulfill the criteria of officially ending the war. The Constitution is the foundational legal document that established the framework of the United States government, adopted after the Revolutionary War. The Declaration of Independence, while a groundbreaking and pivotal document proclaiming the colonies' intent to separate from British rule, was issued earlier in 1776 and did not conclude the hostilities. The Articles of Confederation served as the first governing document of the United States but were created post-war and did not play a role in ending the conflict itself.

6. What is the purpose of the United Nations?

- A. To govern the world
- B. To resolve world problems**
- C. To promote trade
- D. To enforce international law

The primary purpose of the United Nations is to resolve world problems, which encompasses a wide range of issues including peace and security, development, human rights, and humanitarian assistance. The UN works to facilitate cooperation among countries to address global challenges, ranging from conflicts and humanitarian crises to climate change and sustainable development. By providing a platform for dialogue and negotiation, the UN aims to prevent conflicts and foster relationships that lead to peaceful resolutions, thus benefiting the international community as a whole. The other options do not encapsulate the comprehensive mission of the UN. While the UN has various functions, such as promoting trade through its agencies and supporting international law, its central role focuses more on resolving disputes and addressing broader global challenges that affect nations collectively. It also does not govern the world in a traditional sense, as it operates on principles of sovereignty and relies on the cooperation of its member states to enact change.

7. What is the primary function of the United Nations?

- A. To promote sports and entertainment
- B. To regulate international trade
- C. To promote peace and cooperation among countries**
- D. To provide military support to member nations

The primary function of the United Nations is to promote peace and cooperation among countries. Established in 1945 after World War II, the UN was created to foster international dialogue and prevent future conflicts. It works through various specialized agencies and committees to facilitate cooperation on issues such as security, human rights, development, and humanitarian efforts. The UN also plays a vital role in conflict resolution and peacekeeping missions around the world, aiming to maintain international peace and stability. The other options do not accurately reflect the core mission of the UN. Promoting sports and entertainment falls outside the UN's scope, as does providing military support, which only occurs in specific contexts such as peacekeeping operations and with the consent of member states. While the UN does address international trade through its agencies, regulation of trade is not its primary focus. The emphasis on peace and cooperation distinguishes the UN as a significant global institution dedicated to diplomatic relations and collaborative governance among nations.

8. Which amendment abolished slavery?

- A. The Twelfth Amendment
- B. The Thirteenth Amendment**
- C. The Fifteenth Amendment
- D. The Nineteenth Amendment

The Thirteenth Amendment is significant because it abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States, except as punishment for a crime. Ratified on December 6, 1865, it marked a crucial turning point in American history by officially ending the institution of slavery, which had been a legal and socially accepted practice for centuries. This amendment was a vital part of the post-Civil War Reconstruction era, as it laid the foundation for subsequent civil rights advancements. The other amendments mentioned—such as the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth—focus on different rights and electoral processes. The Twelfth Amendment deals with the election of the President and Vice President, while the Fifteenth Amendment prohibits states from denying citizens the right to vote based on race, and the Nineteenth Amendment grants women the right to vote. Each of these amendments plays a role in expanding civil rights, but it is the Thirteenth Amendment that specifically addresses the abolition of slavery.

9. Who was the first President of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. George Washington**
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. Theodore Roosevelt

The first President of the United States was George Washington, who took office on April 30, 1789. Washington is often referred to as the "Father of His Country" for his leadership in the founding of the nation and his pivotal role in the American Revolutionary War, as well as his guidance in establishing the precedents for the presidency. His presidency set many important standards for future leaders, including the tradition of serving only two terms in office. This pivotal position at the inception of the U.S. government distinguished Washington as a key figure in American history, establishing a foundation for the democratic system that continues today.

10. What is the supreme law of the land?

A. The Constitution

B. The Supreme Court decisions

C. The Declaration of Independence

D. The federal statutes

The Constitution is considered the supreme law of the land because it serves as the foundational legal document of the United States. It establishes the structure of the federal government, delineates the powers and responsibilities of government branches, and guarantees certain fundamental rights to the citizens. This primacy is articulated in Article VI, Clause 2 of the Constitution, known as the Supremacy Clause, which states that the Constitution, along with federal laws made pursuant to it, takes precedence over state laws and constitutions. This foundational role means that any law or decision that contradicts the Constitution can be deemed unconstitutional and thus invalid. While Supreme Court decisions interpret and apply the Constitution, they do not hold the same status as the Constitution itself. Similarly, the Declaration of Independence, while historically significant, does not have legal authority and is not a governing document. Federal statutes are laws passed by Congress but must align with the Constitution to be valid. Thus, the Constitution is unequivocally the highest legal authority in the land.