

# CAST Communication Competency Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. Which EU country had 67% of respondents reading the written press daily or almost every day?**
  - A. Belgium**
  - B. Luxembourg**
  - C. Netherlands**
  - D. Spain**
- 2. How long does the presidency of the Council of the European Union last?**
  - A. 3 months**
  - B. 6 months**
  - C. 1 year**
  - D. 2 years**
- 3. What country are The Independent, The Guardian and The Sun from?**
  - A. US**
  - B. UK**
  - C. Canada**
  - D. Australia**
- 4. What is the primary role of the European Ombudsman?**
  - A. Manage EU budgets**
  - B. Investigate complaints about poor administration by EU institutions**
  - C. Develop educational programs**
  - D. Represent EU citizens in court**
- 5. What is the penetration rate of home Internet access in EU households?**
  - A. 50%**
  - B. 45%**
  - C. 67%**
  - D. 80%**

- 6. What is a key focus area for the European Investment Bank?**
- A. Military funding**
  - B. Infrastructure development**
  - C. Agricultural subsidies**
  - D. Social programs**
- 7. What is the official website of the European Commission?**
- A. ec.europa.eu**
  - B. europa.eu**
  - C. commission.eu**
  - D. eu.int**
- 8. What is the name of the official TV channel of the EU?**
- A. EU First**
  - B. EuropebySatelite**
  - C. EU Broadcast**
  - D. EuroVision Channel**
- 9. Who has the right of access to EU documents according to the Treaty?**
- A. Only EU officials**
  - B. Citizens of the Union and residents of Member States**
  - C. Only citizens over the age of 18**
  - D. Citizens of non-EU countries**
- 10. How many journalists are accredited to the EU institutions?**
- A. 800**
  - B. 955**
  - C. 1000**
  - D. 750**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which EU country had 67% of respondents reading the written press daily or almost every day?**

**A. Belgium**

**B. Luxembourg**

**C. Netherlands**

**D. Spain**

Luxembourg stands out in this context, with 67% of respondents reading the written press daily or almost every day. This high level of engagement with written media can be attributed to several factors unique to Luxembourg. The country has a highly educated population and a multilingual environment, where citizens often consume news in multiple languages. This multilingualism fosters a diverse media landscape and encourages daily readership among residents. Additionally, Luxembourg has a relatively small population, which facilitates a closer relationship between media outlets and their audiences, further encouraging readership. The strong presence of printed press in the daily lives of its citizens indicates a cultural inclination toward traditional forms of media, contributing to the substantial percentage of regular readers. In contrast, other countries listed might not exhibit the same level of daily readership due to different cultural habits, media consumption behaviors, or socioeconomic factors influencing how citizens engage with written publications. Understanding these dynamics helps frame why Luxembourg leads in this statistic.

**2. How long does the presidency of the Council of the European Union last?**

**A. 3 months**

**B. 6 months**

**C. 1 year**

**D. 2 years**

The presidency of the Council of the European Union lasts for a period of 6 months. This rotating presidency allows each member state to take its turn leading the council's activities and setting its agenda. The rotation among member states promotes collaboration and ensures that all nations have an equal opportunity to influence decisions within the EU. Each country that holds the presidency is responsible for facilitating meetings, guiding discussions, and representing the Council in relations with other EU institutions. This structure is designed to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in governance, while also fostering unity and cooperation among the diverse member states.

**3. What country are The Independent, The Guardian and The Sun from?**

- A. US
- B. UK**
- C. Canada
- D. Australia

The Independent, The Guardian, and The Sun are all newspapers that originate from the United Kingdom. Each of these publications has its roots in British journalism and contributes to the media landscape in the UK. They cover a broad range of topics from news, politics, and culture, reflecting the interests and issues relevant to British society. The Independent and The Guardian are known for their liberal viewpoints, while The Sun is recognized for its tabloid-style news coverage. Understanding the origin of these newspapers is essential for grasping how media influences public opinion and discourse in the UK specifically.

**4. What is the primary role of the European Ombudsman?**

- A. Manage EU budgets
- B. Investigate complaints about poor administration by EU institutions**
- C. Develop educational programs
- D. Represent EU citizens in court

The primary role of the European Ombudsman is to investigate complaints about poor administration by European Union institutions. This function is critical as it helps to ensure transparency, accountability, and adherence to administrative standards within EU bodies. The Ombudsman acts as a mediator between EU institutions and citizens, addressing issues such as maladministration, which can include a range of concerns from unfair treatment to lack of proper procedures. By fulfilling this role, the European Ombudsman reinforces the principles of good governance in the EU, providing citizens with a channel to express their grievances and seeking remedies for any injustices or inefficiencies encountered in their dealings with EU institutions. This position not only enhances the credibility of the EU but also empowers citizens by allowing them to hold institutions accountable, ensuring their rights and interests are safeguarded.

**5. What is the penetration rate of home Internet access in EU households?**

- A. 50%**
- B. 45%**
- C. 67%**
- D. 80%**

The penetration rate of home Internet access in EU households is indeed around 67%. This figure reflects the significant availability and adoption of Internet services across various member states, driven by factors such as advancements in technology, increased accessibility in rural areas, and the importance of the Internet in everyday life for work, education, and social interaction. A penetration rate of 67% indicates that a majority of households in the EU have access to the Internet, highlighting the digital connectivity that has become essential in modern society. This statistic aligns with trends observed in recent years, showing consistent growth in Internet access due to various initiatives enhancing digital infrastructure and services. Other figures, such as 50%, 45%, and 80%, do not accurately reflect the current data and trends in EU Internet access, thus underscoring why the number 67% is the correct representation of this important statistic.

**6. What is a key focus area for the European Investment Bank?**

- A. Military funding**
- B. Infrastructure development**
- C. Agricultural subsidies**
- D. Social programs**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) places a significant emphasis on infrastructure development as a key focus area. This aligns with the EIB's mandate to finance projects that contribute to the growth and establishment of infrastructure across Europe. Infrastructure includes transportation networks, energy projects, and urban development, which are essential for enhancing connectivity, promoting economic growth, and ensuring sustainability in the European Union. By focusing on infrastructure development, the EIB aims to support the achievement of EU objectives, such as environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and the promotion of a competitive economy. This commitment to infrastructure is also evident in the bank's strategic priorities and project funding initiatives aimed at fostering regional development and enhancing public services across member states.

## 7. What is the official website of the European Commission?

- A. ec.europa.eu
- B. europa.eu**
- C. commission.eu
- D. eu.int

The correct choice, which is the official website of the European Commission, is noted for its comprehensive information regarding the functions, policies, and legislation of the European Union. The address provides access to a wide range of resources including announcements, documents, and updates related to the activities of the European Commission. The website serves as a primary platform for communication between the European Commission and the public, enhancing transparency and allowing users to stay informed about various initiatives and policies being implemented across Europe. This emphasis on providing accessible and clear information about the EU's work highlights the importance of the website in fostering public engagement and understanding. While the other options might sound plausible, they do not serve as the official website for the European Commission. For example, one option may represent a broader EU portal that encompasses more than just the Commission, while others do not have any direct association with the specific functions and resources of the European Commission itself. Thus, the selection of the correct answer reinforces the importance of identifying the appropriate authoritative source when seeking official information on EU matters.

## 8. What is the name of the official TV channel of the EU?

- A. EU First
- B. EuropebySatelite**
- C. EU Broadcast
- D. EuroVision Channel

The official TV channel of the European Union is known as "Europe by Satellite." This channel provides various programming that covers EU activities and affairs, including news, interviews, and informative content about EU policies and initiatives. It serves as a platform for the EU to communicate directly with citizens and promotes transparency and understanding of its workings. The content is available in multiple languages, making it accessible to a broader audience across member states. The other choices do not represent the official channel of the EU. While "EU First," "EU Broadcast," and "EuroVision Channel" may sound relevant to the context of EU communication, they do not correspond to the established name or function of the channel that actually delivers official EU content. Hence, "Europe by Satellite" stands apart as the correct answer, reflecting its role and branding within the European Union's communication strategies.

**9. Who has the right of access to EU documents according to the Treaty?**

**A. Only EU officials**

**B. Citizens of the Union and residents of Member States**

**C. Only citizens over the age of 18**

**D. Citizens of non-EU countries**

The correct choice highlights that citizens of the European Union and residents of Member States have the right of access to EU documents as stipulated by the Treaty. This principle is grounded in the commitment to transparency and accountability within the EU framework. By allowing access to documents, the EU aims to enhance public involvement in decision-making processes and promote democracy. This transparency initiative not only helps citizens stay informed but also encourages civic engagement by granting them the ability to participate and hold institutions accountable. It reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that governance is open and accessible to those it affects most directly—namely, the individuals within its jurisdiction. The other options suggest restrictions or limitations that do not align with the established principles of the EU's access rights. For instance, limiting access solely to EU officials would contradict the purpose of fostering transparency. Similarly, excluding non-EU citizens or imposing an age requirement would go against the inclusive philosophy underpinning the EU's commitment to promoting a participatory democracy. Thus, recognizing the rights of both EU citizens and residents is fundamental to the EU's operational ethos.

**10. How many journalists are accredited to the EU institutions?**

**A. 800**

**B. 955**

**C. 1000**

**D. 750**

The accurate number of journalists accredited to the EU institutions, which is 955, reflects the growing importance of media coverage in the context of European governance and policies. This number indicates the extensive engagement and interest in EU affairs among journalists, highlighting the essential role they play in informing the public about EU processes, decisions, and issues. The accreditation process itself ensures that journalists have access to various EU events and information, enabling them to report effectively and maintain transparency within the institution. Such a figure represents a significant network that contributes to democratic accountability and public awareness regarding the workings of the EU.