

Civil Rights 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 organization is described as a nonviolent protest group founded by white and black students that contributed to voter registration and the March on Washington?**
 - A. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)**
 - B. Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)**
 - C. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)**
 - D. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**

- 2. Which Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, or national origin?**
 - A. Civil Rights Act of 1964**
 - B. Americans with Disabilities Act**
 - C. Voting Rights Act**
 - D. Fair Housing Act of 1968 (Correct)**

- 3. The Voting Rights Act preclearance provisions apply to changes in voting practices in which areas?**
 - A. Applies only to federal elections**
 - B. Applies to all voting changes regardless of jurisdiction**
 - C. Applies to changes in voter registration requirements**
 - D. Requires federal approval before changes to voting practices in covered jurisdictions**

- 4. Which amendment lowered the voting age to 18?**
 - A. Twenty-First Amendment (1933)**
 - B. Twenty-Second Amendment (1951)**
 - C. Twenty-Sixth Amendment (1971)**
 - D. Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964)**

- 5. Which statement reflects the racial wealth gap as described?**
 - A. Black households have 153% lower median net worth and 26% lower income than White households.**
 - B. Black households have higher net worth than White households.**
 - C. There is no wealth gap.**
 - D. Wealth gaps are solely due to individual choices.**

- 6. What did the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* establish regarding abortion?**
- A. Women have the right to choose an abortion during the first trimester.**
 - B. Abortion is illegal in all pregnancies.**
 - C. Abortion is allowed only after viability.**
 - D. The decision leaves abortion regulation entirely to the states.**
- 7. Which amendment abolishes slavery?**
- A. The 19th Amendment**
 - B. The 14th Amendment**
 - C. The 15th Amendment**
 - D. The 13th Amendment**
- 8. What did the Eugenics movement involve?**
- A. Sterilization and segregation of disabled people**
 - B. Universal education**
 - C. Access to voting**
 - D. Political rights**
- 9. Which amendment prohibits poll taxes in federal elections?**
- A. Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964)**
 - B. Thirteenth Amendment (1865)**
 - C. Fifth Amendment (1791)**
 - D. Seventeenth Amendment (1913)**
- 10. Which amendments constitute the Reconstruction Amendments?**
- A. The 11th, 12th, and 13th Amendments**
 - B. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Amendments**
 - C. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments**
 - D. The 16th, 17th, and 18th Amendments**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which organization is described as a nonviolent protest group founded by white and black students that contributed to voter registration and the March on Washington?

- A. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)**
- B. Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)**
- C. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)**
- D. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**

The idea being tested is identifying a nonviolent protest group with interracial roots that actively pushed for voting rights and played a role in the March on Washington. The correct organization is the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). CORE was founded in 1942 and embraced nonviolent direct action as its core tactic. From its beginnings, it brought together Black and white activists to challenge segregation and discrimination, creating an interracial platform for civil rights organizing. Its efforts spanned voter registration drives in the South and coordinated actions that pressured local and national leaders to address Jim Crow laws. CORE also connected with the broader national movement that culminated in the March on Washington, contributing to the momentum and coalition-building that made the 1963 event possible. The interracial, nonviolent organizing style and involvement in voter registration and high-visibility actions like the March on Washington are what make CORE the best fit for this description.

2. Which Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, or national origin?

- A. Civil Rights Act of 1964**
- B. Americans with Disabilities Act**
- C. Voting Rights Act**
- D. Fair Housing Act of 1968 (Correct)**

Discrimination in housing based on protected characteristics is prohibited by federal law. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 makes it illegal to refuse to sell or rent, or to set terms, conditions, or advertisements for housing, because of race, color, religion, or national origin, and it extends protections to additional categories like sex, disability, and familial status. It also bans discriminatory advertising and provides enforcement mechanisms through HUD and private lawsuits. Other acts address different issues: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 covers civil rights in public accommodations and employment but isn't focused on housing discrimination; the Americans with Disabilities Act protects disability rights mainly in employment and public spaces; the Voting Rights Act protects the right to vote. Therefore, the law that directly prohibits housing discrimination on those bases is the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

- 3. The Voting Rights Act preclearance provisions apply to changes in voting practices in which areas?**
- A. Applies only to federal elections**
 - B. Applies to all voting changes regardless of jurisdiction**
 - C. Applies to changes in voter registration requirements**
 - D. Requires federal approval before changes to voting practices in covered jurisdictions**

The key idea here is that certain places with a history of voting discrimination must obtain federal approval before making changes to how voting is run. This preclearance applies to changes in voting practices or procedures in those covered jurisdictions, not to every state or only to federal elections. It can include things like voter registration requirements, district boundaries, or other voting methods. Because of that, the correct answer is the one that states federal approval is required before changes to voting practices in covered jurisdictions take effect.

- 4. Which amendment lowered the voting age to 18?**
- A. Twenty-First Amendment (1933)**
 - B. Twenty-Second Amendment (1951)**
 - C. Twenty-Sixth Amendment (1971)**
 - D. Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964)**

Lowering the voting age to 18 is about extending the franchise to more young adults and recognizing them as full participants in civic life. The amendment that does this is the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971, which states that the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged on account of age for citizens 18 years old or older. This change gained momentum during the Vietnam War era, with the idea that if 18-year-olds could be drafted for military service, they should also have a voice in the elections that affect them; it followed debates about whether Congress could uniformly set a national voting age, which ultimately led to a constitutional change. The other amendments address different issues—repealing Prohibition, limiting a president’s terms, and eliminating poll taxes—so they do not establish a national voting age.

5. Which statement reflects the racial wealth gap as described?

- A. Black households have 153% lower median net worth and 26% lower income than White households.**
- B. Black households have higher net worth than White households.**
- C. There is no wealth gap.**
- D. Wealth gaps are solely due to individual choices.**

Racial wealth gap shows up as large, lasting differences in what Black and White households own and earn, rooted in historical and ongoing policies that shape access to employment, housing, credit, education, and inheritance. The statement describing that Black households have a markedly lower median net worth and a lower income than White households best captures this reality. Net worth reflects the total wealth a family can rely on across generations—home equity, investments, savings minus debts—so it reveals long-term financial security and the ability to weather shocks or fund opportunities. Income shows current earnings, signaling ongoing disparities in daily resources. Together, they illustrate not just a moment in time, but a pattern across time that points to structural barriers rather than individual choices alone. That’s why the other possibilities don’t fit. Saying Black households have higher net worth contradicts the well-documented wealth disparity. Claiming there is no wealth gap ignores the extensive data showing persistent differences in wealth and income. Attributing gaps solely to individual choices ignores the systemic factors—segregation, discriminatory lending, unequal schooling, employment discrimination, and unequal access to intergenerational wealth—that keep the gap in place even when individuals work hard.

6. What did the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* establish regarding abortion?

- A. Women have the right to choose an abortion during the first trimester.**
- B. Abortion is illegal in all pregnancies.**
- C. Abortion is allowed only after viability.**
- D. The decision leaves abortion regulation entirely to the states.**

The key idea is recognizing a constitutional right to privacy that protects a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy. In *Roe v. Wade*, the Court held that during the first trimester, the state cannot ban or heavily regulate abortion, so a woman has the right to choose. The decision also laid out a trimester framework for how state interests could grow over time: in the second trimester the state can regulate abortion in ways tied to the health of the mother, and after viability the state may restrict or prohibit abortion except to protect the mother's life or health. This is why the correct understanding is that a woman has the right to choose an abortion in the first trimester. Note that later cases refined the framework, but *Roe* established the basic protection in early pregnancy.

7. Which amendment abolishes slavery?

- A. The 19th Amendment
- B. The 14th Amendment
- C. The 15th Amendment**
- D. The 13th Amendment

Abolishing slavery is achieved by the 13th Amendment. It explicitly bans slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States, except as punishment for a crime for which a person has been duly convicted. This change was ratified in 1865 after the Civil War, establishing a nationwide legal end to slavery. The other amendments address related rights but not the abolition itself: the 14th defines citizenship and guarantees equal protection under the law; the 15th prohibits denying the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and the 19th extends voting rights to women. So the amendment that directly abolishes slavery is the 13th Amendment.

8. What did the Eugenics movement involve?

- A. Sterilization and segregation of disabled people
- B. Universal education**
- C. Access to voting
- D. Political rights

The idea behind the Eugenics movement was to “improve” the human population by controlling who could reproduce, based on beliefs about heredity and fitness. This led to coercive and discriminatory policies that targeted people considered genetically unfit, especially those with disabilities, and sometimes certain racial or ethnic groups. The practical effects included forced or coerced sterilization, and segregation or institutionalization of disabled individuals, along with attempts to restrict marriage or immigration for certain groups. Education or propaganda might be used to spread eugenic ideas, but that isn’t what the movement aimed to achieve in practice. These policies directly challenged bodily autonomy and civil rights, illustrating how eugenics prioritized supposed genetic betterment over individual rights. In short, the core actions were sterilization and segregation of disabled people, not universal education.

9. Which amendment prohibits poll taxes in federal elections?

- A. Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964)**
- B. Thirteenth Amendment (1865)
- C. Fifth Amendment (1791)
- D. Seventeenth Amendment (1913)

Poll taxes in federal elections are addressed directly by the Twenty-Fourth Amendment. It declares that the right to vote in any federal election for President, Vice President, or Members of Congress shall not be denied or abridged by failure to pay any poll tax or other tax. This blocks a financial barrier that historically kept many people, especially low-income voters and marginalized groups, from casting their ballots in federal elections. The other amendments listed don’t target poll taxes in federal elections. The Thirteenth Amendment bans slavery and involuntary servitude. The Fifth Amendment protects due process and other rights but doesn’t address voting taxes. The Seventeenth Amendment changes how senators are elected but does not mention poll taxes. So the Twenty-Fourth Amendment is the one that directly prohibits poll taxes in federal elections.

10. Which amendments constitute the Reconstruction Amendments?

- A. The 11th, 12th, and 13th Amendments**
- B. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Amendments**
- C. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments**
- D. The 16th, 17th, and 18th Amendments**

Reconstruction Amendments are the trio enacted after the Civil War to protect the rights of newly freed African Americans. The 13th Amendment ends slavery. The 14th Amendment defines citizenship and guarantees equal protection and due process, tying state action to fundamental rights. The 15th Amendment prohibits denying the vote based on race. Together, they created a constitutional framework aimed at transforming Southern society and securing civil and political participation for Black citizens, which is why this set is labeled the Reconstruction Amendments. Other options pull in amendments from different eras—earlier into the Bill of Rights or later changes from the Progressive era—so they don't fit this Reconstruction grouping.

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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://civilrights.examzify.com>

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

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