

# Confederation to Constitution 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. Why was the Confederation Congress unable to resolve problems with Britain and Spain?**
  - A. It had no power to declare war**
  - B. It had an overly powerful executive**
  - C. It could not regulate trade**
  - D. It lacked an executive branch and the power to regulate trade**
  
- 2. Who has the power to override a veto with a 2/3 vote?**
  - A. Legislative Branch**
  - B. President**
  - C. Supreme Court**
  - D. Congress**
  
- 3. Federalists were described as which of the following?**
  - A. Supporters of the U.S. Constitution at the time the states were contemplating its adoption.**
  - B. Opponents of ratification.**
  - C. Leaders of the anti-slavery movement.**
  - D. Supporters of provincial sovereignty**
  
- 4. Which statement best describes the purpose of the Constitution?**
  - A. It is a treaty with foreign nations.**
  - B. It is primarily a plan for tax policy.**
  - C. It only applies to the states, not the national government.**
  - D. It lays out the principles, structure, and fundamental laws that govern society.**
  
- 5. Who were the Founders?**
  - A. People who drafted the Magna Carta**
  - B. People who helped create the US Constitution**
  - C. People who wrote the Treaty of Paris**
  - D. People who drafted the Articles of Confederation only**

- 6. How long is a Representative's term?**
- A. 2 years**
  - B. 4 years**
  - C. 6 years**
  - D. 8 years**
- 7. Which statement best defines a republic?**
- A. A hereditary rule.**
  - B. A state, nation, or country where the people elect representatives.**
  - C. Rule by religious leaders.**
  - D. Direct democracy.**
- 8. Which branch interprets the law?**
- A. Executive**
  - B. Judicial**
  - C. Legislative**
  - D. Administrative**
- 9. What is America's bicameral legislative body called?**
- A. Congress**
  - B. Parliament**
  - C. National Assembly**
  - D. General Court**
- 10. Which term means a law or regulation?**
- A. Federal**
  - B. Clause**
  - C. Credit**
  - D. Ordinance**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Why was the Confederation Congress unable to resolve problems with Britain and Spain?**

- A. It had no power to declare war**
- B. It had an overly powerful executive**
- C. It could not regulate trade**
- D. It lacked an executive branch and the power to regulate trade**

The main issue is the weak central government created by the Articles of Confederation: there was no executive branch and no power to regulate trade. Without an executive, there wasn't a single person to negotiate, present, or enforce treaties, so foreign powers like Britain and Spain could stall or ignore agreements without a clear national response. At the same time, Congress couldn't regulate commerce, so the young nation lacked a unified economic policy or leverage to pressure Britain and Spain or to fund enforcement actions. This combination made it nearly impossible to implement treaties or coordinate a coherent foreign-policy approach, leaving problems with Britain and Spain unresolved until a stronger national framework existed.

**2. Who has the power to override a veto with a 2/3 vote?**

- A. Legislative Branch**
- B. President**
- C. Supreme Court**
- D. Congress**

Overriding a presidential veto is a power held by Congress within the legislative branch, and it requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers. This means the bill must be passed again by both the Senate and the House with at least two-thirds of each body voting in favor, despite the president's refusal to sign. If both chambers reach that threshold, the bill becomes law without the president's signature. The president can veto, and the Supreme Court interprets laws, but neither can unilaterally override a veto. The broad term "Legislative Branch" is less precise than naming Congress, since the override mechanism specifically relies on votes in the two houses of Congress.

### 3. Federalists were described as which of the following?

- A. Supporters of the U.S. Constitution at the time the states were contemplating its adoption.**
- B. Opponents of ratification.**
- C. Leaders of the anti-slavery movement.**
- D. Supporters of provincial sovereignty**

Federalists were the supporters of the U.S. Constitution during the period when the states were deciding whether to adopt it. They argued that a stronger national government was necessary to unite the states, regulate commerce, provide for national defense, and create a workable financial system, all while balancing power through checks and balances. Their advocacy included writing the Federalist Papers to explain and defend the plan, and they tended to represent urban, commercial interests that stood to gain from a central authority with clear powers. This description fits the idea of people who supported ratifying the Constitution at the moment of adoption. The other options point to groups with different roles: opponents of ratification, leaders of the anti-slavery movement, or supporters of provincial sovereignty, none of which aligns with the Federalists' main stance.

### 4. Which statement best describes the purpose of the Constitution?

- A. It is a treaty with foreign nations.**
- B. It is primarily a plan for tax policy.**
- C. It only applies to the states, not the national government.**
- D. It lays out the principles, structure, and fundamental laws that govern society.**

The Constitution serves as the blueprint for how the United States government is organized and operates. It lays out the guiding principles—like popular sovereignty, limited government, and checks and balances—and defines the structure by creating three branches with distinct powers and methods for interacting. It also establishes the fundamental laws that bind both the government and the people, including how laws are made, interpreted, and enforced, and how power is shared between the national and state governments. This framework is designed to endure and be adaptable through amendments, while also protecting rights. That combination—principles, structure, and fundamental laws that govern how society is governed—best captures its purpose. It isn't a treaty with foreign nations, nor is it primarily a tax policy, and it doesn't apply only to the states; it governs the entire national system.

## 5. Who were the Founders?

- A. People who drafted the Magna Carta
- B. People who helped create the US Constitution**
- C. People who wrote the Treaty of Paris
- D. People who drafted the Articles of Confederation only

Founders are the individuals who helped create the United States Constitution—the framers who drafted and shaped the framework of the national government at the Constitutional Convention and beyond. They worked to establish a system of government with federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances, aimed at forming a lasting republic. Names often associated include James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington, among others who debated, wrote, and promoted the Constitution. This distinction matters because the Magna Carta was a medieval English charter that influenced later ideas about limiting rulers, not the American founders. The Treaty of Paris was a peace agreement ending the Revolutionary War, not a plan for governing the United States. The Articles of Confederation created an earlier framework for the new nation, but the people who drafted and promoted the Constitution are the ones traditionally called the Founders, since they established the government system we use today.

## 6. How long is a Representative's term?

- A. 2 years**
- B. 4 years
- C. 6 years
- D. 8 years

Representatives serve two-year terms. In the United States, members of the House are elected for two-year terms, with all seats up for election every two years. This short cycle keeps Representatives closely tied to their constituents and allows voters to respond quickly to changing opinions. There are no term limits for Representatives, so they can be reelected indefinitely. By contrast, Senators serve six-year terms, which is why longer durations apply to the Senate rather than the House.

## 7. Which statement best defines a republic?

- A. A hereditary rule.
- B. A state, nation, or country where the people elect representatives.**
- C. Rule by religious leaders.
- D. Direct democracy.

A republic is a form of government in which the people exercise their sovereignty by electing representatives to govern on their behalf, with leaders bound by a constitution or the rule of law. The statement describing a state where the people elect representatives best captures this idea, because it emphasizes governance through elected delegates rather than power inherited through family lines, concentrated in religious authorities, or exercised directly by citizens on every issue. This representative setup distinguishes republics from hereditary rule, which is monarchy or aristocracy; from rule by religious leaders, which is theocracy; and from direct democracy, where people vote directly on laws themselves.

## 8. Which branch interprets the law?

- A. Executive
- B. Judicial**
- C. Legislative
- D. Administrative

Interpreting laws is the job of the judiciary, the part of government that settles what laws mean and how they apply in real cases. Courts read statutes, weigh the language and intent, and decide how a law should operate, especially when there are disputes or constitutional questions. This is how legal meaning is clarified and applied consistently, creating binding decisions and precedents. The executive branch enforces laws and runs government operations; the legislative branch creates laws. Administrative agencies, while they interpret and implement regulations within the executive, do not serve as the official arbiter of broad legal meaning across all cases in the way courts do.

## 9. What is America's bicameral legislative body called?

- A. Congress**
- B. Parliament
- C. National Assembly
- D. General Court

The main idea here is the name of the United States' national lawmaking body. The federal legislature is Congress, a two-chamber body made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. This bicameral structure comes from the Constitution, a result of the Great Compromise that combined equal-state representation in the Senate with population-based representation in the House. That's why Congress is the correct term for America's national legislature. Other terms describe legislative bodies in different systems or at different levels: Parliament is used in many countries outside the U.S.; National Assembly appears in various nations; General Court refers to a state legislature (Massachusetts, in particular) rather than the federal one.

## 10. Which term means a law or regulation?

- A. Federal
- B. Clause
- C. Credit
- D. Ordinance**

A law or regulation at the local level is called an ordinance. It's the formal rule enacted by a city or town to govern day-to-day matters, like building codes, zoning, or noise restrictions. The term helps distinguish local rules from higher-level laws. For contrast, federal refers to nationwide laws created by the national government, which is broader than a single municipality. A clause is a specific provision within a document or contract, not the whole rule or ordinance itself. Credit is a финансов term related to borrowing or acknowledgment, not a law or regulation.

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

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

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