

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. Which branch is primarily responsible for interpreting laws and resolving constitutional issues?**
 - A. Judicial**
 - B. Executive**
 - C. Legislative**
 - D. Military**

- 2. The Land Ordinance of 1785 established which of the following?**
 - A. A law that set up a national banking system**
 - B. A law that made a plan for equally distributing land to the west of the Appalachian Mountains**
 - C. A policy for slavery expansion**
 - D. A framework for education funding**

- 3. What term means an arrangement to receive cash now and pay later?**
 - A. Credit**
 - B. Federal**
 - C. Ordinance**
 - D. Sovereign**

- 4. Which official has the power to write treaties?**
 - A. Senate**
 - B. Supreme Court**
 - C. Congress**
 - D. President**

- 5. Which term means a law or regulation?**
 - A. Federal**
 - B. Clause**
 - C. Credit**
 - D. Ordinance**

- 6. What did the framers do to prevent religious conflict?**
- A. They established a state church.**
 - B. They included an amendment guaranteeing religious freedom and noninterference by the government in religious matters.**
 - C. They banned all religious practices in government.**
 - D. They left religious matters entirely to the states without any federal guarantee.**
- 7. Which clause delayed the importation of slaves?**
- A. Fugitive Slave Clause.**
 - B. Separation of Powers.**
 - C. Statute.**
 - D. Importation Clause.**
- 8. 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**
- 9. The Northwest Territory refers to which area?**
- A. Territorial lands east of the Appalachian Mountains**
 - B. Lands near the southern border**
 - C. Areas of land around the Great Lakes**
 - D. Areas of land to the northwest of the Appalachians**
- 10. Which combination of qualifications is correct for the office of President?**
- A. Natural born citizen, at least 25 years old, and 7 years of residence**
 - B. Natural born citizen, at least 30 years old, and 9 years of residence**
 - C. Natural born citizen, at least 35 years old, and 14 years of residence**
 - D. Naturalized citizen, at least 35 years old, and 14 years of residence**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which branch is primarily responsible for interpreting laws and resolving constitutional issues?

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

Interpreting laws and resolving constitutional questions is the function of the judiciary. Courts interpret statutes, decide disputes between people and government, and determine whether laws or government actions comply with the Constitution. This authority, often called judicial review, lets the judiciary strike down laws or actions that conflict with constitutional rights. The executive branch focuses on enforcing laws and running government, while the legislative branch creates laws. The military isn't responsible for interpreting laws or settling constitutional issues.

2. The Land Ordinance of 1785 established which of the following?

- A. A law that set up a national banking system**
- B. A law that made a plan for equally distributing land to the west of the Appalachian Mountains**
- C. A policy for slavery expansion**
- D. A framework for education funding**

The main idea being tested is how the new government organized western expansion. The Land Ordinance of 1785 created a uniform method for surveying and selling lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. It established a grid system where land was surveyed into townships of six miles square and subdivided into sections that could be sold to raise revenue and promote orderly settlement. This is why the best choice describes a plan for distributing land to the west: it captures the purpose of creating an orderly framework for land distribution and sale. The ordinance did not establish a national banking system, address slavery expansion, or provide a framework for education funding, so those options don't fit how the land west of the Appalachians was organized at that time.

3. What term means an arrangement to receive cash now and pay later?

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

Credit is the term for an arrangement to receive cash now and pay later. It lets you obtain money or goods today with a promise to repay in the future, usually with interest and under a set repayment schedule. This is the everyday mechanism behind loans, credit cards, and lines of credit. The other terms are about government or legal concepts (federal, ordinance) or the idea of a self-governing state (sovereign) and don't describe a financing arrangement, so they don't fit this concept.

4. Which official has the power to write treaties?

- A. Senate
- B. Supreme Court
- C. Congress
- D. President**

Treaty making is an executive function: the President negotiates and signs treaties, usually with help from the Secretary of State. After negotiations, the treaty must win the Senate's advice and consent, typically a two-thirds vote, before it becomes binding. This arrangement means the official who initiates and handles the treaty process is the President, while the Senate serves as the check to ratify or reject. The other branches don't initiate treaties on their own—Congress cannot draft and require treaties without the President's lead, and the Supreme Court doesn't have a treaty-writing role.

5. 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.

6. What did the framers do to prevent religious conflict?

- A. They established a state church.
- B. They included an amendment guaranteeing religious freedom and noninterference by the government in religious matters.**
- C. They banned all religious practices in government.
- D. They left religious matters entirely to the states without any federal guarantee.

Protecting individual freedom of conscience and keeping government out of religion helps prevent religious conflict. The framers did this by placing a constitutional guarantee that the government cannot establish an official religion and cannot interfere with people's rights to practice their faith. This creates a neutrality between church and state, so no group is coerced or favored, and people can worship as they choose without government pressure. That approach, rather than endorsing a state church, banning religion from government, or leaving religious matters entirely to the states, is what reduces disputes and protects diverse beliefs across the new nation.

7. Which clause delayed the importation of slaves?

- A. Fugitive Slave Clause.
- B. Separation of Powers.
- C. Statute.
- D. Importation Clause.**

The key idea here is a constitutional provision that explicitly delays the international slave trade. The Importation Clause states that the migration or importation of enslaved people shall not be prohibited by Congress before the year 1808, and it even allows a tax on importation up to ten dollars per person. This wording creates a built-in pause, so the slave trade could continue for twenty years after the Constitution was ratified, with Congress later empowered to regulate or ban it after 1808. This was a negotiated compromise between Northern and Southern states, balancing economic interests with concerns about moral and political implications. The other options address different issues. The Fugitive Slave Clause deals with returning enslaved people who escape to free states, not the importation itself. Separation of Powers is about how government powers are distributed among branches, not about slave trade or its timing. A Statute is a general term for a law and does not pinpoint a specific mechanism for delaying importation.

8. 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.

9. The Northwest Territory refers to which area?

- A. Territorial lands east of the Appalachian Mountains
- B. Lands near the southern border
- C. Areas of land around the Great Lakes
- D. Areas of land to the northwest of the Appalachians**

The Northwest Territory refers to lands located to the northwest of the Appalachian Mountains—the region north of the Ohio River and west of the Appalachians. This area, defined after the Revolutionary War, eventually became states like Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. The defining feature is its position relative to the Appalachian range, not just being near the Great Lakes or near the southern border. So describing it as areas to the northwest of the Appalachians best captures the geographic sense of this territory.

10. Which combination of qualifications is correct for the office of President?

- A. Natural born citizen, at least 25 years old, and 7 years of residence**
- B. Natural born citizen, at least 30 years old, and 9 years of residence**
- C. Natural born citizen, at least 35 years old, and 14 years of residence**
- D. Naturalized citizen, at least 35 years old, and 14 years of residence**

The important rule here is the three constitutional qualifications for the presidency: you must be a natural-born citizen, you must be at least 35 years old, and you must have 14 years of residency in the United States. These standards come from Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution and are designed to ensure a president has lifelong citizenship, sufficient maturity, and long-standing familiarity with the country. The correct option is the combination that meets all three requirements exactly: natural-born citizen, at least 35, and 14 years of residence. The other options fail because they either propose a naturalized citizen, a younger age (25 or 30), or a shorter residency (less than 14 years).

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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://confederationtoconstitution.examzify.com>

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

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