

CONFEDERATION TO CONSTITUTION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. What are the President's key powers, including vetoes, appointments, and treaties?**
 - A. Only issuing proclamations; no power to appoint.
 - B. Veto power, appointment of judges and executive officials (Senate advice and consent), negotiate treaties (Senate ratification), serve as commander-in-chief.
 - C. Conducting foreign policy without Senate involvement, and can unilaterally declare war.
 - D. Has power to appoint Supreme Court justices without confirmation.
- 2. Which statement best describes how the Constitution differed from the Articles of Confederation in terms of federal power?**
 - A. The Constitution left the federal government with the same powers as the Articles
 - B. The Constitution created a stronger federal government with the power to tax, regulate commerce, and enforce laws
 - C. The Constitution abolished the states' sovereignty
 - D. The Constitution offered no governance changes
- 3. The Virginia Plan proposed what?**
 - A. One-house legislature with equal representation
 - B. A strong executive council
 - C. Judicial supremacy
 - D. Two-house legislature with representation according to population or wealth
- 4. What is the supreme law of the land?**
 - A. Constitution
 - B. Declaration of Independence
 - C. Articles of Confederation
 - D. Bill of Rights
- 5. Why was nine-state ratification required, and which state was the first to ratify the Constitution?**
 - A. To ensure geographic balance; Delaware
 - B. To establish legitimacy with broad consensus; Delaware
 - C. To require unanimous consent; Pennsylvania
 - D. To limit ratification to large states; New York

6. Who has the power to ratify treaties?

- A. Senate
- B. President
- C. Supreme Court
- D. House

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

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

8. Which branch interprets the law?

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

9. Which body has the authority to bring impeachment charges?

- A. The House of Representatives brings charges by simple majority; the Senate tries the case and removes by two-thirds vote.
- B. The Senate brings charges by simple majority; the House tries the case.
- C. The Supreme Court handles impeachment proceedings.
- D. The President handles impeachment charges without a vote.

10. A major weakness of the Articles of Confederation was the absence of which power?

- A. The power to impose taxes
- B. An executive branch
- C. The power to regulate interstate commerce
- D. The power to coin money

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are the President's key powers, including vetoes, appointments, and treaties?

- A. Only issuing proclamations; no power to appoint.
- B. Veto power, appointment of judges and executive officials (Senate advice and consent), negotiate treaties (Senate ratification), serve as commander-in-chief.**
- C. Conducting foreign policy without Senate involvement, and can unilaterally declare war.
- D. Has power to appoint Supreme Court justices without confirmation.

The President's key powers include veto authority, the appointment power with Senate confirmation, the treaty power with Senate ratification, and serving as commander-in-chief. The veto lets the President reject bills passed by Congress, though Congress can override with a two-thirds vote in both houses. The appointment power covers federal judges and many executive officials, and it requires the Senate's advice and consent—there are hearings and a Senate vote before someone can take office. For treaties, the President negotiates, but treaties must be ratified by a two-thirds Senate vote to become binding. As commander-in-chief, the President leads the armed forces, though decisions about formal war declarations and funding remain powers of Congress. The other options don't fit because they either downplay or ignore these checks and balances: one limits the President to proclamations and denies appointment powers; another suggests unfettered foreign policy and unilateral war; and the last claims Supreme Court appointments without Senate confirmation.

2. Which statement best describes how the Constitution differed from the Articles of Confederation in terms of federal power?

- A. The Constitution left the federal government with the same powers as the Articles
- B. The Constitution created a stronger federal government with the power to tax, regulate commerce, and enforce laws**
- C. The Constitution abolished the states' sovereignty
- D. The Constitution offered no governance changes

This question tests the shift in federal power from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution. Under the Articles, the national government was weak: Congress could request money and handle war or diplomacy, but it could not compel states to pay taxes or regulate trade, leaving the national government with little ability to enforce its laws. The Constitution changes that by establishing a stronger federal framework with power vested in the national government to levy taxes, regulate interstate and foreign commerce, and enforce laws across the states. This combination creates a more capable central authority that can raise revenue, manage trade, and ensure compliance with national standards, addressing the major weaknesses of the Articles. The other statements don't fit because the Constitution did not keep the same powers as the Articles, it did not abolish state sovereignty entirely—states retained significant authority within a stronger national system—and it introduced substantial governance changes, including a federal framework with enforceable laws and separate branches.

3. The Virginia Plan proposed what?

- A. One-house legislature with equal representation
- B. A strong executive council
- C. Judicial supremacy
- D. Two-house legislature with representation according to population or wealth**

The plan's main idea was to create a strong national government with a bicameral legislature whose seats would be allocated based on a state's population or wealth. That proportional representation would give larger states more influence in making laws, a key feature distinguishing it from plans that favored equal representation. While it also proposed an executive and a judiciary, the essential point for this question is the two-house structure tied to population or wealth. This is why the correct description is a two-house legislature with representation according to population or wealth. The other options don't match this core feature—the Virginia Plan wasn't about one house with equal representation or about judicial supremacy.

4. What is the supreme law of the land?

- A. Constitution**
- B. Declaration of Independence
- C. Articles of Confederation
- D. Bill of Rights

Supremacy of the Constitution. The Constitution is the highest legal authority in the United States, establishing how the government is organized, how powers are distributed, and what limits apply to those powers. The Supremacy Clause ties this authority together by declaring that the Constitution, and laws made under it, are the supreme law of the land, binding on both federal and state governments. The other options aren't the ultimate law: the Declaration of Independence is a principled statement, not a binding legal framework; the Articles of Confederation was an earlier, weaker system replaced by the Constitution; and while the Bill of Rights protects fundamental rights, it is part of the Constitution, not the standalone supreme law. So the Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

5. Why was nine-state ratification required, and which state was the first to ratify the Constitution?

- A. To ensure geographic balance; Delaware
- B. To establish legitimacy with broad consensus; Delaware**
- C. To require unanimous consent; Pennsylvania
- D. To limit ratification to large states; New York

The main idea is how the Constitution would come into effect: it needed a substantial degree of support from the states, not every state, to show legitimacy and broad consensus. Requiring nine ratifications meant the new framework had enough backing across different regions and factions to be considered legitimate, while not being held up by one or two reluctant states. Delaware was the first to ratify, doing so on December 7, 1787, which helped momentum build for others to follow. The other options don't fit because the threshold wasn't about geographic balance or unanimous consent, and the first ratifying state was Delaware, not Pennsylvania or New York.

6. Who has the power to ratify treaties?

- A. Senate
- B. President
- C. Supreme Court
- D. House

Treaties are negotiated by the President, but they're not binding until the Senate agrees to them. The Constitution gives the President the power to negotiate treaties, but requires the Senate to provide advice and consent with a two-thirds vote to ratify. That two-thirds requirement makes the Senate the approving body for treaties, not the President alone. The Supreme Court has no role in ratifying treaties, and the House does not ratify them either. Once the Senate approves, the treaty can take effect, subject to any necessary domestic implementation.

7. 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.

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. Which body has the authority to bring impeachment charges?

- A. The House of Representatives brings charges by simple majority; the Senate tries the case and removes by two-thirds vote.**
- B. The Senate brings charges by simple majority; the House tries the case.
- C. The Supreme Court handles impeachment proceedings.
- D. The President handles impeachment charges without a vote.

The key idea is how impeachment power is split in the Constitution: one chamber brings the charges, and the other conducts the trial and decides removal. The House has the authority to bring impeachment charges by a simple majority. Once charged, the case moves to the Senate, which conducts down a trial and can remove from office only with a two-thirds vote of the Senators present. This division reflects impeachment as a political process rather than a criminal prosecution. The House's role to impeach mirrors its closer connection to the people and its responsibility to initiate action when there's a belief that an official has wronged the public trust. The Senate's role as the trial body with a higher threshold (two-thirds) serves as a check to require broad agreement before removal. The other options don't fit because the Senate does not initiate impeachment charges, the Supreme Court does not handle impeachments, and the President does not oversee impeachment proceedings.

10. A major weakness of the Articles of Confederation was the absence of which power?

- A. The power to impose taxes
- B. An executive branch**
- C. The power to regulate interstate commerce
- D. The power to coin money

The key weakness is the absence of an executive branch to carry out laws and coordinate national policy. Under the Articles, there was no president or other national leader to enforce decisions, administer programs, or respond quickly to crises. That gap meant that even when Congress passed measures—like decisions on diplomacy, military needs, or financing—there was no central authority to implement them or compel the states to cooperate. This made the government look strong in theory but weak in practice, so essential functions could stall or fail. The lack of an executive is the best answer because it directly explains why the national government couldn't effectively run the country, enforce laws, or coordinate actions across the states.

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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