

Delaware Civics Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. How many amendments does the Constitution have?**
 - A. 10**
 - B. 27**
 - C. 15**
 - D. 50**
- 2. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?**
 - A. To pay taxes**
 - B. To obey the laws of the United States**
 - C. To vote in elections**
 - D. To serve in the military**
- 3. When is election day for federal elections?**
 - A. The first Monday in November**
 - B. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November**
 - C. The first Wednesday in November**
 - D. The last Tuesday in October**
- 4. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**
 - A. James Madison**
 - B. Thomas Jefferson**
 - C. George Washington**
 - D. Benjamin Franklin**
- 5. Who was a leading figure in the fight for women's rights in the United States?**
 - A. Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
 - B. Susan B. Anthony**
 - C. Sojourner Truth**
 - D. Louisa May Alcott**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a qualification for voter registration in Delaware?**
- A. Must be a Delaware resident**
 - B. Cannot be mentally incompetent**
 - C. Must have a college degree**
 - D. Must be 18 years of age by the next general election**
- 7. What does the Constitution serve as for the government?**
- A. A guide for moral behavior**
 - B. A framework for governance**
 - C. A manual for business**
 - D. A collection of laws**
- 8. Which document outlines the fundamental laws and principles of the United States?**
- A. The Declaration of Independence**
 - B. The Bill of Rights**
 - C. The Constitution**
 - D. The Federalist Papers**
- 9. What are the two branches of the Delaware General Assembly?**
- A. Delaware Senate and Delaware House of Representatives**
 - B. Delaware House of Commons and Delaware House of Lords**
 - C. Delaware Assembly and Delaware Council**
 - D. Delaware Senate and Delaware Congress**
- 10. Who was the first President of the United States?**
- A. Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. George Washington**
 - C. John Adams**
 - D. James Madison**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- A. 10
- B. 27**
- C. 15
- D. 50

The Constitution of the United States has 27 amendments. This total reflects the updates and changes made to the original Constitution since it was ratified in 1788. The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified in 1791 to ensure important civil liberties and rights for individuals. Subsequent amendments have addressed various issues over the years, such as voting rights, prohibition, and the regulation of presidential terms, among others. Understanding the number of amendments is crucial, as each one represents a significant aspect of legal and civil advancements in American history, shaping the governance and rights of individuals within the country. The complexity and evolution of these amendments illustrate the changing societal values and needs over time.

2. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

- A. To pay taxes
- B. To obey the laws of the United States**
- C. To vote in elections
- D. To serve in the military

When becoming a United States citizen, one of the key promises made is to obey the laws of the United States. This commitment underscores the principle that citizenship entails a responsibility to uphold the legal framework and social order of the country. By promising to obey the laws, new citizens agree to respect the rights of others and adhere to the rules that govern society, which is essential for maintaining a functioning democracy and ensuring the protection of individual freedoms and rights. While paying taxes, voting in elections, and serving in the military are important civic responsibilities and may be expected of citizens, they are not universally binding promises made at the moment of taking the Oath of Allegiance. Obeying the laws is fundamental and forms the foundation of a citizen's duties, encompassing the commitment to engage positively within the community and nation.

3. When is election day for federal elections?

- A. The first Monday in November
- B. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November**
- C. The first Wednesday in November
- D. The last Tuesday in October

Election Day for federal elections is established as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This timing was set to provide a consistent schedule across the nation, ensuring that federal elections, which include elections for President, Vice President, and members of Congress, happen at the same time each cycle. The choice of the first Tuesday following the first Monday was strategic. November was selected as it followed the harvest season in many agricultural areas, making it easier for farmers to participate in elections. The inclusion of "after the first Monday" ensures that the election does not fall on November 1st, which is All Saints' Day, a significant holiday for many Christians. By establishing this specific timing, the federal government created a uniform election day, which has helped to enhance civic participation and engagement among voters. This consistency is crucial for the functioning of democracy, as it allows voters to prepare and plan for casting their ballots on the same day nationwide.

4. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- A. James Madison
- B. Thomas Jefferson**
- C. George Washington
- D. Benjamin Franklin

The Declaration of Independence was primarily authored by Thomas Jefferson, who was appointed by the Continental Congress as the main writer for this pivotal document. Jefferson's eloquent prose and philosophical insights, particularly regarding natural rights and the principles of governance, laid the groundwork for the declaration, which was adopted on July 4, 1776. His argument articulates the colonies' desire for independence from British rule, emphasizing ideas of liberty and democracy that would influence not only the United States but also many other nations in their quests for self-determination. James Madison, though an important figure in American history and known as the "Father of the Constitution," was not involved in writing the Declaration. George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army and later the first president, played a critical military role during the Revolution but did not contribute to this document. Benjamin Franklin, a founding father renowned for his diplomacy and contributions to various civic endeavors, was part of the committee that oversaw the Declaration's drafting but did not write it himself.

5. Who was a leading figure in the fight for women's rights in the United States?

A. Elizabeth Cady Stanton

B. Susan B. Anthony

C. Sojourner Truth

D. Louisa May Alcott

The choice of Susan B. Anthony as a leading figure in the fight for women's rights in the United States is particularly significant due to her extensive activism and leadership role in the women's suffrage movement. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anthony co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and played a crucial role in advocating for women's rights, including the right to vote. Anthony's efforts included organizing conventions, writing pamphlets, and delivering speeches that galvanized support for the suffrage movement. She also worked tirelessly to register women to vote and even cast a ballot illegally in 1872, which led to her arrest and trial, drawing significant national attention to the cause. Her dedication and strategic activism helped pave the way for the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. While Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Louisa May Alcott also contributed to the discourse around women's rights and empowerment, Anthony's specific focus on suffrage and her organizational skills made her stand out as a central figure in this pivotal movement in American history.

6. Which of the following is NOT a qualification for voter registration in Delaware?

A. Must be a Delaware resident

B. Cannot be mentally incompetent

C. Must have a college degree

D. Must be 18 years of age by the next general election

In Delaware, a voter must meet certain qualifications to register, ensuring that all participants in the electoral process are reasonably prepared and eligible. Among these qualifications, being a resident of Delaware is fundamental; it establishes a connection to the state and its elections. Additionally, individuals must be at least 18 years old by the next general election, which aligns with the legal age for voting in the United States. Another requirement is that those seeking to register should not be deemed mentally incompetent by legal standards; this provision safeguards the integrity of the electoral process. The correct answer indicates that having a college degree is not a requirement for voter registration in Delaware. This distinction is significant because it emphasizes the inclusive nature of the voting process—individuals from various educational backgrounds can participate in democracy, ensuring that all voices can be heard, regardless of their educational attainment. Consequently, the lack of such an educational requirement fosters broader participation among citizens, which is a vital principle of the democratic process.

7. What does the Constitution serve as for the government?

- A. A guide for moral behavior**
- B. A framework for governance**
- C. A manual for business**
- D. A collection of laws**

The Constitution serves as a framework for governance, outlining the fundamental principles and structures that guide the operation of government. It establishes the mechanisms through which power is distributed among various branches—executive, legislative, and judicial—and delineates the rights of citizens. This framework is crucial as it ensures that government actions are based on established laws and principles, thereby promoting the rule of law and preventing arbitrary rule. While the Constitution does contain laws and regulations, it is more than just a collection of laws or a manual for business; it defines the political structure and processes of government. It is not intended to serve as a guide for moral behavior, even though it may reflect certain moral principles through the rights it protects. Therefore, the primary purpose of the Constitution is to provide an organized and systematic approach to governance, ensuring stability, accountability, and a framework for laws to be interpreted and applied.

8. Which document outlines the fundamental laws and principles of the United States?

- A. The Declaration of Independence**
- B. The Bill of Rights**
- C. The Constitution**
- D. The Federalist Papers**

The Constitution is the foundational document that outlines the fundamental laws and principles governing the United States. It establishes the structure of the national government, delineates the powers and responsibilities of each branch, and sets forth the rights of the states and the people. The Constitution was created to ensure a framework for governance, providing guidelines for lawmaking and preserving individual liberties. While the Declaration of Independence is a pivotal document that announced the thirteen colonies' separation from British rule and articulated the principles of individual rights and government by consent, it does not serve as the governing framework for the United States. The Bill of Rights, which consists of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, specifically details individual freedoms and protections but is not the overarching legal framework itself. The Federalist Papers are a series of writings that advocate for the ratification of the Constitution and explain its provisions and principles, but they do not constitute the laws themselves. Thus, the Constitution stands as the primary legal document establishing the country's legal structure and guiding principles.

9. What are the two branches of the Delaware General Assembly?

- A. Delaware Senate and Delaware House of Representatives**
- B. Delaware House of Commons and Delaware House of Lords**
- C. Delaware Assembly and Delaware Council**
- D. Delaware Senate and Delaware Congress**

The correct answer identifies the two branches of the Delaware General Assembly as the Delaware Senate and the Delaware House of Representatives. This structure reflects the typical bicameral legislature found in many U.S. states, consisting of an upper house (the Senate) and a lower house (the House of Representatives). In the Delaware General Assembly, the Senate is responsible for representing larger districts and generally has fewer members than the House. Senators serve staggered terms, which helps in providing continuity within the legislative process. On the other hand, the House of Representatives is composed of a larger number of representatives who serve shorter terms, allowing for more frequent elections and responsiveness to constituents' changing needs and opinions. This system is designed to balance the interests of both larger and smaller districts, ensuring that a variety of opinions are represented in the state's legislative process. The choices that mention "House of Commons and House of Lords," "Delaware Assembly and Delaware Council," or "Delaware Senate and Delaware Congress" do not accurately reflect the official titles and structure of Delaware's legislative bodies.

10. Who was the first President of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson**
- B. George Washington**
- C. John Adams**
- D. James Madison**

The first President of the United States was George Washington, who served from 1789 to 1797. Washington was a pivotal figure in American history, not only for his role as a military leader during the Revolutionary War but also for his contributions to the founding of the nation. He was unanimously elected as the first president and set many precedents for the office, including the tradition of serving a maximum of two terms. His leadership helped to establish the authority of the federal government and laid the groundwork for future presidents. The significance of his presidency and his status as a founding father make him an enduring symbol of American leadership and integrity.