

# Florida Civics Literacy (FCLE) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. Which branch of government is primarily responsible for interpreting laws?**
  - A. Executive Branch**
  - B. Legislative Branch**
  - C. Judicial Branch**
  - D. Administrative Branch**
- 2. Which phrase from a letter written by Sarah Glinka in 1837 is reflective of the 14th Amendment?**
  - A. It is impossible**
  - B. Liberty and justice for all**
  - C. A house divided against itself cannot stand**
  - D. All persons born or naturalized**
- 3. Which phrase from a letter written by Abigail Adams to her husband John Adams in 1776 is reflected in the 19th Amendment?**
  - A. I desire you would remember the ladies**
  - B. We shall overcome**
  - C. Give me liberty or give me death**
  - D. All men are created equal**
- 4. What does civil disobedience primarily advocate for?**
  - A. Violent protest against the government**
  - B. Nonviolent resistance to unjust laws**
  - C. Complete disregard for legal authority**
  - D. Support for all laws without question**
- 5. Which principle of government ensures that power is distributed among different branches?**
  - A. Federalism**
  - B. Separation of Powers**
  - C. Popular Sovereignty**
  - D. Checks and Balances**

- 6. Which of the following cases reinforced the power of the courts?**
- A. Marbury**
  - B. Plessy & Dred**
  - C. Texas & Hazelwood**
  - D. Brown v Board**
- 7. What is the main function of the legislative branch?**
- A. To interpret laws**
  - B. To enforce laws**
  - C. To make laws**
  - D. To review laws**
- 8. What is the capital of the United States?**
- A. New York, New York**
  - B. Los Angeles, California**
  - C. Washington, D.C.**
  - D. Chicago, Illinois**
- 9. What is the purpose of the Selective Service System?**
- A. Tax collection**
  - B. Voter registration**
  - C. Military conscription**
  - D. Census counting**
- 10. Who is eligible to vote in the United States?**
- A. Citizens who are at least 18 years old**
  - B. Permanent residents of the United States**
  - C. Anyone who has a driver's license**
  - D. Individuals who have served in the military**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which branch of government is primarily responsible for interpreting laws?**

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

The Judicial Branch is primarily responsible for interpreting laws. This branch includes courts and judges who have the authority to review laws, evaluate their constitutionality, and apply them to individual cases. This process ensures that laws are understood in the context of the Constitution and provides a check on the other branches of government by interpreting the meaning and application of legislation. The Judicial Branch's role is vital in maintaining justice and upholding individual rights, as it ensures that laws do not infringe upon constitutional guarantees. This function also allows for the resolution of disputes under the law, providing clarity and consistent application of legal principles across the jurisdiction. In contrast, the Executive Branch is responsible for enforcing laws, while the Legislative Branch creates laws. The Administrative Branch, which is often considered part of the Executive, carries out various governmental functions and regulations but does not engage in law interpretation as the Judicial Branch does.

**2. Which phrase from a letter written by Sarah Glinka in 1837 is reflective of the 14th Amendment?**

- A. It is impossible**
- B. Liberty and justice for all**
- C. A house divided against itself cannot stand**
- D. All persons born or naturalized**

The phrase that reflects the 14th Amendment is found in the option that points to the concept of citizenship. The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, primarily addresses citizenship rights and equal protection under the law. It states that all persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens and are entitled to equal protection and due process. The phrase "All persons born or naturalized" directly corresponds to the citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment, emphasizing the importance of recognizing all individuals as citizens with inherent rights. This principle is fundamental in defining the legal status of individuals within the United States and ensuring their protection under the law, central tenets of the 14th Amendment. The other phrases do not embody the core tenets of the 14th Amendment. For instance, "Liberty and justice for all," while evocative, is more closely associated with general principles of justice and fairness rather than specifically addressing the citizenship aspect. "A house divided against itself cannot stand" is a quotation related to political unity and does not pertain to the rights of citizens. "It is impossible" lacks specific context to relate to the ideas embodied in the 14th Amendment.

**3. Which phrase from a letter written by Abigail Adams to her husband John Adams in 1776 is reflected in the 19th Amendment?**

**A. I desire you would remember the ladies**

**B. We shall overcome**

**C. Give me liberty or give me death**

**D. All men are created equal**

The phrase "I desire you would remember the ladies" from a letter written by Abigail Adams to her husband John Adams in 1776 is reflected in the 19th Amendment because it highlights the struggle for women's rights and equality, which was a key element of the suffrage movement leading to the 19th Amendment. Option B is incorrect because it is a phrase associated with the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, not the women's suffrage movement. Options C and D are incorrect because they are quotes from other historical figures and events, not related to the topic of women's suffrage.

**4. What does civil disobedience primarily advocate for?**

**A. Violent protest against the government**

**B. Nonviolent resistance to unjust laws**

**C. Complete disregard for legal authority**

**D. Support for all laws without question**

Civil disobedience primarily advocates for nonviolent resistance to unjust laws. This concept is rooted in the belief that individuals have a moral responsibility to challenge laws and policies that they perceive as unethical or unjust. Historically, civil disobedience has been used as a strategy to promote social change and to draw attention to issues such as civil rights, environmental justice, and other forms of inequality. By practicing civil disobedience, individuals often accept the legal consequences of their actions, demonstrating a commitment to their principles while seeking to encourage a broader dialogue about justice and fairness. This distinct emphasis on nonviolence differentiates civil disobedience from violent protest and outright disregard for legal authority, which would undermine the strategic goal of fostering social change through moral persuasion and public awareness.

**5. Which principle of government ensures that power is distributed among different branches?**

**A. Federalism**

**B. Separation of Powers**

**C. Popular Sovereignty**

**D. Checks and Balances**

The principle of government that ensures power is distributed among different branches is the separation of powers. This concept, foundational to the U.S. Constitution, divides the governmental authority into three distinct branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Each branch has its own responsibilities and powers, which helps prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful or overstepping its authority. By establishing clear roles and functions for each branch, the separation of powers creates a system of governance that promotes accountability and protects individual liberties by ensuring that power is not concentrated in a single entity. This distribution of power is essential for maintaining a balanced and democratic system of government, where each branch can operate independently while still being subject to a system of checks and balances.

**6. Which of the following cases reinforced the power of the courts?**

**A. Marbury**

**B. Plessy & Dred**

**C. Texas & Hazelwood**

**D. Brown v Board**

The Marbury v. Madison case is a landmark case in U.S. legal history because it established the principle of judicial review, which allows the court to review laws and determine their constitutionality. This case reinforced the power of the courts by giving them the authority to declare laws passed by Congress or actions taken by the executive branch as unconstitutional. The other options listed did not have the same impact on the power of the courts. Plessy v. Ferguson and Dred Scott v. Sandford were cases that actually limited the power of the courts by upholding discriminatory laws and denying citizenship to African Americans. Texas v. Johnson and Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier were cases that addressed specific issues (flag burning and student expression) but did not have as broad of an impact on the power of the courts as Marbury v. Madison did. Brown v. Board of Education was a significant case in the fight against racial segregation in schools, but it did not directly address the power of the courts. Therefore, the correct answer is A.

## 7. What is the main function of the legislative branch?

- A. To interpret laws
- B. To enforce laws
- C. To make laws**
- D. To review laws

The main function of the legislative branch is to make laws. This branch is responsible for the creation, modification, and repeal of laws that govern the country or state. In the context of the United States, the legislative branch is comprised of two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together, they draft legislation, debate it, and ultimately vote on whether it should be enacted. The process begins when lawmakers propose bills, which are then discussed and amended. Once a bill is approved by both chambers, it is sent to the executive branch for approval or veto. This process reflects the essential democratic principle of representation, as elected officials are tasked with responding to the needs and will of their constituents. Understanding this function is crucial for grasping how laws are developed and how public policy is shaped. This role of the legislative branch underpins the separation of powers within government, where each branch has distinct responsibilities, ensuring a system of checks and balances.

## 8. What is the capital of the United States?

- A. New York, New York
- B. Los Angeles, California
- C. Washington, D.C.**
- D. Chicago, Illinois

Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States because it was specifically established as the nation's capital through the Residence Act in 1790. This city was chosen to be the capital to serve as a neutral ground for the new government. It is located on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia and is not part of any state, serving as a federal district. Washington, D.C. is the seat of the federal government, housing the three branches of government: the Executive (the White House), the Legislative (Capitol Building), and the Judicial (Supreme Court). The other options are major American cities known for their economic, cultural, and historical significance but do not serve as the capital. New York City, for instance, was the first capital under the Constitution, but the government moved to Washington, D.C. in 1800. Los Angeles and Chicago are also prominent urban areas, yet they do not have the status of being the nation's capital. Understanding the significance of Washington, D.C. helps clarify its role in American governance and history.

## 9. What is the purpose of the Selective Service System?

- A. Tax collection
- B. Voter registration
- C. Military conscription**
- D. Census counting

The purpose of the Selective Service System is military conscription, which refers to the process of requiring individuals to serve in the military if needed. In the United States, the Selective Service System is a way for the government to maintain a reserve of potential military personnel, ensuring that there are enough individuals available to meet national defense needs in the event of a war or national emergency. When young men turn 18, they are required to register with the Selective Service, which could lead to a draft if necessary, although the U.S. has not implemented a draft since the Vietnam War era. This system helps the country prepare for unforeseen military demands by having an organized method of enlistment, thus playing a crucial role in the national defense strategy. The other choices—tax collection, voter registration, and census counting—do not relate to military service and are managed by different governmental systems aimed at fulfilling entirely different functions within society.

## 10. Who is eligible to vote in the United States?

- A. Citizens who are at least 18 years old**
- B. Permanent residents of the United States
- C. Anyone who has a driver's license
- D. Individuals who have served in the military

The eligibility to vote in the United States is primarily determined by citizenship and age. Citizens who are at least 18 years old are granted the right to vote in elections at the federal, state, and local levels. This age requirement aligns with the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was ratified in 1971, ensuring that young adults who have reached the age of majority can participate in the democratic process. This emphasis on citizenship is crucial because it ensures that voters have a legal stake in the governance of the country and that they have fulfilled any obligations, such as residency requirements, which can vary by state. Other groups described in the options do not meet these essential criteria for voting. Permanent residents, individuals with driver's licenses, and even military personnel may not be eligible unless they also hold citizenship. Therefore, the condition of being a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old is the foundation of voting rights in the United States.