

# FUSD Civics Practice Exam (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. What is the name of the national anthem?**
  - A. The Star-Spangled Banner**
  - B. America the Beautiful**
  - C. God Bless America**
  - D. My Country, 'Tis of Thee**
  
- 2. Who was the first president of the United States?**
  - A. George Washington**
  - B. Thomas Jefferson**
  - C. John Adams**
  - D. James Madison**
  
- 3. What is the name of the speaker of the house representative now?**
  - A. Mike Johnson**
  - B. Nancy Pelosi**
  - C. Chuck Schumer**
  - D. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**
  
- 4. What does the judicial branch do?**
  - A. Decides if a law goes against the Constitution**
  - B. Writes laws**
  - C. Oversees elections**
  - D. Manages foreign policy**
  
- 5. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Who is one of the writers?**
  - A. James Madison**
  - B. Thomas Jefferson**
  - C. George Washington**
  - D. Benjamin Franklin**
  
- 6. Who vetoes bills?**
  - A. The President**
  - B. The Governor**
  - C. The Secretary of State**
  - D. The Chief Justice**

**7. Election Day for the President occurs in which month?**

- A. January**
- B. November**
- C. March**
- D. August**

**8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?**

- A. Declared freedom from Great Britain**
- B. Established the federal government**
- C. Formed the United States military**
- D. Declared war on France**

**9. What are the two major political parties in the united States?**

- A. Democratic and Republican**
- B. Democratic and Libertarian**
- C. Republican and Green**
- D. Libertarian and Green**

**10. Which of the following is a U.S. territory?**

- A. Guam**
- B. Hawaii**
- C. Alaska**
- D. Florida**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is the name of the national anthem?

- A. The Star-Spangled Banner**
- B. America the Beautiful**
- C. God Bless America**
- D. My Country, 'Tis of Thee**

Recognizing the official national anthem means knowing which song is formally designated as a country's anthem. For the United States, The Star-Spangled Banner holds that title. It started as a poem by Francis Scott Key inspired by the sight of the American flag flying over Fort McHenry after a night of bombardment in the War of 1812, and the tune is from a popular English melody by John Stafford Smith. In 1931, Congress passed a resolution designating it as the national anthem, and it was signed into law by the president. Other famous patriotic songs like America the Beautiful, God Bless America, and My Country, 'Tis of Thee are beloved and widely sung, but they have not been designated the official national anthem. The Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem.

## 2. Who was the first president of the United States?

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

The main idea here is identifying who served as the first president of the United States. George Washington is that person because he became the first President under the U.S. Constitution, taking office in 1789 after helping to shape the framework of the new government at the Constitutional Convention. He was unanimously elected by the Electoral College and established important practices and traditions, such as guiding the young nation and setting the example of a peaceful transfer of power, along with the informal two-term precedent. Other founding leaders, like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Madison, would go on to hold the presidency later—Adams as the second, Jefferson as the third, and Madison as the fourth—so Washington stands as the first to occupy the office.

## 3. What is the name of the speaker of the house representative now?

- A. Mike Johnson**
- B. Nancy Pelosi**
- C. Chuck Schumer**
- D. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

The speaker is the presiding officer and leader of the House, chosen by the members of the majority party. This role guides floor debates, assigns bills to committees, and sets the legislative agenda; the speaker also sits third in the presidential line of succession after the vice president. The person currently serving in this role is Mike Johnson, who represents Louisiana in the House and took on the speakership in 2023. The other names listed have held different positions: Nancy Pelosi was the former speaker, Chuck Schumer is the Senate Majority Leader, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is a House member but not the speaker.

#### 4. What does the judicial branch do?

**A. Decides if a law goes against the Constitution**

**B. Writes laws**

**C. Oversees elections**

**D. Manages foreign policy**

The main idea is that the judiciary protects constitutional limits by checking laws against the Constitution. Courts interpret and apply laws and have the power of judicial review to decide whether a law or government action matches what the Constitution allows. If something violates the Constitution, the judiciary can strike it down. This is different from making laws (that's the legislative branch) or running elections or setting foreign policy (that's handled by other branches). So, describing the court as deciding whether a law goes against the Constitution best captures its role.

#### 5. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Who is one of the writers?

**A. James Madison**

**B. Thomas Jefferson**

**C. George Washington**

**D. Benjamin Franklin**

The Federalist Papers were a series of essays written to persuade states to ratify the new U.S. Constitution, and they were authored by a trio: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. Among the names listed, James Madison is the one who contributed as a writer to these papers. His writings helped explain how a stronger national government could work and why checks and balances, a separation of powers, and a federal system would protect liberty. He also authored and influenced many of the key ideas in the Constitution, such as how the branches of government would interact to prevent tyranny. The other figures played important roles in founding-era leadership and support for the Constitution, but they did not author the Federalist Papers.

#### 6. Who vetoes bills?

**A. The President**

**B. The Governor**

**C. The Secretary of State**

**D. The Chief Justice**

Veto power is the executive check on legislation: the President can reject a bill passed by Congress and send it back with objections. This stops the bill from becoming law unless Congress votes to override the veto with a two-thirds majority in both the House and the Senate. If Congress can't override, the bill dies. There are related ideas at the state level, where governors have a similar veto authority over state laws, but the Secretary of State handles duties like records and elections, not vetoing laws, and the Chief Justice doesn't veto laws either—it's the judiciary that reviews laws for constitutional issues.

**7. Election Day for the President occurs in which month?**

- A. January
- B. November**
- C. March
- D. August

Presidential general elections in the United States are held in November. The date is set as the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, so the exact day changes each year but it always falls in November. This is separate from when the president is inaugurated, which happens in January. The other months listed don't host the nationwide presidential election.

**8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?**

- A. Declared freedom from Great Britain**
- B. Established the federal government
- C. Formed the United States military
- D. Declared war on France

The main idea tested here is that the Declaration of Independence announces the colonies' break from Great Britain and declares them free and independent states. It states that the colonies are no longer under British rule and have the authority to govern themselves, make treaties, form alliances, and wage war if needed. The document also justifies this break by appealing to natural rights and listing grievances against the Crown, explaining why the colonies felt compelled to become independent. This isn't about creating a new federal government—that comes later with the Articles of Confederation and then the Constitution. It also isn't about forming a military or declaring war on France; those actions relate to the broader war effort and later steps, not the declaration itself.

**9. What are the two major political parties in the United States?**

- A. Democratic and Republican**
- B. Democratic and Libertarian
- C. Republican and Green
- D. Libertarian and Green

Two major political parties in the United States are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. They have historically dominated national and state politics, shaping most policy debates and winning the majority of federal offices and executive leadership positions. While smaller parties like Libertarian and Green exist, they typically win far fewer seats and struggle to break through in a winner-take-all electoral system, which reinforces the dominance of the two major parties. This is why those two are identified as the major parties.

**10. Which of the following is a U.S. territory?**

- A. Guam**
- B. Hawaii**
- C. Alaska**
- D. Florida**

**This question tests your understanding of the difference between U.S. states and U.S. territories. Guam is a U.S. territory, meaning it is under U.S. sovereignty but not a state. Hawaii, Alaska, and Florida are states, so they are fully part of the United States with voting representation in Congress and participation in presidential elections. Residents of territories are U.S. citizens but typically do not vote in presidential elections and have limited voting representation in Congress. So Guam is the territory in question.**

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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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://fusdcivics.examzify.com>**

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

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