

# High School Constitution Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

**No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.**

**Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.**

**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

SAMPLE

- 1. Which branch of government has the power to interpret laws?**
  - A. The Legislative Branch**
  - B. The Executive Branch**
  - C. The Judicial Branch**
  - D. The Administrative Branch**
- 2. How many members are in the United States Senate?**
  - A. 50 members**
  - B. 100 members**
  - C. 200 members**
  - D. 150 members**
- 3. What do civil liberties protect individuals from?**
  - A. Government infringement**
  - B. Social discrimination**
  - C. Economic inequality**
  - D. International conflict**
- 4. Which power allows Congress to impeach a president?**
  - A. Executive privilege**
  - B. Non-legislative power**
  - C. Expressed power**
  - D. Judicial power**
- 5. Which position is first in the presidential succession order?**
  - A. President Pro Tempore**
  - B. Secretary of State**
  - C. Vice President**
  - D. Speaker of the House**
- 6. Which document contains the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**
  - A. The Declaration of Independence**
  - B. The United States Constitution**
  - C. The Articles of Confederation**
  - D. The Federalist Papers**

- 7. What do the rights protected by the Ninth Amendment refer to?**
- A. Enumerated Rights**
  - B. Unenumerated Rights**
  - C. Rights related to assembly**
  - D. Rights related to free speech**
- 8. Who is responsible for the enforcement of laws in the U.S.?**
- A. Congress**
  - B. The Supreme Court**
  - C. The President**
  - D. State governors**
- 9. What key change does the Eighteenth Amendment bring to American society?**
- A. Legalizes alcohol**
  - B. Establishes voting rights**
  - C. Prohibits alcohol**
  - D. Allows income tax**
- 10. What does the Fifth Amendment primarily guarantee?**
- A. The right to a speedy trial**
  - B. The right to bear arms**
  - C. The right to due process**
  - D. The right to free speech**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE



**1. Which branch of government has the power to interpret laws?**

**A. The Legislative Branch**

**B. The Executive Branch**

**C. The Judicial Branch**

**D. The Administrative Branch**

The Judicial Branch holds the power to interpret laws, which is a fundamental function of the judiciary in a democratic system. This branch is responsible for interpreting the Constitution, determining the meaning of laws, and ensuring that they are applied fairly and consistently. The role of the judicial system includes resolving disputes, protecting individual rights, and checking the powers of the other branches of government. Judicial review, a key principle established by landmark cases such as *Marbury v. Madison*, empowers courts to evaluate the constitutionality of legislative acts and executive actions. This ensures that laws align with constitutional principles and protects against arbitrary governance. The independence of the judiciary is crucial, as it allows judges to make decisions based on law rather than political pressures, thereby upholding the rule of law within the government framework.

**2. How many members are in the United States Senate?**

**A. 50 members**

**B. 100 members**

**C. 200 members**

**D. 150 members**

The United States Senate is composed of 100 members, which aligns with the principle that each state is represented by two senators, regardless of its population size. This structure ensures equal representation for all states in the Senate, making it distinct from the House of Representatives, where representation is based on population. This equal representation was a compromise during the Constitutional Convention to balance the interests of both populous and less populous states. Hence, with 50 states in the U.S., multiplying 50 by 2 results in 100 senators, affirming that the correct answer is indeed 100 members.

### **3. What do civil liberties protect individuals from?**

**A. Government infringement**

**B. Social discrimination**

**C. Economic inequality**

**D. International conflict**

Civil liberties are essential, fundamental rights that protect individuals from the actions of the government that could infringe upon their freedoms and rights. These liberties are typically enshrined in law, primarily within the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, and they ensure that citizens can exercise their rights without fear of governmental oppression. The primary focus of civil liberties is on limiting the power of the government over individuals, allowing for freedoms such as speech, assembly, and religion. By safeguarding these rights, civil liberties help to ensure that individuals can participate in democratic processes and express themselves freely, even when their views may be unpopular or disagree with the government. While social discrimination, economic inequality, and international conflict may certainly impact individuals' lives and rights, they are not the primary focus of civil liberties, which specifically aim to shield individuals from government overreach and ensure individual autonomy.

### **4. Which power allows Congress to impeach a president?**

**A. Executive privilege**

**B. Non-legislative power**

**C. Expressed power**

**D. Judicial power**

The ability of Congress to impeach a president stems from its non-legislative powers. Impeachment is a constitutional process by which Congress can remove a sitting president (as well as other federal officials) from office if they are found guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors." This process is not part of Congress's primary legislative functions but rather a specific authority granted to it as part of its broader responsibilities to oversee the executive branch and ensure accountability. Non-legislative powers include various functions such as advising and consenting to treaties and appointments, conducting investigations, and deciding issues of impeachment. While other powers such as expressed powers (which are explicitly stated in the Constitution) and judicial powers (related to the court system) serve important roles in governance, the impeachment process is distinctly categorized under non-legislative powers due to its unique nature in terms of checks and balances within the federal government structure.

**5. Which position is first in the presidential succession order?**

- A. President Pro Tempore**
- B. Secretary of State**
- C. Vice President**
- D. Speaker of the House**

The Vice President is first in the presidential succession order as established by the Presidential Succession Act. This means that if the President is unable to perform their duties due to death, resignation, removal, or incapacity, the Vice President readily assumes the role of President. This chain of succession was created to ensure continuity and stability in the executive branch of government. The Vice President is directly elected alongside the President, making this role highly significant in maintaining governance without interruption. The importance of having the Vice President first in line reflects the structure of the executive branch, which aims to have a clear and immediate successor in times of crisis.

**6. Which document contains the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**

- A. The Declaration of Independence**
- B. The United States Constitution**
- C. The Articles of Confederation**
- D. The Federalist Papers**

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are collectively known as the Bill of Rights. These amendments were proposed to address the concerns of those who feared that the new federal government could infringe on individual liberties. The Bill of Rights was added to the United States Constitution in 1791 and is a crucial aspect of American law as it guarantees fundamental protections such as freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. The other documents mentioned in the options are significant in their own right but do not contain these amendments. The Declaration of Independence is a foundational document declaring the American colonies' separation from Britain, the Articles of Confederation served as the first governing document of the United States but were ultimately found to be inadequate, and The Federalist Papers were a series of essays advocating for the ratification of the Constitution, discussing its principles and structure but not including the amendments themselves. Thus, the United States Constitution is indeed the correct answer as it is where the Bill of Rights is found.

**7. What do the rights protected by the Ninth Amendment refer to?**

- A. Enumerated Rights**
- B. Unenumerated Rights**
- C. Rights related to assembly**
- D. Rights related to free speech**

The rights protected by the Ninth Amendment refer specifically to unenumerated rights. The Ninth Amendment states that the enumeration of certain rights in the Constitution does not mean that other rights not specifically mentioned are not protected. This provision was included to emphasize that individuals have more rights than just those explicitly listed in the Constitution, thus safeguarding against the assumption that the only rights people have are those that are enumerated. The focus on unenumerated rights highlights the framers' intention to ensure that the rights of individuals cannot be limited solely to those outlined in the document. This means that even though some rights are detailed, others still exist and deserve protection. By acknowledging these unenumerated rights, the Ninth Amendment plays a crucial role in the broader context of individual liberties and civil rights within the Constitution.

**8. Who is responsible for the enforcement of laws in the U.S.?**

- A. Congress**
- B. The Supreme Court**
- C. The President**
- D. State governors**

The President is responsible for the enforcement of laws in the United States. This role is derived from the executive powers granted to the President by the Constitution. As the head of the executive branch of the government, the President ensures that federal laws are implemented and followed. This includes overseeing the various executive agencies that carry out the administration of laws across different sectors, such as law enforcement, health, education, and more. Additionally, the President has the authority to issue executive orders, which can direct the operations of the executive branch and influence how laws are enforced. While Congress creates laws and the Supreme Court interprets them, it is the responsibility of the President to enforce those laws effectively, highlighting the distinct roles within the framework of the U.S. government. State governors also have enforcement responsibilities at the state level, but within the context of federal law, the President's role is central and primary for the entire country.

**9. What key change does the Eighteenth Amendment bring to American society?**

- A. Legalizes alcohol**
- B. Establishes voting rights**
- C. Prohibits alcohol**
- D. Allows income tax**

The Eighteenth Amendment, ratified in 1919, instituted the prohibition of alcoholic beverages in the United States. This marked a significant shift in American society as it aimed to reduce crime and corruption associated with alcohol consumption, improve public morals, and promote health. The amendment made it illegal to manufacture, sell, or transport alcohol across state lines. This change led to the establishment of a "dry" era in the U.S., where illegal speakeasies and bootlegging thrived as people sought ways to circumvent the law. Ultimately, the impacts of the Eighteenth Amendment were profound, influencing social behaviors and leading to a reevaluation of the policy, culminating in its repeal with the Twenty-first Amendment in 1933. The focus of the amendment was specifically on alcohol prohibition, distinguishing it clearly from issues like voting rights or income tax, which are addressed in other constitutional amendments.

**10. What does the Fifth Amendment primarily guarantee?**

- A. The right to a speedy trial**
- B. The right to bear arms**
- C. The right to due process**
- D. The right to free speech**

The Fifth Amendment primarily guarantees the right to due process, which is a crucial element in protecting individuals against arbitrary and unfair legal actions. This amendment ensures that no person can be deprived of "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." This means that the government must follow established legal procedures and cannot take these fundamental rights away without just cause and the opportunity for legal defense. Additionally, the Fifth Amendment also encompasses other important protections, such as the right against self-incrimination and double jeopardy, reinforcing the legal system's commitment to fairness and justice. The emphasis on due process is essential because it safeguards individuals from being unfairly treated by the state, ensuring that everyone receives fair treatment under the law. Understanding this principle is vital for recognizing the broader intent of the Constitution to protect individual liberties and maintain a just legal system.