

MARYLAND HSA GOVERNMENT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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 function of the Circuit Courts in Maryland?

- A. Hear only traffic offenses.
- B. Issue marriage licenses.
- C. Handle major criminal and civil cases and hear appeals from the District Courts.
- D. Primarily handle appellate review of county ordinances.

2. Which case desegregated schools?

- A. Plessy v. Ferguson
- B. Roe v. Wade
- C. Miranda v. Arizona
- D. Brown v. Board of Education

3. Which body is the highest court in Maryland?

- A. The Maryland Court of Appeals.
- B. The Maryland Court of Special Appeals.
- C. The Maryland Supreme Court.
- D. The United States Supreme Court.

4. What is the name of the local legislature?

- A. City Council
- B. Town Council
- C. County Council
- D. District Assembly

5. Who is responsible for proposing the Maryland state budget?

- A. The Governor
- B. The General Assembly
- C. The Supreme Court
- D. The Department of Budget and Management

- 6. How do counties and municipalities differ in Maryland?**
- A. Counties Cover Broader Areas with County-Wide Responsibilities; Municipalities Are Incorporated Towns or Cities with Local Charters
 - B. Counties Include Only Cities; Municipalities Include Rural Areas
 - C. Counties Have Local Charters; Municipalities Do Not
 - D. Municipalities Are Larger and Manage State Budgets
- 7. Fiscal policy refers to the actions of the President and Congress to tax and spend. Which actors implement it?**
- A. Monetary Policy
 - B. Regulatory Policy
 - C. Fiscal Policy
 - D. Trade Policy
- 8. What is the constitutional age requirement for the President?**
- A. 30 years old
 - B. 40 years old
 - C. 35 years old
 - D. 25 years old
- 9. Regulatory agencies have which primary function?**
- A. Sets monetary policy to control inflation.
 - B. Enforces criminal law nationwide.
 - C. Monitors production and businesses to protect the consumer and environment.
 - D. Manages the national budget.
- 10. How do federal and state powers interact in the U.S. system?**
- A. They Do Not Interact
 - B. They Share Powers; Federal Law Never Overrides State Law
 - C. They Share Powers; Some Powers Are Reserved to the States; The Federal Government Can Preempt State Laws When Necessary; Federal Law Overrides State Law in Conflicts
 - D. States Override Federal in All Issues

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the function of the Circuit Courts in Maryland?

- A. Hear only traffic offenses.
- B. Issue marriage licenses.
- C. Handle major criminal and civil cases and hear appeals from the District Courts.**
- D. Primarily handle appellate review of county ordinances.

Maryland's Circuit Courts are the general trial courts with broad jurisdiction. They handle the more serious criminal cases (felonies and other major offenses) and larger civil matters, and they also oversee cases in areas like family law, probate, and equity. A key role they play is reviewing decisions from the District Courts—their appellate function for many District Court rulings. They aren't the place where licenses are issued (that duty sits with the Clerk of the Circuit Court), and they aren't primarily described as the body that handles appellate review of county ordinances. The best summary of their function is that they handle major criminal and civil cases and hear appeals from the District Courts.

2. Which case desegregated schools?

- A. Plessy v. Ferguson
- B. Roe v. Wade
- C. Miranda v. Arizona
- D. Brown v. Board of Education**

Desegregation of public schools is established by Brown v. Board of Education. The Court ruled that racially segregated schools are inherently unequal and violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, overturning the earlier justification of "separate but equal" from Plessy v. Ferguson. This decision declared that public education could not be segregated by race and paved the way for nationwide desegregation, with Brown II urging that desegregation proceed with all deliberate speed. The other listed cases deal with entirely different issues—abortion rights in Roe v. Wade and police interrogation rights in Miranda v. Arizona—so Brown v. Board of Education is the one that directly desegregated schools.

3. Which body is the highest court in Maryland?

- A. The Maryland Court of Appeals.**
- B. The Maryland Court of Special Appeals.
- C. The Maryland Supreme Court.
- D. The United States Supreme Court.

The highest court in Maryland is the Maryland Court of Appeals. It serves as the final authority on Maryland law, reviewing decisions from the intermediate Maryland Court of Special Appeals and, in some cases, directly from trial courts. The Court of Special Appeals is the intermediate appellate court that handles most appeals before they reach the top court. Maryland does not have a separate Maryland Supreme Court at the state level, and the United States Supreme Court is the federal court that handles nationwide issues, not state-specific matters.

4. What is the name of the local legislature?

- A. City Council
- B. Town Council
- C. County Council**
- D. District Assembly

In Maryland, the legislative body for a county is called the County Council. This group passes countywide laws, adopts the budget, and oversees county agencies for all areas within the county. Cities and towns have their own separate legislative bodies—City Councils for cities and Town Councils for towns—so those names don't apply to the county government. District Assembly isn't a recognized term for Maryland local government, so it isn't correct.

5. Who is responsible for proposing the Maryland state budget?

- A. The Governor**
- B. The General Assembly
- C. The Supreme Court
- D. The Department of Budget and Management

The question tests understanding of who starts the budget process in Maryland. In Maryland, the Governor, as the chief executive, is responsible for proposing the state budget to the General Assembly. The Governor's proposal outlines funding levels and policy priorities for the coming fiscal year. The Department of Budget and Management helps prepare that proposal, but it is the Governor who submits the budget as the official proposal. The General Assembly then reviews and enacts the budget, while the Supreme Court has no role in proposing or setting the budget. So the Governor is the best answer because the executive branch initiates the budget through the governor's proposal.

6. How do counties and municipalities differ in Maryland?

- A. Counties Cover Broader Areas with County-Wide Responsibilities; Municipalities Are Incorporated Towns or Cities with Local Charters**
- B. Counties Include Only Cities; Municipalities Include Rural Areas
- C. Counties Have Local Charters; Municipalities Do Not
- D. Municipalities Are Larger and Manage State Budgets

In Maryland, government is organized at two levels: counties and municipalities. Counties cover broad geographic areas and provide county-wide services such as law enforcement, jails, roads, health and social services, and they oversee the public schools through the county boards of education. Municipalities are incorporated towns or cities that have their own local charters, giving them authority to govern within their boundaries—things like local ordinances, zoning, local policing, and city services managed by elected leaders and councils. A notable exception is Baltimore City, which operates as its own separate entity not part of any county. So the best description is that counties cover larger areas with county-wide responsibilities, while municipalities are incorporated towns or cities with local charters.

7. Fiscal policy refers to the actions of the President and Congress to tax and spend. Which actors implement it?

- A. Monetary Policy
- B. Regulatory Policy
- C. Fiscal Policy**
- D. Trade Policy

Fiscal policy uses government spending and taxation to influence the economy, and in the United States it is put into effect by the President and Congress through the budget process and tax laws. The President proposes a budget and policy priorities, but Congress controls the purse strings by passing tax legislation and appropriations that determine how much the government spends and raises in revenue. This combination of proposed policy and enacted legislation is what implements fiscal policy and drives changes in aggregate demand, public investment, and economic activity. Monetary policy, by contrast, manages money supply and interest rates and is carried out by the Federal Reserve. Regulatory policy is shaped by federal agencies that issue rules and enforce compliance. Trade policy involves actions like tariffs and trade agreements that affect international commerce, and while it can involve both the executive branch and Congress, it is a separate realm from the budgetary decisions that define fiscal policy.

8. What is the constitutional age requirement for the President?

- A. 30 years old
- B. 40 years old
- C. 35 years old**
- D. 25 years old

The President must be at least 35 years old. This minimum age is set in the Constitution (Article II, Section 1) to ensure a certain level of maturity and experience for the nation's highest office. In addition to age, the candidate must be a natural-born citizen and have lived in the United States for at least 14 years. Because the question asks for the constitutional age requirement, the key figure is the minimum age—35. Options below that age don't meet the requirement, while a higher age (like 40) does meet it too, but 35 is the threshold.

9. Regulatory agencies have which primary function?

- A. Sets monetary policy to control inflation.
- B. Enforces criminal law nationwide.
- C. Monitors production and businesses to protect the consumer and environment.**
- D. Manages the national budget.

Regulatory agencies exist to oversee activities in the private sector to safeguard public health, safety, and the environment. They set rules, issue licenses, inspect, and enforce standards across industries, which is why their main role is to monitor production and business practices to protect consumers and the environment. Monetary policy is handled by the central bank and government, enforcing criminal law nationwide by law enforcement and prosecutors, and managing the national budget by Congress and the administration. So the best description is monitoring production and business to protect the consumer and environment.

10. How do federal and state powers interact in the U.S. system?

- A. They Do Not Interact
- B. They Share Powers; Federal Law Never Overrides State Law
- C. They Share Powers; Some Powers Are Reserved to the States; The Federal Government Can Preempt State Laws When Necessary; Federal Law Overrides State Law in Conflicts**
- D. States Override Federal in All Issues

In the U.S. federal system, powers are divided and can overlap: the Constitution assigns certain authorities to the federal government, while others are reserved to the states, with many areas allowing both levels to regulate (concurrent powers). When federal and state laws touch the same topic, the Supremacy Clause makes federal law the supreme law of the land, so federal rules can override conflicting state rules. Federal law can preempt state laws either expressly or through implying that federal regulation occupies a field or leaves no room for state regulation in that area. This combination—states retaining reserved powers, shared or concurrent powers, and federal preemption when needed—best describes how these levels interact. The other options ignore interaction, deny overrides in conflicts, or claim state power is always supreme, which doesn't fit how the system actually works.

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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.

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

<https://marylandhsagovernment.examzify.com>

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

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