

NCFE Civics Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. If you receive an email from an unknown source about a person you know, what should you do?**
 - A. Ignore the email**
 - B. Respond to the email**
 - C. Contact that person to verify**
 - D. Delete the email immediately**
- 2. What do fiscal policies primarily influence within an economy?**
 - A. Price stability**
 - B. Overall spending and investment**
 - C. Stock market performance**
 - D. Employment rates**
- 3. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of a citizen?**
 - A. Voting in elections**
 - B. Being informed about community issues**
 - C. Participating in civic activities**
 - D. Ignoring laws that don't affect them**
- 4. What economic phase is characterized by high unemployment and fewest new business startups?**
 - A. Expansion**
 - B. Contraction**
 - C. Trough**
 - D. Peak**
- 5. Investors nearing retirement typically shift their investment portfolios to include which type of risk?**
 - A. High**
 - B. Moderate**
 - C. Lower**
 - D. No**

- 6. Which American founding document argues that a government that does not protect your rights loses the right to rule?**
- A. The Bill of Rights**
 - B. The Constitution**
 - C. The Declaration of Independence**
 - D. The Articles of Confederation**
- 7. Which amendment asserts the right to a jury trial in criminal cases?**
- A. 5th Amendment**
 - B. 6th Amendment**
 - C. 10th Amendment**
 - D. 15th Amendment**
- 8. What is the lowest point in the business cycle referred to?**
- A. Recession**
 - B. Trough**
 - C. Contraction**
 - D. Expansion**
- 9. What is the role of Local Agencies?**
- A. To execute federal policy**
 - B. To carry out specific duties of local government**
 - C. To administer state laws**
 - D. To oversee federal elections**
- 10. In which type of court are cases dealing with contracts and family disputes heard?**
- A. Criminal Court**
 - B. Federal Court**
 - C. Civil Court**
 - D. Supreme Court**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If you receive an email from an unknown source about a person you know, what should you do?

- A. Ignore the email**
- B. Respond to the email**
- C. Contact that person to verify**
- D. Delete the email immediately**

Contacting the person to verify the information in the email is the most prudent course of action in this situation. This step ensures that the information is accurate and credible before taking any further action. Given that you received the email from an unknown source, it's important to treat it with caution. By reaching out to the known individual, you can confirm whether the email pertains to them and if the information contained within is legitimate or potentially a scam or misinformation. This approach not only protects you but also helps safeguard the person mentioned in the email from any potential threats or misunderstandings arising from unverified claims. Engaging directly with the person gives you a more informed perspective, which is essential in making decisions based on the email's content. Ignoring the email or deleting it may leave you uninformed about potential issues, and responding could inadvertently provide information to a malicious actor.

2. What do fiscal policies primarily influence within an economy?

- A. Price stability**
- B. Overall spending and investment**
- C. Stock market performance**
- D. Employment rates**

Fiscal policies primarily influence overall spending and investment within an economy by adjusting government expenditures and tax policies. When the government increases spending or implements tax cuts, it puts more money into the hands of consumers and businesses, which can lead to increased consumption and investment. Conversely, reducing spending or increasing taxes can help cool down an overheated economy. By impacting the amount of disposable income available to consumers and the amount businesses are willing to invest, fiscal policy plays a crucial role in shaping economic activity. This includes influencing demand for goods and services, which in turn affects production levels and economic growth. While fiscal policies may indirectly affect price stability, employment rates, and stock market performance, their primary and most immediate effect is on the overall levels of spending and investment in the economy. This makes the understanding of fiscal policies essential for analyzing economic conditions and implementing strategies aimed at stimulating or slowing down economic growth.

3. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of a citizen?

- A. Voting in elections
- B. Being informed about community issues
- C. Participating in civic activities
- D. Ignoring laws that don't affect them**

The correct answer is that ignoring laws that don't affect them is not a responsibility of a citizen. In a democratic society, citizens have a duty to adhere to the laws established by their government, regardless of their personal feelings about those laws or whether they seem to be directly affected by them. Upholding the rule of law is essential for maintaining order and ensuring the rights and responsibilities of all individuals within the community. In contrast, voting in elections, being informed about community issues, and participating in civic activities are essential responsibilities of a citizen. Voting enables citizens to have a say in how they are governed, while being informed helps them understand the issues that affect their community. Participation in civic activities fosters a sense of community and encourages collaborative efforts to improve society. These responsibilities contribute to a functional democracy where citizens engage actively in shaping their governance and community wellbeing.

4. What economic phase is characterized by high unemployment and fewest new business startups?

- A. Expansion
- B. Contraction
- C. Trough**
- D. Peak

The economic phase characterized by high unemployment and the fewest new business startups is the trough. This phase represents the lowest point in the economic cycle, where economic activity is at its minimum. During a trough, businesses often struggle due to decreased consumer demand, leading to layoffs and high unemployment rates. The lack of new business startups is also prevalent, as entrepreneurs tend to be cautious in an uncertain market environment, where consumer spending is low, and credit may be tight. In contrast, expansion indicates a phase of economic growth, typically associated with decreasing unemployment and increased business activity. Contraction refers to a general decline in economic activity, which can involve rising unemployment but does not necessarily denote the lowest point in an economic cycle, where conditions are typically believed to be weak yet not at their absolute worst. Peak symbolizes the height of economic activity, where unemployment is usually low and businesses are thriving. Thus, the correct understanding of a trough helps highlight its significance in representing a challenging period in the economic cycle, underscoring the struggles businesses and workers face during this phase.

5. Investors nearing retirement typically shift their investment portfolios to include which type of risk?

- A. High**
- B. Moderate**
- C. Lower**
- D. No**

Investors approaching retirement are generally focused on preserving their capital and ensuring a stable income for their retirement years. As a result, they typically shift their investment portfolios to include lower-risk options. This strategy aims to protect their savings from market volatility and reduce the likelihood of significant losses that could impact their financial security in retirement. By investing in lower-risk assets, such as bonds or dividend-paying stocks, retirees can achieve more predictable returns. This is particularly important in retirement when individuals often rely on their investment portfolios for income to cover living expenses. Lower-risk investments tend to be less volatile than higher-risk options, providing a sense of stability and security that aligns with the financial goals of individuals who are nearing the end of their working life. The transition to a more conservative portfolio is a prudent step to safeguard the funds accumulated over a lifetime of work.

6. Which American founding document argues that a government that does not protect your rights loses the right to rule?

- A. The Bill of Rights**
- B. The Constitution**
- C. The Declaration of Independence**
- D. The Articles of Confederation**

The Declaration of Independence articulates the principle that a government's legitimacy is rooted in its protection of individual rights. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, it emphasizes that when a government fails to safeguard the rights of its citizens, it effectively forfeits its authority to govern. This idea is encapsulated in the phrase that people have the right to alter or abolish any government that does not serve their interests and protect their rights. Furthermore, the Declaration outlines the inherent rights of individuals, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, establishing a foundational argument for the right of the people to seek new governance when their rights are not upheld. This perspective significantly influenced the development of American political thought and the structure of subsequent governing documents, such as the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

7. Which amendment asserts the right to a jury trial in criminal cases?

- A. 5th Amendment**
- B. 6th Amendment**
- C. 10th Amendment**
- D. 15th Amendment**

The 6th Amendment of the United States Constitution explicitly asserts the right to a jury trial in criminal cases. This amendment is designed to safeguard the rights of individuals accused of crimes by ensuring that they have the opportunity to be tried by an impartial jury of their peers. It establishes that in all criminal prosecutions, the accused has the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the charges against them, to confront witnesses, to obtain witnesses, and to have the assistance of counsel for their defense. In the context of the U.S. legal system, the right to a jury trial is a fundamental protection that helps uphold the principle of justice, providing a check against potential government overreach in criminal prosecutions. This right is critical in maintaining the integrity of the judicial process, thereby ensuring that defendants have a fair opportunity to contest the allegations brought against them. The other amendments listed do not address the right to a jury trial in criminal cases. The 5th Amendment pertains to the rights of individuals in legal proceedings, including protection against self-incrimination and double jeopardy. The 10th Amendment focuses on the powers reserved to the states and the people. The 15th Amendment addresses voting rights and prohibits the denial of the right to vote.

8. What is the lowest point in the business cycle referred to?

- A. Recession**
- B. Trough**
- C. Contraction**
- D. Expansion**

The lowest point in the business cycle is referred to as the trough. This phase represents a stage where economic activity is at its lowest, resulting in a decline in GDP, employment, and consumer spending. During the trough, the economy may experience high levels of unemployment, low consumer confidence, and reduced investment. Understanding the business cycle is critical in economics as it illustrates how economies fluctuate and the different stages they pass through. The trough signifies a turning point where the economy is set to begin recovering and transitioning into the next phase of expansion. This phase can lead to increased economic growth, higher employment rates, and improved consumer confidence as the economy begins to recover from the downturn experienced during the preceding contraction or recession phases. Thus, recognizing the trough is crucial for policymakers and economists to implement strategies aimed at stimulating economic recovery.

9. What is the role of Local Agencies?

- A. To execute federal policy
- B. To carry out specific duties of local government**
- C. To administer state laws
- D. To oversee federal elections

Local agencies play a crucial role in governance by carrying out specific duties that are vital for the functioning of local government. They are responsible for implementing policies and providing services that directly impact the community, such as public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and local education. These agencies operate on a smaller scale compared to state or federal agencies and have a more direct relationship with the residents they serve, allowing them to address local issues effectively. The distinction of local agencies is that they are primarily focused on the needs and concerns of their local populations, ensuring that government services are accessible and tailored to the community's unique context. By focusing on local governance, these agencies help facilitate citizen engagement and accountability in governance, which is essential for the health of democracy at all levels.

10. In which type of court are cases dealing with contracts and family disputes heard?

- A. Criminal Court
- B. Federal Court
- C. Civil Court**
- D. Supreme Court

Civil Court is the appropriate venue for cases involving contracts and family disputes. This type of court is designed to handle non-criminal cases where parties seek to resolve legal disagreements or claims for damages, such as those arising from contracts, personal injury, property disputes, or family law matters like divorce and child custody. In contrast, Criminal Courts focus on cases where the state prosecutes individuals or entities accused of violating criminal law, seeking to impose penalties such as fines or imprisonment. Federal Courts primarily deal with cases involving federal laws, constitutional issues, or disputes between states. The Supreme Court, being the highest court in the land, primarily hears cases that have significant legal questions or are of national importance, often serving as an appellate court for decisions made in lower courts.