

# Nevada Civics 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. What is the total number of members in Congress?**
  - A. 100**
  - B. 435**
  - C. 535**
  - D. 50**
- 2. Who is the current Vice President of the United States as of October 2023?**
  - A. Kamala Harris**
  - B. Mike Pence**
  - C. Joe Biden**
  - D. Bernie Sanders**
- 3. Which document established the independence of the United States from Britain?**
  - A. The Constitution**
  - B. The Bill of Rights**
  - C. The Federalist Papers**
  - D. The Declaration of Independence**
- 4. Which amendment abolished slavery in the United States?**
  - A. First Amendment**
  - B. Thirteenth Amendment**
  - C. Nineteenth Amendment**
  - D. Fifteenth Amendment**
- 5. How many Supreme Court justices are there?**
  - A. 7**
  - B. 9**
  - C. 11**
  - D. 13**
- 6. Who is responsible for making laws in the United States?**
  - A. President**
  - B. Senate**
  - C. Congress**
  - D. Supreme Court**

- 7. What principle allows the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of laws?**
- A. Judicial review**
  - B. Separation of powers**
  - C. Federalism**
  - D. Direct democracy**
- 8. Name one right only for United States citizens.**
- A. The right to free speech**
  - B. The right to vote**
  - C. The right to privacy**
  - D. The right to bear arms**
- 9. How many original colonies formed the United States?**
- A. 10**
  - B. 13**
  - C. 15**
  - D. 12**
- 10. Why does the Senate have a specific number of Senators?**
- A. 1 for each state**
  - B. 3 for each state**
  - C. 2 for each state**
  - D. 5 for each state**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

**1. What is the total number of members in Congress?**

- A. 100**
- B. 435**
- C. 535**
- D. 50**

The total number of members in Congress is 535. This number is derived from two components: the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 100 Senators, with each state represented by two Senators, making the Senate's total count consistent across all states. The House of Representatives consists of 435 members, with the number of Representatives from each state determined by its population. When you add the 100 Senators to the 435 Representatives, you arrive at the total of 535 members in Congress.

**2. Who is the current Vice President of the United States as of October 2023?**

- A. Kamala Harris**
- B. Mike Pence**
- C. Joe Biden**
- D. Bernie Sanders**

The current Vice President of the United States as of October 2023 is Kamala Harris. She has been serving in this role since January 20, 2021, after being elected alongside President Joe Biden in the presidential election. As Vice President, Harris is the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first person of South Asian descent to hold this office, marking a significant milestone in U.S. history. This choice reflects her ongoing role in the Biden administration, where she plays a critical part in policy-making and representing the United States both domestically and internationally. The other choices do not accurately reflect the current officeholder; Mike Pence was the Vice President under Donald Trump until January 2021, Joe Biden is the President, and Bernie Sanders has never held the office of Vice President.

**3. Which document established the independence of the United States from Britain?**

- A. The Constitution**
- B. The Bill of Rights**
- C. The Federalist Papers**
- D. The Declaration of Independence**

The Declaration of Independence is the document that formally established the United States' independence from Britain. Adopted on July 4, 1776, it articulated the colonies' desire to break away from British rule and outlined the philosophical justifications for doing so, including the belief in individual rights and the idea that governments are established to protect those rights. The Declaration declared that the colonies were no longer subject to British authority, effectively marking the birth of the United States as a sovereign nation. In contrast, the Constitution is the foundational legal document that outlines the structure of the U.S. government and was adopted later, in 1787. The Bill of Rights comprises the first ten amendments to the Constitution and guarantees individual liberties, but it does not address independence. The Federalist Papers are a collection of essays written to promote the ratification of the Constitution and were produced after independence had already been declared. Thus, the primary role of the Declaration of Independence as the key document announcing the break from Britain is what makes it the correct answer.

**4. Which amendment abolished slavery in the United States?**

- A. First Amendment**
- B. Thirteenth Amendment**
- C. Nineteenth Amendment**
- D. Fifteenth Amendment**

The Thirteenth Amendment is the correct answer because it specifically states the abolition of slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States. Ratified in 1865, this constitutional amendment marked a significant turning point in American history by formally ending the practice that had long been a source of division and conflict within the nation. The amendment's text clearly conveys its purpose by prohibiting slavery except as a punishment for a crime, which was a crucial step towards civil rights and equality. In contrast, the First Amendment addresses rights related to free speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition, fundamentally focusing on individual liberties rather than the abolition of slavery. Meanwhile, the Nineteenth Amendment granted women the right to vote, and the Fifteenth Amendment prohibited the denial of the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Although these amendments contributed to civil rights, they do not pertain to the abolition of slavery itself, which is uniquely addressed by the Thirteenth Amendment.

**5. How many Supreme Court justices are there?**

- A. 7
- B. 9**
- C. 11
- D. 13

The United States Supreme Court consists of nine justices. This number has been set since 1869 and represents a balance intended to provide a diverse range of perspectives in judicial decisions. The nine justices include the Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices, all of whom are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This structure is vital for maintaining the independence of the judiciary and ensuring that the highest court in the land can effectively interpret the Constitution and federal law. While the number of justices can change, historically, nine has been the standard, allowing for a stable and effective court system.

**6. Who is responsible for making laws in the United States?**

- A. President
- B. Senate
- C. Congress**
- D. Supreme Court

In the United States, the responsibility for making laws is vested in Congress, which is the legislative branch of the federal government. Congress is a bicameral body, consisting of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Both houses must collaborate in the legislative process to draft, debate, and pass laws. The significance of Congress in lawmaking is underscored by its ability to represent the interests of the citizens and enact legislation that addresses a wide range of societal issues. While the President proposes legislation and can influence the legislative agenda, the authority to create, amend, or reject laws lies with Congress. The Supreme Court, on the other hand, is responsible for interpreting laws and determining their constitutionality, rather than making them. Thus, recognizing Congress as the body responsible for lawmaking highlights the core structure of U.S. governance, rooted in the principle of separation of powers and ensuring a system of checks and balances between the different branches of government.

**7. What principle allows the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of laws?**

- A. Judicial review**
- B. Separation of powers**
- C. Federalism**
- D. Direct democracy**

The principle that allows the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of laws is known as judicial review. This principle enables the judiciary to evaluate the actions of the legislative and executive branches to ensure that they comply with the Constitution. Established in the landmark case *Marbury v. Madison* in 1803, judicial review empowers the courts to invalidate laws and executive actions that are found to be in conflict with the nation's founding document. Understanding this principle highlights the role of the judiciary as a guardian of the Constitution, which is essential in maintaining the rule of law. It ensures that all legislation and actions taken by government officials are subject to constitutional scrutiny, preserving individual rights and maintaining checks and balances between the branches of government. Other concepts, such as separation of powers, federalism, and direct democracy, serve different functions within the framework of governance but do not specifically confer the authority to review laws for their constitutionality. Separation of powers refers to the distribution of government responsibilities among different branches to limit any one branch's power. Federalism is the system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units. Direct democracy is a form of governance where citizens directly participate in decision-making rather than through elected representatives. None of these principles provide the judiciary with

**8. Name one right only for United States citizens.**

- A. The right to free speech**
- B. The right to vote**
- C. The right to privacy**
- D. The right to bear arms**

The right to vote is a specific right that is granted exclusively to United States citizens. This fundamental right allows citizens to participate in the democratic process by electing representatives, shaping government policies, and expressing their preferences for leadership at various levels, including local, state, and federal elections. While the right to free speech, the right to privacy, and the right to bear arms are also important rights protected by the Constitution, they are not restricted only to citizens. For example, non-citizens in the United States also enjoy certain freedoms of speech and expression, and they have some legal protections that uphold privacy rights. The right to bear arms can apply to lawful residents as well, subject to state and federal regulations. Therefore, voting remains a distinct and exclusive privilege aimed at citizens, underscoring their role in the governance of the country.

**9. How many original colonies formed the United States?**

- A. 10
- B. 13**
- C. 15
- D. 12

The correct answer is 13 because the United States was formed from 13 original colonies that were established by Great Britain along the eastern seaboard of North America. These colonies included Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. Each of these colonies had distinct characteristics and governance structures but shared the common experience of being subjected to British rule. The desire for independence from British authority was a driving force behind the American Revolution, ultimately leading to the establishment of the United States as a separate nation. Understanding the historical context of these 13 colonies provides crucial insight into the founding principles of the country, including issues of representation and governance that would later influence the drafting of the Constitution.

**10. Why does the Senate have a specific number of Senators?**

- A. 1 for each state
- B. 3 for each state
- C. 2 for each state**
- D. 5 for each state

The Senate is structured to have a specific number of Senators to ensure equal representation for each state, regardless of its population size. This principle is rooted in the U.S. Constitution, which established that each state would have two Senators. This design was part of the Great Compromise during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, balancing the interests of states with larger populations and those with smaller populations. The reasoning behind having two Senators per state is to provide every state an equal voice in the legislative process. This structure encourages collaboration and negotiation among states, reinforcing the federal system of government where each state retains certain powers and responsibilities. While the other options suggest a differing number of Senators per state, they do not align with the foundational laws established in the Constitution, which explicitly stipulate that there are two Senators per state. Thus, the correct answer underscores the intention of equal representation for all states in the legislative branch of the federal government.