

Nevada Civics Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What type of economic system is primarily practiced in the United States?**
 - A. Socialism**
 - B. Capitalist economy**
 - C. Mixed economy**
 - D. Communism**
- 2. What is the primary function of the President of the United States?**
 - A. To propose laws**
 - B. To enforce laws**
 - C. To interpret laws**
 - D. To create laws**
- 3. As of October 2023, who is the President of the United States?**
 - A. Donald Trump**
 - B. Barack Obama**
 - C. Joe Biden**
 - D. Kamala Harris**
- 4. What was Susan B. Anthony known for?**
 - A. Fighting for civil rights**
 - B. Promoting education reform**
 - C. Advocating for women's rights**
 - D. Establishing labor laws**
- 5. What is the name of the national anthem of the United States?**
 - A. America the Beautiful**
 - B. My Country, 'Tis of Thee**
 - C. God Bless America**
 - D. The Star-Spangled Banner**

- 6. 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**
- 7. How many times may a Representative be re-elected?**
- A. Once**
 - B. Twice**
 - C. Unlimited**
 - D. Three times**
- 8. Who has the power to propose amendments to the Constitution?**
- A. The Supreme Court**
 - B. Congress**
 - C. The President**
 - D. The electorate**
- 9. Who was the first President of the United States?**
- A. Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. George Washington**
 - C. Abraham Lincoln**
 - D. Theodore Roosevelt**
- 10. What is the primary duty of the Supreme Court?**
- A. Write laws**
 - B. Enforce laws**
 - C. Interpret the Constitution**
 - D. Oversee elections**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of economic system is primarily practiced in the United States?

- A. Socialism**
- B. Capitalist economy**
- C. Mixed economy**
- D. Communism**

The chosen answer highlights that the primary economic system practiced in the United States is a capitalist economy. Capitalism is characterized by private ownership of property and the means of production, where individuals and businesses have the freedom to operate for profit in a competitive marketplace. Prices and production are determined by supply and demand, allowing for a dynamic and responsive economic system. In a capitalist economy, innovation and entrepreneurship are encouraged, leading to a variety of goods and services that reflect consumer choice, thus promoting economic growth and efficiency. This framework supports the idea of minimal government intervention in economic matters, although some regulation exists to address market failures and create a level playing field. The other options represent different economic systems that do not align with the core principles of the U.S. economic framework. For example, socialism emphasizes collective or government ownership of resources and production, which contrasts sharply with the individualistic nature of capitalism. A mixed economy incorporates elements of both capitalism and socialism, and while the U.S. system does have some mixed characteristics (such as social welfare programs), it is primarily driven by capitalist principles. Communism represents a system with total government control over the economy and the absence of private property, which is fundamentally opposed to the U.S. economic landscape.

2. What is the primary function of the President of the United States?

- A. To propose laws**
- B. To enforce laws**
- C. To interpret laws**
- D. To create laws**

The primary function of the President of the United States is to enforce laws. This role is essential within the framework of the U.S. government, as it ensures that federal laws passed by Congress are implemented and obeyed. The President has various tools at their disposal for enforcement, including the executive branch, federal agencies, and the ability to ensure compliance with lawful orders and regulations. This enforcement role is grounded in the Constitution, which outlines the responsibilities of the executive branch. The President also oversees national defense, foreign policy, and the administration of federal laws, further emphasizing this role in maintaining order and governance. The aspects mentioned in other options, such as proposing, interpreting, or creating laws, while important functions associated with government, are not the primary responsibilities of the President. For instance, the power to propose and create laws primarily lies within Congress, which is responsible for legislative functions. The interpretation of laws is predominantly the role of the judicial branch, particularly the federal courts. Therefore, the enforcement of laws remains the definitive primary function of the President.

3. As of October 2023, who is the President of the United States?

- A. Donald Trump**
- B. Barack Obama**
- C. Joe Biden**
- D. Kamala Harris**

Joe Biden is the President of the United States as of October 2023. He took office on January 20, 2021, after winning the presidential election held in November 2020. Biden's administration has focused on various issues including pandemic response, economic recovery, infrastructure, and climate change, marking significant policy directions since he assumed the presidency. The other individuals listed have previously served as president or in prominent political roles, but they are not in office as of the specified date. Donald Trump served as president from January 2017 until January 2021, Barack Obama served from January 2009 to January 2017, and Kamala Harris currently serves as the Vice President, having taken office alongside Biden in 2021. Understanding the current officeholders is crucial for being well-informed about the political landscape, as it affects both domestic and international policies.

4. What was Susan B. Anthony known for?

- A. Fighting for civil rights**
- B. Promoting education reform**
- C. Advocating for women's rights**
- D. Establishing labor laws**

Susan B. Anthony is primarily known for her tireless advocacy for women's rights, especially her significant role in the women's suffrage movement, which fought for women's right to vote. She co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and played a crucial part in organizing campaigns and public speaking events to raise awareness about gender equality and women's rights. Anthony also famously cast a ballot in the 1872 presidential election, asserting her belief that women deserved the right to vote, which led to her arrest and a trial that brought national attention to the movement. The other options relate to important social issues, but they don't accurately reflect Anthony's primary legacy or contributions. While she may have supported various reforms during her lifetime, her most notable and recognized efforts were focused specifically on advancing women's rights.

5. What is the name of the national anthem of the United States?

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

The national anthem of the United States is "The Star-Spangled Banner." This designation stems from its historical significance and the events surrounding its creation. The lyrics were penned by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812, specifically after he witnessed the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The sight of the American flag still flying after the battle inspired him to write the poem that became the anthem. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem in 1931, reflecting the enduring symbols of patriotism and sacrifice that it embodies for the nation. This anthem plays a crucial role in national events, commemorations, and gatherings, serving as a unifying song that evokes feelings of pride and loyalty among Americans. The other choices are well-known patriotic songs, but none hold the official status of a national anthem.

6. 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.

7. How many times may a Representative be re-elected?

- A. Once
- B. Twice
- C. Unlimited**
- D. Three times

Representatives in the United States House of Representatives can be re-elected an unlimited number of times. There are no term limits imposed on them, meaning they can serve multiple consecutive terms as long as they continue to win the support of their constituents during elections. This structure allows voters to reward or replace their representatives based on their performance, fostering accountability in the democratic process. While there are rules governing the length of each term (two years), they can stand for election again as many times as they desire and are able to win. This is in contrast to some other political roles where term limits exist. Hence, the option indicating unlimited re-elections accurately reflects the established practice within legislative bodies, ensuring that the democratic choice remains in the hands of the voters.

8. Who has the power to propose amendments to the Constitution?

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

The correct answer is Congress because the United States Constitution grants the power to propose amendments specifically to Congress. This is outlined in Article V of the Constitution, which states that an amendment may be proposed either by a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of state legislatures. This provision underscores the role of the legislative branch in the amendment process, ensuring that proposals undergo thorough scrutiny and debate before any changes are made to the foundational legal document of the nation. The Supreme Court does not have the authority to propose amendments; its role is primarily to interpret and apply the law as established in the Constitution. The President also cannot directly propose amendments, though they can advocate for changes and influence public opinion or Congress's actions. The electorate, or the general voting population, does not possess the power to propose amendments on their own, but they can influence the process through voting for representatives who may support certain amendments.

9. Who was the first President of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. George Washington**
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. Theodore Roosevelt

The first President of the United States was George Washington. He took office on April 30, 1789, marking the beginning of the presidential office under the newly ratified Constitution. Washington is often referred to as the "Father of His Country" due to his leadership during the founding of the nation and his pivotal role in the Revolutionary War. His presidency set many precedents for the future officeholders, including the tradition of a two-term limit, which was later codified into the 22nd Amendment. The other figures listed, while significant in their own right, served as Presidents much later in U.S. history. Thomas Jefferson was the third President, Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President during the Civil War, and Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President, known for his progressive reforms in the early 20th century. Therefore, understanding Washington's importance as the first President provides a foundation for exploring the role of the presidency and its evolution in American history.

10. What is the primary duty of the Supreme Court?

- A. Write laws
- B. Enforce laws
- C. Interpret the Constitution**
- D. Oversee elections

The primary duty of the Supreme Court is to interpret the Constitution. This role is central to the Court's function within the United States judicial system. When cases involving constitutional issues arise, the Supreme Court provides authoritative interpretations that help define the meaning of the Constitution as it applies to laws, government actions, and individual rights. Through this process, the Court ensures that laws and policies comply with constitutional principles, thereby protecting the rights of citizens and upholding the rule of law. The interpretation of the Constitution is essential not only for resolving disputes but also for setting precedents that guide future judicial decisions. This power of judicial review allows the Supreme Court to scrutinize legislative and executive actions, determining whether they align with the constitutional framework. In contrast, writing laws falls under the purview of the legislative branch, specifically Congress. The enforcement of laws is primarily the responsibility of the executive branch, exemplified by the President and federal agencies. Overseeing elections is managed at various levels of government and is not a duty assigned to the Supreme Court. Thus, the interpretation of the Constitution is the unique and critical function of the Supreme Court that distinguishes it from other branches of government.