

# Nevada Civics Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. Name one territory of the United States.**
  - A. Hawaii**
  - B. Puerto Rico**
  - C. Alaska**
  - D. California**
- 2. What is the capital of the United States?**
  - A. New York City**
  - B. Chicago**
  - C. Washington, D.C.**
  - D. Los Angeles**
- 3. What is the capital of Nevada?**
  - A. Reno**
  - B. Las Vegas**
  - C. Carson City**
  - D. Sparks**
- 4. How many justices serve on the Supreme Court?**
  - A. Seven**
  - B. Nine**
  - C. Eleven**
  - D. Twelve**
- 5. Who is recognized as the 1st president of the United States?**
  - A. Abraham Lincoln**
  - B. Thomas Jefferson**
  - C. George Washington**
  - D. Theodore Roosevelt**
- 6. Which amendments guarantee or address voting rights?**
  - A. 1st, 5th, and 10th**
  - B. 4th, 8th, and 12th**
  - C. 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th**
  - D. 13th, 15th, and 19th**

- 7. On Independence Day, what is commonly associated with the celebration?**
- A. Fireworks**
  - B. Gifts**
  - C. Costumes**
  - D. Parades**
- 8. Who was President during the Civil War?**
- A. Ulysses S. Grant**
  - B. George Washington**
  - C. Abraham Lincoln**
  - D. Thomas Jefferson**
- 9. What is one power granted to the federal government?**
- A. The power to regulate state elections**
  - B. The power to print money**
  - C. The power to declare state laws null and void**
  - D. The power to form local governments**
- 10. Which state was the last to join the United States?**
- A. Alaska**
  - B. Arizona**
  - C. Hawaii**
  - D. New Mexico**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Name one territory of the United States.

- A. Hawaii
- B. Puerto Rico**
- C. Alaska
- D. California

Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States, which means it is governed by the U.S. federal government but does not have the full rights and status of a state. Territories have their own local governments, but federal laws apply, and residents are U.S. citizens. Puerto Rico has a unique relationship with the U.S., including its own constitution and a significant degree of autonomy in local governance. While residents of Puerto Rico do not vote for the President and have a non-voting representative in Congress, they participate in party primaries and are subject to U.S. federal laws. Hawaii, Alaska, and California are all states of the United States and, therefore, do not qualify as territories. Hawaii was admitted as the 50th state in 1959, Alaska as the 49th state in the same year, and California became a state in 1850. These distinctions are important in U.S. civics as they reflect different levels of political status and representation.

## 2. What is the capital of the United States?

- A. New York City
- B. Chicago
- C. Washington, D.C.**
- D. Los Angeles

Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States because it was established as the seat of the federal government by the Constitution. The city serves not only as the political center of the country but also houses important national landmarks, including the White House, the Capitol, and the Supreme Court. As the capital, it plays a crucial role in the governance and administration of federal laws, policies, and operations. The other cities mentioned, such as New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles, while significant in terms of culture, economy, and population, do not serve the role of the federal capital and therefore do not house the key national governmental institutions that define the capital status.

## 3. What is the capital of Nevada?

- A. Reno
- B. Las Vegas
- C. Carson City**
- D. Sparks

The capital of Nevada is Carson City. It serves as the seat of state government and is where the Nevada State Legislature meets. Carson City is not only the political center but also has historical significance, having been founded during the silver mining boom in the 19th century. The city has maintained its status as the capital since Nevada became a state in 1864. While Reno and Las Vegas are both prominent cities in Nevada, known for their entertainment and tourism, they do not hold the status of the state capital. Sparks is a smaller city located near Reno and also does not serve as a governmental hub. Understanding the distinction between these cities and Carson City helps clarify Nevada's political landscape and its historical context as a state.

#### **4. How many justices serve on the Supreme Court?**

- A. Seven**
- B. Nine**
- C. Eleven**
- D. Twelve**

The Supreme Court of the United States is composed of nine justices. This number has been established since 1869 and is defined by Congress. The composition includes one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices, who are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The structure and number of justices play a critical role in the judicial system, influencing not only how cases are decided but also the overall balance of power within the federal government. The justices serve lifetime appointments, which allows for continuity and stability in the application of law across the country. The decision-making process of the Supreme Court often involves complex legal interpretations and significant implications for American law and society. Understanding the makeup of the Court is essential for grasping the functioning of the judicial branch.

#### **5. Who is recognized as the 1st president of the United States?**

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

George Washington is recognized as the first president of the United States because he was the leader of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and played a crucial role in the foundation of the nation. Following the war, Washington was elected unanimously by the Electoral College and served two terms from 1789 to 1797. His leadership set many precedents for the role of the presidency, including the tradition of a two-term limit. Washington is often referred to as the "Father of His Country" because of his significant contributions to the nation's independence and governance. The other individuals listed, while prominent figures in American history, served as president in later years and do not hold the distinction of being the first.

**6. Which amendments guarantee or address voting rights?**

- A. 1st, 5th, and 10th
- B. 4th, 8th, and 12th
- C. 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th**
- D. 13th, 15th, and 19th

The amendments that specifically guarantee or address voting rights are the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments. The 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." This was a significant step towards inclusive voting rights after the Civil War. The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, guarantees women the right to vote, marking a crucial milestone in the women's suffrage movement and expanding voting rights to women nationwide. The 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964, prohibits the use of poll taxes in federal elections, which were often used as a means to disenfranchise low-income voters, particularly African Americans and other minorities. The 26th Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowers the voting age to 18 years, ensuring that younger citizens have the right to participate in the electoral process. These amendments collectively represent critical advancements in the fight for voting rights and reflect the ongoing struggle to ensure that all citizens can participate in democracy, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, or age.

**7. On Independence Day, what is commonly associated with the celebration?**

- A. Fireworks**
- B. Gifts
- C. Costumes
- D. Parades

Fireworks are commonly associated with the celebration of Independence Day in the United States, symbolizing the historical significance of the occasion. The use of fireworks dates back to the very first Independence Day in 1777 when they were employed to celebrate the nation's newfound freedom following the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Over the years, fireworks displays have become a traditional highlight of Fourth of July festivities, signifying joy and patriotism. Communities across the country often organize large public fireworks shows that draw crowds each year, amplifying the communal spirit of the holiday. While gifts, costumes, and parades may be associated with other holidays or events, they do not hold the same iconic status in the context of Independence Day celebrations. Gifts are more typical of holidays like Christmas or birthdays, costumes often pertain to Halloween, and although parades can definitely be part of Fourth of July festivities, they do not carry the same level of universal recognition or significance as fireworks.

## 8. Who was President during the Civil War?

- A. Ulysses S. Grant
- B. George Washington
- C. Abraham Lincoln**
- D. Thomas Jefferson

Abraham Lincoln was the President during the Civil War, which occurred from 1861 to 1865. He played a crucial role as a leader during this tumultuous period in American history, striving to preserve the Union and advocating for the abolition of slavery. Lincoln's commitment to these causes was evidenced by pivotal actions such as the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that all enslaved people in Confederate states were to be set free. The other figures mentioned, while significant in their own right, were not presidents during the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant was a key Union general during the war and later became President, but he did not hold the office during the conflict itself. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson served as Presidents before the Civil War, with Washington being the first President of the United States and Jefferson being the third. Their presidencies occurred long before the onset of the Civil War, making Abraham Lincoln the only correct answer to this question.

## 9. What is one power granted to the federal government?

- A. The power to regulate state elections
- B. The power to print money**
- C. The power to declare state laws null and void
- D. The power to form local governments

The federal government is granted the power to print money, which is a fundamental responsibility outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Specifically, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the authority to "...coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures." This exclusive power ensures that only the federal government can create and manage currency, which is crucial for maintaining a stable economy and providing a uniform medium of exchange across the nation. The other options do not accurately reflect powers granted to the federal government. Regulating state elections is primarily a responsibility of the states, while declaring state laws null and void generally falls under the purview of judicial review by federal courts, not a direct power of the federal government itself. Furthermore, the formation of local governments is typically a function of state authority, allowing states to create and oversee municipalities according to their own laws and governance structures.

**10. Which state was the last to join the United States?**

- A. Alaska**
- B. Arizona**
- C. Hawaii**
- D. New Mexico**

Hawaii is recognized as the last state to join the United States, achieving statehood on August 21, 1959. This significant event marked the conclusion of the territorial phase of Hawaii's relationship with the U.S., transitioning it into a full-fledged state. Hawaii's strategic location in the Pacific Ocean and its unique cultural heritage contribute to its importance within the union. The other options reflect states that joined the union earlier. Alaska became a state in 1959 as well but was second to Hawaii. Arizona joined in 1912, and New Mexico followed in the same year as well. Understanding Hawaii's history and its admission to statehood helps to grasp the broader context of U.S. territorial expansion and state admissions.