

SACE Stage 2 Legal Studies Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

- 1. What does it mean when a jury is described as hung?**
 - A. It means they reached a unanimous verdict**
 - B. It means they could not reach a verdict**
 - C. It means they have decided on a majority verdict**
 - D. It means they have finished deliberation**
- 2. Which of the following best describes the process of lawmaking?**
 - A. Judicial review of laws passed by parliament**
 - B. The introduction and debate of bills in parliament**
 - C. The enforcement of laws by courts**
 - D. The public's right to challenge laws**
- 3. Which type of treaty involves multiple parties?**
 - A. Bilateral treaty**
 - B. Trilateral treaty**
 - C. Multilateral treaty**
 - D. International treaty**
- 4. In which instance does federal law take precedence?**
 - A. When state law is less popular**
 - B. When a State law conflicts with federal law**
 - C. Only if approved by the local government**
 - D. When international treaties are involved**
- 5. Which of the following is a type of alternative dispute resolution (ADR)?**
 - A. Arbitration**
 - B. Court trial**
 - C. Litigation**
 - D. Injunction**
- 6. What is the definition of common law?**
 - A. Law established through legislative statutes**
 - B. Law determined by judges' decisions and precedents**
 - C. Law that exists only at the federal level**
 - D. Law created through public voting mechanisms**

- 7. What is a plaintiff in legal terms?**
- A. The judge who oversees the court proceedings**
 - B. The party being accused of wrongdoing**
 - C. A person who brings a case against another in a court of law**
 - D. The lawyer representing the defense**
- 8. What is the doctrine of judicial review?**
- A. Power of courts to monitor legislative decisions**
 - B. Principle allowing courts to review government actions for constitutionality**
 - C. Authority of judges to issue warrants**
 - D. Judicial examination of public opinions**
- 9. Which branch of government is responsible for making laws in Australia?**
- A. Judicial**
 - B. Legislative**
 - C. Executive**
 - D. Regulatory**
- 10. Which of the following is NOT considered a basic human right?**
- A. The right to vote**
 - B. The right to free legal representation**
 - C. The right to military service**
 - D. The right to a fair trial**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does it mean when a jury is described as hung?

- A. It means they reached a unanimous verdict**
- B. It means they could not reach a verdict**
- C. It means they have decided on a majority verdict**
- D. It means they have finished deliberation**

When a jury is described as hung, it specifically means that they could not reach a verdict. This situation occurs when the jurors are deadlocked and unable to come to a consensus on whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. A hung jury often results in a mistrial, which means the case may be retried with a new jury or resolved through a plea agreement or other legal means. This term captures the essence of the jurors' inability to agree, highlighting how crucial it is for a jury to reach a decision in criminal cases, where a unanimous verdict is typically required. The frustration of the jurors in a hung situation emphasizes the importance of deliberation and collective decision-making in the legal process, especially when the stakes are so high.

2. Which of the following best describes the process of lawmaking?

- A. Judicial review of laws passed by parliament**
- B. The introduction and debate of bills in parliament**
- C. The enforcement of laws by courts**
- D. The public's right to challenge laws**

The process of lawmaking is best described by the introduction and debate of bills in parliament. This option highlights the crucial stages involved in creating legislation, which begins with a proposed bill being presented in parliament. After its introduction, the bill undergoes debates and discussions among parliamentarians, where they evaluate its merits, propose amendments, and ultimately decide whether to pass it into law. This process is integral to the functioning of a democratic system, as it ensures that laws are subject to scrutiny and reflection by elected representatives. In contrast, the other options refer to distinct aspects of the legal system that do not directly relate to the lawmaking process. Judicial review pertains to the judiciary's role in interpreting laws and ensuring their constitutionality, while the enforcement of laws by courts relates to the application of existing laws rather than their creation. The public's right to challenge laws is an important aspect of democratic engagement and legal rights but does not encompass the steps taken to create laws themselves. Thus, the introduction and debate of bills in parliament most accurately capture the essence of lawmaking.

3. Which type of treaty involves multiple parties?

- A. Bilateral treaty
- B. Trilateral treaty
- C. Multilateral treaty**
- D. International treaty

A multilateral treaty involves multiple parties, typically three or more countries that come together to negotiate and agree on provisions that govern their relations or specific issues, such as trade, environment, or security. This format allows for a broader scope of agreement and cooperation than bilateral treaties, which are limited to two parties. Multilateral treaties can address a wide range of topics and often serve to establish international norms and standards that multiple nations commit to uphold. They are key in fostering international diplomacy and collaboration, reflecting the complexities of global interactions where various nations seek to work together for common goals. In contrast, bilateral treaties are agreements between two countries, and while trilateral treaties involve three, they do not encapsulate the broader scope of multilateral treaties. An international treaty is a more generic term that can refer to any formal agreement between countries, regardless of the number of parties involved. However, when being specific about the involvement of multiple parties, the correct classification is multilateral treaty.

4. In which instance does federal law take precedence?

- A. When state law is less popular
- B. When a State law conflicts with federal law**
- C. Only if approved by the local government
- D. When international treaties are involved

Federal law takes precedence when there is a conflict between state law and federal law. This principle is rooted in the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which asserts that the Constitution, as well as federal laws and treaties made under its authority, shall be the supreme law of the land. When a state law contradicts a federal law, the federal law will prevail, meaning that the state law cannot be enforced in that instance. This ensures consistency in legal standards across the country and upholds the authority of federal legislation over state legislation. In contrast, the other choices do not accurately represent when federal law takes precedence. Popularity of laws doesn't determine their legality; local government approval is not necessary for a federal law to supersede state law; and while international treaties can impact federal law, the priority of federal law over conflicting state laws is the more precise scenario described in the correct answer.

5. Which of the following is a type of alternative dispute resolution (ADR)?

- A. Arbitration**
- B. Court trial**
- C. Litigation**
- D. Injunction**

Arbitration is considered a type of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) because it involves resolving disputes outside of traditional court settings. In arbitration, parties agree to submit their dispute to one or more arbitrators who make a binding decision on the matter, thus providing a resolution without the need for a court trial. This process is typically more flexible, faster, and can be less costly than litigation. In contrast, court trials and litigation refer to formal processes carried out in the courtroom, where a judge (and sometimes a jury) decides the outcome based on legal arguments and evidence presented. An injunction, on the other hand, is a court order that requires a party to do, or refrain from doing, a specific act and does not represent a form of dispute resolution but rather a legal remedy or preventive measure. Therefore, arbitration stands out as a recognized method within ADR, aimed at facilitating resolutions in a more amicable and efficient manner.

6. What is the definition of common law?

- A. Law established through legislative statutes**
- B. Law determined by judges' decisions and precedents**
- C. Law that exists only at the federal level**
- D. Law created through public voting mechanisms**

The definition of common law refers to law developed through judicial decisions rather than through legislative statutes. This body of law arises from the precedents established by the outcomes of previous court cases, which judges must follow when making determinations in similar cases. This principle of relying on precedent ensures consistency and predictability in the law, allowing courts to interpret and apply legal principles over time. In contrast to legislative statutes, which are enacted by formal legislative bodies, common law evolves organically through the interpretations of the judiciary. It is a significant part of many legal systems, particularly in countries influenced by English common law traditions. This characteristic of being judge-made law distinguishes it from statutes or laws created through direct democracy or federal commands.

7. What is a plaintiff in legal terms?

- A. The judge who oversees the court proceedings
- B. The party being accused of wrongdoing
- C. A person who brings a case against another in a court of law**
- D. The lawyer representing the defense

In legal terms, a plaintiff is defined as a person who brings a case against another individual or entity in a court of law. This role is crucial because the plaintiff initiates the legal action and asserts their claim, often seeking a remedy such as damages or another form of relief. The plaintiff's responsibility includes presenting evidence and arguments to support their case, making them a central figure in civil litigation. Understanding the role of a plaintiff is fundamental in legal studies, as it helps clarify the dynamics of the courtroom and the adversarial nature of legal proceedings. The plaintiff's actions set the stage for the case, leading to the defendant's response, thereby creating the basis for the judicial process.

8. What is the doctrine of judicial review?

- A. Power of courts to monitor legislative decisions
- B. Principle allowing courts to review government actions for constitutionality**
- C. Authority of judges to issue warrants
- D. Judicial examination of public opinions

The doctrine of judicial review is fundamentally the principle that allows courts to examine and determine the constitutionality of government actions, including laws passed by the legislative branch and actions taken by the executive branch. This power is pivotal in ensuring that all government actions adhere to the constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. By having the ability to nullify laws or actions that are found to be unconstitutional, the judiciary plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and protecting individual rights. In the context of the other options, while the power of courts to monitor legislative decisions is related, it doesn't fully encapsulate the broader idea of reviewing for constitutionality. The authority of judges to issue warrants pertains specifically to law enforcement and does not involve reviewing government actions. Lastly, judicial examination of public opinions is not a function of the courts; rather, courts are concerned with legal principles, statutes, and constitutional mandates rather than public sentiment or opinion. Thus, the correct answer reflects the essential role of the judiciary in maintaining checks and balances within government by assessing whether actions comply with constitutional standards.

9. Which branch of government is responsible for making laws in Australia?

- A. Judicial**
- B. Legislative**
- C. Executive**
- D. Regulatory**

The correct answer is the Legislative branch, which is responsible for making laws in Australia. The Legislative branch comprises the Parliament, which consists of two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Members of these houses are elected to represent the interests of their constituents and to debate and pass legislation. This law-making power is a fundamental function of Parliament, ensuring that laws are created to govern society and respond to the needs and issues of the populace. The Legislative branch plays a crucial role in the democratic process, as it is where proposed laws (bills) are introduced, evaluated, modified, and ultimately passed or rejected. It is distinct from the other branches of government. The Executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws, while the Judicial branch interprets laws and assesses their constitutionality. Regulatory bodies often operate under the guidance of the Executive, overseeing specific areas of law and compliance, but they do not have the authority to create legislation. Understanding the function of the Legislative branch is essential in comprehending how democracy operates in Australia and how laws are established to maintain order and address societal issues.

10. Which of the following is NOT considered a basic human right?

- A. The right to vote**
- B. The right to free legal representation**
- C. The right to military service**
- D. The right to a fair trial**

The right to military service is not considered a basic human right. Basic human rights are typically viewed as inherent to all individuals, regardless of their citizenship or any other status. These rights often include the right to participate in the political process (such as voting), the right to a fair trial, and certain protections under law, including access to legal representation. Military service, on the other hand, is not universally guaranteed as a right and may be subject to the laws and policies of individual nations. It often hinges on factors such as citizenship, age, and other criteria, and is not a fundamental right recognized by international human rights frameworks. Therefore, it does not align with the definition of basic human rights, which are meant to be universally applicable and inalienable.

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://sacestage2legalstudies.examzify.com>

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