

Texas A&M University (TAMU) POLS207 State and Local Government Exam 2 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. What role does the state comptroller play?**
 - A. Overseeing public education**
 - B. Managing state finances and tax collection**
 - C. Enforcing state laws**
 - D. Advising the legislative assembly**
- 2. Is there a legal penalty for not voting in elections?**
 - A. Yes, fines are often imposed**
 - B. No, there is no penalty for abstaining**
 - C. Yes, but only for specific demographics**
 - D. No, but there may be social pressure**
- 3. What does hyper-partisanship refer to in politics?**
 - A. A commitment to party so strong it can transcend other commitments**
 - B. A collaborative approach between different political parties**
 - C. A strategy for neutral political engagement**
 - D. A focus on bipartisan solutions**
- 4. What is the process of overriding a gubernatorial veto?**
 - A. A simple majority vote in one legislative chamber**
 - B. A two-thirds vote in both chambers of the state legislature**
 - C. A unanimous decision from the state judiciary**
 - D. A public referendum to vote on the legislation**
- 5. What is the maximum number of terms a governor can serve consecutively in Texas?**
 - A. Two terms**
 - B. Four terms**
 - C. No limit on consecutive terms**
 - D. One term**

6. In the 8th century, what came close to a form of direct democracy?

- A. City councils**
- B. New England town meetings**
- C. State legislatures**
- D. Parliamentary sessions**

7. Do any states allow citizens under the age of 18 to vote in elections?

- A. No, all require voters to be at least 18**
- B. Yes, but only in federal elections**
- C. Yes, many permit 17-year-olds in primaries**
- D. Yes, as long as a guardian approves**

8. What is dealignment in the context of political parties?

- A. The gradual increase in party identification among the public**
- B. A specific election that reaffirms party loyalty**
- C. The gradual disengagement of people from the parties**
- D. A process of strengthening party affiliations**

9. What factor is negatively related to voter turnout?

- A. Low educational attainment**
- B. Competitive elections**
- C. High-profile candidates**
- D. Increased minority participation**

10. The concept of "exhausted voters" primarily refers to which phenomenon?

- A. Voters feeling encouraged to vote**
- B. Voters fatigued by frequent elections**
- C. Voters missing the chance to vote**
- D. Voters overwhelmed by candidate choices**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What role does the state comptroller play?

- A. Overseeing public education
- B. Managing state finances and tax collection**
- C. Enforcing state laws
- D. Advising the legislative assembly

The state comptroller plays a crucial role in managing the financial affairs of the state. This includes overseeing the collection of taxes, ensuring that revenues are received and properly accounted for, and managing the state's overall financial health. The comptroller is responsible for preparing the state's budget and reporting on its financial status, which involves auditing state agencies and providing transparent financial information to the public and government officials. Effective tax collection is vital for funding public services and infrastructure, and the comptroller ensures that this process operates smoothly, adheres to state laws, and is efficient. Additionally, the comptroller often plays a key role in forecasting revenues, which informs budgetary decisions at the state level. This financial oversight is essential for maintaining the economic stability of the state and ensuring that fiscal policies align with the needs of its citizens.

2. Is there a legal penalty for not voting in elections?

- A. Yes, fines are often imposed
- B. No, there is no penalty for abstaining**
- C. Yes, but only for specific demographics
- D. No, but there may be social pressure

The answer that there is no penalty for abstaining from voting is accurate because, in the United States, including Texas, voting is a right and an individual choice. Citizens are encouraged to participate in elections, but they are not legally obligated to do so. There are no laws that impose fines or penalties on individuals who choose not to vote. This lack of legal consequences means that citizens have the autonomy to decide whether or not to engage in the electoral process without fear of repercussions. While there may be social pressure from various groups or communities to participate in elections, the fundamental principle of voting as a civic duty remains voluntary. The absence of legal consequences reflects the democratic value that individuals should have the freedom to make choices regarding their political participation.

3. What does hyper-partisanship refer to in politics?

- A. A commitment to party so strong it can transcend other commitments**
- B. A collaborative approach between different political parties**
- C. A strategy for neutral political engagement**
- D. A focus on bipartisan solutions**

Hyper-partisanship refers to a situation in politics where loyalty to one's political party becomes so strong that it overrides other considerations, such as policy effectiveness, compromise, or the needs of constituents. This term highlights an environment where party affiliation dictates political behavior, often leading to heightened polarization, a lack of collaboration across party lines, and an inability to find common ground on various issues. The concept emphasizes how extreme loyalty to party ideologies can distort political discourse and contribute to gridlock in legislative processes. In this context, individuals and politicians may prioritize party loyalty over the broader interests of governance or public service, further entrenching divisive politics. Thus, the chosen definition captures the essence of hyper-partisanship by illustrating its intense nature and the ways it can influence political behavior and decision-making.

4. What is the process of overriding a gubernatorial veto?

- A. A simple majority vote in one legislative chamber**
- B. A two-thirds vote in both chambers of the state legislature**
- C. A unanimous decision from the state judiciary**
- D. A public referendum to vote on the legislation**

The process of overriding a gubernatorial veto requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the state legislature. This high threshold is designed to ensure that there is substantial legislative support for the measure, reflecting a broader consensus that the legislation should become law despite the governor's objections. When a governor exercises their veto power, they are effectively stating that they do not approve of the legislation, typically due to policy disagreements or concerns about its implications. For the legislature to counter this decision, they must demonstrate that a significant majority of elected representatives believe the legislation is indeed in the best interest of the state. This requirement for a two-thirds majority helps balance the power between the executive and legislative branches, ensuring that the governor's authority is kept in check, but not easily overridden without considerable legislative support. The other options do not accurately describe the process in most states. A simple majority in one chamber would not be enough to override a veto, as the requirement involves both chambers. A unanimous decision from the state judiciary is irrelevant to the legislative process of veto overrides, and a public referendum would involve a completely different mechanism of direct democracy that is not applicable in this context. The necessity of garnering two-thirds support in both legislative chambers reflects the seriousness of overturning a governor's

5. What is the maximum number of terms a governor can serve consecutively in Texas?

- A. Two terms**
- B. Four terms**
- C. No limit on consecutive terms**
- D. One term**

In Texas, there is no limit on the number of consecutive terms that a governor can serve. This means that a governor can be re-elected an unlimited number of times as long as they continue to win elections. The state constitution does not impose term limits on the position of governor, allowing for the possibility of a governor serving for many years, potentially as long as they maintain the support of voters. This system contrasts with many other states that do impose term limits, thereby allowing for greater continuity in leadership if a popular governor chooses to remain in office. Therefore, the correct answer reflects the Texas political structure where governors can serve indefinitely in consecutive terms.

6. In the 8th century, what came close to a form of direct democracy?

- A. City councils**
- B. New England town meetings**
- C. State legislatures**
- D. Parliamentary sessions**

In the 8th century, New England town meetings represented a form of direct democracy where local citizens gathered to discuss and vote on specific issues and policies affecting their community. This practice allowed residents to participate directly in government decisions, rather than relying on elected representatives or officials to make decisions on their behalf. Such gatherings empowered individuals within the community to express their opinions and have a say in the governance of their town, embodying the principles of direct democracy more effectively than other forms such as city councils, state legislatures, or parliamentary sessions, which typically involve a layer of representation and bureaucratic structure. In contrast, the structure of town meetings encouraged broader civic engagement, where participation and consensus were central to the decision-making process.

7. Do any states allow citizens under the age of 18 to vote in elections?

- A. No, all require voters to be at least 18**
- B. Yes, but only in federal elections**
- C. Yes, many permit 17-year-olds in primaries**
- D. Yes, as long as a guardian approves**

Many states allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections, provided they will turn 18 by the time of the general election. This approach is designed to encourage civic engagement among younger citizens and to allow them to participate in the electoral process earlier. By allowing participation in primaries, states enable younger voters to have a say in the candidates who will appear on the ballot in the general election. The other options do not accurately capture the nuances of voting laws regarding age. Some states' policies specifically permit younger citizens to engage in the electoral process, recognizing the importance of involving youth in democracy. Therefore, the allowance of 17-year-olds in primaries supports the option where states take steps to include younger voters in the electoral system before they reach the minimum voting age of 18 for general elections.

8. What is dealignment in the context of political parties?

- A. The gradual increase in party identification among the public**
- B. A specific election that reaffirms party loyalty**
- C. The gradual disengagement of people from the parties**
- D. A process of strengthening party affiliations**

Dealignment refers to a situation where individuals or groups gradually disengage from established political parties, losing their strong ties or identification with them. This phenomenon reflects a shift in political behavior, where voters may become increasingly independent, choosing instead to make electoral decisions based on specific issues or candidates rather than party affiliation. In times of dealignment, the traditional loyalty to parties diminishes, leading to an increase in the number of voters who identify as independents or who frequently change their party affiliations. This trend can result in more unpredictable election outcomes, as political parties may struggle to mobilize support among voters who no longer align strictly with their platforms or ideologies. The other choices indicate concepts that do not align with the definition of dealignment. For example, the idea of increasing party identification or reaffirming party loyalty contradicts the essence of dealignment, as it suggests strengthening rather than weakening ties to political parties. Understanding dealignment helps in analyzing current electoral dynamics and shifts in voter behavior in a rapidly changing political landscape.

9. What factor is negatively related to voter turnout?

- A. Low educational attainment
- B. Competitive elections**
- C. High-profile candidates
- D. Increased minority participation

The factor that is negatively related to voter turnout is low educational attainment. Research consistently shows that individuals with lower levels of education are less likely to participate in elections. This can be attributed to several reasons: those with lower educational backgrounds may have less access to information about the electoral process, less understanding of the issues at stake, and lower levels of civic engagement overall. Education often fosters a sense of civic duty and awareness regarding voting rights and governmental functions, leading to higher participation rates among those who are more educated. In contrast, competitive elections typically encourage higher voter turnout, as individuals are often more motivated to vote when the outcomes are uncertain and numerous candidates are vying for office. High-profile candidates can attract attention, interest, and media coverage, potentially motivating more voters to participate. Additionally, increased minority participation is generally associated with efforts to enhance voter engagement and mobilization, leading to greater turnout in those communities. Thus, the correlation between low educational attainment and reduced voter turnout stands out as the most significant negative factor in influencing electoral participation.

10. The concept of "exhausted voters" primarily refers to which phenomenon?

- A. Voters feeling encouraged to vote
- B. Voters fatigued by frequent elections**
- C. Voters missing the chance to vote
- D. Voters overwhelmed by candidate choices

The concept of "exhausted voters" is best associated with the phenomenon of voters becoming fatigued by frequent elections. This term highlights how a continual cycle of elections can lead to voter disengagement, as individuals may feel overwhelmed by the demands of participating in the electoral process repeatedly, often with little time to recuperate or reflect on their choices. Such fatigue can manifest in lower voter turnout, as individuals may choose to abstain from voting altogether because they feel worn out by the pressure to stay informed and engaged. This understanding situates the concept within the broader context of electoral participation, where the frequency of elections and the perceived necessity of participating can lead to a sense of exhaustion among the electorate. It emphasizes the need for a balance in the electoral calendar to ensure that voters remain actively engaged without feeling overwhelmed.

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://tamu-pols207exam2.examzify.com>

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

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