

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) POLS207 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXAM 2 PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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<https://tamu-pols207exam2.examzify.com>



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# Table of Contents

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Copyright .....             | 1  |
| Table of Contents .....     | 2  |
| Introduction .....          | 3  |
| How to Use This Guide ..... | 4  |
| Questions .....             | 5  |
| Answers .....               | 8  |
| Explanations .....          | 10 |
| Next Steps .....            | 16 |

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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

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- 1. 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
- 2. In Texas, the winner of the Republican Primary primarily participates in what type of election?**
  - A. General election
  - B. Local election
  - C. State-wide election
  - D. State election
- 3. What does the information function of a political party primarily involve?**
  - A. Educating the public on policy goals
  - B. Recruiting candidates for elections
  - C. Debating policy in legislative forums
  - D. Organizing political rallies
- 4. What is the primary purpose of local government?**
  - A. To implement state laws in the community
  - B. To provide specific services at the community level
  - C. To oversee federal compliance within the state
  - D. To manage national parks and federal lands
- 5. What impact would a penalty for voting potentially have on voter turnout?**
  - A. It would likely decrease voter turnout
  - B. It would have no effect on turnout
  - C. It could increase voter turnout
  - D. It would make voting more accessible
- 6. During what event does redistricting generally occur in Texas?**
  - A. Every five years
  - B. Every election cycle
  - C. Every ten years
  - D. When population shifts occur



**7. What does the term “police power” refer to?**

- A. The authority of state police forces
- B. The right to enforce federal laws
- C. The inherent authority to regulate for health and safety
- D. The power of municipalities to create police budgets

**8. What was the primary purpose of the Federalist Party?**

- A. To promote individual rights
- B. To advocate for state sovereignty
- C. To organize the ratification of the Constitution
- D. To form alliances with foreign nations

**9. What role does the state auditor play?**

- A. To administer local elections
- B. To ensure state funds are used efficiently and effectively
- C. To propose new state laws
- D. To supervise federal agencies

**10. What concept explains the need for individuals to voluntarily obey decisions made by proper officials?**

- A. Political accountability
- B. Improved legitimacy
- C. Democratic consent
- D. Social contract



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. 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.*

## 2. In Texas, the winner of the Republican Primary primarily participates in what type of election?

- A. General election
- B. Local election
- C. Station-wide election**
- D. State election

*The winner of the Republican Primary in Texas primarily participates in a statewide election. This is because primaries are held to select party candidates for various positions that will be contested in the general election, which often occur at the state level for positions such as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and state legislators. While local elections are important and certainly impactful, they do not specifically pertain to the winner of a party primary participating in a larger election context. A general election is the subsequent step after the primary elections, where winners from each party compete against each other, and this method does not accurately address the nature of the primary itself. The term "station-wide election" is also not recognized in the context of electoral processes in Texas, making it an incorrect choice in this context. Thus, the primary winners generally focus their efforts and campaigns on statewide offices, solidifying why a statewide election best reflects the context of the question.*

### 3. What does the information function of a political party primarily involve?

- A. Educating the public on policy goals
- B. Recruiting candidates for elections
- C. Debating policy in legislative forums
- D. Organizing political rallies

*The information function of a political party primarily involves educating the public on policy goals. Political parties play a crucial role in informing citizens about their platforms, which include specific policy objectives and values that they prioritize. This education helps voters understand where parties stand on various issues, allowing them to make informed choices during elections. By disseminating information about their goals and initiatives, political parties aim to shape public opinion and mobilize support for their agenda. While recruiting candidates for elections, debating policy in legislative forums, and organizing political rallies are all important functions of political parties, these activities are more about operational and tactical aspects rather than the primary focus of educating the electorate. The education of the public on policy issues is a foundational element that enables voters to engage meaningfully with the political process.*

### 4. What is the primary purpose of local government?

- A. To implement state laws in the community
- B. To provide specific services at the community level
- C. To oversee federal compliance within the state
- D. To manage national parks and federal lands

*The primary purpose of local government is to provide specific services at the community level. Local governments are responsible for managing essential services that directly impact the daily lives of residents. These services can include public safety (like police and fire protection), education (school districts), public health (community health services), infrastructure (roads and public transportation), and zoning and land use planning. By focusing on local needs, local governments can tailor their services and initiatives to address the specific preferences and challenges of their communities. This level of government tends to be more responsive and accessible to residents, allowing for a more direct form of governance. In addition, local governments play a crucial role in engaging citizens in the democratic process, offering them opportunities to participate in decision-making that affects their immediate environment.*

**5. What impact would a penalty for voting potentially have on voter turnout?**

- A. It would likely decrease voter turnout
- B. It would have no effect on turnout
- C. It could increase voter turnout**
- D. It would make voting more accessible

*The correct answer, which suggests that a penalty for voting could increase voter turnout, ties into the concept of motivation and engagement. The rationale behind this idea stems from the theory that individuals may become more motivated to participate in the electoral process when faced with penalties or consequences for non-participation. When people perceive that their civic duty includes potential repercussions for not participating—such as fines—they may feel a heightened sense of urgency to cast their ballots. This aligns with principles of behavioral economics where the introduction of a penalty introduces a tangible consequence, potentially spurring more individuals to head to the polls. Additionally, the idea also suggests that penalties could lead to a heightened awareness around the importance of voting, thus enhancing civic engagement overall. Engaging in penalty-based systems can also create a social norm where voting is seen as not only a right but also an obligation, further encouraging turnout as people desire to be seen as responsible citizens participating in democracy. In contrast, the other options focus on potential decreases in turnout or no change at all, which do not account for the complex motivations that might prompt individuals to engage in voting when confronted with the idea of a penalty. These perspectives often overlook the psychological aspects of motivation that can arise from perceived norms and societal expectations surrounding civic*

**6. During what event does redistricting generally occur in Texas?**

- A. Every five years
- B. Every election cycle
- C. Every ten years**
- D. When population shifts occur

*Redistricting in Texas typically occurs every ten years, coinciding with the decennial census. This is a crucial process, as the census provides updated population data that states use to ensure that legislative districts are drawn in a way that reflects changes in population size and distribution. This is important for maintaining equal representation, as districts need to have roughly equal populations to comply with the "one person, one vote" principle. While population shifts can lead to the need for adjustments in districts, the formal redistricting process itself is anchored in the ten-year census cycle. This timeframe allows state legislatures to review the latest demographic information comprehensively and redraw district lines accordingly, ensuring fair and equitable representation for all citizens in the state's legislative bodies.*

## 7. What does the term “police power” refer to?

- A. The authority of state police forces
- B. The right to enforce federal laws
- C. The inherent authority to regulate for health and safety**
- D. The power of municipalities to create police budgets

*The term “police power” refers to the inherent authority of states to enact laws and regulations that promote the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the public. This concept stems from the understanding that states have the responsibility to protect their citizens and ensure a conducive environment for societal functioning. Through police power, governments can regulate a multitude of activities, which includes establishing building codes, enforcing health regulations, overseeing land use, and managing public safety measures. This power is fundamental in enabling state and local governments to maintain order and protect the general welfare of the community. It is a broad power that encompasses various aspects of governance and is not limited to any single type of authority or enforcement. It exists independently of federal powers and primarily focuses on the state's right to govern its own affairs. Other choices do not accurately capture the essence of police power. While the authority of state police forces and the power of municipalities to manage budgets pertain to law enforcement and local governance, respectively, they do not encapsulate the broader regulatory capacity implied by police power. Similarly, the right to enforce federal laws falls under federal jurisdiction and is not reflective of the states' inherent regulatory authority.*

## 8. What was the primary purpose of the Federalist Party?

- A. To promote individual rights
- B. To advocate for state sovereignty
- C. To organize the ratification of the Constitution**
- D. To form alliances with foreign nations

*The primary purpose of the Federalist Party was to organize the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. This political group emerged in the late 18th century, primarily advocating for a strong central government as framed by the newly proposed Constitution. The Federalists believed that a robust federal system was essential for maintaining order, securing the nation, and effectively managing conflicts among states. The ratification process required mobilizing support across the states, and Federalists worked diligently to promote the Constitution's benefits through essays, debates, and public speeches. Prominent figures like Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay were instrumental in this effort, with Hamilton and Madison co-authoring The Federalist Papers, a series of essays arguing for the Constitution's adoption and clarifying the need for a strong national government. While promoting individual rights and advocating for state sovereignty were significant themes in early American political thought, they were more characteristic of the opposing Anti-Federalist movement, which worried about potential overreach by a centralized government. Additionally, forming alliances with foreign nations was not a primary focus of the Federalist Party during its initial formation; rather, their main goal was centered on establishing a strong foundation for governance in the new nation.*



## 9. What role does the state auditor play?

- A. To administer local elections
- B. To ensure state funds are used efficiently and effectively**
- C. To propose new state laws
- D. To supervise federal agencies

*The role of the state auditor is pivotal in maintaining accountability and transparency in the financial dealings of state government. The state auditor is tasked with conducting audits to ensure that state funds are used efficiently and effectively. This involves reviewing the financial records of various state agencies and programs to verify that resources are being managed properly and in accordance with established laws and regulations. By assessing the financial health and performance of these entities, the auditor helps identify any inefficiencies, mismanagement, or potential financial risks, promoting better stewardship of taxpayer dollars. In contrast, administering local elections typically falls under the purview of local election officials, while proposing new state laws is the responsibility of the legislative branch. Supervising federal agencies is outside the scope of state auditor responsibilities, as auditors focus on state-level financial matters rather than federal oversight.*

## 10. What concept explains the need for individuals to voluntarily obey decisions made by proper officials?

- A. Political accountability
- B. Improved legitimacy**
- C. Democratic consent
- D. Social contract

*The concept that explains the need for individuals to voluntarily obey decisions made by proper officials is rooted in the idea of a social contract. This theory posits that citizens consent, either explicitly or implicitly, to surrender some of their freedoms and submit to the authority of a governing body in exchange for protection of their remaining rights. The legitimacy of the government is derived from this consent, indicating that the authority it wields is justified and acceptable to the people it governs. In the context of governance, understanding the social contract helps to explain why citizens feel obliged to follow laws and directives issued by official entities. When the government acts within the framework of the social contract—meaning it upholds the rights and welfare of its citizens—it enhances its legitimacy, thereby fostering a sense of obligation to comply with its decisions. As a result, the bond between the governed and their government is strengthened, as citizens recognize that their voluntary obedience is essential for maintaining order and the common good. Options related to political accountability focus more on oversight and responsiveness of the government to the citizens, whereas democratic consent emphasizes the approval of policies through electoral processes and participatory mechanisms. Improved legitimacy can stem from a successful social contract or effective governance, but it does not specifically address the underlying agreement to obey authority.*

## 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](mailto: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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