

UT Texas Government Only Credit Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which political philosophy emphasizes hostility to government activity in economic matters?**
 - A. Liberalism**
 - B. Socialism**
 - C. Conservatism**
 - D. Libertarianism**
- 2. In terms of legislative functions, the power to create, abolish, and redefine state agencies is held by which entity?**
 - A. The Governor**
 - B. The Legislature**
 - C. The Supreme Court**
 - D. The Public**
- 3. Who was the first Governor of Texas?**
 - A. Gregg Abbott**
 - B. James Pinckney Henderson**
 - C. Sam Houston**
 - D. Stephen F. Austin**
- 4. What legislation passed by Bush aimed at national education standards for schools?**
 - A. No Child Left Behind**
 - B. Every Student Succeeds**
 - C. Education Reform Act**
 - D. Common Core Initiative**
- 5. What is the minimum residency requirement for members of the Texas House?**
 - A. 1 year**
 - B. 2 years**
 - C. 3 years**
 - D. 4 years**

- 6. Who was Governor of Texas immediately before Gregg Abbott?**
- A. Rick Perry**
 - B. James Pinckney Henderson**
 - C. Dan Patrick**
 - D. George W. Bush**
- 7. Which role involves assigning bills to committees in the Texas legislature?**
- A. Governor**
 - B. Comptroller of Public Accounts**
 - C. Lieutenant Governor**
 - D. Texas Secretary of State**
- 8. How many senators are in the Texas Senate?**
- A. 100**
 - B. 150**
 - C. 31**
 - D. 50**
- 9. How many individuals fought at the Alamo, and how many survived?**
- A. 189, all survived**
 - B. 189, all but one died**
 - C. 200, all survived**
 - D. 200, some survived**
- 10. How old must a member of the Texas Senate be?**
- A. 30 years old**
 - B. 25 years old**
 - C. 28 years old**
 - D. 26 years old**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which political philosophy emphasizes hostility to government activity in economic matters?

- A. Liberalism**
- B. Socialism**
- C. Conservatism**
- D. Libertarianism**

The political philosophy that emphasizes hostility to government activity in economic matters is Libertarianism. Libertarians advocate for minimal government intervention in both personal and economic affairs. They believe that the free market should operate without government regulation, arguing that individuals should have the freedom to make their own economic choices without interference. This philosophy stands in stark contrast to more interventionist approaches like socialism, which supports significant government control over the economy to achieve social and economic equality. Liberalism, on the other hand, may support some government intervention in order to address social justice issues and economic inequities, while conservatism can vary widely but often supports a balance between free markets and some government regulation. Therefore, in emphasizing a strong opposition to government involvement in economic matters, Libertarianism clearly outlines its core principle of prioritizing individual liberty over collective regulatory measures.

2. In terms of legislative functions, the power to create, abolish, and redefine state agencies is held by which entity?

- A. The Governor**
- B. The Legislature**
- C. The Supreme Court**
- D. The Public**

The authority to create, abolish, and redefine state agencies lies with the Legislature. This power is rooted in the legislative branch's role as the law-making body within state government. State legislatures are responsible for enacting laws that establish the framework and operational guidelines for government entities. When the Legislature creates a new agency, it typically outlines its purpose, powers, and responsibilities within statute. Conversely, if an agency is deemed ineffective or unnecessary, the Legislature can pass laws to dissolve it or restructure its operations. This dynamic allows for checks and balances within state government, ensuring that the creation and modification of state agencies are subject to public debate and legislative oversight. While the Governor has the power to influence how agencies operate and can make appointments to leadership positions, the fundamental authority to establish or eliminate state agencies rests with the Legislature. The Supreme Court, on the other hand, primarily interprets laws and resolves disputes. Lastly, while public opinion can shape legislative actions, it does not directly hold the power to create or abolish agencies.

3. Who was the first Governor of Texas?

- A. Gregg Abbott
- B. James Pinckney Henderson**
- C. Sam Houston
- D. Stephen F. Austin

The first Governor of Texas was James Pinckney Henderson, who held the position after Texas gained statehood in 1845. His role as governor came at a crucial time when Texas was transitioning from a republic to being part of the United States. Henderson was an important political figure and helped establish the governance structure in the newly admitted state. Stephen F. Austin is often referred to as the "Father of Texas" for his role in bringing settlers to the region, but he did not serve as governor. Sam Houston, who is a well-known figure in Texas history and served as the president of the Republic of Texas, became the first elected governor of the state after it joined the Union in 1845, yet he was not the first governor in the official sense. Gregg Abbott is a current governor but is not part of the historical context required by the question.

4. What legislation passed by Bush aimed at national education standards for schools?

- A. No Child Left Behind**
- B. Every Student Succeeds
- C. Education Reform Act
- D. Common Core Initiative

The legislation that was passed by President George W. Bush focusing on national education standards for schools is the No Child Left Behind Act. Enacted in 2001, this law aimed to improve student achievement and close educational gaps through standardized testing and accountability measures for schools. It set specific goals for student performance and required states to develop and implement assessments to measure progress. The emphasis on uniform standards and the requirement for schools to meet certain benchmarks were key components of the No Child Left Behind Act, making it a significant piece of education reform legislation during Bush's presidency. This act reflected a shift in education policy towards more accountability and standardized metrics at the federal level, influencing educational practices across the nation. The other options, such as the Every Student Succeeds Act, are later reforms that replaced parts of No Child Left Behind but were not enacted during Bush's administration. The Education Reform Act and the Common Core Initiative, while relevant to education reform discussions, do not specifically relate to legislation enacted during his tenure.

5. What is the minimum residency requirement for members of the Texas House?

- A. 1 year
- B. 2 years**
- C. 3 years
- D. 4 years

The minimum residency requirement for members of the Texas House is indeed two years. This specification ensures that representatives have a sufficient understanding of their constituents' needs and the local issues affecting their district. The two-year requirement helps legislators establish connections within their communities, which is essential for effective representation in the legislature. In Texas, the emphasis on residency reflects the importance of having lawmakers who are not only familiar with state laws but also deeply engaged with the people they represent. Thus, this requirement maintains a level of accountability and awareness of local interests among House members.

6. Who was Governor of Texas immediately before Gregg Abbott?

- A. Rick Perry**
- B. James Pinckney Henderson
- C. Dan Patrick
- D. George W. Bush

The correct answer is Rick Perry, who served as the Governor of Texas immediately before Greg Abbott. Perry held the office from December 2000 until January 2015, making him the longest-serving governor in Texas history. His tenure was marked by a focus on economic growth and job creation, as well as significant political influence within the state. He played a crucial role in shaping policies that laid the groundwork for future administrations, including Abbott's. Understanding Texas's political landscape is important, as modern governors often build upon the policies and initiatives of their predecessors. In contrast, other individuals listed, such as James Pinckney Henderson, Dan Patrick, and George W. Bush, either served in different capacities or at different times that do not align with the timeline leading up to Abbott's governorship. This context helps clarify the continuity and evolution of leadership in Texas.

7. Which role involves assigning bills to committees in the Texas legislature?

- A. Governor**
- B. Comptroller of Public Accounts**
- C. Lieutenant Governor**
- D. Texas Secretary of State**

In the Texas legislature, the Lieutenant Governor plays a crucial role in assigning bills to various committees. This is an important function because committees are where the detailed examination of proposed legislation takes place. The Lieutenant Governor, serving as the presiding officer of the Texas Senate, has significant influence over the legislative process, including determining which committee will review specific bills. This role is vital in shaping the legislative agenda and ensuring that bills are reviewed by committees that align with their subject matter. This power is not held by the Governor, who has a different set of responsibilities, such as overseeing the execution of laws and suggesting legislation. The Comptroller of Public Accounts focuses on financial matters and does not play a role in the legislative assignment of bills. Similarly, while the Texas Secretary of State holds important administrative functions, they do not have any direct involvement in the legislative processes such as committee assignments. Thus, the Lieutenant Governor's role is uniquely positioned to influence the legislative pathway of bills in Texas.

8. How many senators are in the Texas Senate?

- A. 100**
- B. 150**
- C. 31**
- D. 50**

The Texas Senate is comprised of 31 senators. This structure is designed to represent the state in the legislative process, and each senator is elected to serve a four-year term. The relatively small number of senators compared to other state legislatures reflects Texas's desire for efficient governance while ensuring that each district within the state is adequately represented. The Texas Senate, as part of the bicameral Texas Legislature, works alongside the Texas House of Representatives, which consists of 150 members. The smaller number of senators allows for more focused debate and decision-making on legislative issues, which helps streamline the lawmaking process in Texas. Given the distinct structure of legislative representation in Texas, the choice of 31 as the number of senators is correct.

9. How many individuals fought at the Alamo, and how many survived?

- A. 189, all survived**
- B. 189, all but one died**
- C. 200, all survived**
- D. 200, some survived**

The Battle of the Alamo, which took place in 1836 during the Texas Revolution, involved a small group of defenders estimated to number around 189 individuals. This group included notable figures such as James Bowie and Davy Crockett. The defenders were ultimately besieged by a much larger Mexican force led by General Santa Anna. Following the battle, which lasted from February 23 to March 6, 1836, all but one of the defenders were killed. The lone survivor was a slave named Joe, who was spared. This historical outcome highlights the tragic nature of the battle, where the defenders fought valiantly but faced overwhelming odds. The choice indicating that all but one died correctly reflects the historical record, which emphasizes the valiant but doomed effort of the Alamo's defenders. The other options either overstated the number of survivors or inaccurately represented the facts surrounding the battle's outcome.

10. How old must a member of the Texas Senate be?

- A. 30 years old**
- B. 25 years old**
- C. 28 years old**
- D. 26 years old**

In Texas, to serve as a member of the Senate, an individual must be at least 26 years old. This requirement is established by the Texas Constitution, which specifies the age eligibility for legislative positions. Being at least 26 ensures that candidates have attained a certain level of maturity and life experience, which is considered important for making informed decisions on state legislation and governance. The age requirement reflects a balance between encouraging participation in government while ensuring that those who are elected are sufficiently mature to handle the responsibilities of office. The other age options provided do not meet the constitutional requirement for Senate membership in Texas.