

# We the People Grade 8 Constitution Practice Test (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

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- 1. How can the President check Congress?**
  - A. Veto bills; call special sessions; propose legislation.**
  - B. Override a veto; confirm treaties; appoint judges.**
  - C. Ignore bills; dissolve Congress; rule by decree.**
  - D. Propose amendments; interpret laws; appoint cabinet.**
  
- 2. What does "bicameral" mean?**
  - A. One house**
  - B. Two houses**
  - C. Three branches**
  - D. A unitary system**
  
- 3. What is meant by 'majority rule'?**
  - A. More than half of those in attendance approve.**
  - B. The president decides all decisions.**
  - C. The Supreme Court approves all votes.**
  - D. The majority vote is only advisory.**
  
- 4. What was the Great Compromise?**
  - A. A plan to ratify the Constitution**
  - B. The plan accepted at the Philadelphia Convention that called for two houses of government**
  - C. An agreement to form a federal court system**
  - D. A method to elect the President**
  
- 5. Treaties negotiated by the President must be approved by which body?**
  - A. The House**
  - B. The Senate**
  - C. The President**
  - D. The Supreme Court**

- 6. Under federalism, which level handles education and local governance?**
- A. The States**
  - B. The Federal Government**
  - C. The Courts**
  - D. The People**
- 7. Which rights are protected by the First Amendment?**
- A. Right to bear arms**
  - B. Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition**
  - C. Right to a fair trial**
  - D. Prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment**
- 8. What is a colony?**
- A. A settlement of territory ruled by another country**
  - B. A city-state within a country**
  - C. An independent country**
  - D. A type of ceremonial colony**
- 9. Which house of Congress (legislature) is based on the population of the states represented?**
- A. The House of Representatives**
  - B. The Senate**
  - C. The Supreme Court**
  - D. The President's Cabinet**
- 10. What are the qualifications for justices on the Supreme Court?**
- A. There are no qualifications stated in the Constitution**
  - B. They must be natural-born citizens**
  - C. They must be at least 30 years old**
  - D. They must have previously served as a judge**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. How can the President check Congress?

- A. Veto bills; call special sessions; propose legislation.**
- B. Override a veto; confirm treaties; appoint judges.**
- C. Ignore bills; dissolve Congress; rule by decree.**
- D. Propose amendments; interpret laws; appoint cabinet.**

The President checks Congress by vetoing bills, calling special sessions, and proposing legislation. Vetoing gives the executive a direct way to block laws that Congress has passed, requiring a two-thirds majority in both houses to override it, which gives the President real leverage over the legislative process. Calling a special session lets the President compel Congress to address urgent issues or reconsider priorities outside the normal schedule. Proposing legislation helps shape what Congress debates and pursues, guiding the flow of lawmaking and setting the administration's policy agenda. Other options mix powers that don't fit as checks on Congress. The ability to override a veto belongs to Congress, not the President. Treaties and judicial appointments involve Senate confirmation, which is part of congressional checks on the Presidency. Ideas like ignoring bills, dissolving Congress, or ruling by decree aren't constitutional powers. Proposing amendments isn't a presidential power, and interpreting laws is the courts' job.

## 2. What does "bicameral" mean?

- A. One house**
- B. Two houses**
- C. Three branches**
- D. A unitary system**

Bicameral means two chambers in a legislature. The word comes from bi- meaning two and camera meaning chamber. In a bicameral system, the lawmaking body is split into two separate houses, unlike a unicameral system which has just one. This setup often helps balance representation and provides check and debate across the lawmaking process. For example, in the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives are the two houses, each with its own rules and ways of representing people or regions, and most laws need approval from both houses before becoming law.

## 3. What is meant by 'majority rule'?

- A. More than half of those in attendance approve.**
- B. The president decides all decisions.**
- C. The Supreme Court approves all votes.**
- D. The majority vote is only advisory.**

Majority rule means a decision is made by whatever option receives more than half of the votes. When voters choose, the choice with the majority wins and becomes the decision. This reflects the idea that the larger group's will guides outcomes, while a minority isn't ignored but doesn't determine the result. In this case, more than half of those present approving a proposal makes it the decision. The other ideas place control in a single person, a court, or make the vote only advisory, which isn't what majority rule describes.

#### 4. What was the Great Compromise?

- A. A plan to ratify the Constitution
- B. The plan accepted at the Philadelphia Convention that called for two houses of government**
- C. An agreement to form a federal court system
- D. A method to elect the President

The Great Compromise created a two-house Congress to settle the fight over representation. At the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, delegates approved a plan that combined ideas from both the large-state and small-state proposals: one chamber would give each state equal representation (the Senate), while the other would base representation on population (the House of Representatives). This arrangement, also called the Connecticut Compromise, balanced the interests of both sides and allowed the Constitution to move forward. It wasn't about ratifying the Constitution, forming courts, or choosing the President; it established how states would be represented in Congress.

#### 5. Treaties negotiated by the President must be approved by which body?

- A. The House
- B. The Senate**
- C. The President
- D. The Supreme Court

Treaties are negotiated by the President but become binding only after the Senate gives its approval through the advice and consent process, requiring a two-thirds vote. This setup creates a necessary check on executive power and ensures broad legislative support for major international commitments. The House does not ratify treaties, the President cannot unilaterally approve a treaty, and the Supreme Court does not decide on treaty ratification.

#### 6. Under federalism, which level handles education and local governance?

- A. The States**
- B. The Federal Government
- C. The Courts
- D. The People

In federalism, power is shared between the national government and state governments. Education and local governance are primarily the responsibility of the states. States design and fund public schools, set licensing and graduation rules, and organize local government structures such as counties and school districts. The federal government can influence education through nationwide standards and funding, but it does not run local schools or govern towns and districts. People participate by voting for state and local officials who oversee these areas. That's why the states handle education and local governance.

## 7. Which rights are protected by the First Amendment?

- A. Right to bear arms
- B. Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition**
- C. Right to a fair trial
- D. Prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment

The main idea is that the First Amendment protects five fundamental freedoms that shape how people can think, speak, and organize without government interference. These five freedoms are religion, so you can practice your beliefs or choose not to; speech, so you can express ideas and critique the government; press, which protects journalists and news organizations to report and publish; assembly, which lets people gather peacefully; and petition, which allows individuals to ask the government to address grievances or seek changes. These protections are what keep a healthy democracy alive, because they allow open discussion, debate, and accountability. It's also helpful to recognize that other rights you hear about—like owning weapons or fair legal proceedings—are safeguarded by different amendments. The right to bear arms comes from a later amendment, while the right to a fair trial and protections against cruel and unusual punishment come from other parts of the Constitution.

## 8. What is a colony?

- A. A settlement of territory ruled by another country**
- B. A city-state within a country
- C. An independent country
- D. A type of ceremonial colony

A colony is a territory ruled by another country. In such a setup, people from the home country often establish governance, laws, and economic control from afar, and the colony lacks full political independence. This differs from a city-state within a country, which would be a small political unit that remains part of the nation and does not fall under foreign rule. It also differs from an independent country, which governs itself and is not under another nation's control. The idea of a ceremonial colony isn't a real description of political authority; a colony implies actual governance and control, not merely ceremonial status.

## 9. Which house of Congress (legislature) is based on the population of the states represented?

- A. The House of Representatives**
- B. The Senate
- C. The Supreme Court
- D. The President's Cabinet

This question tests how representation is allocated between the two houses of Congress. The House of Representatives is based on population: after each census, seats are apportioned to states in proportion to their population, so bigger states have more representatives than smaller ones. The Senate is different—each state has two senators regardless of population. The Supreme Court and the President's Cabinet aren't legislative bodies. So the House of Representatives is the chamber that represents people by population.

**10. What are the qualifications for justices on the Supreme Court?**

- A. There are no qualifications stated in the Constitution**
- B. They must be natural-born citizens**
- C. They must be at least 30 years old**
- D. They must have previously served as a judge**

Supreme Court justices aren't limited by a set of formal qualifications in the Constitution. The document only specifies how they are chosen and how long they can serve: a president nominates someone and the Senate confirms them, and once in office they serve for life "during good Behavior." There isn't a listed minimum age, no requirement to be a natural-born citizen, and no rule that a person must have previously been a judge. That's why the correct understanding is that there are no qualifications stated in the Constitution for this role.

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## 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://wethepeoplegr8constitution.examzify.com>**

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

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