AP GOV – SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (SCOTUS) CASES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://apgovscotuscases.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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 15

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Which case is often cited as laying groundwork for the constitutional right to privacy in personal relationships?

A. Roe v. Wade (1973)

B. Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)

C. Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

D. Eisenstadt v. Baird (1972)

2. Which constitutional clause is central to rulings in Engel, Abington, and Lee regarding religion in public life?

A. Free Speech Clause

B. Equal Protection Clause

C. Establishment Clause

D. Due Process Clause

3. Planned Parenthood v. Casey replaced Roe's framework with which standard to evaluate abortion restrictions?

A. Strict scrutiny

B. Clear and convincing evidence

C. Undue burden standard

D. Rational basis review

4. Chevron v. NRDC established a doctrine that public agencies receive deference when Congress has left a statute __?

A. Ambiguous

B. Unambiguous

C. Vague but not silent

D. Explicitly contrary

5. Which case replaced Roe's framework with the 'undue burden' standard for abortion regulations?

A. Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health (2022)

B. Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

C. Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

D. Roe v. Wade (1973)

SAMPLE

6. Roth v. United States held that which category of material is not protected by the First Amendment?

A. Obscene Material

B. Hate Speech

C. Fiction

D. Commercial Speech

7. Which case upheld state regulation of private property for the public welfare in the late 19th century?

A. Barron v. Baltimore (1833)

B. Katz v. United States (1967)

C. United States v. Morrison (2000)

D. Munn v. Illinois (1877)

8. In the Pentagon Papers case, the Court ruled that prior restraint on publication was unconstitutional because it would not create which danger?

A. It would not create a clear-and-present danger.

B. It would create a clear-and-present danger.

C. It would cause a national security crisis.

D. It would violate executive privilege

9. Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education addressed desegregation remedies after Brown. What remedy did the Court approve?

A. Redrawing school districts

B. Busing to achieve racial balance

C. Voluntary integration plans only

D. Ending desegregation efforts

10. West Virginia v. Barnette held that students cannot be forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance if it conflicts with their beliefs. Which principle does this illustrate?

A. Government may compel patriotic conformity in schools.

B. Students do not have rights in school.

C. Free exercise and beliefs can override mandatory pledges in schools.

D. The Pledge is unconstitutional in all contexts.

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which case is often cited as laying groundwork for the constitutional right to privacy in personal relationships?

A. Roe v. Wade (1973)

B. Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)

C. Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

D. Eisenstadt v. Baird (1972)

Griswold v. Connecticut shows that the Constitution protects a zone of privacy in intimate personal decisions, even though privacy isn't spelled out directly in the text. By striking down a law that barred married couples from using contraception, the Court argued that the couple's private decisions about family planning fall within liberty protected by the Constitution. This ruling establishes the foundation for privacy in personal relationships and is the basis later cases rely on to extend those protections to unmarried individuals, reproductive choices, and private sexual conduct.

2. Which constitutional clause is central to rulings in Engel, Abington, and Lee regarding religion in public life?

A. Free Speech Clause

B. Equal Protection Clause

C. Establishment Clause

D. Due Process Clause

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government from establishing an official religion or otherwise endorsing religion in public life. In Engel v. Vitale, the Court struck down a state-written prayer in public schools as an unconstitutional act of government endorsement. In Abington School District v. Schempp, it struck down school-sponsored devotional Bible readings for the same reason. In Lee v. Weisman, it invalidated a clergy-led prayer at a public high school graduation on the grounds that it coerces participation and effectively endorses religion. Taken together, these decisions show how the Establishment Clause limits government involvement with religion in public institutions, maintaining neutrality and separation between church and state.

3. Planned Parenthood v. Casey replaced Roe's framework with which standard to evaluate abortion restrictions?

A. Strict scrutiny

B. Clear and convincing evidence

C. Undue burden standard

D. Rational basis review

The standard used to evaluate abortion restrictions after Casey is the undue burden standard. Casey rejected Roe's trimester framework and held that regulations on pre-viability abortions are constitutional so long as they do not place substantial obstacles in a woman's path to obtain an abortion. This shifts the analysis from a strict-scrutiny-like review to assessing whether a law imposes an undue burden—something that isn't automatically illegal, but which cannot meaningfully hinder a woman's right before viability. In practice, that means some regulations (like certain waiting periods or counseling requirements) may be allowed if they do not create a substantial obstacle, while laws that do place a significant obstacle would be struck down. The concept keeps the allowed regulatory flexibility before viability while preserving the core right to choose.

SAMPLE

4. Chevron v. NRDC established a doctrine that public agencies receive deference when Congress has left a statute __?

A. Ambiguous

B. Unambiguous

C. Vague but not silent

D. Explicitly contrary

Chevron deference is about when courts should accept an administrative agency's reading of a statute. The key idea tested is that deference applies when Congress has not spoken clearly on the issue—that is, the statute is ambiguous or silent. When the statute's plain meaning resolves the matter, the court must follow that text. But if the meaning is unclear or Congress didn't address the issue at all, the court defers to the agency's reasonable interpretation as the one that Congress delegated to administer the statute. So the best choice is that the statute is ambiguous, which triggers the agency's interpretation to be given deference.

5. Which case replaced Roe's framework with the 'undue burden' standard for abortion regulations?

A. Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health (2022)

B. Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

C. Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

D. Roe v. Wade (1973)

The key idea is how abortion regulations are reviewed by the Court. Planned Parenthood v. Casey changed Roe's approach by discarding the old trimester framework and introducing the undue burden standard. It held that a pre-viability abortion restriction is unconstitutional only if it places a substantial obstacle in a woman's path to obtain an abortion. In practice, states may regulate abortion before viability as long as the regulation does not impose an undue burden; after viability, the state's interest in potential life allows more regulation. This shift preserved the right to abortion but set a different test for evaluating laws. The other options don't fit: Roe established the earlier framework that Casey overruled; Dobbs later overturned Roe's framework; Lawrence concerns privacy in a different area.

6. Roth v. United States held that which category of material is not protected by the First Amendment?

A. Obscene Material

B. Hate Speech

C. Fiction

D. Commercial Speech

Obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment. In Roth v. United States, the Court held that material deemed obscene can be regulated or barred. The test looked at three factors: whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material appeals to prurient interest; whether the material depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and whether the work taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. If material meets all three, it falls outside First Amendment protection. That's why obscene material is the category Roth identified as not protected. Hate speech, fiction, and commercial speech are not categorically unprotected in the same way; they are generally protected or subject to regulation within First Amendment limits.

SAMPLE

7. Which case upheld state regulation of private property for the public welfare in the late 19th century?

A. Barron v. Baltimore (1833)

B. Katz v. United States (1967)

C. United States v. Morrison (2000)

D. Munn v. Illinois (1877)

The key idea is that states can use their police power to regulate private property when its use serves the public interest. Munn v. Illinois (1877) is the classic case showing this: Illinois passed laws setting maximum rates for grain elevators, which were privately owned but essential to commerce. The Supreme Court held that when private property is used in a business that affects the public welfare, the state may regulate it without violating property rights. This establishes the public-interest doctrine: property isn't free from regulation simply because it's privately owned if its use is important to the public. The decision hinges on balancing private property rights against the need to prevent exploitation and ensure fair access to essential services. Other listed cases come from different times or address different issues (Barron v. Baltimore concerns applying the Bill of Rights to states; Katz v. United States deals with Fourth Amendment protections; United States v. Morrison involves federal limitations on criminal statutes).

8. In the Pentagon Papers case, the Court ruled that prior restraint on publication was unconstitutional because it would not create which danger?

A. It would not create a clear-and-present danger.

B. It would create a clear-and-present danger.

C. It would cause a national security crisis.

D. It would violate executive privilege

Prior restraint and the strong protection of press freedom under the First Amendment are at the heart of this ruling. The Court said a government can only justify preventing publication in advance if printing would cause a direct, immediate, and irreparable harm to national security—what the Schenck-era standard calls a clear-and-present danger. In the Pentagon Papers case, the Court concluded that publishing the papers would not create such an imminent danger. The information involved was historical analysis of policy decisions, and there wasn't a found immediate threat that would justify suppressing the press. Because the required imminent danger wasn't shown, the attempted restraint violated the First Amendment. That's why the option stating it would not create a clear-and-present danger is the best fit. The other ideas—a generic national security crisis or invoking executive privilege—do not capture the specific legal standard the Court invoked for prior restraint in this context.

SAMPLE

9. Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education addressed desegregation remedies after Brown. What remedy did the Court approve?

A. Redrawing school districts

B. Busing to achieve racial balance

C. Voluntary integration plans only

D. Ending desegregation efforts

The key idea is that desegregation remedies may actively create integration, not just prohibit discrimination. In Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the Court upheld using court-ordered measures to achieve racially balanced schools, explicitly approving bus transportation of students across neighborhoods and even across district lines as a legitimate tool. This means a plan can require busing to mix students from different areas to overcome segregated patterns and move toward unitary status. The decision also noted other measures like redrawing attendance zones can be part of the remedy, but the central, practical tool the Court endorsed was busing to achieve racial balance. Voluntary plans alone weren't deemed sufficient in some cases, and ending desegregation would undermine Brown's mandate.

10. West Virginia v. Barnette held that students cannot be forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance if it conflicts with their beliefs. Which principle does this illustrate?

A. Government may compel patriotic conformity in schools.

B. Students do not have rights in school.

C. Free exercise and beliefs can override mandatory pledges in schools.

D. The Pledge is unconstitutional in all contexts.

The idea being tested is that individuals have a right not to be forced to express beliefs they don't share, especially in schools where the state is guiding conduct. West Virginia v. Barnette holds that students cannot be compelled to say the Pledge of Allegiance or salute the flag if doing so would require them to express a message that conflicts with their beliefs. The Court grounded this in the First Amendment's protection of freedom of speech and freedom of conscience, ruling that mandatory patriotic ritual in public schools violates those rights. This shows that protecting personal beliefs can take precedence over compulsory pledges in the school setting. It doesn't declare the pledge unconstitutional in all contexts, nor does it strip students of rights in general.

SAMPLE

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://apgovscotuscases.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE