GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) CIVICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://gedcivics.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. What is one reason colonists came to America?

A. To find gold
B. To seek freedom
C. To escape the cold
D. To trade with Europe

2. What movement sought to end racial discrimination in the U.S.?

A. The Civil Rights Movement
B. The Women's Suffrage Movement
C. The Labor Movement
D. The Environmental Movement

3. Which movement was Susan B. Anthony a key figure in?

A. Civil Rights Movement
B. Women's Suffrage Movement
C. Abolition Movement
D. Labor Movement

4. What does the Constitution do?

A. It creates laws for foreign affairs
B. It sets up the government and protects basic rights of Americans
C. It outlines the rights of states
D. It simplifies the judicial process

5. What is one right or freedom protected by the First Amendment?

A. Right to bear arms
B. Right to a speedy trial
C. Freedom of speech
D. Right to privacy

6. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

A. Paying taxes
B. Serving on a jury
C. Volunteering for community service
D. Voting in local elections

SAMPLE

7. What was a major consequence of the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

A. It started the Civil War

B. It led to the Revolutionary War

C. It established the Bill of Rights

D. It divided the nation into two parts

8. What is the name of the legislative body that the Speaker leads?

A. Senate

B. House of Representatives

C. Supreme Court

D. Executive Council

9. Name one U.S. territory.

A. Guam

B. Florida

C. Puerto Rico

D. California

10. What does the Declaration of Independence do?

A. Set up a new government

B. Declared our independence from Great Britain

C. Established the Constitution

D. Outlined the Bill of Rights

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is one reason colonists came to America?

A. To find gold

B. To seek freedom

C. To escape the cold

D. To trade with Europe

One reason many colonists came to America was to seek freedom, particularly religious freedom. In the 17th and 18th centuries, various groups in Europe faced persecution for their beliefs. For example, Puritans and Quakers sought a place where they could practice their religion without interference from authorities. The New World offered the promise of a new beginning where individuals could live according to their own beliefs and values, which was not always possible in their home countries. This search for freedom—be it religious, political, or economic—played a significant role in motivating people to settle in America and helped shape the early societal structures of these colonies.

2. What movement sought to end racial discrimination in the U.S.?

A. The Civil Rights Movement

B. The Women's Suffrage Movement

C. The Labor Movement

D. The Environmental Movement

The Civil Rights Movement sought to end racial discrimination in the United States, particularly against African Americans. This movement emerged in the mid-20th century, gaining significant momentum in the 1950s and 1960s. It aimed to dismantle the legal and social barriers that enforced racial segregation and discrimination, advocating for equal rights and justice under the law. Key events and figures, such as the March on Washington in 1963 and leader Martin Luther King Jr., were pivotal in mobilizing public support for civil rights legislation. The other movements listed have different focuses. The Women's Suffrage Movement concentrated on securing voting rights for women, the Labor Movement addressed workers' rights and conditions, and the Environmental Movement aims to protect natural resources and address ecological issues. Each of these movements plays a vital role in American history, but the one specifically dedicated to combating racial discrimination is the Civil Rights Movement.

3. Which movement was Susan B. Anthony a key figure in?

A. Civil Rights Movement

B. Women's Suffrage Movement

C. Abolition Movement

D. Labor Movement

Susan B. Anthony was a key figure in the Women's Suffrage Movement, which focused on securing the right to vote for women. She dedicated her life to advocating for women's rights, particularly emphasizing the importance of voting as a fundamental aspect of citizenship and equality. Anthony believed that without the ability to vote, women could not fully participate in democracy or advocate for their rights and interests. Through her activism, she helped to organize campaigns, give speeches, and establish organizations that aimed to promote women's suffrage. Anthony's work laid essential groundwork for the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. Her legacy is closely associated with the struggle for gender equality and the empowerment of women in society. The other movements mentioned, such as the Civil Rights Movement, the Abolition Movement, and the Labor Movement, focused on different social justice issues, and while they were significant in their own right, Susan B. Anthony's primary focus was the fight for women's suffrage.

SAMPLE

4. What does the Constitution do?

A. It creates laws for foreign affairs

B. It sets up the government and protects basic rights of Americans

C. It outlines the rights of states

D. It simplifies the judicial process

The Constitution of the United States serves as the foundational legal document that establishes the framework for the government and outlines the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to all Americans. By creating a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—it ensures that power is distributed and that no single branch becomes too powerful. Additionally, the Constitution enshrines key principles such as individual liberties and protections, primarily found in the Bill of Rights, which safeguard the rights of citizens against government overreach. This dual function of organizing the government while simultaneously protecting citizens' rights is integral to the document's purpose and significance in American governance.

5. What is one right or freedom protected by the First Amendment?

A. Right to bear arms

B. Right to a speedy trial

C. Freedom of speech

D. Right to privacy

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution is a crucial element in the Bill of Rights, which guarantees several fundamental freedoms to individuals. One of these essential rights is the freedom of speech, which allows individuals to express their thoughts, opinions, and beliefs without government interference or censorship. This protection is foundational to a democratic society, as it enables open dialogue, discussion, and the exchange of ideas. The significance of freedom of speech cannot be overstated. It is vital for political discourse, artistic expression, and the ability to challenge and criticize the government and its policies. This freedom helps to ensure that diverse viewpoints can be shared and heard, which is key to a functioning democracy. The other options listed, while important rights or protections, are not covered by the First Amendment. The right to bear arms is addressed in the Second Amendment, the right to a speedy trial is part of the Sixth Amendment, and the right to privacy is generally derived from various amendments in the Constitution rather than explicitly stated in the text of the Bill of Rights.

6. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

A. Paying taxes

B. Serving on a jury

C. Volunteering for community service

D. Voting in local elections

Serving on a jury is a responsibility that is unique to United States citizens. This duty is grounded in the legal system, where a jury plays a critical role in ensuring a fair trial by evaluating evidence and rendering a verdict based on that evidence. Only citizens are called to serve in this capacity because jury service is intrinsically tied to civic duty and the principles of justice upheld by the government. While paying taxes, volunteering for community service, and voting are also important civic duties, they are not exclusively reserved for citizens. For instance, tax obligations can apply to non-citizens who earn income within the country, while community service can be undertaken by anyone regardless of citizenship status. Voting, too, is limited to citizens, but serving on a jury distinctly emphasizes the active role of citizens in the judicial process, highlighting a deeper commitment to the responsibilities that come with citizenship.

SAMPLE

7. What was a major consequence of the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

A. It started the Civil War

B. It led to the Revolutionary War

C. It established the Bill of Rights

D. It divided the nation into two parts

The signing of the Declaration of Independence marked a significant moment in history, as it formally declared the thirteen American colonies' intent to separate from British rule. This document articulated the colonies' grievances against King George III and emphasized the ideals of individual rights and self-governance. As a direct consequence of declaring independence, the colonies mobilized to engage in armed conflict with Britain, leading to the Revolutionary War. This war was fought to secure the autonomy and rights promised by the Declaration, making it a pivotal catalyst for not only independence but also for the eventual establishment of the United States as a sovereign nation. The other options do not accurately reflect the immediate consequences of the Declaration. The Civil War emerged decades later due to different issues, such as slavery and states' rights. The Bill of Rights was introduced later to protect individual liberties in the newly formed government and was not a direct result of the Declaration. Additionally, the notion of the nation being divided into two parts pertains to events that occurred well after the Revolutionary War, particularly in the context of sectional conflicts leading to the Civil War. Thus, the connection between the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War is clear and fundamental to understanding the historical context surrounding these events.

8. What is the name of the legislative body that the Speaker leads?

A. Senate

B. House of Representatives

C. Supreme Court

D. Executive Council

The Speaker leads the House of Representatives, which is one of the two chambers of the United States Congress, the other being the Senate. The primary role of the Speaker is to preside over House sessions, maintain order, and facilitate legislative discussions and proceedings. The Speaker is also responsible for setting the agenda of the House, prioritizing legislation, and representing the majority party's interests. In contrast, the Senate is led by the Vice President of the United States or the President pro tempore. The Supreme Court is the judicial branch of government, handling legal matters and interpretations of the law rather than legislative functions. The Executive Council does not exist as a formal body in the federal legislative structure. Thus, the House of Representatives is accurately identified as the legislative body that the Speaker leads.

9. Name one U.S. territory.

A. Guam

B. Florida

C. Puerto Rico

D. California

One U.S. territory is Puerto Rico. Territories are regions that are under the jurisdiction of the United States but do not have the same status as a state. Puerto Rico, located in the Caribbean, is an unincorporated territory meaning it has its own local government but is ultimately governed by the United States. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, but they do not have voting representation in Congress and cannot vote in presidential elections. Guam, another territory, is also recognized as a U.S. territory, but in this case, the choice of Puerto Rico highlights one of the most prominent examples due to its unique cultural and political status as well as its historical significance. Florida and California, on the other hand, are both states, which distinguishes them from territories.

SAMPLE

10. What does the Declaration of Independence do?

A. Set up a new government

B. Declared our independence from Great Britain

C. Established the Constitution

D. Outlined the Bill of Rights

The Declaration of Independence is a foundational document in American history that primarily serves the purpose of declaring the colonies' separation from Great Britain. It articulates the colonies' grievances against King George III and asserts the principles of individual rights and the idea that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed. This declaration was crucial in framing the colonies' actions leading to the establishment of a new nation based on democratic ideals. The focus is on asserting the colonies' right to self-governance and highlighting the reasons for their break from British rule, making "declared our independence from Great Britain" the accurate reflection of its primary function.

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://gedcivics.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE