GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (GMAS) GOVERNMENT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. Which statement best describes the relationship between state and local governments and federal authority?

A. State and local governments implement federal programs, operate under federal laws, and manage powers reserved to the states.

B. The federal government executes all policy without state involvement.

C. State governments have no authority under federal program mandates.

D. Local governments do not participate in federal programs.

2. What is fiscal policy?

A. Government decisions about taxation and spending to influence the economy.

B. Rules for protest demonstrations.

C. Legal actions to resolve disputes.

D. A plan for military deployment.

3. What is the purpose of a budget?

A. To plan and control public spending and revenue.

B. To set private company salaries.

C. To determine criminal penalties.

D. To mandate constitutional amendments.

4. Which activities illustrate civic responsibility?

A. Participating in governance, obeying laws, paying taxes, serving on juries, and voting.

B. Withholding taxes.

C. Campaign contributions only.

D. Ignoring civic duties.

5. A formal change to the constitution that must be approved by voters?

A. Statutes

B. Amendments

C. Ordinances

D. Provisions

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6. Which department monitors states' workforce programs and unemployment systems?

A. Department of Transportation

B. Department of Commerce

C. Department of Labor

D. Department of Housing and Urban Development

7. What is the formal charge issued by a grand jury?

A. Indictment

B. Arraignment

C. Information

D. Complaint

8. A legislature with two houses is called what?

A. Unruly

B. Bicameral

C. Municipality

D. Governor

9. What is the final decision made by a jury in a trial?

A. Verdict

B. Judgment

C. Ruling

D. Decision

10. Which level of government is responsible for local matters such as cities and counties?

A. Interstate

B. Federal

C. Local

D. State

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement best describes the relationship between state and local governments and federal authority?

A. State and local governments implement federal programs, operate under federal laws, and manage powers reserved to the states.

B. The federal government executes all policy without state involvement.

C. State governments have no authority under federal program mandates.

D. Local governments do not participate in federal programs.

Understanding how federalism works shows that the national government sets nationwide goals and funds many programs, while state and local governments implement those programs, follow federal laws, and exercise powers reserved to themselves. The statement that best captures this relationship describes how state and local governments implement federal programs, operate under federal guidelines, and still manage powers reserved to the states. In real life, programs such as Medicaid, federal education initiatives, and disaster relief are funded and shaped by the federal level, but their day-to-day administration is carried out by state agencies and, within states, by local governments. This arrangement allows the federal government to set standards while states tailor implementation to local needs and maintain sovereignty over their own powers. Local governments typically participate by administering programs through state oversight or, in some cases, through direct federal funding streams routed to municipalities. The other descriptions imply that the federal government acts without state involvement, that states have no authority under federal mandates, or that local governments do not participate at all, which does not reflect how federal programs are actually carried out nationwide.

2. What is fiscal policy?

A. Government decisions about taxation and spending to influence the economy.

B. Rules for protest demonstrations.

C. Legal actions to resolve disputes.

D. A plan for military deployment.

Fiscal policy is the government's use of taxation and spending to influence the economy. By adjusting tax rates and deciding how much to spend, the government can change how much people and businesses spend and invest. Lower taxes or more government spending puts more money in households and firms, boosting demand and helping the economy grow during a slump. Higher taxes or less spending can cool down an overheated economy to tame inflation. These tools are expansionary or contractionary fiscal policy. For example, during a recession, cutting taxes and funding public works can create jobs and stimulate activity. The other options describe rules for protests, ways to resolve disputes legally, or plans for military deployment, which are not about influencing the economy through taxation and spending.

3. What is the purpose of a budget?

A. To plan and control public spending and revenue.

B. To set private company salaries.

C. To determine criminal penalties.

D. To mandate constitutional amendments.

A budget is a plan for how a government will raise money and spend it over a period, usually a year. It lays out expected revenue from taxes and other sources and shows how those funds will be allocated to public programs and services, such as schools, roads, and public safety. By outlining both where money comes from and how it will be spent, the budget helps the government plan and control public spending, keep spending in line with available funds, and track progress toward community priorities. The other options don't fit because budgets aren't about setting salaries in private companies, determining criminal penalties, or mandating constitutional amendments. Those areas are handled through separate processes and laws, not the budgeting process.

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4. Which activities illustrate civic responsibility?

A. Participating in governance, obeying laws, paying taxes, serving on juries, and voting.

B. Withholding taxes.

C. Campaign contributions only.

D. Ignoring civic duties.

Civic responsibility means citizens have duties that help government function and communities thrive. These include obeying laws, paying taxes to fund public services, serving on juries when called, and participating in elections by voting and engaging in governance. The statement that lists all of these activities shows a complete picture of what it means to act responsibly as a citizen, which is why it's the best choice. Paying taxes supports schools, roads, and public safety; obeying laws keeps order; jury service enforces fair trials; voting and participating in governance shapes how communities are run. In contrast, withholding taxes deprives the public of necessary resources and is illegal; campaign contributions are only one form of political participation and don't encompass the full range of duties; ignoring civic duties is the opposite of responsible citizenship.

5. A formal change to the constitution that must be approved by voters?

A. Statutes

B. Amendments

C. Ordinances

D. Provisions

Amendments are changes added to the constitution. Because they alter the fundamental rules that govern how a government operates, they typically must be approved by voters in a election. The process usually starts with the legislature (or a constitutional convention) proposing the change, and then it goes to the people to vote on. If the voters approve, the amendment becomes part of the constitution. Statutes are laws created by the legislature for ordinary governance; ordinances are local laws passed by cities or counties; provisions are individual clauses within a document. These do not represent formal changes to the constitution that require voter ratification.

6. Which department monitors states' workforce programs and unemployment systems?

A. Department of Transportation

B. Department of Commerce

C. Department of Labor

D. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Workforce programs and unemployment systems are handled by the Department of Labor. This department focuses on jobs, training, and workers' benefits, including unemployment insurance and programs that help people prepare for and find work. The other departments deal with different areas: Transportation handles transport infrastructure and safety, Commerce covers business and trade, and Housing and Urban Development focuses on housing and community development. So the best answer is the Department of Labor.

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7. What is the formal charge issued by a grand jury?

A. Indictment

B. Arraignment

C. Information

D. Complaint

Indictment is the formal charge issued by a grand jury. The grand jury reviews evidence presented by the prosecutor and decides whether there is enough probable cause to charge the person with a crime. If there is, they issue the indictment, which formally accuses the person and allows the case to move toward trial. This is different from an arraignment, which is the court appearance where the charges are read and the defendant enters a plea; an information, which is a charging document filed by a prosecutor without a grand jury; and a complaint, a sworn statement used to start a case in some jurisdictions.

8. A legislature with two houses is called what?

A. Unruly

B. Bicameral

C. Municipality

D. Governor

Having a legislature with two houses is called bicameral. This means there are two separate chambers that create laws, typically a lower house and an upper house, such as a House and a Senate. The two-chamber system often helps balance representation and provides checks between chambers, since both must agree for a law to pass and each chamber can have different focuses or powers. The other terms don't fit: unruly means disorderly, municipality refers to a city or town government, and governor is the executive leader, not a legislative structure.

9. What is the final decision made by a jury in a trial?

A. Verdict

B. Judgment

C. Ruling

D. Decision

The final decision a jury makes in a trial is called a verdict. A verdict is the jury's formal determination of the facts and their conclusion about the charges or claims presented, such as guilty or not guilty in a criminal case or liable or not liable in a civil case. After a verdict is reached, a judge might issue a judgment, which is the court's official ruling that applies the verdict to award damages or other remedies. A ruling refers to the judge's decision on a point of law or on procedural aspects during the trial, not the jury's final resolution. A general decision is too broad to specify what the jury determines. So the term that precisely captures the jury's concluding decision is verdict.

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10. Which level of government is responsible for local matters such as cities and counties?

A. Interstate

B. Federal

C. Local

D. State

Local governments handle matters that affect a specific community—cities and counties. They create and enforce local laws, provide services like police and fire protection, zoning, building permits, local roads, libraries, and parks. These responsibilities stay within the community boundaries, so residents see the impact of decisions most directly at this level. The state handles statewide policies and services such as statewide education standards and state roads, while the federal government deals with nationwide issues like national defense and programs that cross state lines. For issues that are truly local, the authority rests with the local level.

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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.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://gmasgovernment.examzify.com

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

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