
Practice Test of Goal 10 – Civic Responsibilities in American Democracy

Note to teachers: These unofficial sample questions were created to help students review Goal 10 content, as well as practice for the Civics and Economics EOC. The questions are based on the various lesson plans in the Civic Education Consortium's Database of Civic Resources, as well as the NC Standard Course of Study. However, these practice questions are not meant to influence teachers in the content they choose to focus on in class, nor do they reflect any knowledge of questions that will actually appear on the state's EOC.

1. Voting in American Democracy is legally a:

- A. Right
- B. Privilege
- C. Obligation
- D. Burden

2. What type of responsibility is *voting*?

- A. Civic Responsibility
- B. Fiscal Responsibility
- C. Moral Responsibility
- D. Legal Responsibility

3. Paying taxes is a _____

- A. Civic Responsibility
- B. Fiscal Responsibility
- C. Moral Responsibility
- D. Legal Responsibility

4. State Government's responsibility to maintain a balanced budget is what type of responsibility?

- A. Civic Responsibility
- B. Fiscal Responsibility
- C. Legal Responsibility
- D. Both B and C are correct

5. How would one *best define* the "melting pot" theory?

- A. American immigrants are assimilated into the society and adopt American values, becoming a single group
- B. American immigrants are in the same society, but share different values and beliefs from one another; they form the sum of many parts
- C. Diversity that is a continuous ebb and flow within society between multi-cultural differences
- D. The idea that different races and genders become angry at one another, causing discord in the populace

6. How would one *best define* the "tossed salad" theory?

- A. American immigrants are assimilated into the society and adopt American values, becoming a single group
- B. American immigrants are in the same society, but share different values and beliefs from one another. They form the sum of many parts
- C. Diversity that is a continuous ebb and flow within society between multi-cultural differences
- D. The idea that different races and genders become angry at one another, causing discord in the populace

7. What does the Latin phrase *E Pluribus Unum* translate into?

- A. "One nation, under God"
- B. "In God we trust"
- C. "Out of many, one"
- D. "Out of one, many"

8. Which is the most valid conclusion that may be drawn from the study of population patterns in the United States today?

- A. Most of the population is concentrated in and around large urban centers
- B. The number of ethnic groups has declined
- C. The population of the South has continued to decline
- D. The Northeast is the fastest growing region in the nation

9. Read the following summary of the court case *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)*, then answer the question below:

Allan Bakke, a thirty-five-year-old white man, had twice applied for admission to the University of California Medical School at Davis. He was rejected both times. The school reserved sixteen places in each entering class of one hundred for "qualified" minorities, as part of the university's affirmative action program, in an effort to redress longstanding, unfair minority exclusions from the medical profession.

Bakke's qualifications (college GPA and test scores) exceeded those of any of the minority students admitted in the two years Bakke's applications were rejected. Bakke contended, first in the California courts, then in the Supreme Court, that he was excluded from admission solely on the basis of race.

There was no single majority opinion. Four of the justices contended that any racial quota system supported by government violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., agreed, casting the deciding vote ordering the medical school to admit Bakke.

According to the facts presented, on what grounds did *Bakke* bring his case?

- A. Bakke's admission was denied *only* because of his race
- B. Using racial quotas in academics is unconstitutional
- C. Medical schools should admit based only on GPA and test scores
- D. Racial quotas violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964

10. What is a way to increase one's *earning capacity*?

- A. Enroll in a bank with a larger number of clients
- B. Obtain a higher level of education
- C. Reduce expenditures in one's household
- D. Invest in a land and other secure assets

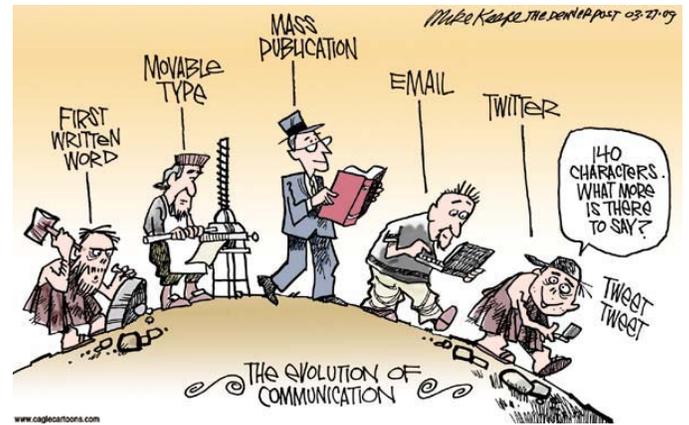
11. What is a reason that literacy is becoming increasingly more important to being a citizen in America than in *years past*?

- A. Textbooks and other materials require a high level of literacy and are inaccessible to the functioning illiterate
- B. Literacy has a positive correlation with earning capacity
- C. Many items necessary for citizenship are being moved on-line in a format that requires a high level of literacy
- D. Low-skill labor positions are increasing in the American economy, so literacy is no more important than in years past

12. In 2008, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich was arrested on federal charges including allegedly trying to sell a United States Senate seat. What is this an example of?

- A. Corruption
- B. Politics-as-usual
- C. Campaign Finance Violations
- D. Violating McCain-Feingold

13. What is the *main idea* expressed about literacy as Americans move towards further use of online communications?



- A. Americans are moving in a positive direction by creating more expedient forms of communication
- B. Mass Publication was the most efficient form of communication
- C. Americans who use email and other forms of online communication are losing sophistication in their communications
- D. Communication has evolved over the years into a faster and more accessible format for a larger number of Americans

14. What is the *main idea* expressed about American elections?



- A. There are many different ways to vote in America today
- B. There are many errors that need to be corrected in America's electoral system
- C. The electorate of America is diverse
- D. Urban polling places have more voting errors than rural polling places

15. Read the following quote and answer the question:

"Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential."

- President Barack Obama

Which concept is President Obama invoking?

- A. Voluntary Compliance
- B. Community Spirit
- C. Responsible Behavior
- D. Tolerance

16. Read the summary below, and answer the question:

In *Kelo v. City of New London*, New London, a city in Connecticut, used its authority to seize private property to sell to private developers.

The property owners argued the city violated the Fifth Amendment's takings clause, which guaranteed the government will not take private property for public use without just compensation.

When the property owners' land was seized, New London exercised what power of Government?

- A. Eminent Domain
- B. The Fifth Amendment
- C. Searches and Seizures Clause
- D. Just Compensation Clause

17. What is the *best definition* of activism?

- A. When citizens are engaged in healthy, active lifestyles
- B. Intentional actions designed to bring about social or political changes
- C. Actions by the federal judiciary intended to create laws outside of the legislative branch of government
- D. Very similar to propaganda, activism is when ideas are forcefully thrust upon others by a ruling party

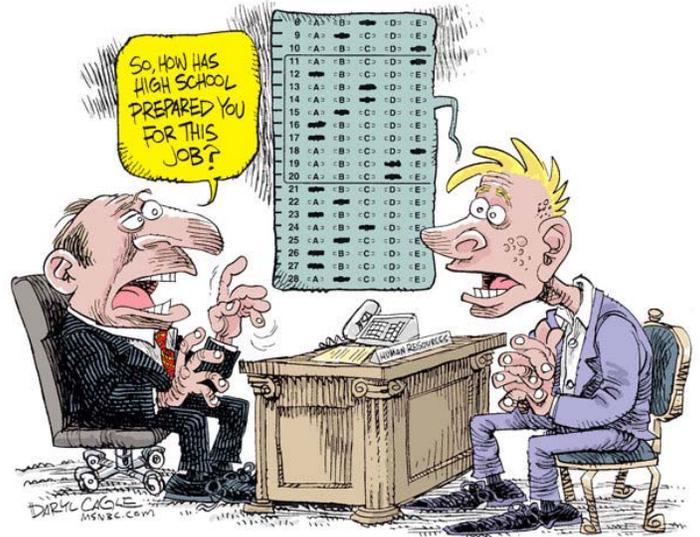
18. What can be said *with certainty* about Social Security's future in the United States?

- A. Left alone, Social Security will prosper
- B. Social Security is facing a crisis in the future; as the Baby Boomer population ages and there are not enough workers to support the population
- C. Social Security is in peril, regardless of corrective steps the United States takes
- D. After raising the age of entry into the Social Security program, America will enjoy savings that will offset any funding deficit in the Social Security program

19. Read the following descriptions and select the individual who would be required to register for Selective Service:

- A. A 19 year old male who attends a local state university
- B. A 22 year old female who works in retail
- C. A 17 year old male who plays for the varsity basketball team
- D. A 23 year old student from Holland who resides in the United States on a student visa

20. What is the *main idea* of the cartoon?



- A. High schools are doing an inadequate job preparing students for job interviews
- B. Job interviewers are at a disconnect with students because they are far removed from the educational setting
- C. Human Resources Departments should not use standardized tests to measure the potential job performance of applicants
- D. High schools are doing an inadequate job preparing students because they teach to standardized tests

Answer Key

1. A
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. A
13. C
14. B
15. B
16. A
17. B
18. B
19. A
20. D

**For additional sample EOC questions for each Civics and Economics objective, go to the Consortium's Database of Civic Resources, located at:
<http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/civiced/resources/intro.php>

All sample questions provided are unofficial and do not represent any knowledge of content to appear on the state's actual End of Course tests. Special thanks to Sarah Hatter.