



Department
of Education

Ohio's State Tests

PRACTICE TEST

**AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT**

Student Name

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Directions:

Today you will be taking the Ohio American Government Practice Assessment.

There are several important things to remember:

1. Read each question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they will help you understand the question. Then, choose or write the answer you think is best in your Answer Document.
2. Use only a #2 pencil to answer questions on this test.
3. For questions with bubbled responses, choose the correct answer and then fill in the circle with the appropriate letter in your Answer Document. Make sure the number of the question in this Student Test Booklet matches the number in your Answer Document. If you change your answer, make sure you erase your old answer completely. Do not cross out or make any marks on the other choices.
4. For questions with response boxes, write your answer neatly, clearly and only in the space provided in your Answer Document. Any responses written in your Student Test Booklet will not be scored. Make sure the number of the question in this Student Test Booklet matches the number in your Answer Document.
5. If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on to the next question. If you have time, go back to the questions you skipped and try to answer them before turning in your Student Test Booklet and Answer Document.
6. Check over your work when you are finished.

1.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.

2. A state is considering an amendment to its constitution requiring that judges be appointed rather than elected. A supporter of the amendment makes the following statement:

Electing judges allows choices to be made on the basis of political influence, not merit. I believe that it is time to consider changing this practice to a system whereby judges are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature.

Our State Bar (lawyers) Association supports this change because during election years, campaigning and fundraising for the election of judges delays the hearing of cases. This creates a backlog in the year following the election. Furthermore, a survey of voter habits by the State Election Commission reports that 60% of voters fail to vote for judges at all. Voters say they lack relevant criteria for making selections. The Commission has stated its support for the amendment in order to better assure that judges have been chosen on their merits rather than their appeal to special interests.

Explain why the use of the particular sources presented by the supporter of the amendment makes the supporter's position credible. Be sure to refer to:

- the qualifications of the sources;
- the consistency (agreement) between the sources.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.



American Government—Part 1

3. The 17th Amendment established the direct election of U.S. senators.

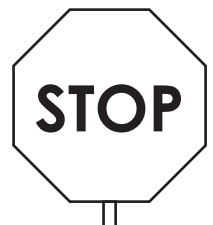
In the **Answer Document**, select the boxes to identify whether each group supported or opposed the ratification of the 17th Amendment.

	Supported	Opposed
Wealthy business leaders	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B
State political party bosses	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D
Members of the Populist Party	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F
Critics of powerful state legislatures	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> H

4. Explain how the passage of the 19th Amendment changed the U.S. Constitution to allow greater participation in government. Be sure to note a restriction on voting that the 19th Amendment addressed.

Then, explain how the passage of the 26th Amendment continued the change toward greater participation in government. Be sure to note a restriction on voting that the 26th Amendment addressed.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.



Do not go on

Do not go on

American Government—Part 2

1. What event brought about the adoption of the 25th Amendment?
 - A. President Woodrow Wilson became seriously ill while in office, leaving his ability to perform the duties of president uncertain.
 - B. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and was succeeded by Vice President Johnson, who had heart problems himself.
 - C. When President Franklin Roosevelt died in office, he was succeeded by Vice President Truman, leaving the office of the vice president vacant.
 - D. President Ronald Reagan was injured in an assassination attempt and was incapacitated for a day, leaving presidential leadership uncertain.

2. During the 1920s, the manufacture, sale, transportation, import, or export of alcoholic beverages was illegal across the United States.

Why did it take the ratification of the 21st Amendment to the Constitution in 1933 to make alcohol manufacture, sale, transportation, importation, or exportation legal again?

- A. The states each had conflicting versions of the law.
- B. The Supreme Court refused to rule on the federal law banning alcohol.
- C. Congressional representatives knew they would lose votes if they reversed the original federal law.
- D. Alcohol was banned by an amendment to the Constitution, and only another amendment could repeal it.

3. What was one change made by the 1851 Ohio Constitution that affected how the state was governed?
- A. The 1851 Ohio Constitution increased the power of the General Assembly.
 - B. The 1851 Ohio Constitution limited the amount of debt the state could accumulate.
 - C. The 1851 Ohio Constitution permitted the General Assembly to enact retroactive laws.
 - D. The 1851 Ohio Constitution lifted a restriction on how the state could spend its tax funds.
4. The 20th Amendment, ratified in 1933, shortens the period between Election Day and the time when the president and members of Congress take office.

What situation made the 20th Amendment a practical improvement?

- A. The Electoral College needed more time to certify the results of the election.
- B. The public demanded more results from newly elected administrations and wanted the president and Congress to begin serving sooner.
- C. Better and faster transportation made the long delay between the election of a new president and the inauguration unnecessary.
- D. After the election, the outgoing president was eager to step down and hand over the heavy responsibility of the office to another leader.



American Government—Part 2

5. Citizens must choose between a plan to build a new city auditorium or a plan to restore the old one. Supporters of the new auditorium claim that building a new auditorium would be more economical than restoring the old one.

In evaluating the credibility of this claim, citizens should pay particular attention to

- A. the number of performances held in the auditorium each year.
- B. the amount of money the supporters spend on promoting their position.
- C. the popularity of the supporters as community leaders.
- D. the projected cost data provided by architects and accountants.

6.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.



7. A town council faces budget cuts and can no longer afford to pay for landscaping in town parks.

How could a citizen work within his or her own community to help the local government address this problem?

- A. by emailing Ohio's congressional delegation to inform them of this issue
 - B. by organizing a group of residents to volunteer for weekly park maintenance
 - C. by requesting that the governor supply the town with state funds for park maintenance
 - D. by running for a seat in the General Assembly with a promise to increase funding for local parks
8. Federalism is one of the basic principles established in the U.S. Constitution. Describe how government in the United States reflects a federal structure. Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.



American Government—Part 2

9. Why might lawmakers increase taxes and decrease government spending?
- A. to reduce unemployment
 - B. to increase consumer spending
 - C. to decrease the level of demand
 - D. to encourage corporate spending
10. Identify the perceived conflict of interest that led to the ratification of the 27th Amendment.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.

11.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.



12. The following question has two parts. In the **Answer Document**, first, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

After the end of the Civil War, which goal did the federal government hope to accomplish during Reconstruction?

- A. extending rights to southern women
- B. establishing freedoms for former slaves
- C. ensuring political power for Southern Democrats
- D. guaranteeing southern white control over the social and economic condition of African-Americans

Part B

Select all of the ways the federal government attempted to accomplish the goal you selected in Part A.

- A. abolishment of slavery
- B. establishment of Jim Crow laws
- C. ratification of the 14th Amendment
- D. ratification of the 19th Amendment
- E. guaranteeing African Americans the right to vote



13.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.

14.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.

15. How can a citizen become involved in addressing problems that affect the entire state?
- A. by joining a community watch group
 - B. by volunteering for the fire department
 - C. by signing petitions to place issues on the ballot
 - D. by attending a meeting of the local school board

16. In 1851, Ohio drafted a new constitution that was meant to address problems of the original state constitution. These problems included:

- An overburdened judicial branch
- A significant amount of state government debt
- A overly powerful legislative branch

In the **Answer Document**, select all of the ways that the Ohio Constitution of 1851 addressed these problems.

- A. It created district courts.
- B. It instituted debt limitations.
- C. It forgave all outstanding state debt.
- D. It allowed the judicial branch to appoint legislative officials.
- E. It required major executive officials to be elected into office.
- F. It restricted the number of cases that could be brought to trial in the state each year.

17. Which statement accurately describes the relationship between the Ohio Constitution and the U.S. Constitution?

- A. Ohio laws overrule federal laws when there is a conflict.
- B. All articles of the Ohio Constitution must be the same as all articles of the U.S. Constitution.
- C. The structure of the Ohio Constitution does not resemble the structure of the U.S. Constitution.
- D. The Ohio Constitution is consistent with the key principles of the U.S. Constitution, but contains some laws that differ from the laws of the U.S. Constitution.

