



## **U.S. Government Study Guide Credit by Exam for Credit Recovery or Acceleration**

The exam you are interested in taking is designed to test your proficiency in the relevant subject matter. You should be thoroughly familiar with the subject matter before you attempt to take the exam. This CBE CR/A Study Guide can help you prepare for the exam by giving you an idea of what you need to review. You can check your familiarity level by reviewing the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for this course. (See below.) To refine your skills, you can refer to any of the state-adopted textbooks.

### **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)**

Every question that appears on this exam is derived from the knowledge and skills statements and student expectations within the Texas-mandated standards, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). You can view the TEKS for this exam online via the following link: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.html#113.44>. Refer to section (b), Knowledge and skills, 1A–22B. Throughout this guide, you’ll see TEKS references. These refer to the numbers listed under (b) Knowledge and skills; for example, 1A or 3B.

### **Materials Needed**

You will need to bring a #2 pencil to complete the exam. You will receive a computer-graded answer sheet when you arrive at the testing center.

### **Exam Structure**

You will be allowed **3 hours** to complete this exam. The Government exam consists of 80 multiple-choice questions worth 1 point each and 2 essay questions worth 20 points each, for a total of 120 points. The exam covers a wide variety of topics. To help you study, we have isolated 8 key topics and provided study tips and sample questions for each. You can expect multiple-choice questions on each of the following topics:

**Topic 1:** History

**Topic 2:** Geography

**Topic 3:** Economics

**Topic 4:** Government

**Topic 5:** Citizenship

**Topic 6:** Culture

**Topic 7:** Science, technology, and society

**Topic 8:** Social Studies Skills

## **Scholastic Honesty**

When you arrive at the testing center you will be asked to carefully read the exam rules and sign a statement agreeing to take the exam in accordance with the rules. This is called the Examinee's Certification. The following is a copy of these rules:

### **Examinee's Certification**

**This certification must be signed *before* the exam is administered and then returned with the completed examination attached, or credit for the exam will not be given.**

Scholastic dishonesty is a serious academic violation that will not be tolerated. Scholastic dishonesty encompasses, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's work;
- using an unauthorized testing proctor or taking the exam at an unauthorized testing location;
- using materials not authorized by a testing proctor;
- possessing materials that are not authorized by a testing proctor, such as lessons, books, or notes;
- knowingly using or soliciting, in whole or Topic, the contents of an unadministered test;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student without authorization during the test;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself, in taking a course test or completing any course-related assignment;
- using, buying, stealing, or transporting some or all of the contents of an unadministered test, test rubric, homework answer, or computer program.

**Evidence of scholastic dishonesty will result in a grade of *F* on the examination and an *F* in the course (if applicable).**

*At the testing center, you will be asked to sign a statement that says you have read the above and agree to complete the examination with scholastic honesty.*

## General Study Tips

The bulleted lists and sample questions in this study guide can assist you in preparing for the exam. It is a fairly complete guide for studying, but does not cover every item on the test. Ultimately, you should use the TEKS to guide your exam preparation.

## Additional Study Tips

The following information provides direction for your studies. For each part, you will find study tips and sample questions to give you a general idea of the types of questions you can expect to see on the exam.

### Topic 1: History

This topic relates to your knowledge of the historical principles and beliefs that impacted the creation of the United States.

#### Study Tips for Topic 1:

This topic relates to TEKS 1A–2B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- explain major political ideas in history
- identify major intellectual, philosophical, political, and religious traditions that informed the American founding
- identify the individuals whose principles of laws and government institutions informed the American founding documents
- identify the contributions of the political philosophies of the Founding Fathers
- examine debates and compromises that impacted the creation of the founding documents
- identify significant individuals in the field of government and politics
- give examples of the processes to affect public policy
- analyze the impact of political changes past and present

#### Sample Questions for Topic 1:

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

1. Why is the media sometimes called the fourth branch of government?
  - A. The media gives money to political causes.
  - B. The media increases voter turnout in state elections.
  - C. The media monitors the political process to expose abuse of power.
  - D. The media sends reporters to the White House to cover the President.

## **Topic 2: Geography**

This topic relates to your knowledge and examination of geographical interpretations of historical issues and events.

### **Study Tips for Topic 2:**

This topic relates to TEKS 3A–4B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- understand how population shifts affect voting patterns
- examine political boundaries to make inferences regarding the distribution of political power
- explain how political divisions are crafted and how they are affected by Supreme Court decisions
- identify the significance to the United States of the location and key natural resources of selected global places or regions
- analyze how U.S. foreign policy affects selected places and regions

### **Sample Questions for Topic 2:**

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

2. The act of redrawing political districts in favor of the party in power is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. coat-tailing
  - B. amendment
  - C. constituency
  - D. gerrymandering

### **Topic 3: Economics**

This topic relates to your knowledge of economic and social influences on historical contemporary issues and events.

#### **Study Tips for Topic 3:**

This topic relates to TEKS 5A–6B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- explain how government fiscal, monetary, and regulatory policies influence the economy
- identify the sources of revenue and expenditures of the U. S. government and analyze their impact on the U.S. economy
- compare the role of government in the U.S. free enterprise system
- understand how government taxation and regulation can serve as restrictions to private enterprise
- examine how the U.S. government uses economic resources in foreign policy
- understand the roles of the executive and legislative branches in setting international trade and fiscal policies

#### **Sample Questions for Topic 3:**

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

3. Which of the following descriptions BEST demonstrates the role played by the Federal Reserve?
  - A. establishing long-term interest rates
  - B. promoting the health of U.S. citizens
  - C. financing the health system in the U.S.
  - D. financing automobile loans for U.S. citizens

## **Topic 4: Government**

This topic relates to your knowledge of the structure, functions, and principals in the U.S. Constitution.

### **Study Tips for Topic 4:**

This topic relates to TEKS 7A–12C. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- explain the importance of a written constitution
- evaluate how the federal government serves the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution
- analyze how the Federalist Papers explain the principles of the American constitutional system of government
- evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government
- describe the constitutionally prescribed procedures by which the U.S. Constitution can be changed and analyze the role of the amendment process in a constitutional government
- identify how the American beliefs and principles reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution contribute to both a national identity and federal identity and are embodied in the United States today
- examine the reasons the Founding Fathers protected religious freedom in America and guaranteed its free exercise
- analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch
- analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch
- analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch
- identify the purpose of selected independent executive agencies
- explain how certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution provide for checks and balances
- analyze selected issues raised by judicial activism and judicial restraint
- explain the major responsibilities of the federal government for domestic and foreign policy
- compare the structures, functions, and processes of national, state, and local governments
- explain why the Founding Fathers created a distinctly new form of federalism
- categorize government powers as national, state, or shared
- analyze historical and contemporary conflicts over the respective roles of national and state governments
- understand the limits on the national and state governments in the U.S. federal system of government
- compare different methods of filling public offices
- explain the process of electing the president of the United States
- analyze the impact of the passage of the 17th Amendment
- analyze the functions of political parties and their role in the electoral process
- explain the two-party system and evaluate the role of third parties in the United States
- identify opportunities for citizens to participate in political party activities
- compare the U.S. constitutional republic to historical and contemporary forms of government

- analyze advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederate, and unitary systems of government
- analyze advantages and disadvantages of presidential and parliamentary systems of government

**Sample Questions for Topic 4:**

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

4. In the American federal system, the ideals of popular sovereignty and individual rights led the Framers to create a government in which the powers given to the state governments by the Constitution are ultimately granted by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the state legislatures
  - B. the people of the state
  - C. the federal government
  - D. the Articles of Confederation
  
5. The legislative body given the power to approve treaties, hold trials for impeachment, and approve Presidential cabinet nominations is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the Senate
  - B. the State legislatures
  - C. the Judiciary Committee
  - D. the House of Representatives

## Topic 5: Citizenship

This topic relates to your knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of United States citizens and the importance of multiple perspectives and effective leaders in a democratic society.

### Study Tips for Topic 5:

This topic relates to TEKS 13A–16B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- understand the roles of limited government and the rule of law in the protection of individual rights
- identify and define the unalienable rights
- identify the freedoms and rights guaranteed by each amendment in the Bill of Rights
- analyze U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution in selected cases
- explain the importance of due process rights to the protection of individual rights and in limiting the powers of government
- recall the conditions that produced the 14th Amendment and describe subsequent efforts to selectively extend some of the Bill of Rights
- explain the difference between personal and civic responsibilities
- evaluate whether and/or when the obligation of citizenship requires that personal desires and interests be subordinated to the public good
- understand the responsibilities, duties, and obligations of citizenship
- understand the voter registration process and the criteria for voting in elections
- analyze the effectiveness of various methods of participation in the political process
- analyze historical and contemporary examples of citizen movements to bring about political change
- understand the factors that influence an individual's political attitudes and actions
- examine different points of view of political parties and interest groups
- analyze the importance of the First Amendment rights

### Sample Questions for Topic 5:

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

6. What Constitutional amendment granted the States powers that weren't expressly given to the national government?
  - A. 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - B. 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - C. 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - D. 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment



## **Topic 6: Culture**

This topic relates to your knowledge of the diversity and unity within the United States.

### **Study Tips for Topic 6:**

This topic relates to TEKS 17A–17B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- evaluate a U.S. government policy or court decision that has affected a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group
- explain changes in American culture brought about by government policies

### **Sample Questions for Topic 6:**

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

7. What piece of legislation outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin?
  - A. Affirmative Action
  - B. Equal Pay Act of 1963
  - C. Non-Discrimination Act
  - D. Civil Rights Act of 1964

## **Topic 7: Science, technology, and society**

This topic relates to your knowledge of the impact of scientific and technological innovations on the development of the United States.

### **Study Tips for Topic 7:**

This topic relates to TEKS 18A–19B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

- understand how U.S. constitutional protections
- identify examples of government-assisted research that have resulted in improved consumer products
- understand the potential impact on society of recent scientific discoveries and technological innovations
- evaluate the impact of the Internet and other electronic information on the political process

### Sample Questions for Topic 7:

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS: Select the BEST responses to the following questions.**

8. Which of the following BEST demonstrates the impact of the internet on the political process?
- A. a website map of polling places.
  - B. an online newspaper with election dates.
  - C. a blog containing a chart on past elections.
  - D. an online newspaper with candidates' views.

### Topic 8: Social Studies Skills

This topic relates to your ability to apply critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making skills to organize and use information from valid sources.

#### Study Tips for Topic 8:

This topic relates to TEKS 20A–22B. Familiarize yourself with those TEKS, and then be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of the following topics:

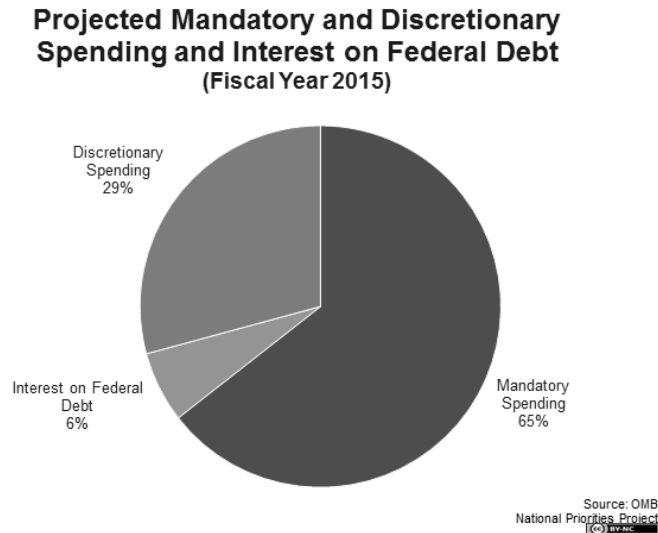
- analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
- create a product on a contemporary government issue or topic
- analyze and defend a point of view on a current political issue
- analyze and evaluate the validity of information, arguments, and counterarguments from primary and secondary sources for bias, propaganda, point of view, and frame of reference
- evaluate government data using charts, tables, graphs, and maps
- use appropriate mathematical skills to interpret social studies information
- use social studies terminology correctly
- use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation
- transfer information from one medium to another
- create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information
- use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution
- use a decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision

**Sample Questions for Topic 8:**

The following are sample questions. You can find the correct answers listed after the questions, but try answering the questions without looking at the answers first to check your comprehension.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the **BEST** responses to the following questions.

9. Use the chart below to answer the question



Which of the following **BEST** demonstrates a conclusion that can correctly be drawn from the chart?

- A. The federal debt will decrease in 2016.
- B. That 29% of the debt that could be reduced in 2016.
- C. The federal debt will increase in 2016.
- D. That 35% of the debt that could be reduced in 2016.

## Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Answer	TEKS expectation
1	C	2A
2	B	3C
3	A	5D
4	B	7D
5	A	8A
6	A	13F
7	D	17A
8	D	19B
9	B	20A