

---

Practice Test of

# Goal 6 – Law on a State, Local, and National Level

---

**Note to teachers:** These unofficial sample questions were created to help students review Goal 6 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. The Virginia House of Burgesses was important to the development of democracy in the thirteen colonies because it:**

- A. Provided an example of a representative form of government
- B. Created the first written constitution in America
- C. Provided for the direct election of senators
- D. Began the practice of legislative override of executive vetoes

**2. Read the courtroom summation below. What democratic principle did this help establish in colonial America?**

**“It is not the cause of one poor printer, nor of New York alone, which you are now trying. No! It may in its consequence affect every free man that lives under a British government on the main of America. It is the best cause. It is the cause of liberty**

**...Nature and the laws of our country have given us a right to liberty of both exposing and opposing arbitrary power (in these parts of the world at least) by speaking and writing truth.”**

- A. Trial by Jury
- B. Equal Voting Rights
- C. Protection of Private Property
- D. Freedom of the Press

**3. Which best explains how Hammurabi’s Codes could act as a deterrent?**

- A. The severity of the punishments could discourage the committing of crimes.
- B. The leniency of punishments would make people respect order.
- C. The judges punish with death, which is feared by a majority of Americans.
- D. Government Administrators inspired positive behavior.

**4. Which document led the United States Constitutional principle of limited government?**

- A. U.S. Constitution
- B. Magna Carta
- C. Code of Hammurabi
- D. Federalist Papers

**5. Administrative Law deals with which branch of government?**

- A. Legislative
- B. Judicial
- C. Executive
- D. Delegated

---

**6. Who is responsible for reconciling differences in alternate versions of a bill created in the House of Representatives and in the Senate?**

- A. Conference Committee
- B. Compromise Committee
- C. Select Committee
- D. Standing Committee

**7. What is the term usually given to bills set aside or ignored?**

- A. Conference Bills
- B. Filibustered Bills
- C. Pigeonholed Bills
- D. Recalled Bills

**8. The President's ability to veto a law passed by Congress is an example of:**

- A. Judicial Review
- B. Limited Government
- C. Checks and Balances
- D. Federalism

**9. How far do the *majority* of bills in Congress travel?**

- A. Committee, and then they expire
- B. The floor, and then they are voted down
- C. Vetoed or signed by the President
- D. Public hearing and dismissal

**10. In which area of the law-making process are hearings on issues and bills held?**

- A. Through Committee Work
- B. Through Presidential Work
- C. Through Clerical Work
- D. Through Judicial Work

**11. What best describes the relationship between a bill and a law?**

- A. A bill is a draft of a law. The law is a passed bill.
- B. A bill is an idea of law. The law is a *national* act.
- C. A bill is a draft of a law. The law is a proposed bill.
- D. A bill is an idea of law. The law is a rule.

**12. What must occur before Congress can send a bill to the President for approval?**

- A. Both houses of Congress must send advanced notice to the President.
- B. Both houses of Congress must pass an identical version of the bill.
- C. Both houses must place identifying numbers on the bill.
- D. Both houses must send envoys to the White House to discuss the bill with President.

**13. Senators use a filibuster to:**

- A. Rush a bill through Congress as quickly as possible without debate
- B. Send a bill to a committee of their choosing, which they fill with sympathetic members of their party
- C. Expedite a law to the desk of the President, who may choose to sign it or not
- D. Delay the voting process on a bill or a confirmation of a Presidential Appointment

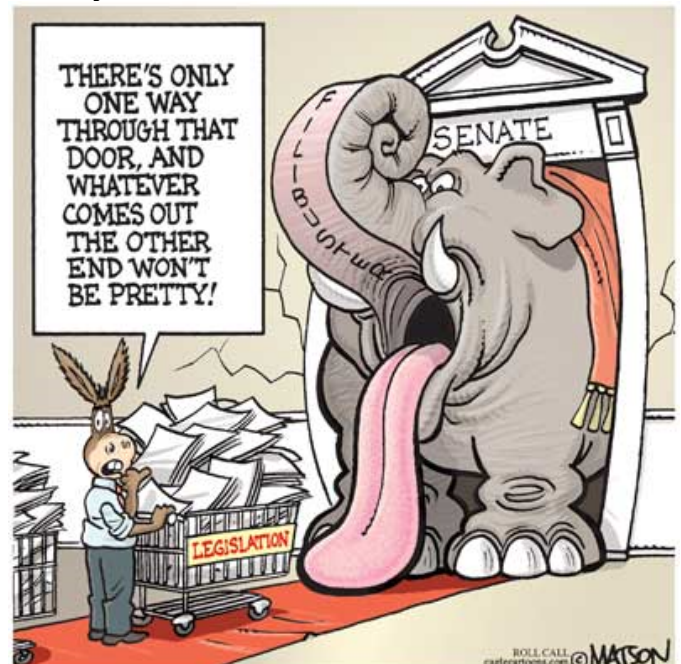
**14. Inspiration for bills:**

- A. May originate from the President
- B. May originate from citizens
- C. May originate from legislators or agencies
- D. May come from all of the above

**15. To pass a bill in Congress requires a \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Simple majority
- B. Two thirds majority
- C. Three fifths compromise
- D. Unanimous approval by both houses

**16. What message is the cartoonist trying to convey?**



- A. Legislation is often full of compromises that alter the original intent of a bill.
- B. Democrats and Republicans are often at odds with one another.
- C. When one party has to contend with a filibuster by another, legislation can become much different than originally intended.
- D. The Senate is full of obstructionists who constantly block legislation to get items for their districts.

17. The cartoon suggests:



"ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR CONGRESSMANKIND!"

- A. Members of Congress enjoy free lunches, golf trips, and vacations.
- B. Members of Congress have made a decision to rise above lobbying once and for all.
- C. Ethics are an impediment to Congress that slows their ability to serve the people.
- D. It is difficult to enact Ethics Reform when many temptations (like free golf, vacations, and lunch) must be given up.

18. What is a common complaint against the influence of lobbyists in government?

- A. Lobbyists provide too much information to legislators. Legislators are unable to sort through the mass of information.
- B. Lobbyists act on behalf of narrowly tailored special interests, and thus advance agendas that may not be best for the larger community.
- C. Lobbyists constantly lie, causing legislators to act on the misinformation and thereby hurting the public.
- D. Lobbyists are constantly causing outbursts in the legislative chamber, slowing the progress of parliamentary business.

---

## Answer Key

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

\*\*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.**