

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

TEST ITEM SET

CIVICS & ECONOMICS

2008 History and Social Science Standards of Learning

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SAMPLE

Which action will the government take when it needs more money?

- ☐ **A** Hold elections
- ☐ **B** Lower prices
- ☐ **C** Increase taxes
- ☐ **D** Hire workers

Which statement best expresses the principle of "consent of the governed"?

☐ A

The Congress
shall assemble at
least once in
every year

☐ C

We the People
of the United
States . . .
establish this
Constitution

☐ B

All Bills for
raising Revenue
shall originate in
the House of
Representatives

☐ D

No Person
except a natural
born Citizen . . .
shall be eligible
to the Office of
President

Why have only 27 amendments been added to the Constitution of the United States in more than 200 years?

- ☐ **A** The process of adding amendments is very complex.
- ☐ **B** The courts strike down many amendments.
- ☐ **C** National laws limit the number of amendments.
- ☐ **D** Changes in society are too small to require amendments.

We, the People of the United States, in order to
form a more perfect union . . .

— Constitution of the United States, 1787

This phrase best refers to the —

- ☐ **A** failed policies made by foreign officials
- ☐ **B** grievances in the Declaration of Independence
- ☐ **C** national problems caused by outdated laws
- ☐ **D** weaknesses within the Articles of Confederation

A citizen can help ensure the rights of an accused person by —

- ☐ **A** serving in the military
- ☐ **B** paying an income tax
- ☐ **C** serving on a jury
- ☐ **D** obeying the state law

Why is community service important in a democratic nation?

- ☐ **A** It helps businesses find and train new employees.
- ☐ **B** It addresses local needs and serves the public good.
- ☐ **C** It lowers unemployment by giving jobs to volunteers.
- ☐ **D** It removes the national government's duty to improve society.

House of Representatives

Number of members is based on

?

Which phrase completes this diagram?

- ☐ **A** state population
- ☐ **B** the number of political districts
- ☐ **C** voter registration
- ☐ **D** the number of state senators

Legislative Bill



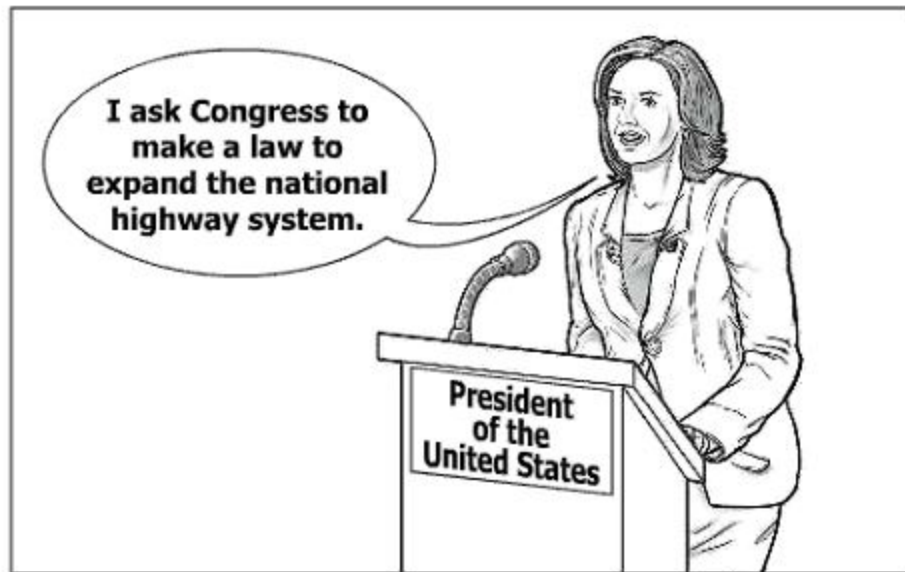
This action is one way the president can influence —

- ☐ **A** judicial review
- ☐ **B** foreign affairs
- ☐ **C** international trade
- ☐ **D** national policies

Which branch of government has the power to declare Virginia laws unconstitutional?

- ☐ **A** State judicial branch
- ☐ **B** Federal executive branch
- ☐ **C** State executive branch
- ☐ **D** Federal legislative branch

State of the Union Address



Which executive power is being demonstrated in this drawing?

- ☐ A Power to influence legislation
- ☐ B Ability to veto legislation
- ☐ C Power to approve cabinet members
- ☐ D Ability to change judicial decisions

In which court case did the United States Supreme Court establish the power of judicial review?

- ☐ **A** *Dred Scott v. Sandford*
- ☐ **B** *Brown v. Board of Education*
- ☐ **C** *Marbury v. Madison*
- ☐ **D** *Plessy v. Ferguson*



The local government in Virginia most likely created this law in order to —

- ☐ A promote public health
- ☐ B support federal laws
- ☐ C protect consumer rights
- ☐ D regulate land use

The principle of federalism gives governmental power to —

- ☐ **A** the county and local governments
- ☐ **B** a strong confederate government
- ☐ **C** the national and state governments
- ☐ **D** a powerful state government

The powers of local Virginia governments are granted directly by the —

- ☐ **A** Virginia Circuit Court
- ☐ **B** Constitution of Virginia
- ☐ **C** United States Attorney General
- ☐ **D** Constitution of the United States

Scheduled Meetings	
General Assembly	- 8 A.M.
District Court	- 9 A.M.
Board of Supervisors	- 10 A.M.
Governor	- 11 A.M.

Which meeting would a person attend to hear only legislation concerning the local county?

- ☐ A 8 A.M.
- ☐ B 9 A.M.
- ☐ C 10 A.M.
- ☐ D 11 A.M.

In a criminal case, a jury determines —

- ☐ **A** how much money one person needs to pay another person
- ☐ **B** whether someone is guilty of breaking the law
- ☐ **C** the best way to settle a disagreement between two people
- ☐ **D** whether a person's plea deal can be accepted

Name	Citizen of the United States (Y/N)	Resident of Virginia and Precinct (Y/N)	Age by Date of Next General Election
Alyssa	Y	N	18
Ranjan	Y	Y	66
Carla	Y	Y	17
Rick	N	Y	21

Which person is eligible to register to vote in the state of Virginia?

- ☐ **A** Alyssa
- ☐ **B** Ranjan
- ☐ **C** Carla
- ☐ **D** Rick

How are implied powers most often used by the United States Congress?

- ☐ **A** To help carry out expressed powers
- ☐ **B** To force the executive branch to sign new legislation
- ☐ **C** To encourage citizens to vote
- ☐ **D** To give the government veto powers

Which power is a responsibility of the Virginia General Assembly?

- ☐ **A** Exercises judicial review
- ☐ **B** Approves the state budget
- ☐ **C** Regulates the economy
- ☐ **D** Administers state bureaucracy

Which action is an example of political lobbying?

- ☐ **A** The governor gives special advice to legislative members.
- ☐ **B** A mayoral candidate holds a campaign rally for registered voters.
- ☐ **C** The local newspaper exposes corrupt practices in election campaigns.
- ☐ **D** A health group asks legislators to pass tougher antipollution laws.

**Newspaper Front Page Coverage
During a General Election**

Candidate	Positive News	Negative News	Neutral
Party X	58.8%	11.2%	30%
Party Y	26.4%	39.6%	34%

From this information, it can best be concluded that the news media —

- ☐ **A** showed little favoritism between political parties
- ☐ **B** displayed a positive bias to the candidate from Party X
- ☐ **C** showed negative bias toward both political parties
- ☐ **D** gave more positive coverage to the candidate from Party Y

Miranda v. Arizona

Ernesto Miranda had confessed to a crime during police questioning without knowing he had a right to have an attorney present. Miranda was convicted. The Supreme Court overturned the conviction, ruling that criminal suspects must be warned of their rights before they are questioned by police.

Which amendment led to this decision?

- ☐ A 5th
- ☐ B 8th
- ☐ C 13th
- ☐ D 16th

Combined Supply and Demand Schedule

Price of a Slice of Pizza	Quantity Demanded	Quantity Supplied
\$.50	300	100
\$1.00	250	150
\$1.50	200	200
\$2.00	150	250
\$2.50	100	300
\$3.00	50	350

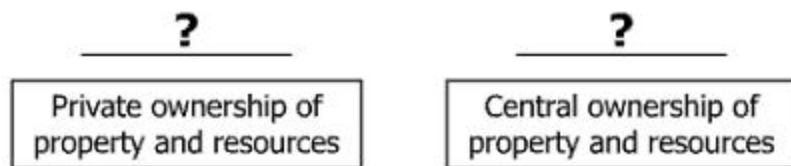
According to this table, what will happen if the price of a slice of pizza decreases from \$2.50 to \$1.00?

- ☐ **A** Customers will not buy as much pizza.
- ☐ **B** Profits of pizza makers will increase.
- ☐ **C** There will not be enough pizza produced.
- ☐ **D** The cost of producing pizzas will rise.

- Strong work ethic
- Computer literacy
- Positive attitude

What is the best title for this list?

- ☐ **A** Characteristics That Employers Seek
- ☐ **B** National Requirements for All Jobs
- ☐ **C** Personal Training Courses Offered by the Federal Government
- ☐ **D** Outdated Skills Due to Technological Advancements



Which pair of economic systems best completes this diagram?

- ☐ **A** Mixed — Traditional
- ☐ **B** Command — Traditional
- ☐ **C** Mixed — Free Market
- ☐ **D** Free Market — Command



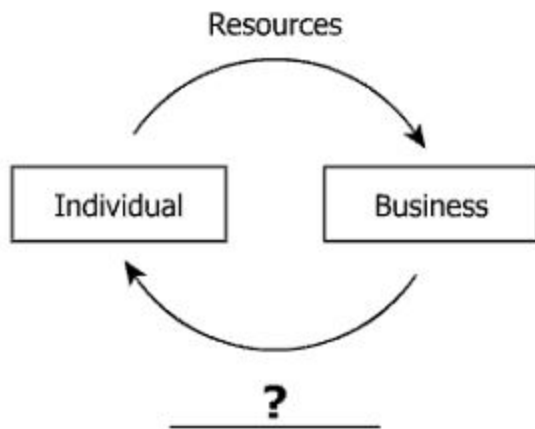
Which term best describes the message on this poster?

- ☐ A Insurance
- ☐ B Deposit
- ☐ C Investment
- ☐ D Guarantee

People seeking computer-programming jobs should be college graduates with knowledge of a variety of programming languages and tools. Job seekers should have experience working with the latest technology.

Which characteristics would make a job seeker in computer programming most desirable?

- ☐ **A** A person who recently earned a high school diploma but has no work experience
- ☐ **B** A person who earned a 2-year associate's degree in general business but has no work experience
- ☐ **C** A person with a 4-year bachelor's degree and programming experience
- ☐ **D** A person with a doctoral degree in economics and management experience



Which term completes this economic flow?

- ☐ **A** Taxes
- ☐ **B** Income
- ☐ **C** Savings
- ☐ **D** Investment

Which is an example of a proprietorship?

- ☐ **A** Edward owns a restaurant. He is responsible for all of the restaurant's debts.
- ☐ **B** Roberta owns stock in a steel company. She receives a portion of the company's profits.
- ☐ **C** Juan and Phillip own a bookstore. They are both responsible for the bookstore's debts.
- ☐ **D** Janet and Miriam own a flower shop. They share equally in the shop's profits.



This headline describes a case involving —

- ☐ **A** civil rights
- ☐ **B** property rights
- ☐ **C** employee rights
- ☐ **D** consumer rights

Which is the best action the government can take to increase the amount of funds available for businesses?

- ☐ **A** Borrow money
- ☐ **B** Lower taxes
- ☐ **C** Balance the budget
- ☐ **D** Reduce consumer demand

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect on January 1, 1994. This agreement removed most barriers to trade and investment among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

This agreement is an example of how the United States takes part in a —

- ☐ **A** regulatory organization
- ☐ **B** military agreement
- ☐ **C** global economy
- ☐ **D** financial agreement

Which action represents a way the federal government can promote business competition?

- ☐ **A** Punishing polluters
- ☐ **B** Regulating investors
- ☐ **C** Enforcing tariffs
- ☐ **D** Prohibiting monopolies