

HEIghten[®] Civic Competency & Engagement Assessment

Sample Questions

1. Which of the following political systems places sovereignty in the people, allows the people to participate, and best protects the rights of the minority?
 - (A) Oligarchy
 - (B) Republic
 - (C) Monarchy
 - (D) Dictatorship

Question 2 refers to the information below.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

— Section I of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

2. Which of the following statements are true of Section I of the Fourteenth Amendment?

Select all that apply.

- (A) It bans the federal government from actions that violate state laws.
- (B) It states that anyone born in the United States is a citizen.
- (C) It prohibits states from discriminating against certain groups of citizens.
- (D) It bars private companies from discriminating based on race and gender.

Questions 3–4 refer to the information below.

Shortly before the party convention to nominate the party's candidate for governor of your state, the emails of Doug Sanchez, the state party chair, were hacked and released to the public. News reports indicate that in the emails, Sanchez calls for party delegates at the nominating convention to vote for Ruby Johnston, one of the candidates, instead of Chuck Gedrosian, the other candidate. Gedrosian supporters claim that Sanchez's actions are unethical and are demanding his resignation.

3. Answers to which of the following questions would be useful for evaluating the people's claim about Sanchez's actions?

Select all that apply.

- (A) Was the person who hacked Sanchez's emails a supporter of Gedrosian?
- (B) Do party rules allow delegates to vote for the candidate of their choice regardless of how their constituents voted?
- (C) Does the state party chairman act as a delegate at the nominating convention?
- (D) Did Sanchez use his position as party chair to promise rewards to delegates who voted for Johnston?

4. After the email leak, Sanchez resigns as party chair, citing his desire to avoid damaging the party's chances in the general election. At the nominating convention, Johnston is nominated as the party's gubernatorial candidate by a large majority of the delegates. Which of the following would be ethically appropriate courses of action for Gedrosian supporters to take?

Select all that apply.

- (A) Publically support Johnston's opponent in the general election
- (B) Attempt to hack Johnston's email to determine if she knew of Sanchez's actions
- (C) Demand the creation of a rule explicitly forbidding the party chair from attempting to influence delegates' votes
- (D) Demand that Johnston's election be declared invalid and that Gedrosian be declared the nominee

Questions 5–6 refer to the information below.

Your local government has posted a proposal on a social media site to host a farmer’s market every Tuesday in a municipal parking lot. The parking lot is popular with commuters due to its proximity to a local train station. Parking will not be available for commuters during the farmer’s market.

Several residents have posted responses to the proposal.
Rate your level of agreement with each statement that follows.

5. “Having a market like this is a waste when the town has a supermarket and working peoples’ commutes will be messed up.”
- (A) Strongly disagree
 - (B) Disagree
 - (C) Agree
 - (D) Strongly agree
6. “I think a town meeting should be called to address the pros and cons of having the market before a decision is made.”
- (A) Strongly disagree
 - (B) Disagree
 - (C) Agree
 - (D) Strongly agree

Answer Key:

- 1. B
- 2. B, C
- 3. B, D
- 4. A, C
- 5. Max score: A
- 6. Max score: D