

Sample Test: NC State and Local Government

1. Which reason best explains why the NC Constitution of 1868 was replaced in 1971?
 - a. The original NC Constitution was lost in a fire.
 - b. Racial segregation in schools was declared state law, the Governor's term was increased to 8 years, and grammatical mistakes were corrected.
 - c. The text was made easier to read, outdated details were changed, the required school year was increased from 6 months to 9 months, and racial segregation in schools was eliminated.
 - d. Women were given the right to vote in North Carolina.
2. In 1996, who was given the right to veto legislation in North Carolina?
 - a. The governor
 - b. The House
 - c. The Senate
 - d. The lieutenant governor
3. Which statement *most accurately* explains the significance of the NC Constitution's Preamble?

Preamble to the North Carolina Constitution

We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution.

- a. It notes that the NC Constitution is the sovereign ruler of nations.
 - b. It notes that North Carolina is a religious state, and that all residents must believe in God.
 - c. It acknowledges that North Carolina will remain part of the Union and recognize the civil, political, and religious rights of residents.
 - d. It explains that North Carolina has a better government than any other state in the American Union.
4. What is the main purpose of the NC Constitution's Declaration of Rights?
 - a. To ensure the freedom of its individual citizens
 - b. To discuss legislative power
 - c. To set forth balance of power between the legislative and executive branches of state government
 - d. To detail the powers of state legislators
 5. What concept does this statement from the NC Constitution demonstrate?

“The legislative, executive, and supreme judicial powers of the State government shall be forever separate and distinct from each other.” (Article I, section 6).

 - a. Judicial review
 - b. Power of veto
 - c. Popular sovereignty
 - d. Separation of powers

6. Which of the following statements best describes North Carolina's amendment process?

- a. The power to amend the state Constitution or to adopt a revised Constitution lies in the hands of the people, and two processes exist: amendment by the General Assembly and Convention of the People.
- b. All proposed amendments are submitted to the governor, who determines whether the amendment should be ratified.
- c. Any member of the House or Senate can initiate and pass an amendment. No approval from NC voters is needed.
- d. Any time an amendment is considered, a special commission is appointed to evaluate the amendment and vote on whether it should be ratified or rejected.

7. The following excerpt is explaining...

"All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole..."

Article I, section 2, NC Constitution

- a. Powers of the governor
- b. Popular sovereignty
- c. Balance of powers
- d. Constitutional reform

8. Complete the following relationship:

US Constitution: America
Charter: _____

- a. School district
- b. State/region
- c. County
- d. City/town

9. Which term describes the creation of a new town or city by act of the General Assembly?

- a. Incorporation
- b. Annexation
- c. Initiative
- d. Amendment

10. What is a general statute?

- a. A law proposed by the people.
- b. A law enacted by the legislature.
- c. A term that describes a proposed constitutional amendment.
- d. A term that describes the process of electing General Assembly members.

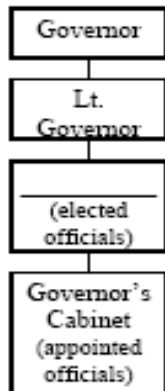
11. Complete the following relationship:

NC House: Speaker of the House
NC Senate: _____

- a. Lieutenant Governor
- b. Speaker of the Senate
- c. Senate Chair
- d. Governor

12. Which of the following is a duty of a state legislative committee?
- Choose the leaders of the House and Senate
 - Charter North Carolina towns and cities
 - Review and hold hearings on legislative proposals
 - Monitor the work of the governor
13. Which action is the responsibility of the Executive Branch of NC's government?
- Recommend a state budget
 - Set local tax rates for each of North Carolina's municipalities
 - Introduce and enact bills that amend or become North Carolina's general statutes
 - Appoint representatives to the House and Senate from each of North Carolina's counties

14. Which of the following correctly completes the blank in the diagram below?



- Speaker of the House
 - President Pro Tem
 - Council of State
 - President of NC Community College System
15. Which of the following statements would most likely be spoken by a Board of County Commissioners?
- "We have appointed a Sheriff for our county who will ensure we stay safe."
 - "We have interviewed many candidates for our Register of Deeds, and have hired who we feel is the most qualified candidate."
 - "We have appointed eight qualified School Board members who will follow our orders on how to better education in our county."
 - "We have hired a County Manager who will oversee the day-to-day operations of our county."
16. What is one way in which a city or town council governs a municipality?
- They make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding local taxes.
 - They manage the city/town budget.
 - They have the city elect a City Manager.
 - They appoint members of a Board of County Commissioners to relay their decisions outside of the city limits.

17. The main difference between a Mayor-Council and Council-Manager plan of government is...
- a. In the Mayor-Council plan, the elected council members do not hire a professional manager; in the Council-Manager plan council members do hire a professional manager.
 - b. In the Mayor-Council plan, a professional manager makes and carries out all municipal decisions; in the Council-Manager plan a mayor makes and carries out all municipal decisions.
 - c. In the Mayor-Council plan, council members hire a mayor; in the Council-Manager plan council members do not hire a mayor.
 - d. In the Mayor-Council plan, a professional manager monitors the work of the Mayor; in the Council-Manager plan the council monitors the work of a manager.
18. The purpose of this document is to...

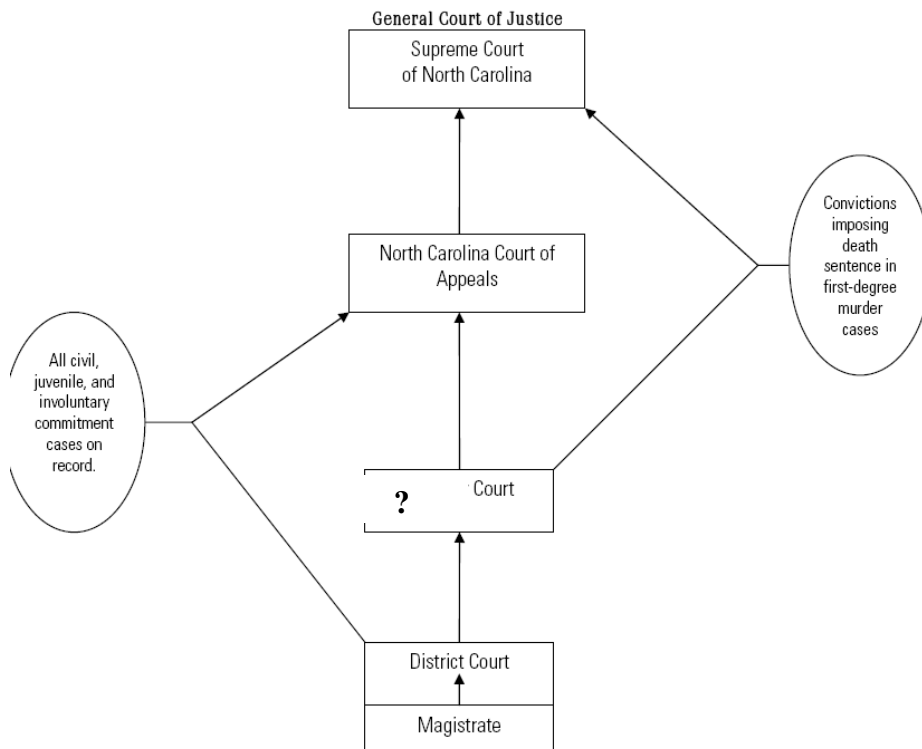
Dogwood City Government
Proposed Curfew for Dogwood City

SECTION 1. The Municipal Code of Dogwood City is hereby amended to include the following curfew for all youth ages 17 and under:

- (a) It will be illegal for persons 17 and under to be out of their homes between the hours of 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM Sunday through Thursday.
- (b) It will be illegal for persons 17 and under to be out of their homes between the hours of Midnight and 5:00 AM on Friday and Saturday.
- (c) Violators will be fined \$100.

- a. Pass a **statute** in Dogwood City that youth 17 and under have a curfew.
- b. Pass an **ordinance** in Dogwood City that youth 17 and under have a curfew.
- c. Pass a **resolution** that people breaking the curfew will be fined \$100.
- d. Pass an **initiative** that youth must be in their homes between Midnight and 5:00 AM on Friday and

19. Which court correctly completes the diagram above?



- a. Superior Court
- b. Circuit Court
- c. US Court of Appeals
- d. US Supreme Court

20. Which term describes an election in which citizens vote directly on a public policy questions?

- a. Local act
- b. Recall
- c. Referendum
- d. Ordinance

21. Which court case from 1830 helped illustrate that the North Carolina Constitution is the supreme law of the state?

- a. *Leandro v. State of NC*
- b. *State v. Mann*
- c. *Swann v. Board of Education of Charlotte-Mecklenburg*
- d. *Shearin v. Town of Coats*

22. Which statement most accurately explains the outcome of *Leandro v. State of North Carolina* (1994)?

- a. The NC Supreme Court ruled that it is the job of the State to provide an *adequate*, but not *equal* “sound basic education.”
- b. The NC Supreme Court ruled that it is the job of the State to provide equal “sound basic education” to all students in North Carolina.
- c. The NC Supreme Court ruled that the school system had a right to make the plaintiff, Leandro, wear a uniform to school.
- d. The case was appealed to the US Supreme Court, and a decision from the Court is still pending.

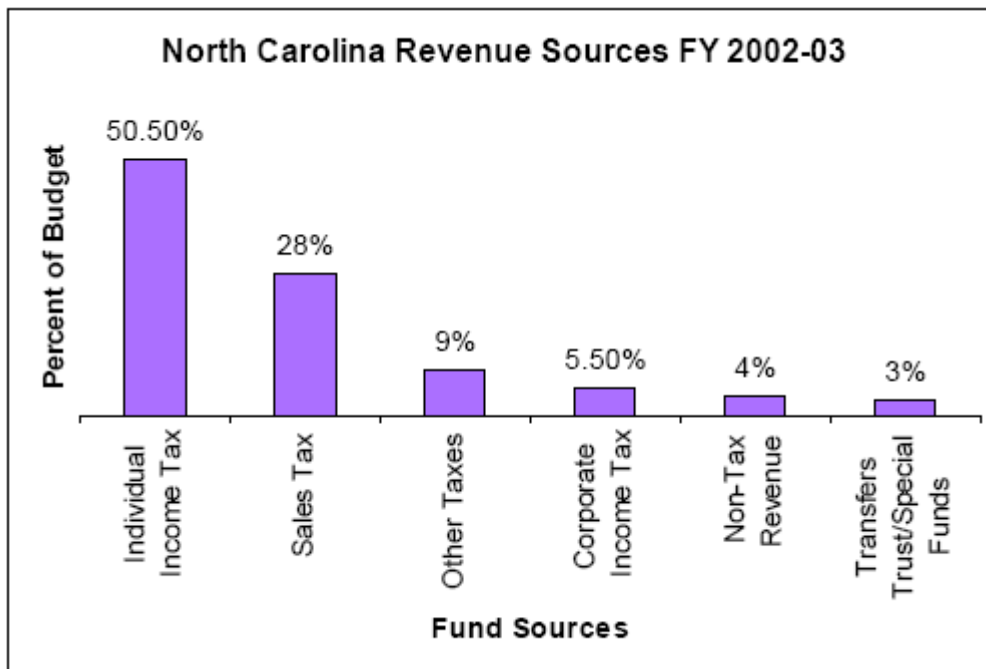
23. This Amendment was first intended to...

Excerpt from the Fourteenth Amendment

“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.”

- a. Secure rights for former slaves
- b. Allow women the right to vote.
- c. Allow black men the right to vote.
- d. Provide rights for illegal immigrants.

24. According to the graph, what was the largest source of state revenue in 2002-2003?



- a. Corporate income tax
- b. Individual income tax
- c. Sales tax
- d. Other taxes

25. Which tax is collected from local merchants?

- a. Individual income tax
- b. Special funds
- c. Non-tax revenue
- d. Sales tax

26. What is the following statement describing?

This state tax is paid by corporations doing business (doing anything for economic gain) in the state of North Carolina.

- a. Corporate income tax
- b. Individual income tax
- c. Sales tax
- d. Other taxes

27. Which type of bond is being issued when using a toll road?

- a. General obligation bond
- b. Optional bond
- c. Transportation bond
- d. Revenue bond

28. This list represents:

- Buses/Public Transportation
 - Police Protection
 - Public Housing
 - Public Utilities
- a. Services provided by counties only
 - b. Services provided by both municipalities and counties
 - c. Services provided by municipalities only
 - d. Services provided by the state

ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. A
12. C
13. A
14. C
15. D
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. A
20. C
21. B
22. A
23. A
24. B
25. D
26. A
27. D
28. C