Responsibilities of Citizens: Sample Test Questions

1. Which of the following is a legal responsibility of citizens?
   A  voting
   B  community activism
   C  volunteering
   D  paying taxes

2. Which term refers to policies aimed at promoting access to education or employment for minorities?
   A  affirmative action
   B  racism
   C  bias
   D  multiculturalism

Base your answer to question 3 on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"...whence came all these people? They are a mixture of English, Scotch, Irish, French, Dutch, Germans, and Swedes... What, then, is the American, this new man? He is neither a European nor the descendant of a European; hence that strange mixture of blood, which you will find in no other country. I could point out to you a family whose grandfather was an Englishman, whose wife was Dutch, whose son married a French woman, and whose present four sons have now four wives of different nations. He is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds..."

− J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, Letters from an American Farmer.

3. This passage expresses which of the following ideas?
   A  the fusion of different nationalities, ethnicities and cultures into a “melting pot”
   B  the lack of diversity that exists in America
   C  immigrants of many different cultures, races, and religions came to America, all of which refused to accept a new way of life
   D  there was, and continues to be, vast tension among people who are ethnically and culturally different

4. Today, America is generally characterized as a
   A  “melting pot”
   B  “tossed salad”
   C  “peach pie”
   D  “pizza”

5. Which of the following is an indicator of an informed citizenry?
   A  high tourism rate
   B  low school attendance rates
   C  strong local economy/spending
   D  citizens who research political candidates and vote in the election
6. What is a likely benefit of having a society that is educated?
A citizens who are educated are more likely to be literate, informed, and capable of contributing
to society in many ways
B educated citizens will most likely lead to increased wealth for everyone in the society
C if more citizens are educated, the need for public service officials and volunteerism is reduced
D an educated society is less likely to engage in white collar crime

7. Which of the following are characteristics of an effective citizen?
A An effective citizen makes a salary of $100,000 or more.
B An effective citizen protests injustice by refusing to pay taxes and encouraging anarchy in his
or her community.
C An effective citizen votes, volunteers, is charitable, and exhibits community spirit.
D An effective citizen makes his complaints with government and society known to all of his
family and friends.

8. Which of the following is a requirement for naturalization in the United States?
A demonstrate a knowledge of history by listing all previous presidents and vice presidents
B must fly the American flag outside his place of residence
C must speak at least three languages, one of which must be English
D a period of continuous residence and physical presence in the United States

Base your answer to questions 9-11 on the quotation below and on your knowledge
of social studies.

“I hope each of you will help build this culture of service, for three important reasons: service is
important to your neighbors; service is important to your character; and service is important to your country…
Government has essential responsibilities: fighting wars and fighting crime; protecting the homeland
and enforcing civil rights laws; educating the young and providing for the old; giving people tools to improve
their own lives; helping the disabled and those in need.
But you have responsibilities, as well… some needs government cannot fulfill: the need for kindness,
and for understanding, and for love. A person in crisis often needs more than a program or a check; he needs a
friend—and that friend can be you.”
-George W. Bush, 2002 Speech at Ohio State University

9. Which of the following best summarizes what George W. Bush is trying to convey?
A Citizens have a duty to be informed about the problems fellow citizens experience and have the
responsibility to help them.
B The government is not responsible for exhibiting kindness to citizens of the United States.
C Citizens have a responsibility to volunteer for armed service.
D Friendship is more important than law.

10. According to George W. Bush, what can a citizen do that a government cannot?
A Citizens can give people the tools to improve their own lives.
B Citizens can offer kindness, understanding, and love.
C Citizens can protect the homeland by joining the military.
D Citizens can educate the young and provide for the old.
11. Who would George W. Bush most likely say should participate in solving the recurring problems of society?
A  the government and the citizens
B  the police and the government
C  the Department of Homeland Security
D  members of a community

12. Which of the following is an example of a recurring public problem?
A  food poisoning
B  debate over who should be president
C  scandals in the General Assembly
D  poverty

13. Which of the following terms describes respecting and accepting others, regardless of their beliefs, practices, or differences?
A  sexism
B  racism
C  tolerance
D  ageism

Base your answer to question 14 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

14. What message is the artist trying to convey regarding citizen response to the problem of global warming.
A  Citizens are taking action against global warming.
B  Citizens should not be concerned regarding global warming.
C  Citizens are apathetic and ignorant regarding global warming.
D  Citizens are making too big a deal out of global warming.

15. Which of the following is a freedom shared by all Americans?
A  freedom to wear anything to school
B  freedom of religion
C  freedom to vote
D  freedom to serve in the military
Base your answer to question 16 on the list below and on your knowledge of social studies.

- Homeless shelters
- Food banks
- Hospices and hospitals
- Habitat for Humanity
- State and local parks
- Senior citizen centers
- Environmental Organizations
- Animal shelters
- Political campaigns
- Red Cross and Salvation Army

16. Which of the following would make the best title for the above list?
A “Why Should You Volunteer?”
B “Places to Volunteer”
C “Places in My Community”
D “Services for People in Need”

17. What is a civic duty required by law for every male 18-years-old and above?
A register with Selective Service
B serve in the army or navy
C vote
D take a driver’s license test

18. Which term describes the ideas and attitudes that most people hold about elected officials, candidates, government, and political issues?
A interest group
B public opinion
C mass media
D poll

19. Which Supreme Court ruling helped affirm students’ First Amendment rights to freedom of expression?
A Brown v. Board of Education
B Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier
C Gibbons v. Ogden
D Tinker v. Des Moines

20. Which term describes representatives of interest groups who contact lawmakers or other government officials directly to influence their policy making?
A lobbyists
B political action committees
C economic interest groups
D public interest groups
Answer Key

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