

FCLE Cram Guide

Everything high-yield for your Florida Civic Literacy Exam on Friday, Oct 30 at 11am at SPC Tarpon Springs (AD building): a 4-day plan, the trap pairs, and every case, amendment, document, and law in one place. You need 48 of 80 (60%).

Free from fclepractice.com: the full study guide, practice tests, and quizzes are at <https://fclepractice.com>.

About this guide

Where it came from

This guide was created by a college student preparing for the FCLE, who built an AI study tool to learn the topics and practice questions. That tool turned into a free website so other students could use it too.

Sources

Built from the official FLDOE FCLE Supplemental Guide and Sample Items. This is an independent study resource and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) or any testing provider. Practice questions are original, not real exam items.

About the website

- <https://fclepractice.com> is free.
- A 17-chapter study guide covering all four competencies.
- Pages for all 26 landmark cases, plus a glossary.
- Twelve 80-question practice tests, plus shorter and topic quizzes (a question bank of about 1,000 questions).
- Every wrong answer links to the section that teaches it.
- This cram guide can be downloaded there.

Support

The site is free and supported by ads. If it helped, you can support the student who made it on Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/dtarvin870>.

Contents

- 4-day plan
- Competency 1: Principles of democracy
- Competency 2: The Constitution
 - The seven Articles
 - All 27 amendments
- Competency 3: Founding documents
 - Famous phrases the exam quotes
- Competency 4: Cases, laws, executive actions
 - All 26 landmark cases
 - Landmark legislation
 - Landmark executive actions
- Test-day tips
- Must-know on Friday morning

4-day plan

Day	Study	Practice
Mon Oct 26	Competency 1 and 2 notes below, plus the Articles and amendments tables.	FLDOE sample items 1–20. Practice Tests 1 and 2: do only items tagged C1 or C2 in the answer key (80 items).
Tue Oct 27	Competency 3 notes, documents table, and famous phrases.	FLDOE sample items 21–30. Practice Tests 3 and 4: C3 items only (40 items).
Wed Oct 28	Competency 4: all 26 cases, legislation, executive actions.	FLDOE sample items 31–40. Practice Tests 5 and 6: C4 items only (40 items).
Thu Oct 29	Re-read the trap pairs for whichever competency you missed most.	Practice Test 7, all 80, in one sitting. Score it, then redo the weakest competency's items from Practice Test 8.
Fri Oct 30	Must-know list at the bottom of this page only. No new material.	None. Arrive early at the AD building for 11am.

Each answer key line is tagged C1 to C4, so you can filter items by competency; the spreadsheet's competency column does the same. Tests 9 to 12 and the bonus set are spares if you finish early.

Competency 1: Principles of democracy

Key concepts

- Social contract: people give up some freedom to a government that protects their rights (Locke, Two Treatises of Government, 1689).
- Consent of the governed: government's power comes from the people who agree to it.
- Natural rights: rights you are born with; Locke said life, liberty, property; Jefferson wrote life, liberty, pursuit of happiness.
- Popular sovereignty: the people are the source of power ("We the People").
- Separation of powers: legislative, executive, judicial split (Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Laws, 1748).
- Checks and balances: each branch can limit the others (veto, override, judicial review, impeachment, Senate confirmation).
- Rule of law: everyone, including leaders, must follow the law (Nixon's "when the president does it, that means it is not illegal" contradicts it).
- Due process: government must follow fair, established legal procedures before taking life, liberty, or property.
- Equality under the law: equal treatment and protection, not equal outcomes.
- Federalism: power divided between national and state governments.
- Limited government and constitutionalism: a written constitution sets out and limits government's structure and powers.
- Republicanism: people elect representatives; Article IV guarantees every state a republican government.
- Majority rule with minority rights: the majority decides, but cannot take away the basic rights of the minority.
- Individual and religious liberty: Founders saw freedom of conscience as essential; protected by the 1st Amendment.
- Limits on rights: rights are not absolute (Schenck's clear and present danger; reasonable time, place, and manner rules).
- Elections: House 2-year terms, Senate 6, president 4; 538 electoral votes, 270 to win.

Trap pairs

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
Republic vs. direct democracy	Rome was a republic (elected representatives). Athens was a direct democracy (citizens voted themselves). The U.S. is a constitutional republic; the Founders feared majority tyranny and factions.
Modern practice closest to Athens	The referendum or ballot initiative, where citizens vote directly on a law.
Separation of powers vs. checks and balances vs. federalism	Split among branches vs. branches limiting each other vs. split between national and state governments.

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
Popular sovereignty vs. divine right of kings	Power from the people vs. power from God through inherited monarchy.
Locke vs. Montesquieu vs. Hobbes	Locke: natural rights and consent. Montesquieu: separation of powers. Hobbes: people give power to an absolute ruler for order.
Rule of law vs. due process	No one is above the law vs. fair procedures before punishment.
Civil law vs. criminal law	Disputes between people (libel, contracts, property damage) vs. crimes prosecuted by the government.
Civil liberties vs. civil rights	Freedoms protected from government (speech, religion) vs. equal treatment and protection from discrimination.

Competency 2: The Constitution

Key concepts

- Enumerated (expressed, delegated) powers: listed for Congress in Article I, Section 8 (tax, coin money, declare war, regulate commerce).
- Implied powers: not listed but allowed by the Necessary and Proper (Elastic) Clause; McCulloch's national bank.
- Reserved powers: kept by states under the 10th Amendment (schools, local government, elections, marriage laws).
- Concurrent powers: shared by both levels (tax, borrow, make courts, enforce laws).
- Supremacy Clause (Article VI): federal law wins when it conflicts with state law.
- Full Faith and Credit (Article IV): states honor each other's public records, licenses, and court rulings.
- Commerce Clause (Article I): Congress regulates trade with other countries, among states, and with tribes; limited in Lopez.
- Emoluments Clauses: officials cannot accept gifts or payments from foreign governments without Congress's consent.
- Due Process: 5th Amendment limits the federal government; 14th limits the states.
- Equal Protection (14th): states must treat people equally under law (Brown, Bakke, Shaw, Bush v. Gore).
- Establishment Clause: no official or government-sponsored religion (Engel). Free Exercise: you may practice your faith (Yoder).
- Selective incorporation: case by case, the Court applies Bill of Rights protections to the states through the 14th's Due Process Clause (Mapp, Gideon, McDonald).
- Amendment process (Article V): propose by 2/3 of both houses or a convention called by 2/3 of states; ratify by 3/4 of states.
- Impeachment: the House charges (impeaches); the Senate tries and removes with 2/3.
- Great Compromise: two-house Congress, House by population, Senate equal (two per state).
- Writ of habeas corpus: a prisoner can demand a court hearing on why they are held; can be suspended only in rebellion or invasion.

Trap pairs

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
Enumerated vs. implied vs. reserved vs. concurrent	Listed for Congress vs. inferred from the Elastic Clause vs. kept by states (10th) vs. shared by both.
Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists	Federalists (Hamilton, Madison, Jay) backed the Constitution and a strong national government. Anti-Federalists (Patrick Henry, George Mason, "Brutus") feared it and demanded a bill of rights; the Bill of Rights was the price of ratification.
Supremacy Clause vs. 10th Amendment	State-federal conflict is resolved by Supremacy; the 10th only covers powers not given to the federal government.

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
5th vs. 14th Amendment due process	5th binds the federal government; 14th binds the states.
Establishment vs. Free Exercise	Government cannot promote religion vs. government cannot stop you practicing it.
Impeach vs. remove	House impeaches (charges); Senate convicts and removes.
Voting amendments	15th race, 19th women, 24th poll tax, 26th age 18. Eighteen-year-olds won the vote by amendment, not a court ruling.

The seven Articles

Article	What it covers
I	Legislative branch: Congress (House and Senate), enumerated powers, Necessary and Proper Clause, impeachment, limits on Congress and states.
II	Executive branch: president, Electoral College, commander in chief, treaties (2/3 Senate), appointments, grounds for impeachment.
III	Judicial branch: Supreme Court and lower federal courts, judges serve during good behavior, jurisdiction, treason defined.
IV	The states: Full Faith and Credit, privileges and immunities, extradition, admitting new states, republican government guarantee.
V	Amendment process: propose by 2/3, ratify by 3/4 of states.
VI	Supremacy Clause, national debts honored, oaths of office, no religious test for office.
VII	Ratification: approval by 9 of the 13 states.

Sample-item trap: coining money, making treaties, and levying import duties all point to Article I in the FLDOE answer key.

All 27 amendments

★ marks the most tested.

Amendment	Year	What it does
1st ★	1791	Freedom of religion (Establishment and Free Exercise), speech, press, assembly, petition.
2nd ★	1791	Right to keep and bear arms.
3rd	1791	No quartering of soldiers in homes in peacetime without the owner's consent.
4th ★	1791	No unreasonable searches and seizures; warrants need probable cause.

Amendment	Year	What it does
5th ★	1791	Grand jury, no double jeopardy, no self-incrimination, due process, just compensation for takings.
6th ★	1791	Speedy public trial, impartial jury, know the charges, confront witnesses, right to a lawyer.
7th	1791	Jury trial in civil cases over \$20.
8th ★	1791	No excessive bail or fines; no cruel and unusual punishment.
9th	1791	Rights not listed in the Constitution are still kept by the people.
10th ★	1791	Powers not given to the federal government or denied to states are reserved to the states or the people.
11th	1795	Limits lawsuits against a state in federal court by citizens of other states or countries.
12th	1804	Electors cast separate votes for president and vice president.
13th ★	1865	Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude (except as punishment for crime).
14th ★	1868	Citizenship for all born or naturalized in the U.S.; states must give due process and equal protection.
15th ★	1870	Voting cannot be denied based on race, color, or previous servitude.
16th	1913	Congress may levy a federal income tax.
17th	1913	Senators elected directly by the people (not state legislatures).
18th	1919	Prohibition of alcohol.
19th ★	1920	Women's right to vote.
20th	1933	"Lame duck": president's term starts Jan. 20, Congress's Jan. 3.
21st	1933	Repealed the 18th (ended Prohibition); the only amendment repealing another.
22nd	1951	President limited to two elected terms.
23rd	1961	Washington, D.C., gets electoral votes for president.
24th	1964	Bans poll taxes in federal elections.
25th	1967	Presidential succession and disability; filling a vice president vacancy.
26th ★	1971	Voting age lowered to 18.
27th	1992	A congressional pay raise takes effect only after the next House election.

Competency 3: Founding documents

Document	Year	Author	Key idea
Magna Carta	1215	English barons, forced on King John	Even the king is under the law; no punishment without lawful judgment (rule of law, due process).
Mayflower Compact	1620	Pilgrim settlers (41 men) on the Mayflower	Self-government by agreement; a "civil body politic" making just laws for the general good (social contract).
English Bill of Rights	1689	English Parliament (William and Mary)	Limited monarchy; Parliament consents to taxes and armies; no cruel and unusual punishment; right to petition.
Common Sense	Jan. 1776	Thomas Paine	Pamphlet urging independence and attacking monarchy in plain language.
Virginia Declaration of Rights	June 1776	George Mason	Natural rights list (press, religion, jury); model for the Declaration and Bill of Rights.
Declaration of Independence	July 4, 1776	Thomas Jefferson (Committee of Five)	Natural rights, consent of the governed, right to alter or abolish government; grievances against George III.
Massachusetts Constitution	1780	John Adams	Oldest working written constitution; separation of powers and a declaration of rights; model for the U.S. Constitution.
Articles of Confederation	1781 (drafted 1777)	John Dickinson (main drafter), Continental Congress	Weak central government: one-house Congress, one vote per state, no power to tax or regulate trade, no executive or national courts.
Northwest Ordinances	1784, 1785, 1787	Confederation Congress (1784 plan by Jefferson)	Path from territory to equal statehood; 1785 land survey with a section for schools; 1787 banned slavery in the Northwest Territory.
U.S. Constitution	1787 (ratified 1788)	James Madison ("Father of the Constitution") and the Convention	Popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, limited government.
Bill of Rights	1791	James Madison (proposed in the First Congress)	First 10 amendments; promised to win over Anti-Federalists.

Document	Year	Author	Key idea
Federalist No. 10	1787	Madison	A large republic controls the effects of faction better than a small democracy.
Federalist No. 14	1787	Madison	A republic can work across a large territory because representatives govern.
Federalist No. 31	1788	Hamilton	The national government needs a general power to tax.
Federalist No. 39	1788	Madison	The Constitution is republican and partly national, partly federal.
Federalist No. 51	1788	Madison	Separation of powers and checks and balances guard against tyranny.
Federalist No. 70	1788	Hamilton	A single, energetic executive is needed for good government.
Federalist No. 78	1788	Hamilton	The judiciary is the least dangerous branch; lifetime tenure; courts can void unconstitutional laws.
Federalist No. 84	1788	Hamilton	A bill of rights is unnecessary and could even be dangerous.
Brutus No. 1	Oct. 1787	"Brutus," usually credited to Robert Yates (Anti-Federalist)	A free republic cannot work over so large a country; national power would swallow the states.

Trap pairs

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
Declaration vs. Constitution	Declaration (1776, Jefferson) explains why we separated. Constitution (1787, Madison) sets up how we are governed.
Articles of Confederation vs. Constitution	Articles: no power to tax, no executive or courts, unanimous vote to amend. The Constitution fixed these weaknesses.
Virginia Declaration of Rights vs. Virginia Plan	Mason's 1776 list of rights vs. Madison's 1787 plan for representation by population.
Madison papers vs. Hamilton papers	Madison: 10, 14, 39, 51. Hamilton: 31, 70, 78, 84. All Federalist essays were signed "Publius" and ran in New York newspapers.
Federalist 10 vs. 51	10 is about factions and a large republic; 51 is about separation of powers and checks and balances.
Federalist 84 vs. Brutus 1	84 says no bill of rights is needed; Brutus says a big national government endangers liberty and the states.

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
Magna Carta vs. English Bill of Rights	1215 limits the king and starts due process; 1689 strengthens Parliament and bans cruel and unusual punishment.
Northwest Ordinance to 13th Amendment	Its slavery ban in the territory is the language the 13th Amendment echoes.
Mayflower Compact to Constitution	FLDOE links the Compact to the U.S. Constitution as a precedent for self-government.

Famous phrases the exam quotes

Phrase	Source
"No free man shall be seized or imprisoned... except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land."	Magna Carta
"...combine ourselves together into a civil body politic... just and equal laws... for the general good of the Colony."	Mayflower Compact
"Excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed; nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."	English Bill of Rights (echoed in the 8th Amendment)
"Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil."	Common Sense
"All men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights."	Virginia Declaration of Rights
"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal... Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."	Declaration of Independence
"...deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."	Declaration of Independence
"...to the end it may be a government of laws and not of men."	Massachusetts Constitution
"...a firm league of friendship" / "Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence."	Articles of Confederation
"There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory."	Northwest Ordinance of 1787 (inspired the 13th Amendment)
"Religion, morality, and knowledge... schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."	Northwest Ordinance of 1787
"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union..."	Preamble, U.S. Constitution (popular sovereignty)
"The latent causes of faction are thus sown in the nature of man."	Federalist No. 10
"In a democracy, the people meet and exercise the government in person; in a republic, they assemble and administer it by their representatives."	Federalist No. 14

Phrase	Source
"A government ought to contain in itself every power requisite to the full accomplishment of the objects committed to its care."	Federalist No. 31
"...neither a national nor a federal Constitution, but a composition of both."	Federalist No. 39
"If men were angels, no government would be necessary." / "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition."	Federalist No. 51
"Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government."	Federalist No. 70
"...neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment." (the judiciary)	Federalist No. 78
"The Constitution is itself, in every rational sense, and to every useful purpose, A BILL OF RIGHTS."	Federalist No. 84
"...a free republic cannot succeed over a country of such immense extent."	Brutus No. 1

Competency 4: Cases, laws, executive actions

Trap pairs

Trap pair	How to tell them apart
Marbury vs. McCulloch	Marbury: judicial review. McCulloch: implied powers plus federal supremacy over state taxes.
Plessy vs. Brown	Plessy allowed separate but equal; Brown overturned it for schools.
Miranda vs. Gideon	Miranda: police must warn you of your rights. Gideon: the state must give you a lawyer at trial.
Heller vs. McDonald	Heller: individual gun right (D.C., federal). McDonald: same right applies to the states.
Schenck vs. Tinker vs. Texas v. Johnson	Speech can be limited when dangerous; students keep symbolic speech; flag burning is protected.
Tinker vs. Hazelwood	Students' own expression is protected; school-sponsored papers can be edited.
Engel vs. Yoder	Establishment Clause (no school prayer) vs. Free Exercise Clause (Amish schooling).
Baker v. Carr vs. Shaw v. Reno	Courts can review apportionment vs. race-based district lines face strict scrutiny.
Treaty of Paris 1783 vs. 1898	1783 ended the Revolution; 1898 ended the Spanish-American War.
Missouri Compromise vs. Compromise of 1850 vs. Kansas-Nebraska	36°30' line (1820) vs. California free plus Fugitive Slave Act (1850) vs. popular sovereignty that erased the 1820 line (1854).
Civil Rights Act 1964 vs. Voting Rights Act 1965	Discrimination in public places and jobs vs. barriers to voting such as literacy tests.
Gulf of Tonkin vs. War Powers Resolution	1964 expanded the president's war power; 1973 limited it.

All 26 landmark cases

Case	Year	Holding	About
Marbury v. Madison	1803	Created judicial review: the Court can strike down a law that conflicts with the Constitution.	Judicial review, Article III, checks and balances

Case	Year	Holding	About
McCulloch v. Maryland	1819	Congress could create a national bank (implied power); a state (Maryland) cannot tax it.	Necessary and Proper Clause, Supremacy Clause
Dred Scott v. Sandford	1857	Black Americans were not citizens; Congress could not ban slavery in territories (Missouri Compromise struck down).	Citizenship; restricted rights; later reversed by 13th and 14th Amendments
Plessy v. Ferguson	1896	Upheld state segregation laws under "separate but equal."	Equal Protection (14th), restricted rights
Schenck v. U.S.	1919	Anti-draft leaflets in WWI not protected; speech creating a "clear and present danger" can be limited.	1st Amendment speech limits
Korematsu v. U.S.	1944	Upheld Japanese American internment (Executive Order 9066) for national security.	Equal protection, civil liberties vs. national security
Brown v. Board of Education	1954	Racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional; overturned Plessy.	Equal Protection Clause (14th)
Mapp v. Ohio	1961	Illegally obtained evidence cannot be used in state courts (exclusionary rule).	4th Amendment, incorporated through the 14th
Baker v. Carr	1962	Federal courts can hear challenges to how states draw legislative districts; led to "one person, one vote."	Equal Protection, apportionment
Engel v. Vitale	1962	Government-led prayer in public schools is unconstitutional, even if voluntary.	1st Amendment Establishment Clause
Gideon v. Wainwright	1963	States must provide a lawyer to felony defendants who cannot afford one.	6th Amendment right to counsel, incorporated
Miranda v. Arizona	1966	Police must tell suspects in custody their rights (silence, lawyer) before questioning.	5th Amendment self-incrimination, 6th counsel
Tinker v. Des Moines	1969	Students' black armbands protesting Vietnam are protected symbolic speech unless disruptive.	1st Amendment student speech
New York Times v. U.S.	1971	Government could not block publication of the Pentagon Papers (no prior restraint).	1st Amendment freedom of the press
Wisconsin v. Yoder	1972	Amish families cannot be forced to send children to school past 8th grade.	1st Amendment Free Exercise Clause

Case	Year	Holding	About
Roe v. Wade	1973	Right to privacy covered abortion; overturned in 2022 by Dobbs v. Jackson.	14th Amendment due process, privacy
U.S. v. Nixon	1974	Executive privilege is not absolute; Nixon had to hand over the Watergate tapes.	Rule of law, checks and balances
Regents of Univ. of California v. Bakke	1978	Racial quotas in admissions are unconstitutional, but race could be one factor.	Equal Protection, affirmative action
Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier	1988	Schools may edit school-sponsored student newspapers for legitimate teaching reasons.	1st Amendment student press, limited
Texas v. Johnson	1989	Burning the U.S. flag in protest is protected symbolic speech.	1st Amendment symbolic speech
Shaw v. Reno	1993	Districts drawn mainly by race face strict scrutiny (racial gerrymandering).	Equal Protection, redistricting
U.S. v. Lopez	1995	Gun-Free School Zones Act went beyond Congress's commerce power.	Commerce Clause limits, federalism
Bush v. Gore	2000	Stopped the Florida presidential recount because counting standards were inconsistent.	Equal Protection, elections
District of Columbia v. Heller	2008	The 2nd Amendment protects an individual right to keep a handgun at home for self-defense (federal district).	2nd Amendment, individual right
McDonald v. Chicago	2010	The 2nd Amendment applies to state and local governments too.	2nd Amendment incorporated through the 14th
Citizens United v. FEC	2010	Government cannot limit independent political spending by corporations and unions.	1st Amendment political speech

Landmark legislation

Law	Year	President / Congress	What it did
Alien and Sedition Acts	1798	John Adams, Federalist Congress	Allowed deporting immigrants and punished criticism of the government; restricted speech and press.
Missouri Compromise	1820	James Monroe	Missouri slave state, Maine free; banned slavery north of 36°30' in the Louisiana Territory.

Law	Year	President / Congress	What it did
Compromise of 1850	1850	Millard Fillmore; Henry Clay	California free; popular sovereignty in Utah and New Mexico; tougher Fugitive Slave Act; ended slave trade in D.C.
Kansas-Nebraska Act	1854	Franklin Pierce; Stephen Douglas	Popular sovereignty in Kansas and Nebraska; repealed the Missouri Compromise line; led to "Bleeding Kansas."
Homestead Act	1862	Abraham Lincoln	160 acres of public land to settlers who lived on and farmed it for 5 years; spurred westward expansion.
Civil Rights Act of 1866	1866	Congress over Andrew Johnson's veto	Declared people born in the U.S. citizens with equal rights to contract and own property.
Pendleton Civil Service Act	1883	Chester Arthur	Federal jobs filled by merit exams, not the spoils system; passed after Garfield's assassination.
Interstate Commerce Act	1887	Grover Cleveland	First federal regulation of railroads; created the Interstate Commerce Commission.
Sherman Antitrust Act	1890	Benjamin Harrison	Outlawed monopolies and trusts that restrain trade.
New Deal acts (e.g., Social Security Act)	1933–1938	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Relief, recovery, reform; Social Security (1935) created old-age pensions and unemployment insurance.
Civil Rights Act of 1964	1964	Lyndon B. Johnson	Banned discrimination by race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in public places and jobs.
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	1964	Lyndon B. Johnson	Let the president use military force in Vietnam without a declaration of war.
Voting Rights Act	1965	Lyndon B. Johnson	Banned literacy tests; federal oversight of voting where discrimination occurred.
Great Society acts (Medicare, Medicaid)	1964–1965	Lyndon B. Johnson	War on Poverty; health insurance for the elderly (Medicare) and the poor (Medicaid); federal school aid.
Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing)	1968	Lyndon B. Johnson	Banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.
Clean Air Act	1970	Richard Nixon	Federal air-quality standards and emission limits.
Occupational Safety and Health Act	1970	Richard Nixon	Federal workplace safety standards (OSHA).

Law	Year	President / Congress	What it did
Title IX	1972	Richard Nixon	No sex discrimination in federally funded education programs, including school sports.
War Powers Resolution	1973	Congress over Nixon's veto	President must notify Congress within 48 hours and withdraw troops in 60 days without approval.
Americans with Disabilities Act	1990	George H. W. Bush	Banned discrimination against people with disabilities.
USA PATRIOT Act	2001	George W. Bush	Expanded government surveillance after 9/11; criticized for limiting civil liberties.
Affordable Care Act	2010	Barack Obama	Expanded health coverage: marketplaces, Medicaid expansion, pre-existing condition protections.

Landmark executive actions

Action	Year	President	What it did
Treaty of Paris	1783	Confederation Congress	Ended the Revolutionary War; Britain recognized U.S. independence.
Louisiana Purchase	1803	Thomas Jefferson	Bought from France; roughly doubled the size of the U.S.
Adams-Onís Treaty	1819 (in effect 1821)	James Monroe (Sec. of State John Quincy Adams)	Spain ceded Florida to the U.S. and set a western border.
Monroe Doctrine	1823	James Monroe	Warned Europe against new colonization in the Western Hemisphere.
Suspension of habeas corpus	1861	Abraham Lincoln	Allowed holding suspected Confederate sympathizers without a court hearing during the Civil War.
Emancipation Proclamation	1863	Abraham Lincoln	Freed enslaved people in Confederate-held areas.
Treaty of Paris	1898	William McKinley	Ended the Spanish-American War; Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.
Bully pulpit / Square Deal	1901–1909	Theodore Roosevelt	Used the presidency's visibility to push reforms; Roosevelt coined "bully pulpit."

Action	Year	President	What it did
Fireside chats	1933–1944	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Radio talks to build public support for New Deal and wartime policies.
Executive Order 9066	1942	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Japanese American internment (upheld in Korematsu).
Executive Order 9981	1948	Harry Truman	Desegregated the armed forces.
101st Airborne to Little Rock	1957	Dwight Eisenhower	Federal troops enforced Brown v. Board at Central High School.
Executive Orders 10925 and 11246	1961, 1965	John F. Kennedy; Lyndon B. Johnson	"Affirmative action" in hiring by federal contractors.

Test-day tips

1. **Read the question before the excerpt.** Excerpt items ask one of three things: which document or case it is from, which principle it shows, or what it inspired. Know what you are hunting for, then read the passage.
2. **Look for anchor words.** "Faction" means Federalist 10, "ambition" or "angels" means 51, "consent of the governed" means the Declaration, "government of laws and not of men" means the Massachusetts Constitution.
3. **Eliminate, then choose.** Cross out options from the wrong era or branch first; two choices usually fall away fast.
4. **Scenario questions: name the right first.** Police search on a street means the 4th Amendment; denied a lawyer means Gideon; state vs. federal law means the Supremacy Clause.
5. **Pace yourself.** Aim for about a minute per question so you finish all 80 with time to review flagged items.
6. **Never leave a blank.** 48 of 80 passes, so answer every question; guess after eliminating.

Must-know on Friday morning

1. 80 questions, about 20 per competency; 48 correct (60%) passes.
2. Locke: natural rights and consent of the governed. Montesquieu: separation of powers.
3. Rome was a republic; Athens was a direct democracy; the U.S. is a constitutional republic.
4. The referendum is the modern practice most like Athenian democracy.
5. Rule of law: no one, even the president, is above the law.
6. Articles I, II, III: Congress, president, courts. IV states, V amendments, VI supremacy, VII ratification.
7. Amend: 2/3 of Congress proposes, 3/4 of states ratify.
8. Supremacy Clause settles state vs. federal conflicts; the 10th reserves leftover powers to states.
9. Necessary and Proper Clause gives implied powers (McCulloch).
10. Selective incorporation applies the Bill of Rights to states through the 14th Amendment.
11. 1st speech and religion, 2nd arms, 4th searches, 5th self-incrimination and due process, 6th lawyer, 8th cruel and unusual.
12. 13th ended slavery, 14th citizenship and equal protection, 15th race and voting, 19th women, 26th age 18.
13. House impeaches; Senate removes with 2/3.
14. Declaration: Jefferson, 1776. Constitution: Madison, 1787. Bill of Rights: 1791.
15. Massachusetts Constitution (1780, John Adams): "a government of laws and not of men."
16. Articles of Confederation: too weak; no power to tax.
17. Northwest Ordinance 1787 banned slavery in the territory and inspired the 13th.
18. Mayflower Compact: self-government; precedent for the Constitution.
19. Federalist 10 factions, 51 checks and balances (Madison); 78 judiciary, 84 no bill of rights needed (Hamilton).
20. Brutus No. 1: Anti-Federalist; a big republic will crush the states.
21. Marbury: judicial review. Brown: overturned Plessy. U.S. v. Nixon: no one above the law.
22. Gideon: lawyer provided. Miranda: rights read. Mapp: illegal evidence excluded.
23. Korematsu: civil liberties lost to national security (EO 9066).
24. Truman's EO 9981 desegregated the military; Eisenhower sent troops to Little Rock.
25. Gulf of Tonkin 1964 widened war powers; War Powers Resolution 1973 limited them.

Sources

- FLDOE Supplemental Guide for the FCLE (Mar 31, 2022)
- FLDOE FCLE Sample Items (Apr 6, 2022)
- Your 1,000-question practice bank (PDF and spreadsheet)