

A Level History - America - Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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- 1. Which prominent criminal figure is closely associated with organized crime during the 1920s?**
 - A. John Dillinger**
 - B. Lucky Luciano**
 - C. Al Capone**
 - D. Frank Costello**
- 2. What was a key factor in the rise of organized crime during the 1920s?**
 - A. Prohibition of alcohol**
 - B. Television broadcasting**
 - C. Implementation of welfare programs**
 - D. Rise of social media**
- 3. How did the USA demonstrate its non-isolationist approach in Mexico?**
 - A. By establishing a military base in Mexico**
 - B. Through the Mexican-American War and troop deployments**
 - C. By negotiating trade agreements with Mexico**
 - D. By fostering diplomatic relations with European powers**
- 4. What event led to a significant outrage and pushed the US closer to entering WWI?**
 - A. Sinking of the Lusitania**
 - B. The Russian Revolution**
 - C. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles**
 - D. The interception of the Zimmermann telegram**
- 5. What major impact did the Interstate Commerce Act have during the Gilded Age?**
 - A. It increased tariffs on imported goods**
 - B. It was the first federal law aimed at regulating railroads**
 - C. It mandated labor regulations across industries**
 - D. It facilitated the establishment of national parks**

6. Which amendment established the federal income tax during the progressive era?

- A. 17th amendment**
- B. 18th amendment**
- C. 16th amendment**
- D. 19th amendment**

7. What legislation did Harding implement to regulate government spending?

- A. Budget and Accounting Act**
- B. National Recovery Act**
- C. Social Security Act**
- D. Fair Labor Standards Act**

8. What was one significant consequence of the Dust Bowl?

- A. Increased prosperity in urban areas**
- B. Mass migration and homelessness**
- C. Expansion of agricultural lands**
- D. Improved agricultural techniques**

9. What strategic advantage did Pearl Harbor provide to the USA?

- A. A major military base in the Caribbean**
- B. A naval base crucial for operations in the Pacific**
- C. A trading hub for European goods**
- D. A tourist destination for American citizens**

10. How did whites respond to the education of African Americans in the Gilded Age?

- A. They supported integration**
- B. They feared it would ruin the labor system**
- C. They encouraged it for economic growth**
- D. They ignored it entirely**

Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Which prominent criminal figure is closely associated with organized crime during the 1920s?

- A. John Dillinger**
- B. Lucky Luciano**
- C. Al Capone**
- D. Frank Costello**

Al Capone is closely associated with organized crime during the 1920s due to his significant role in the illicit liquor trade during Prohibition. He gained notoriety in Chicago, where he led the Chicago Outfit, a criminal organization that engaged in bootlegging, gambling, and various other illegal activities. Capone became emblematic of the era, often portrayed in both media and culture as a ruthless and influential figure who thrived amidst the social upheaval of the Roaring Twenties. His operations not only highlighted the rise of organized crime but also led to widespread violence, including the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929, which solidified his reputation. Furthermore, Capone's ability to evade law enforcement through corruption and violence showcased the difficulties of enforcing Prohibition. While other figures, such as Lucky Luciano, played pivotal roles in the development of organized crime networks and had significant influence, Capone's image and activities during this specific time period make him one of the most recognizable faces of organized crime in the 1920s.

2. What was a key factor in the rise of organized crime during the 1920s?

- A. Prohibition of alcohol**
- B. Television broadcasting**
- C. Implementation of welfare programs**
- D. Rise of social media**

The rise of organized crime during the 1920s can largely be attributed to the Prohibition of alcohol, which was enacted through the 18th Amendment in 1920. This era made the production, sale, and distribution of alcoholic beverages illegal, creating a significant underground market. Organized crime syndicates capitalized on this demand by supplying illegal alcohol, leading to the establishment of bootlegging operations and speakeasies. These criminal organizations became extremely profitable, allowing them to expand their influence and operations in various cities across the United States. Figures such as Al Capone emerged as notorious leaders of these groups, using violence and corruption to maintain control over their enterprises. The social circumstances of the time, including a lack of effective enforcement of Prohibition laws, further enabled organized crime to thrive. In contrast, the options related to television broadcasting, welfare programs, and social media do not have a connection to the rise of organized crime in this period. Television did not become widespread until the late 1940s and 1950s, welfare programs were not significantly established until the New Deal in the 1930s, and social media as we know it today did not exist during the 1920s. Therefore, the prohibition of alcohol is the

3. How did the USA demonstrate its non-isolationist approach in Mexico?

- A. By establishing a military base in Mexico**
- B. Through the Mexican-American War and troop deployments**
- C. By negotiating trade agreements with Mexico**
- D. By fostering diplomatic relations with European powers**

The correct answer highlights the significance of the Mexican-American War and subsequent troop deployments as a clear demonstration of the USA's non-isolationist approach towards Mexico. This conflict, which occurred between 1846 and 1848, was not only a military engagement but also a strategic expansionist move by the United States into territories that were part of Mexico. The outcome of the war resulted in significant territorial gains for the United States, including present-day California, Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. This military involvement emphasized a departure from isolationism, showcasing a willingness to engage directly in conflict to pursue national interests. The troop deployments during and after the war solidified American presence in the region and reflected the broader geopolitical ambitions of the U.S. at the time, as it sought to extend its influence across North America. While establishing military bases and negotiating trade agreements could also indicate a non-isolationist approach, the Mexican-American War stands out as a more definitive and aggressive action in direct relation to Mexico. Fostering diplomatic relations with European powers, although important, is less relevant to the specific context of America's involvement with Mexico.

4. What event led to a significant outrage and pushed the US closer to entering WWI?

- A. Sinking of the Lusitania**
- B. The Russian Revolution**
- C. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles**
- D. The interception of the Zimmermann telegram**

The sinking of the Lusitania was a pivotal event that significantly outraged the American public and contributed to the U.S. moving closer to entering World War I. The Lusitania was a British ocean liner that was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1915, resulting in the loss of 1,198 lives, including 128 Americans. The incident ignited a wave of anti-German sentiment in the United States and raised serious concerns about Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare policy, which threatened American lives and commercial shipping. Public opinion shifted dramatically in favor of joining the Allies against Germany. The Lusitania incident symbolized a larger conflict in which American ideals of freedom and the safety of its citizens were directly challenged. Therefore, this event served as a catalyst for the U.S. government's eventual decision to enter the war in 1917, motivated by both moral outrage and a desire to protect American interests. The other events mentioned, while significant in their own right, did not provoke the same immediate and widespread public reaction or urgency that characterized the outrage following the sinking of the Lusitania.

5. What major impact did the Interstate Commerce Act have during the Gilded Age?

- A. It increased tariffs on imported goods**
- B. It was the first federal law aimed at regulating railroads**
- C. It mandated labor regulations across industries**
- D. It facilitated the establishment of national parks**

The Interstate Commerce Act, passed in 1887, was significant because it marked the first time the federal government took action to regulate private industry, specifically targeting the railroad industry. Before this act, railroads operated with considerable freedom and could set rates without government oversight, often leading to unfair practices, such as discriminatory pricing against smaller businesses and farmers. The Act aimed to address these issues by establishing the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), which was tasked with overseeing railroad rates and ensuring they were "reasonable and just." This was a pivotal development during the Gilded Age, a time characterized by rapid industrialization, economic growth, and increasing public concerns regarding corporate power and its influence on society. The establishment of the ICC represented a crucial step towards greater federal involvement in the economy, laying the groundwork for future regulatory measures in various industries. The other options do not accurately represent the Act's impact; while tariffs, labor regulations, and national park establishment were significant issues of the era, they were not directly related to the primary focus of the Interstate Commerce Act, which was centered on railroad regulation.

6. Which amendment established the federal income tax during the progressive era?

- A. 17th amendment**
- B. 18th amendment**
- C. 16th amendment**
- D. 19th amendment**

The establishment of the federal income tax during the Progressive Era is attributed to the 16th amendment to the United States Constitution. Ratified in 1913, this amendment allowed Congress to levy an income tax without apportioning it among the states based on population, thereby circumventing previous Supreme Court rulings that restricted such taxes. This change was significant because it provided the federal government with a new, consistent source of revenue, which was critical for funding various progressive reforms aimed at addressing economic and social issues. The Progressive Era was marked by efforts to reduce inequality and improve government functioning, and the income tax was seen as a way to achieve greater fiscal equity. The other amendments mentioned focus on different issues: the 17th amendment allowed for the direct election of senators, the 18th amendment established Prohibition, and the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote. None of these amendments are related to the establishment of federal income taxation.

7. What legislation did Harding implement to regulate government spending?

- A. Budget and Accounting Act**
- B. National Recovery Act**
- C. Social Security Act**
- D. Fair Labor Standards Act**

The Budget and Accounting Act, enacted in 1921 during President Warren G. Harding's administration, established an essential framework for federal budget management in the United States. This legislation created a systematic approach to government spending by instituting a formal budgetary process. It aimed to ensure accountability and oversight within federal financial operations, effectively regulating how governmental funds were allocated and expended. The act mandated the preparation of an annual budget, which would be submitted to Congress, thus allowing for greater transparency and control over governmental finances. Additionally, it established the Bureau of the Budget, which later became the Office of Management and Budget. This was significant in streamlining the preparation of the federal budget and setting guidelines for fiscal responsibility, marking a critical step towards modern budgeting practices in the U.S. government. Understanding the context of this act highlights its pivotal role in shaping how America managed its finances and the implications it had on subsequent economic policy, especially during a period characterized by a post-World War I economic environment.

8. What was one significant consequence of the Dust Bowl?

- A. Increased prosperity in urban areas**
- B. Mass migration and homelessness**
- C. Expansion of agricultural lands**
- D. Improved agricultural techniques**

The Dust Bowl had a profound impact on American society, particularly influencing migration patterns. Mass migration and homelessness occurred as thousands of families, primarily from the Great Plains states, were forced to flee their homes due to the devastating effects of severe drought and dust storms. This environmental catastrophe rendered large areas of farmland uninhabitable, resulting in widespread poverty and displacement. As these displaced individuals sought a better life, many migrated westward, notably to California, in search of work and a more stable living environment. This migration highlighted the struggles faced by countless families and has been documented in various historical accounts, illustrating the human cost of ecological disaster. In contrast, the other options reflect scenarios that did not align with the realities of the Dust Bowl. Urban areas did not experience increased prosperity due to the influx of displaced rural families, but rather faced their own set of challenges. The expansion of agricultural lands was not feasible given the ecological damage, and rather than improvements, agricultural techniques were often insufficient to address the crises. Thus, the significant consequence was indeed the mass migration and homelessness that marked this period in American history.

9. What strategic advantage did Pearl Harbor provide to the USA?

- A. A major military base in the Caribbean
- B. A naval base crucial for operations in the Pacific**
- C. A trading hub for European goods
- D. A tourist destination for American citizens

Pearl Harbor provided the United States with a significant strategic advantage as a naval base that was crucial for operations in the Pacific. Its location in Hawaii made it an ideal position for the U.S. Navy to project power and respond to threats across the Pacific, particularly during World War II. The base allowed for the staging of naval forces, logistical support, and maintenance of ships and submarines, which were vital for engaging in extended military operations against Japan and other powers in the region. The choice of Pearl Harbor as a military hub directly facilitated the U.S. response to Japanese expansionism and contributed to pivotal naval battles in the Pacific. The base not only served as a defensive fortress but also as a launching point for offensive maneuvers, thereby enhancing the United States' ability to maintain dominance in the Pacific theater. As a result, it significantly influenced the course of the war and American military strategy moving forward.

10. How did whites respond to the education of African Americans in the Gilded Age?

- A. They supported integration
- B. They feared it would ruin the labor system**
- C. They encouraged it for economic growth
- D. They ignored it entirely

The response of whites to the education of African Americans during the Gilded Age was largely rooted in concerns over the existing social and economic order. Many white Americans feared that educating African Americans would undermine the labor system that benefited white supremacy and the economic structure based on racial hierarchies. Education was seen as a potential catalyst for social mobility among African Americans, which posed a threat to the status quo of racial segregation and enforced economic disadvantage. During this period, there was a prevailing belief among many whites that an educated African American population could challenge the existing labor arrangements, particularly in agricultural and industrial sectors where black labor was a critical component. The concern was that as African Americans gained education and skills, they would seek higher wages or better working conditions, thereby disrupting the stable, low-cost labor force that many whites relied upon for economic prosperity. As a result, policies and attitudes that discouraged or limited educational opportunities for African Americans were common, reflecting a broader intention to maintain white dominance and control in both social and economic realms. This pervasive fear and resistance to African American education ultimately reinforced racial inequalities and perpetuated the systemic oppression that characterized the Gilded Age.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://alevelhistoryamerica.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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