

A LEVEL HISTORY - AMERICA - PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. What was a significant event during the Colfax Massacre?**
 - A. Political debates between Republicans and Democrats
 - B. Murder of black citizens attempting to vote
 - C. Establishment of African American schools
 - D. Formation of the Urban League
- 2. What was one of Wilson's key anti-trust measures?**
 - A. Federal Trade Commission
 - B. Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - C. National Labor Relations Act
 - D. Consumer Product Safety Act
- 3. What was one of the actions taken by the Knights of Labor in 1885?**
 - A. They launched the first national strike
 - B. They protested against railroad layoffs
 - C. They negotiated terms after a mass walkout at the Wabash Railroad
 - D. They campaigned for legalizing child labor
- 4. Approximately how many African Americans volunteered for military service during World War I?**
 - A. 200,000
 - B. 360,000
 - C. 500,000
 - D. 1 million
- 5. Which act did Wilson introduce to create a central banking system?**
 - A. Clayton Anti-Trust Act
 - B. Federal Reserve Act
 - C. Underwood Tariff Act
 - D. Revenue Act of 1916
- 6. What significant event characterized the economic crash of 1893?**
 - A. Increase in agricultural exports
 - B. Failure of major railroad companies
 - C. Significant government bailouts for businesses
 - D. Decrease in national unemployment rates

- 7. What significant action did Hayes take during the Gilded Age?**
- A. He expanded railroad networks across the Midwest
 - B. He reformed the postal service and fought against a major railroad strike
 - C. He initiated policies for immigrant assimilation
 - D. He launched a campaign against monopolies
- 8. Which of the following was a push factor that led people to urban areas?**
- A. Availability of jobs in agriculture
 - B. Political and economic discontent
 - C. Promotion of industrial growth
 - D. Access to higher education
- 9. What was the outcome of the Plessy vs. Ferguson case?**
- A. It promoted equal rights for women
 - B. Established a doctrine of separate but equal
 - C. Ended segregation laws nationwide
 - D. Introduced federal regulations on public transportation
- 10. Which event directly damaged Hoover's reputation during the 1932 election?**
- A. The Wall Street crash
 - B. The Bonus March
 - C. The Dust Bowl
 - D. The implementation of the Smoot-Hawley Act

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was a significant event during the Colfax Massacre?

- A. Political debates between Republicans and Democrats
- B. Murder of black citizens attempting to vote**
- C. Establishment of African American schools
- D. Formation of the Urban League

The Colfax Massacre, which occurred in 1873 in Louisiana, is primarily known for the brutal attack on a group of black citizens who were attempting to assert their rights, including the right to vote. This significant event was the culmination of rising tensions during Reconstruction, where white supremacist groups sought to undermine the political gains made by African Americans. During this incident, a white militia targeted a primarily black congregation in Colfax, resulting in the murder of a large number of black citizens. This violent confrontation highlighted the intense opposition to African American political participation and was indicative of the systemic racism that permeated the Southern states during this era. The other options do not encapsulate the primary focus of the Colfax Massacre. Political debates, while present during the time, did not capture the violence that occurred. The establishment of African American schools and the formation of the Urban League occurred in the broader context of the struggle for civil rights and social advancement but were not direct aspects of the event in question. Thus, the massacre stands out as a stark reminder of the violence faced by African Americans after the Civil War, particularly concerning their right to vote.

2. What was one of Wilson's key anti-trust measures?

- A. Federal Trade Commission**
- B. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- C. National Labor Relations Act
- D. Consumer Product Safety Act

One of Wilson's key anti-trust measures was the establishment of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 1914. This agency was created to promote consumer protection and to eliminate and prevent anti-competitive business practices. The FTC was tasked with regulating unfair methods of competition and deceptive acts or practices in commerce, which were seen as essential to ensuring a fair marketplace and promoting economic growth. The creation of the FTC was significant in the context of Wilson's broader progressive agenda, which sought to curb the power of monopolies and trusts that had dominated the economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This legislation aimed to provide the federal government with the tools to investigate and take action against unfair business practices, which was a critical response to the economic challenges of the time. The other choices presented do not relate directly to anti-trust measures. The Federal Bureau of Investigation focuses on law enforcement and national security. The National Labor Relations Act pertains to labor rights and unionization, and the Consumer Product Safety Act is concerned with consumer safety regulations rather than anti-trust issues. Thus, the Federal Trade Commission stands out as the direct answer to the question regarding Wilson's anti-trust efforts.

3. What was one of the actions taken by the Knights of Labor in 1885?

- A. They launched the first national strike
- B. They protested against railroad layoffs
- C. They negotiated terms after a mass walkout at the Wabash Railroad**
- D. They campaigned for legalizing child labor

One significant action taken by the Knights of Labor in 1885 was their involvement in negotiations following a mass walkout at the Wabash Railroad. This incident showcased the organization's growing influence in labor relations during a time when workers were beginning to organize on a national scale. The Wabash Railroad strike represented the Knights of Labor's approach to advocating for workers' rights through collective action and negotiation rather than through outright strikes or violence. The Knights of Labor emphasized inclusive membership, welcoming not just skilled workers but also unskilled laborers, women, and African Americans. Their strategy of negotiating directly with employers after mass walkouts was an attempt to achieve political and economic reforms that would benefit the wider labor community. This approach reflected their broader goals of attaining better working conditions, fair wages, and an eight-hour workday, which contrasted with the often militant tactics used by other labor organizations of the time. In contrast, the other options don't align with the actions taken by the Knights of Labor in 1885. They did not launch a national strike at that time, nor did they specifically protest against railroad layoffs as a singular action. Additionally, campaigning for the legalization of child labor runs counter to the Knights' broader objectives of improving working conditions and labor rights

4. Approximately how many African Americans volunteered for military service during World War I?

- A. 200,000
- B. 360,000**
- C. 500,000
- D. 1 million

The choice of 360,000 is correct as it reflects the estimated number of African Americans who served in the military during World War I. This includes both those who were drafted and those who volunteered. During the war, despite facing significant discrimination and segregation, many African Americans enlisted in hopes of proving their loyalty and worthiness for equal rights and opportunities. The military organized African Americans predominantly into separate units, such as the famous 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the Harlem Hellfighters, which went on to receive high honors for their bravery in combat. The other estimates presented do not accurately capture the historical context or data: 200,000 is considerably lower than the actual number of enlistments; 500,000 is an inflated figure, and while it may reflect broader aspects of the African American experience during the war, it does not represent the specific number of service members; and 1 million is also an unrealistic overestimate, given the total military participation figures for that time. The number 360,000 thus provides a more accurate representation of African American military service during World War I.

5. Which act did Wilson introduce to create a central banking system?

- A. Clayton Anti-Trust Act
- B. Federal Reserve Act**
- C. Underwood Tariff Act
- D. Revenue Act of 1916

The Federal Reserve Act is the correct answer because it was the legislation introduced by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913 that established the Federal Reserve System, which serves as the central banking system of the United States. This act aimed to provide a safer and more flexible monetary and financial system, addressing the need for a more stable economy. The creation of the Federal Reserve allowed for better control of the money supply, more effective regulation of banks, and a more coordinated response to financial crises. The other acts listed serve different purposes and were not related to establishing a central banking system. The Clayton Anti-Trust Act was focused on antitrust laws and competition, the Underwood Tariff Act aimed to reduce tariffs, and the Revenue Act of 1916 dealt with tax policy. None of these addressed the foundational structure for a central bank like the Federal Reserve Act did.

6. What significant event characterized the economic crash of 1893?

- A. Increase in agricultural exports
- B. Failure of major railroad companies**
- C. Significant government bailouts for businesses
- D. Decrease in national unemployment rates

The economic crash of 1893 is primarily characterized by the failure of major railroad companies, which played a pivotal role in triggering the broader economic downturn. During this period, the railroad industry was heavily overbuilt and faced significant financial troubles. When the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad went bankrupt, it sparked a chain reaction that led to the collapse of several other railroads, including the Northern Pacific Railroad. This collapse had dire consequences for the American economy, leading to a severe depression, widespread bank failures, and massive unemployment. The interdependence of railroads and other sectors of the economy meant that the failure of key companies impacted not just those directly involved in the railroad industry but also various associated industries and the overall economic stability. Therefore, the failure of major railroad companies is a crucial event that encapsulated the financial crisis of 1893. The other options do not accurately reflect the circumstances of this economic crash, as agricultural exports were not significantly increasing during this time, governmental bailouts were either minimal or nonexistent, and unemployment actually rose rather than decreased.

7. What significant action did Hayes take during the Gilded Age?

- A. He expanded railroad networks across the Midwest
- B. He reformed the postal service and fought against a major railroad strike**
- C. He initiated policies for immigrant assimilation
- D. He launched a campaign against monopolies

During the Gilded Age, Rutherford B. Hayes took significant steps to reform the postal service, which included modernizing and improving its efficiency and operations. Hayes also confronted major labor unrest, most notably during the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. This strike was a response to wage cuts and harsh working conditions, which resulted in widespread violence and disruption across several states. Hayes's response included sending federal troops to restore order, highlighting the tensions between labor and government authority during this period. This action underscored Hayes's belief in maintaining law and order but also illustrated the challenges faced by workers during the rapid industrialization of the time. His dual focus on postal reform and managing civil unrest through federal intervention aligns with the priorities of his presidency in the context of the Gilded Age, making this choice the correct answer in the context of the question.

8. Which of the following was a push factor that led people to urban areas?

- A. Availability of jobs in agriculture
- B. Political and economic discontent**
- C. Promotion of industrial growth
- D. Access to higher education

The push factor that led people to urban areas is political and economic discontent. During various periods in American history, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many individuals and families experienced significant hardships in rural areas due to a range of factors like poor agricultural conditions, economic instability, or oppressive political regimes. These issues often persuaded them to leave their homes in search of better opportunities and a more stable life in growing urban centers. In contrast, the other options either represent pull factors that attracted individuals to cities rather than driving them away from rural areas or do not align with the overarching themes of discontent during periods of migration. For example, the availability of jobs in agriculture does not push people toward cities; rather, it maintains them in rural settings. Similarly, the promotion of industrial growth and access to higher education are aspects that might draw individuals to urban areas, shining a light on the opportunities available there, rather than reflecting the circumstances that compel a migration from the countryside.

9. What was the outcome of the Plessy vs. Ferguson case?

- A. It promoted equal rights for women
- B. Established a doctrine of separate but equal**
- C. Ended segregation laws nationwide
- D. Introduced federal regulations on public transportation

The outcome of the Plessy vs. Ferguson case established the doctrine of "separate but equal," which became a legal foundation for racial segregation in the United States. The Supreme Court ruled in 1896 that racial segregation in public facilities was constitutional as long as the separate facilities provided for both races were equal in quality. This decision legitimized state laws that enforced segregation and led to the proliferation of discriminatory practices, particularly in the Southern states, impacting various areas such as education, transportation, and public accommodations. This ruling was not aimed at promoting equal rights for women, nor did it lead to the end of segregation laws nationwide, which continued for decades until the civil rights movement. Additionally, it did not introduce federal regulations on public transportation; rather, it upheld the states' rights to enforce segregation on public transport and other facilities. Understanding this context highlights the significant and lasting implications of the Plessy v. Ferguson decision on American society.

10. Which event directly damaged Hoover's reputation during the 1932 election?

- A. The Wall Street crash
- B. The Bonus March**
- C. The Dust Bowl
- D. The implementation of the Smoot-Hawley Act

The Bonus March directly damaged Hoover's reputation during the 1932 election because it highlighted the government's failure to provide immediate relief to World War I veterans who were struggling during the Great Depression. The Bonus March was a movement where thousands of veterans gathered in Washington, D.C., to demand the early payment of a bonus that had been promised to them for their service. Hoover's administration responded to the protest by ordering the removal of the veterans from their encampment, which involved the use of military force. This harsh response was widely publicized and significantly swayed public opinion against Hoover, depicting him as unresponsive and unsympathetic to the suffering of ordinary Americans. This event became a symbol of his perceived inability to address the economic crisis and contributed to his declining popularity leading up to the election.

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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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