

Advanced Placement (AP) European History 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. How did the percentage of English trade with Atlantic ports change over time?**
 - A. The percentage remained constant**
 - B. The overall portion increased with imports rising**
 - C. The portion of exports rose while imports fell**
 - D. There was a significant decrease in Atlantic trade**
- 2. How did Erasmus' critique of the clergy reflect a broader historical development of his time?**
 - A. The humanist challenge to the institutional power of the Catholic Church**
 - B. The rise of absolutism in monarchies**
 - C. The Enlightenment's emphasis on reason**
 - D. The spread of the Protestant Reformation**
- 3. Voltaire's ability to publish ideas in the "Treatise on Toleration" reflects which of the following?**
 - A. The decline of censorship in Europe**
 - B. The spread of print media that popularized Enlightenment ideas**
 - C. The establishment of state-run newspapers**
 - D. The influence of religious leaders on public opinion**
- 4. Which of the following was a key outcome of the Peace of Westphalia?**
 - A. It unified all European countries under a single ruler**
 - B. It recognized the sovereignty of over 300 German principalities**
 - C. It led to the rise of the Ottoman Empire in Europe**
 - D. It marked the return of the Byzantine Empire**
- 5. What does Ludovico's reasoning suggest about the role of intellect in moral culpability?**
 - A. It plays a crucial role in determining the severity of sin**
 - B. It is irrelevant to the concept of original sin**
 - C. It diminishes the need for religious adherence**
 - D. It indicates that all sins are equal**

6. What is the primary claim communicated by Wenceslaus Hollar in his engraving "Allegory of the Peace of Westphalia"?

- A. The treaty would lead to a new period of war and chaos
- B. The treaty would lead to a new period of peace and prosperity
- C. The treaty would have little impact on European politics
- D. The treaty was unjust and favored one party

7. Which statement best summarizes Toscanelli's argument regarding a westward route to China?

- A. A westward route would be longer than known routes
- B. A direct westward route would be shorter than the Portuguese route
- C. China was easily accessible by multiple routes
- D. The Portuguese route was the most effective

8. What was one of Napoleon's major reforms in governance?

- A. Decentralization of power
- B. The establishment of a meritocratic system
- C. Reinforcement of feudal privileges
- D. Limiting education access

9. Which of the following pieces of evidence in the passage does NOT support the claim that Tetzel's treatment of indulgences was viewed as corrupt?

- A. Luther's following of academic custom in publishing his Ninety-Five Theses
- B. Calls for financial contributions to the church
- C. Tetzel's association with the banking house of Fugger
- D. Claims that indulgences could guarantee salvation

10. What was a central belief held by Florimond de Raemond regarding Protestants?

- A. That they should better interpret holy texts
- B. That they undermined the authority of the Catholic Church
- C. That they correctly represented divine teachings
- D. That their practices were overly restrictive

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How did the percentage of English trade with Atlantic ports change over time?

- A. The percentage remained constant**
- B. The overall portion increased with imports rising**
- C. The portion of exports rose while imports fell**
- D. There was a significant decrease in Atlantic trade**

The chosen answer highlights a historical trend where the percentage of English trade with Atlantic ports increased over time, particularly in the context of the 16th to 18th centuries. During this period, England began to establish itself as a significant maritime power, expanding its commercial reach across the Atlantic. This expansion facilitated greater importation of goods, such as sugar, tobacco, and rum from the American colonies, alongside exports like woolen cloth, which boosted the overall volume of trade with Atlantic ports. The rise in imports was also a reflection of the mercantilist policies that encouraged colonization and the establishment of trade networks that linked England with its colonies in the Americas and the West Indies, thus increasing trade activity. As a result, this shift played a key role in the development of England's economy and its global trading influence, marking a significant change in the percentage of trade with Atlantic ports.

2. How did Erasmus' critique of the clergy reflect a broader historical development of his time?

- A. The humanist challenge to the institutional power of the Catholic Church**
- B. The rise of absolutism in monarchies**
- C. The Enlightenment's emphasis on reason**
- D. The spread of the Protestant Reformation**

Erasmus' critique of the clergy is a significant reflection of the humanist challenge to the institutional power of the Catholic Church during the Renaissance. Humanism emphasized the value of individual thought and the importance of classical learning, which led thinkers like Erasmus to question and criticize the corruption and moral failings they perceived within the Church. His works, particularly "In Praise of Folly," satirized the clergy and called for reform, aligning with the broader humanist movement that sought to restore authentic Christian piety based on a return to the original texts of the Bible and the teachings of Christ. This humanist challenge was pivotal because it laid the intellectual groundwork that would later resonate with reformers during the Protestant Reformation. While Erasmus himself remained committed to Catholic doctrine and sought reform from within, his criticisms highlighted the growing discontent with the Church's practices and authority. Thus, this moment in history is marked by an intellectual awakening that questioned established traditions and sought to renew religious life, reflecting the broader aspirations of humanism.

3. Voltaire's ability to publish ideas in the "Treatise on Toleration" reflects which of the following?

- A. The decline of censorship in Europe**
- B. The spread of print media that popularized Enlightenment ideas**
- C. The establishment of state-run newspapers**
- D. The influence of religious leaders on public opinion**

Voltaire's publication of ideas in the "Treatise on Toleration" showcases the significant role of emerging print media in disseminating Enlightenment thought. During the Enlightenment, the proliferation of printed materials such as pamphlets, books, and newspapers allowed intellectuals like Voltaire to share their ideas widely, reaching a broader audience than ever before. This widespread distribution was crucial for challenging established norms and encouraging discussions about tolerance, individual rights, and rational thought. As print media became more accessible, the ideas of the Enlightenment gained traction among the literate public, facilitating a shift in societal attitudes. Voltaire's work contributed to discussions on religious tolerance and civil liberties, influencing both public opinion and policy. This transformative impact exemplifies how print media served as a vehicle for Enlightenment ideas, making option B the most appropriate choice in this context.

4. Which of the following was a key outcome of the Peace of Westphalia?

- A. It unified all European countries under a single ruler**
- B. It recognized the sovereignty of over 300 German principalities**
- C. It led to the rise of the Ottoman Empire in Europe**
- D. It marked the return of the Byzantine Empire**

The Peace of Westphalia, signed in 1648, is significant for its recognition of the sovereignty of over 300 German principalities, which played a crucial role in the development of modern nation-states. This peace treaty effectively ended the Thirty Years' War, a devastating conflict that involved many European powers and resulted in profound political and social changes. One of the key principles established by the Peace of Westphalia was the idea of state sovereignty. By acknowledging the rights of individual principalities to govern themselves without outside interference, it laid the foundation for the modern international system of sovereign states. This treaty also emphasized the importance of diplomatic negotiation and balance of power, shaping how European countries would interact with one another in the future. In contrast, other options do not accurately represent the outcomes of the Peace of Westphalia. The treaty did not unify all European countries under a single ruler or promote the rise of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. Additionally, the Byzantine Empire had already fallen earlier in the 15th century, so its return was not part of this treaty's effects. Thus, the recognition of the sovereignty of numerous German principalities is indeed the key outcome that aligns with the historical significance of the Peace of Westphalia.

5. What does Ludovico's reasoning suggest about the role of intellect in moral culpability?

- A. It plays a crucial role in determining the severity of sin**
- B. It is irrelevant to the concept of original sin**
- C. It diminishes the need for religious adherence**
- D. It indicates that all sins are equal**

Ludovico's reasoning emphasizes the significance of intellect in assessing moral culpability, particularly in how it relates to the severity of sin. He suggests that understanding and knowledge can influence the degree to which an action is considered sinful. This view aligns with the idea that those who possess greater intellectual faculties and moral awareness are held to a higher standard of accountability for their actions. In this context, the presence or absence of awareness regarding the moral implications of one's choices directly impacts moral judgment. Actions carried out with full intellectual comprehension may incur greater consequences than those undertaken in ignorance or without intent. By attributing a crucial role to intellect, Ludovico highlights the nuanced relationship between knowledge, intent, and morality, which ultimately affects how sins are evaluated in terms of severity. Other options present alternative perspectives that do not align as closely with this reasoning. For instance, the idea that intellect is irrelevant to the concept of original sin overlooks the complexities of moral awareness and human agency. Similarly, suggesting that intellect diminishes the need for religious adherence does not reflect the interconnectedness of ethical understanding and spiritual faith. Finally, stating that all sins are equal disregards the differentiation seen in most moral frameworks, emphasizing how understanding and intention can lead to varying degrees of culpability.

6. What is the primary claim communicated by Wenceslaus Hollar in his engraving "Allegory of the Peace of Westphalia"?

- A. The treaty would lead to a new period of war and chaos**
- B. The treaty would lead to a new period of peace and prosperity**
- C. The treaty would have little impact on European politics**
- D. The treaty was unjust and favored one party**

Wenceslaus Hollar's engraving "Allegory of the Peace of Westphalia" reflects a sense of optimism regarding the outcomes of the treaties that concluded the Thirty Years' War in 1648. The primary claim communicated in the artwork suggests that the treaty would lead to a new period of peace and prosperity for Europe. This interpretation is supported by the historical context in which Hollar created the piece. The Peace of Westphalia is often credited with establishing a new framework for international relations based on state sovereignty and legal equality among states, which helped to reduce conflict and assert diplomatic principles. Additionally, the imagery often associated with this engraving typically embodies themes of unity, harmony, and stability, reinforcing the idea that the treaty symbolically heralded an end to the devastations of war and the possibility for nations to rebuild and thrive. In light of this optimistic representation, the other options fail to capture the central message conveyed in Hollar's work, which is anchored firmly in the optimistic anticipation of peace rather than chaos, minimal impact, or injustice. This makes the interpretation of a promising future following the treaty the most appropriate and integral understanding of Hollar's artistic intent.

7. Which statement best summarizes Toscanelli's argument regarding a westward route to China?

- A. A westward route would be longer than known routes**
- B. A direct westward route would be shorter than the Portuguese route**
- C. China was easily accessible by multiple routes**
- D. The Portuguese route was the most effective**

Toscanelli argued that a direct westward route to China would be shorter than the established Portuguese route around Africa. His calculations and geographical theories suggested that the distance between Europe and Asia could be greatly reduced by sailing directly west across the Atlantic Ocean. This idea was revolutionary at the time, as it challenged conventional wisdom about trade routes and opened the door for exploration that would eventually lead to significant discoveries in the New World. Toscanelli's perspective was pivotal for subsequent explorers, including Christopher Columbus, who sought to validate this theory by attempting to find a westward passage to Asia. This insight highlights the emerging ideas of the Renaissance concerning geography and exploration, setting the stage for significant changes in global trade and political dynamics.

8. What was one of Napoleon's major reforms in governance?

- A. Decentralization of power**
- B. The establishment of a meritocratic system**
- C. Reinforcement of feudal privileges**
- D. Limiting education access**

One of Napoleon's major reforms in governance was the establishment of a meritocratic system. This reform aimed to create a government and military that rewarded talent and ability rather than aristocratic birth or privilege. By instituting the Napoleonic Code and various educational reforms, Napoleon promoted individuals based on their skills and accomplishments, which led to a more efficient and capable administration. This meritocracy allowed for greater social mobility and was instrumental in the modernization of French bureaucracy and military. It contrasted sharply with previous systems that favored hereditary privilege, thereby promoting the idea of equal opportunity based on merit, which was a significant departure from the past in European governance.

9. Which of the following pieces of evidence in the passage does NOT support the claim that Tetzel's treatment of indulgences was viewed as corrupt?

- A. Luther's following of academic custom in publishing his Ninety-Five Theses**
- B. Calls for financial contributions to the church**
- C. Tetzel's association with the banking house of Fugger**
- D. Claims that indulgences could guarantee salvation**

The choice stating that Luther's adherence to academic custom in publishing his Ninety-Five Theses does not support the claim of Tetzel's corrupt treatment of indulgences is justified because this aspect focuses on Luther's methodology rather than on the content of Tetzel's practices. Luther's approach highlights his scholarly background and his attempt to engage in a debate on theological grounds rather than directly addressing or critiquing Tetzel's actions. The other pieces of evidence directly connect to perceptions of corruption surrounding Tetzel's indulgences. Financial contributions to the church could imply a commercialization of faith, undermining the spiritual intent behind indulgences. Tetzel's connections with the banking house of Fugger suggest a financial exploitation of the faithful, enhancing the notion of corruption. Moreover, claims about indulgences guaranteeing salvation challenge core religious principles, further validating the perception of them being corrupt practices. Thus, the emphasis on Luther's academic custom stands apart from the concerns about Tetzel's methods, confirming that it does not support the claim of corruption in the same way the other pieces do.

10. What was a central belief held by Florimond de Raemond regarding Protestants?

- A. That they should better interpret holy texts**
- B. That they undermined the authority of the Catholic Church**
- C. That they correctly represented divine teachings**
- D. That their practices were overly restrictive**

Florimond de Raemond was a notable figure in the context of religious debates during the Reformation, particularly in his interactions with Protestantism. A central belief he held regarding Protestants was that they undermined the authority of the Catholic Church. This perspective was common among Catholic theologians and scholars of the time, who viewed the Protestant movement as not only a challenge to specific doctrines but also as a fundamental threat to the institutional authority and unity of the Church itself. De Raemond's writings and arguments primarily focused on defending the Catholic faith against what he perceived as the dangerous consequences of Protestant reforms, which he thought eroded the traditional structures and teachings established by the Church. His beliefs highlighted the broader concerns within Catholic circles about maintaining ecclesiastical authority and doctrinal integrity in the face of growing Protestant influence, making option B a fitting representation of his views.

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://ap-europeanhistory.examzify.com>

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

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