

Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) Progressive Era Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. Which pair of acts strengthened federal regulation of railroads by curbing rebates and restricting free passes?**
 - A. Clayton Act and Sherman Act**
 - B. Elkins Act and Hepburn Act**
 - C. Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act**
 - D. Homestead Act and Morrill Act**

- 2. Which reform enables voters to directly vote on policy issues?**
 - A. Initiative**
 - B. Referendum**
 - C. Recall**
 - D. Direct Primary**

- 3. Triple Wall Privilege referred to Wilson's plan to reform the economy by attacking which three areas?**
 - A. Tariff, banks, trusts**
 - B. Tariff, land, labor**
 - C. Banks, trusts, immigration**
 - D. Railroads, telegraph, telephone**

- 4. What did the Panic of 1907 demonstrate about the federal government's control of the economy?**
 - A. It showed the government still had little control over the industrial economy**
 - B. Led to a central bank creation**
 - C. Automatically ended the Progressive Era**
 - D. Caused the dissolution of stock market**

- 5. Sixteenth Amendment granted power to levy what?**
 - A. Income tax by Congress**
 - B. Prohibition of alcohol**
 - C. Direct election of senators**
 - D. Women's suffrage**

- 6. Which reformer founded Hull House in 1889?**
- A. Jane Addams**
 - B. Ida Tarbell**
 - C. John Dewey**
 - D. Susan B. Anthony**
- 7. The 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike is notable because it marked what federal action?**
- A. Federal intervention on the side of labor for the first time**
 - B. Federal intervention on the side of business for the first time**
 - C. It occurred in the western states**
 - D. It ended with a strikebreaker injunction**
- 8. Federal Reserve Act established what?**
- A. A central banking system with twelve regional banks**
 - B. A federal income tax system**
 - C. Direct election of senators nationwide**
 - D. A federal agency to regulate unions**
- 9. Susan B. Anthony was a social reformer who campaigned for women's rights, temperance, and abolitionism, and helped form which organization?**
- A. National Woman Suffrage Association**
 - B. National American Woman Suffrage Association**
 - C. American Federation of Labor**
 - D. American Red Cross**
- 10. The National Reclamation Act of 1902 is best associated with which purpose?**
- A. Funding water development projects in arid western states**
 - B. Funding rail expansion**
 - C. Establishing national parks**
 - D. Creating the Federal Reserve**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which pair of acts strengthened federal regulation of railroads by curbing rebates and restricting free passes?

A. Clayton Act and Sherman Act

B. Elkins Act and Hepburn Act

C. Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act

D. Homestead Act and Morrill Act

The main idea is how the federal government expanded its power to regulate big businesses in the Progressive Era, specifically through railroad rules that targeted unfair practices. The Elkins Act of 1903 made rebates illegal and required railroads to charge the same rates to all customers, ending secret discounts that favored some shippers over others. The Hepburn Act of 1906 then strengthened this regulation by empowering the Interstate Commerce Commission to set railroad rates and to inspect railroad financial records, giving the federal government real leverage to curb favoritism, including the practice of granting free passes. This combination is precisely what strengthened federal control over railroads. The other pairs focus on antitrust enforcement or unrelated regulatory areas (food safety or land distribution), not on curbing railroad rebates or free passes.

2. Which reform enables voters to directly vote on policy issues?

A. Initiative

B. Referendum

C. Recall

D. Direct Primary

Direct democracy through the referendum puts policy questions directly in voters' hands, allowing them to approve or reject laws or constitutional amendments on the ballot rather than relying solely on elected representatives. In Progressive Era reforms, this mechanism was used to give citizens a direct say on important policy issues—so the public could shape law by a final yes or no vote. It's distinct from an initiative, which gives people the power to propose new laws themselves to be voted on; recall, which lets voters remove an official from office; and a direct primary, which changes how party nominees are chosen rather than how laws are decided. Hence, the referendum is the reform that enables voters to directly vote on policy issues.

3. Triple Wall Privilege referred to Wilson's plan to reform the economy by attacking which three areas?

- A. Tariff, banks, trusts**
- B. Tariff, land, labor**
- C. Banks, trusts, immigration**
- D. Railroads, telegraph, telephone**

Wilson aimed to restore competition by removing three big obstacles in the economy. The Triple Wall of Privilege focuses on tariffs, banks, and trusts. Lowering tariffs would challenge protected big-business interests and door opening to more competition for consumers. Reforming the banking system created a stable, accountable framework for credit and finance, culminating in a central banking structure to prevent financial panics and regulate lending. Attacking trusts meant enforcing antitrust laws to curb monopolies and promote more fair competition, with laws and agencies designed to police corporate behavior. These three targets together explain why this phrase describes his reform plan. Other options mix in issues like land, labor, immigration, or infrastructure, which were not the three components Wilson highlighted.

4. What did the Panic of 1907 demonstrate about the federal government's control of the economy?

- A. It showed the government still had little control over the industrial economy**
- B. Led to a central bank creation**
- C. Automatically ended the Progressive Era**
- D. Caused the dissolution of stock market**

The Panic of 1907 shows that the federal government did not yet have the tools to fully steer a rapidly growing industrial economy. In that crisis there was no central authority to lend money or coordinate nationwide action, so the economy depended on private bankers and ad hoc efforts to prevent a total collapse. The episode highlighted how fragile credit and currency could be during a time of big corporate power and rapid industrial expansion, and it underscored the need for structural reforms to give the government more control over monetary policy and financial stability. This judgment helped spur later reforms, culminating in the creation of the Federal Reserve System, which would provide a national, centralized mechanism to manage the money supply and lender-of-last-resort functions.

5. Sixteenth Amendment granted power to levy what?

- A. Income tax by Congress**
- B. Prohibition of alcohol**
- C. Direct election of senators**
- D. Women's suffrage**

The main idea is that the Sixteenth Amendment gives Congress the power to levy an income tax. It changed the constitutional rule by allowing a federal tax on individual and corporate incomes without needing to apportion the tax among the states, which had blocked such taxes under earlier rulings like the Pollock decision. This created a steady, flexible revenue source for the federal government, helping fund reforms and programs during the Progressive Era and beyond, rather than relying mainly on tariffs and excises. The other options point to different constitutional changes: Prohibition of alcohol came from the Eighteenth Amendment, direct election of senators from the Seventeenth Amendment, and women's suffrage from the Nineteenth Amendment.

6. Which reformer founded Hull House in 1889?

- A. Jane Addams**
- B. Ida Tarbell**
- C. John Dewey**
- D. Susan B. Anthony**

Understanding who founded Hull House and what that institution represented helps you see a pivotal part of Progressive Era reform. Hull House, opened in Chicago in 1889, was established by Jane Addams along with Ellen Gates Starr. It was a settlement house—a community hub placed in immigrant neighborhoods to provide practical help and to address urban poverty. Residents could access English classes, child care, healthcare, libraries, cultural programs, and job assistance, while reform-minded staff sought changes in housing, sanitation, education, and labor laws. Addams's work at Hull House symbolized the rise of professional social work and women leading social reform. The other figures reflect important reform currents—Tarbell with investigative journalism against trusts, Dewey with progressive education, and Anthony with suffrage activism—but they did not found Hull House.

7. The 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike is notable because it marked what federal action?

- A. Federal intervention on the side of labor for the first time**
- B. Federal intervention on the side of business for the first time**
- C. It occurred in the western states**
- D. It ended with a strikebreaker injunction**

The key idea is that the federal government began actively mediating labor disputes, signaling a shift in how national power could support workers during a strike. In 1902, miners in eastern Pennsylvania walked out for higher pay and shorter hours, and President Theodore Roosevelt stepped in to push for a peaceful resolution. He invited both sides to arbitration, threatened to take control of the mines with federal troops if necessary, and ultimately supported a settlement reached through arbitration. This showed that the presidency could side with labor interests and use federal mediation to resolve conflicts, rather than always backing business interests or relying on punitive measures. It wasn't about western states or about a government injunction to break the strike; instead, it established a precedent for federal involvement on the side of workers to stabilize the economy and balance power between labor and capital.

8. Federal Reserve Act established what?

- A. A central banking system with twelve regional banks**
- B. A federal income tax system**
- C. Direct election of senators nationwide**
- D. A federal agency to regulate unions**

This question asks about the creation of a national central banking system in the United States. The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 established the Federal Reserve System, a decentralized network of twelve regional banks overseen by a central Board of Governors. The aim was to stabilize the banking system and create an elastic currency—letting the money supply expand or contract as needed—by acting as lender of last resort to banks and coordinating monetary policy. This expansion of federal involvement in finance was a hallmark of Progressive Era reforms addressing periodic banking panics and economic instability. Other reforms mentioned came from different moments: the federal income tax was made permanent by the 16th Amendment in 1913, not the Fed Act; direct election of senators came with the 17th Amendment; and federal regulation of unions was established later with the Wagner Act in the 1930s (creating the National Labor Relations Board).

9. Susan B. Anthony was a social reformer who campaigned for women's rights, temperance, and abolitionism, and helped form which organization?

- A. National Woman Suffrage Association**
- B. National American Woman Suffrage Association**
- C. American Federation of Labor**
- D. American Red Cross**

The main idea here is Susan B. Anthony's role in organizing the early push for national women's suffrage. In 1869, Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association to lead the fight for a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. This group aimed to secure federal suffrage and aligned with broader reform efforts like abolition. Later, that organization would merge with another suffrage group to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association, but the one Anthony originally helped start is the National Woman Suffrage Association. The other options don't fit because they represent different aims or later developments: a labor union, a humanitarian organization, or a later merged suffrage group.

10. The National Reclamation Act of 1902 is best associated with which purpose?

- A. Funding water development projects in arid western states**
- B. Funding rail expansion**
- C. Establishing national parks**
- D. Creating the Federal Reserve**

The main idea this question tests is how the federal government used its power to manage water and land to promote settlement and farming in the American West. The National Reclamation Act of 1902 created a program to reclaim arid lands by funding irrigation projects in western states. It authorized using the proceeds from public-land sales to pay for dams, canals, and other irrigation infrastructure, effectively giving the federal government a direct role in developing water supply for agriculture. This is why the best answer is funding water development projects in arid western states. It isn't about building railroads, establishing national parks, or creating the Federal Reserve, which were driven by different laws and objectives.

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://apushprogressiveera.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE