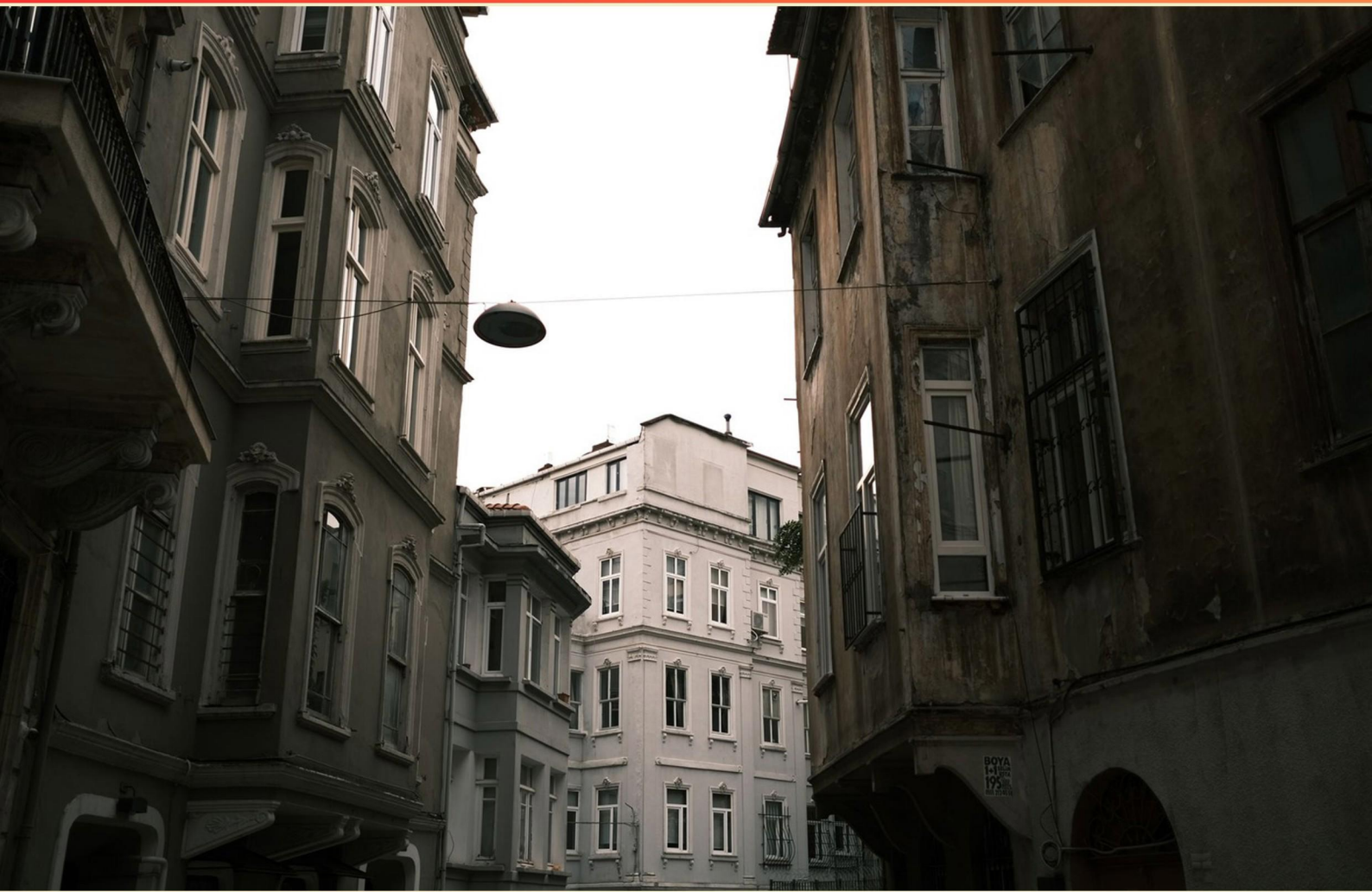


ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (APUSH) PROGRESSIVE ERA PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. Which amendments are most closely associated with Progressive Era reforms (income tax, direct election of senators, prohibition, women's suffrage)?**
 - A. The 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Amendments
 - B. The 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Amendments
 - C. The 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Amendments
 - D. The 16th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Amendments
- 2. What factor led Wilson to win the 1912 election?**
 - A. The split in the Republican Party between Taft and Roosevelt.
 - B. Wilson won thanks to Roosevelt's third-party run.
 - C. Taft won but lost the popular vote to Wilson.
 - D. Bryan's third-party campaign drew votes away from Taft.
- 3. What describes Taft's relationship to Roosevelt?**
 - A. Roosevelt's successor and close ally
 - B. Roosevelt's rival for party leadership
 - C. Roosevelt's vice president
 - D. Roosevelt's predecessor
- 4. Which act created the Federal Trade Commission to enforce consumer protection and antitrust laws?**
 - A. The Federal Reserve Act
 - B. The Sherman Antitrust Act
 - C. The Clayton Antitrust Act
 - D. The Federal Trade Commission Act
- 5. Which federal department was created in 1913 to oversee labor and employment-related policy?**
 - A. The Department of Interior
 - B. The Department of Labor
 - C. The Department of Commerce
 - D. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

- 6. Which foreign-policy approach is associated with Roosevelt's era and asserted U.S. authority in the Western Hemisphere?**
- A. The Monroe Doctrine
 - B. The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
 - C. The Open Door Policy
 - D. The Big Stick Policy
- 7. Which act gave the Interstate Commerce Commission authority to regulate railroad rates in the Progressive Era?**
- A. The Interstate Commerce Act
 - B. The Sherman Antitrust Act
 - C. The Clayton Antitrust Act
 - D. The Hepburn Act (1906)
- 8. Which tariff act reduced tariffs and financed new federal programs through a federal income tax?**
- A. The Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act
 - B. The Underwood Tariff Act (1913)
 - C. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act
 - D. The McKinley Tariff Act
- 9. What does WCTU stand for, the organization Carrie Nation founded?**
- A. Women's Christian Temperance Union
 - B. Women's Coalition to Unite
 - C. Women's Committee for Training and Uplift
 - D. Women's Citizens' Temperance Union
- 10. Which canal's construction dramatically altered U.S. military and commercial power?**
- A. Panama Canal
 - B. Suez Canal
 - C. Erie Canal
 - D. Kiel Canal

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which amendments are most closely associated with Progressive Era reforms (income tax, direct election of senators, prohibition, women's suffrage)?

- A. The 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Amendments**
- B. The 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Amendments
- C. The 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Amendments
- D. The 16th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Amendments

Progressive Era reforms sought to widen democracy, limit corporate power, and address social ills through government action. The measures that fit this pattern are those that directly expanded citizen participation and gave the federal government new tools to regulate the economy and society. First, instituting a federal income tax provided the government with revenue to fund reforms and enabled more systematic economic regulation, signaling a shift toward using federal power to address social and economic issues. Next, allowing voters to directly elect U.S. senators reduced the influence of state legislatures and political machines, increasing accountability to the people and strengthening democratic participation. Prohibition reflected a moral reform effort aimed at curbing vice and improving social conditions, a hallmark of Progressive activism to reform private behavior through law. Finally, granting women the right to vote extended democracy to a broader segment of the population, aligning with Progressive goals of expanding political participation and reforming society. Other amendments belong to different historical moments or focus on different issues (for example, some respond to Reconstruction-era questions or address procedural terms rather than the reform impulses of the era). So the four reforms above best embody the Progressive Era's approach to using constitutional changes to reshape American politics and society.

2. What factor led Wilson to win the 1912 election?

- A. The split in the Republican Party between Taft and Roosevelt.**
- B. Wilson won thanks to Roosevelt's third-party run.
- C. Taft won but lost the popular vote to Wilson.
- D. Bryan's third-party campaign drew votes away from Taft.

The turn hinges on how votes were distributed among the major candidates. In 1912, a strong third-party bid from Theodore Roosevelt split the Republican vote with incumbent Taft. This divided field meant that voters who might have rallied behind a single Republican alternative didn't coalesce around one candidate. As a result, Woodrow Wilson could win enough electoral votes to secure the presidency, even though his share of the popular vote was not a majority. The split effectively acted as a spoiler, weakening the Republican chances and letting Wilson prevail. Roosevelt's third-party run is a key part of the story, but the decisive factor is the division within the Republican camp that allowed Wilson to win.

3. What describes Taft's relationship to Roosevelt?

- A. Roosevelt's successor and close ally**
- B. Roosevelt's rival for party leadership
- C. Roosevelt's vice president
- D. Roosevelt's predecessor

Taft's relationship to Roosevelt is best understood as Roosevelt's successor and close ally. Roosevelt chose Taft as his preferred successor and supported his 1908 presidential bid, hoping Taft would carry on the Progressive reform agenda. Taft then pursued many of the same aims—vigorous antitrust action, conservation, and domestic reforms—keeping Roosevelt's momentum going. Although their later split shows they disagreed on policy, at the time Taft was seen as the political heir and partner Roosevelt trusted to continue his work.

4. Which act created the Federal Trade Commission to enforce consumer protection and antitrust laws?

- A. The Federal Reserve Act
- B. The Sherman Antitrust Act
- C. The Clayton Antitrust Act

D. The Federal Trade Commission Act

Creating a federal regulator to oversee business practices and safeguard consumers is the idea behind this question. The Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914 established the Federal Trade Commission, giving it the authority to investigate and prevent unfair methods of competition and to enforce consumer protection and antitrust laws. This move reflected Progressive Era reformers' goal of using a dedicated agency to police business conduct, not just rely on courts. The other acts contribute to antitrust history—Sherman banned restraints of trade, Clayton strengthened antitrust rules, and Federal Reserve Act set up the central banking system—but none created the FTC.

5. Which federal department was created in 1913 to oversee labor and employment-related policy?

- A. The Department of Interior
- B. The Department of Labor**
- C. The Department of Commerce

D. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Expansion of the federal government's role in labor policy during the Progressive Era created a need for a centralized, cabinet-level focus on workers' conditions, wages, and employment services. The department established in 1913 to oversee labor and employment-related policy is the Department of Labor. It was created by Congress in 1913 and brought together key labor bureaus under one roof, giving the federal government a formal authority to collect labor statistics, study wage standards, regulate workplace conditions, and assist with unemployment and labor disputes. This move reflects the era's belief that national standards and federal oversight could improve labor relations across the country. Other departments serve different purposes: Interior handles natural resources and public lands, Commerce focuses on promoting trade and industry, and Health, Education, and Welfare (a later creation that was split into separate agencies) dealt with health and social programs rather than labor policy.

6. Which foreign-policy approach is associated with Roosevelt's era and asserted U.S. authority in the Western Hemisphere?

A. The Monroe Doctrine

B. The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

C. The Open Door Policy

D. The Big Stick Policy

The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine is the correct idea. It takes the Monroe Doctrine's warning to European powers and turns it into an active U.S. police-power role in the Western Hemisphere. Roosevelt argued that the United States could intervene in Latin American countries to stabilize their finances and governments if they were unable to meet their obligations or preserve order, thereby preventing European intervention. This reflects Roosevelt's era's assertive, interventionist diplomacy—often called "big stick" diplomacy—where force or the threat of force backed up diplomatic action was used to enforce U.S. interests in the hemisphere. Think of it as the Monroe Doctrine with teeth: it not only warned outsiders away but also gave the United States the right to step in and enforce stability in nearby nations. The other options don't fit as neatly: the Open Door Policy targets China; the Monroe Doctrine is the earlier warning without the enforcement power; and the Big Stick Policy describes the general approach rather than a specific doctrine asserting hemispheric authority.

7. Which act gave the Interstate Commerce Commission authority to regulate railroad rates in the Progressive Era?

A. The Interstate Commerce Act

B. The Sherman Antitrust Act

C. The Clayton Antitrust Act

D. The Hepburn Act (1906)

The key idea is how government power to regulate railroads expanded during the Progressive Era. The Interstate Commerce Commission was created to oversee railroads, but early on it lacked real authority to set or enforce rates. The turning point came with the Hepburn Act of 1906, which gave the ICC the power to regulate railroad rates by setting maximum charges and enforcing them. This shifted the agency from merely investigating complaints to actively controlling pricing practices, helping curb abuses and discriminatory pricing at a time when railroad monopolies were a major public concern. The other acts addressed antitrust issues rather than rate regulation by the ICC, while the earlier Interstate Commerce Act laid the groundwork but did not grant strong rate-setting authority, which the Hepburn Act provided.

8. Which tariff act reduced tariffs and financed new federal programs through a federal income tax?

A. The Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act

B. The Underwood Tariff Act (1913)

C. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act

D. The McKinley Tariff Act

This question tests how Progressive Era reforms connected tariff policy to federal revenue through an income tax. The act that did both—lowering tariffs and providing revenue through a federal income tax—was the Underwood Tariff Act of 1913. It cut tariff rates significantly and, crucially, established the framework for a federal income tax, a revenue source enabled by the 16th Amendment adopted around that time. This shift allowed the federal government to fund new programs and expand its role in domestic affairs without relying on high protective tariffs alone. Earlier tariffs, like the Payne-Aldrich Act, kept rates high and sparked reformist backlash, while later tariffs (Fordney-McCumber) raised rates again; neither combination captures the dual move of reducing tariffs while financing programs through income tax.

9. What does WCTU stand for, the organization Carrie Nation founded?

- A. Women's Christian Temperance Union**
- B. Women's Coalition to Unite
- C. Women's Committee for Training and Uplift
- D. Women's Citizens' Temperance Union

WCTU stands for Women's Christian Temperance Union. This was a major reform organization in the Progressive Era that brought together women from churches and communities to advocate for temperance—abstinence from alcohol—as well as related social reforms. The name reflects both the religious motivation (Christian) and the reform aim (temperance) organized under a national union. Carrie Nation was a prominent temperance advocate associated with the movement, and she helped raise public attention, but she did not found the organization itself. The WCTU's influence grew under leaders like Frances Willard, who broadened its agenda to include suffrage and other social reforms.

10. Which canal's construction dramatically altered U.S. military and commercial power?

- A. Panama Canal**
- B. Suez Canal
- C. Erie Canal
- D. Kiel Canal

The main idea being tested is how a canal can reshape a nation's ability to move its military forces and control global trade by shortening sea routes between oceans. The Panama Canal does this most dramatically: it links the Atlantic and Pacific, letting the U.S. Navy move ships quickly between coasts and project power across the globe without the long detour around South America. That rapid mobility strengthened the United States' military reach and vulnerability to crises anywhere along the world's sea lanes, while also boosting international commerce by cutting transit times and costs. The Suez Canal shifted global trade patterns and the Erie Canal boosted domestic commerce, but neither changed the United States' military mobility and strategic reach to the same extent. The Kiel Canal is a German waterway with little relevance to U.S. power.

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:

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

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