

African American History Brookline Edition Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. Zora Neale Hurston's literary work helped shape Black women's literature during which decade?**
 - A. 1920s**
 - B. 1940s**
 - C. 1950s**
 - D. 1930s**

- 2. What was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and what did it signify?**
 - A. A 1963 rally led by civil rights leaders including MLK to advocate for racial equality and civil and economic rights.**
 - B. A 1955 protest against segregation.**
 - C. A political convention for southern politicians.**
 - D. A rally that rejected federal involvement in civil rights.**

- 3. Name a prominent Black jazz musician who helped shape the genre in the 20th century, besides Louis Armstrong.**
 - A. Charlie Parker**
 - B. Louis Armstrong**
 - C. Miles Davis**
 - D. Duke Ellington**

- 4. What was Brown v. Board of Education (1954) and why was it pivotal?**
 - A. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional, overturning 'separate but equal'**
 - B. Upheld segregation in public schools**
 - C. Allowed segregation to continue in all public facilities**
 - D. Overturned desegregation in education in the North**

- 5. In what year did Roots receive 37 Emmy nominations and win 9 Emmy Awards?**
 - A. 1967**
 - B. 1977**
 - C. 1987**
 - D. 1997**

- 6. Wyomia Tyus became the first woman to retain the Olympic title in the 100 meters; she was a student at which university?**
- A. Tennessee State University**
 - B. University of Tennessee**
 - C. University of California**
 - D. Stanford University**
- 7. Sojourner Truth's advocacy is best described as which combination?**
- A. Organizing underground passages.**
 - B. Editing abolitionist newspapers.**
 - C. Advocating for enslaved people and women's rights.**
 - D. Developing agricultural techniques.**
- 8. The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 is associated with Black Wall Street in which city?**
- A. Harlem, New York**
 - B. Bronzeville, Chicago**
 - C. Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma**
 - D. U Street Corridor, Washington, D.C.**
- 9. How has the mass incarceration system impacted African American communities in the late 20th and early 21st centuries?**
- A. Disproportionate incarceration, disenfranchisement, and economic and social consequences; ongoing civil rights activism addresses reform.**
 - B. No impact on communities; incarceration rates equal across races.**
 - C. It only affected urban areas, not communities in question.**
 - D. It led to immediate economic prosperity.**
- 10. Which amendment prohibits the denial of the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude?**
- A. 15th**
 - B. 18th**
 - C. 16th**
 - D. 19th**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Zora Neale Hurston's literary work helped shape Black women's literature during which decade?

- A. 1920s**
- B. 1940s**
- C. 1950s**
- D. 1930s**

Hurston's influence on Black women's literature is tied to the 1930s, when she produced several influential works that center Black women's experiences in new and powerful ways. Her 1934 novel *Jonah's Gourd Vine* and 1935's *Mules and Men* helped bring Black life and women's perspectives into serious literary space, but the defining moment is 1937's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. This novel focuses on a Black woman's quest for voice, autonomy, and self-definition, using a distinctive vernacular that honors Black women's speech and inner life. By foregrounding Black female experience and agency, Hurston expanded how Black women could be portrayed in literature, shaping the field for years to come. While the 1920s Harlem Renaissance set the stage, the 1930s mark the period when her work most clearly contributed to shaping Black women's literary voices.

2. What was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and what did it signify?

- A. A 1963 rally led by civil rights leaders including MLK to advocate for racial equality and civil and economic rights.**
- B. A 1955 protest against segregation.**
- C. A political convention for southern politicians.**
- D. A rally that rejected federal involvement in civil rights.**

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was a large, peaceful demonstration in August 1963 in Washington, D.C., where civil rights leaders and thousands of Americans gathered to demand an end to racial segregation and to push for economic rights and job opportunities for Black Americans. It brought together a broad coalition—leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, and many labor, religious, and community groups—to show united support for civil and economic rights and to press for strong federal legislation. The event's significance lies in its powerful, nonviolent stance on both civil and economic rights and in its ability to draw national attention and broad public support. It helped build momentum for landmark civil rights laws, notably the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, by presenting a coordinated, peaceful demand for change on a national stage. The gathering underscored a commitment to federal action to protect rights and to create real economic opportunity, signaling a turning point in the national movement for racial equality. It's not the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, which was a separate local protest against segregation. It wasn't a convention for southern politicians, nor did it reject federal involvement; rather, it centered on mobilizing national support for federal civil rights legislation and equal rights for all Americans.

3. Name a prominent Black jazz musician who helped shape the genre in the 20th century, besides Louis Armstrong.

- A. Charlie Parker**
- B. Louis Armstrong**
- C. Miles Davis**
- D. Duke Ellington**

Jazz in the 20th century grew strongest when musicians treated it as composition and arrangement as much as improvisation. Duke Ellington embodies that shift as a premier composer and big-band leader whose work showed how a jazz orchestra could be a sophisticated, color-rich instrument in its own right. Over decades, he built a large ensemble that could explore intricate harmonies, varied textures, and long-form pieces, turning the orchestra into a storytelling tool rather than just a backdrop for solos. His pieces—standards that became part of the jazz repertoire—demonstrated how mood, color, and thematic unity could carry a whole performance, elevating jazz to a high-art form. Leading bands from the Harlem Renaissance era through the swing era and beyond, Ellington helped popularize and legitimize this expansive vision of jazz, influencing countless musicians and shaping the genre's direction for generations. While other pioneers pushed jazz in new directions, Ellington's enduring contribution as a master composer and orchestrator makes him the standout figure described here.

4. What was Brown v. Board of Education (1954) and why was it pivotal?

- A. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional, overturning 'separate but equal'**
- B. Upheld segregation in public schools**
- C. Allowed segregation to continue in all public facilities**
- D. Overturned desegregation in education in the North**

Brown v. Board of Education declared that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional, because separating students by race creates an inherently unequal educational environment and violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. This ruling overturned the long-standing Plessy v. Ferguson doctrine of "separate but equal" in education, signaling that state-sponsored segregation in schools could not stand. It did not desegregate every school overnight, but it established a powerful legal precedent and spurred subsequent actions to desegregate, with federal enforcement gradually moving schools toward integration and influencing later civil rights advances. The other statements miss the core effect: the decision challenged and changed school segregation, not upheld it, and it targeted education rather than all public facilities or only battles in the North.

5. In what year did Roots receive 37 Emmy nominations and win 9 Emmy Awards?

- A. 1967
- B. 1977**
- C. 1987
- D. 1997

Roots became a milestone when it aired in 1977. The enormous impact is reflected in its Emmy recognition that year, drawing 37 nominations and winning 9 awards. That many nominations show how widely the production was praised across many categories—acting, directing, writing, production, and more—while the nine wins indicate it was not only widely recognized but also seriously celebrated by the Academy. Since Roots premiered in 1977 and its Emmy tally pertains to the ceremonies held that year, 1977 is the year tied to those numbers. The other years don't fit because they either precede the show's release or come after the major Emmy run it's known for.

6. Wyomia Tyus became the first woman to retain the Olympic title in the 100 meters; she was a student at which university?

- A. Tennessee State University**
- B. University of Tennessee
- C. University of California
- D. Stanford University

This question tests knowledge of where Wyomia Tyus trained and studied during her sprinting rise. Tyus attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, a school famous for its Tigerbelles track program under coach Ed Temple. That college environment helped her develop the speed and technique that allowed her to defend the Olympic 100 meters title. The other universities listed were not her college home during that period, so they don't fit with her biographical background.

7. Sojourner Truth's advocacy is best described as which combination?

- A. Organizing underground passages.
- B. Editing abolitionist newspapers.
- C. Advocating for enslaved people and women's rights.**
- D. Developing agricultural techniques.

Sojourner Truth's advocacy centers on both ending slavery and advancing women's rights. She believed enslaved people deserve freedom and dignity and also argued that women deserve equal rights and a voice in public life. Her work linked abolitionist goals with the push for women's suffrage, showing how racial and gender oppression intersected and why liberation must include both groups. Born into slavery in New York, she escaped, became a preacher and speaker, and joined with other abolitionists to spread her message. This combination of fighting for enslaved people and promoting women's rights best captures her impact. The other descriptions—organizing escape routes, editing abolitionist newspapers, or developing agricultural techniques—don't reflect the core focus of her public advocacy.

8. The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 is associated with Black Wall Street in which city?

- A. Harlem, New York**
- B. Bronzeville, Chicago**
- C. Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma**
- D. U Street Corridor, Washington, D.C.**

Black Wall Street identifies the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a thriving Black-owned business community in the early 20th century. The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 took place there, when a white mob attacked, burned, and destroyed much of that district, starkly recording the dangers Black communities faced despite their economic progress. The other places—Harlem in New York, Bronzeville in Chicago, and the U Street Corridor in Washington, D.C.—were important Black cultural and residential hubs, but the term Black Wall Street specifically points to Tulsa’s Greenwood District.

9. How has the mass incarceration system impacted African American communities in the late 20th and early 21st centuries?

- A. Disproportionate incarceration, disenfranchisement, and economic and social consequences; ongoing civil rights activism addresses reform.**
- B. No impact on communities; incarceration rates equal across races.**
- C. It only affected urban areas, not communities in question.**
- D. It led to immediate economic prosperity.**

The central idea here is that mass incarceration has fallen most heavily on African American communities, reshaping political power, economic opportunity, and daily life in lasting ways. This isn’t just about prisons; it’s about how policies and enforcement patterns produced a cascade of consequences that touched families, neighborhoods, and future prospects. The best answer captures three intertwined effects. First, there are disproportionate incarceration rates: Black Americans have been incarcerated at much higher rates than white Americans, a gap driven by policy choices, policing practices, and sentencing patterns that intensified in the late 20th century. Second, disenfranchisement follows from many states’ felony voting restrictions, which remove large numbers of Black citizens from the electorate and diminish political influence. Third, the economic and social fallout is broad: families experience disruption and instability when a member is jailed, employment and housing opportunities become harder to secure due to criminal records, and community investment and trust can decline, creating a cycle that limits opportunities for the next generation. Civil rights activism has responded with reforms and advocacy aimed at sentencing changes, fair policing, and restoring voting rights. The other options don’t fit this reality. Incarceration did have a major impact, and the effects aren’t limited to urban areas or to any single outcome like immediate economic prosperity.

10. Which amendment prohibits the denial of the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude?

A. 15th

B. 18th

C. 16th

D. 19th

Voting rights cannot be denied based on race, color, or past enslavement. This amendment, ratified in 1870 during Reconstruction, explicitly guarantees that men cannot be prevented from voting for these reasons, extending the franchise to Black men and aiming to protect their political participation after emancipation. It followed the 13th and 14th Amendments in shaping equal rights for newly freed people and set a constitutional standard against racial disenfranchisement. The other amendments address different issues: one established Prohibition on alcohol (later repealed), another created the federal income tax, and a different one secured women's suffrage.

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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://africanamericanhistbrooklineed.examzify.com>

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

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