

AICE US History Paper 2 Practice Exam (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

- 1. What was one of the federal government's actions during the New Deal criticized for affecting traditional business practices?**
 - A. Encouraging international trade without restrictions**
 - B. Establishing public works that competed with private enterprises**
 - C. Limiting government intervention in economic matters**
 - D. Promoting individual entrepreneurship and competition**
- 2. Which legislative act aimed to limit immigration in the 1920s?**
 - A. The Immigration Act of 1965**
 - B. The Emergency Quota Act**
 - C. The Immigration Act of 1924**
 - D. The Refugee Act**
- 3. Which of the following best describes the scope of the Great Society?**
 - A. Limited to economic reform**
 - B. Focused solely on foreign policy**
 - C. Broad reform covering education, healthcare, and welfare**
 - D. Concentrated on military expansion**
- 4. Which event is considered a catalyst for the escalated tensions of the Cold War?**
 - A. The Korean War**
 - B. The Cuban Missile Crisis**
 - C. The Berlin Blockade**
 - D. The Vietnam War**
- 5. What was the significance of the Transcontinental Railroad?**
 - A. It primarily served military purposes in the West**
 - B. It connected the East and West coasts, facilitating trade and migration**
 - C. It reduced the speed of mail delivery across the country**
 - D. It increased isolation between the Northern and Southern states**

- 6. What was a significant outcome of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) for the United States?**
- A. The abolition of slavery in all acquired territories**
 - B. Gaining control of territories from the Atlantic to the Pacific**
 - C. Formation of a military alliance with Mexico**
 - D. Increased trade relations with Canada**
- 7. What was one major challenge facing the Freedmen's Bureau during its operation?**
- A. Lack of funding from Congress**
 - B. Resistance from white Southerners**
 - C. Support from ex-slaves**
 - D. Growing influence of the Ku Klux Klan**
- 8. What was the New Deal?**
- A. A series of economic policies to boost exports**
 - B. A program to isolate the United States from foreign conflicts**
 - C. A series of programs and reforms enacted by FDR to combat the Great Depression**
 - D. A system of military alliances**
- 9. What did the Supreme Court establish in Marbury v. Madison (1803)?**
- A. The legality of state laws**
 - B. The principle of judicial review**
 - C. The role of executive orders**
 - D. The limits of Congressional power**
- 10. Why was Franklin Roosevelt's use of radio significant during his presidential campaign?**
- A. It allowed him to broadcast his policies effectively**
 - B. It reached only wealthy citizens**
 - C. It discouraged public engagement in politics**
 - D. It was primarily used for entertainment**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was one of the federal government's actions during the New Deal criticized for affecting traditional business practices?

- A. Encouraging international trade without restrictions**
- B. Establishing public works that competed with private enterprises**
- C. Limiting government intervention in economic matters**
- D. Promoting individual entrepreneurship and competition**

The federal government's establishment of public works during the New Deal is recognized as a significant action that was criticized for impacting traditional business practices. This move involved the creation of numerous public works programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration, which provided jobs and resources for infrastructure projects. While these programs were essential during the Great Depression to combat unemployment and stimulate the economy, they also directly competed with private enterprises that had previously provided similar services. Critics argued that government involvement in these areas disrupted the competitive market and could lead to the marginalization or decline of private businesses that relied on government contracts or that found themselves unable to compete with government-funded projects. This situation challenged the prevailing belief in the free market and raised concerns about the role of the government in economic activities. The push for public works was seen by some as an overreach of government power into areas traditionally managed by the private sector.

2. Which legislative act aimed to limit immigration in the 1920s?

- A. The Immigration Act of 1965**
- B. The Emergency Quota Act**
- C. The Immigration Act of 1924**
- D. The Refugee Act**

The Immigration Act of 1924 was significant in shaping U.S. immigration policy during the 1920s. It aimed to limit the number of immigrants allowed entry into the United States by establishing national origins quotas. This legislation was designed to restrict immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe and effectively banned immigrants from Asia. The act set quotas at 2% of each national group represented in the 1890 U.S. Census, which favored Northern and Western European immigrants while discriminating against others. The context of this act was rooted in the nativist sentiments that were prevalent during the 1920s, reflecting a desire among some segments of the American population to preserve what they saw as the cultural and racial makeup of the nation. This period saw a rise in restrictive immigration policies, fueled by economic concerns and social tensions following World War I. While other legislative acts, such as those mentioned in the options, address immigration issues, they do not pertain to the 1920s. The Immigration Act of 1965, for instance, eliminated earlier quotas, promoting family reunification and skilled immigrants. The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 established a temporary quota system, setting the stage for the more restrictive Immigration Act of 1924. The

3. Which of the following best describes the scope of the Great Society?

- A. Limited to economic reform**
- B. Focused solely on foreign policy**
- C. Broad reform covering education, healthcare, and welfare**
- D. Concentrated on military expansion**

The Great Society, initiated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s, is best described as a broad reform program that encompassed significant changes in various areas, including education, healthcare, and welfare. This initiative aimed to eliminate poverty and racial injustice and represented a comprehensive approach to improve the living conditions for all Americans, particularly those in marginalized communities. Key components of the Great Society included landmark legislation such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which significantly increased federal funding for education, and the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which established healthcare provisions for the elderly and low-income individuals, respectively. Additionally, the Great Society included efforts to combat poverty through initiatives like Job Corps and Head Start, which provided youth training and early childhood education. This expansive agenda reflected a holistic approach to governance, seeking to address both economic and social issues simultaneously, which distinguishes it from more narrowly focused initiatives that may only concern economic reform or military issues.

4. Which event is considered a catalyst for the escalated tensions of the Cold War?

- A. The Korean War**
- B. The Cuban Missile Crisis**
- C. The Berlin Blockade**
- D. The Vietnam War**

The Berlin Blockade is often considered a significant catalyst for the escalated tensions of the Cold War because it was one of the first major crises that highlighted the growing divide between the Western powers, led by the United States, and the Eastern bloc, led by the Soviet Union. In 1948, in response to the Western Allies' decision to establish a separate economic system in West Berlin, the Soviet Union imposed a blockade, cutting off all ground access to the city. This bold action led to the Berlin Airlift, where the Western Allies provided vital supplies to the isolated city, demonstrating their commitment to containing communism. The Berlin Blockade effectively solidified the division of Europe into East and West and marked an important turning point in Cold War relations. It underscored the ideological and geopolitical rivalry that would define the Cold War era. This event also boosted military alliances like NATO and increased the urgency of U.S. foreign policy efforts to contain the spread of communism, setting the stage for subsequent confrontations such as those seen during the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War.

5. What was the significance of the Transcontinental Railroad?

- A. It primarily served military purposes in the West**
- B. It connected the East and West coasts, facilitating trade and migration**
- C. It reduced the speed of mail delivery across the country**
- D. It increased isolation between the Northern and Southern states**

The significance of the Transcontinental Railroad lies in its role in connecting the East and West coasts of the United States, which dramatically facilitated both trade and migration. Prior to the completion of the railroad, travel and transportation between these regions were slow and arduous, often involving lengthy and dangerous overland journeys or circuitous sea routes. With the railroad, goods could be shipped more efficiently and quickly across the country, stimulating economic growth and expanding markets for American products. Additionally, the railroad had a profound impact on the movement of people. It made it easier for settlers, immigrants, and others looking for opportunities to travel to the West, contributing to westward expansion and the development of new communities. This connection encouraged the flow of people, ideas, and cultural exchange, significantly shaping the nation's growth during the latter half of the 19th century. The Transcontinental Railroad played a crucial role in the United States becoming more unified and integrated as a single nation rather than a collection of geographically isolated regions.

6. What was a significant outcome of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) for the United States?

- A. The abolition of slavery in all acquired territories**
- B. Gaining control of territories from the Atlantic to the Pacific**
- C. Formation of a military alliance with Mexico**
- D. Increased trade relations with Canada**

The significant outcome of the Mexican-American War for the United States was indeed the acquisition of a vast amount of territory, effectively expanding the U.S. from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This expansion resulted in the U.S. obtaining modern-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of Colorado and New Mexico through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which formally ended the war in 1848. This territorial acquisition played a crucial role in shaping the future of the nation, fueling the belief in Manifest Destiny—the idea that the U.S. was destined to expand across the continent. It also intensified debates over slavery in the new territories, influencing domestic politics and contributing to the sectional conflict in the years leading up to the Civil War. The expansion not only provided access to abundant resources and land but also significantly altered the demographic and cultural landscape of the nation.

7. What was one major challenge facing the Freedmen's Bureau during its operation?

- A. Lack of funding from Congress**
- B. Resistance from white Southerners**
- C. Support from ex-slaves**
- D. Growing influence of the Ku Klux Klan**

One significant challenge facing the Freedmen's Bureau was the resistance from white Southerners. After the Civil War, the Bureau was established to assist newly freed African Americans in transitioning from slavery to freedom, providing services such as education, healthcare, and employment assistance. However, many white Southerners opposed the Bureau's efforts, viewing them as a threat to the established social order and their economic interests. This resistance manifested in various forms, including violence, intimidation, and a lack of cooperation, which hampered the Bureau's ability to enact its mission effectively. The hostile environment created by white supremacist attitudes and actions, including the establishment of groups like the Ku Klux Klan, often made it difficult for the Bureau to support and protect the rights of freedmen, thereby underlining the challenges it faced during its operation. This context highlights why resistance from white Southerners stands out as a primary obstacle for the Bureau.

8. What was the New Deal?

- A. A series of economic policies to boost exports**
- B. A program to isolate the United States from foreign conflicts**
- C. A series of programs and reforms enacted by FDR to combat the Great Depression**
- D. A system of military alliances**

The New Deal signifies a pivotal set of initiatives and reforms introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the economic turmoil of the Great Depression. This comprehensive approach comprised numerous programs aimed at job creation, economic recovery, and social welfare enhancement. The essence of the New Deal was to provide immediate relief to millions of struggling Americans while also instituting long-term economic reforms. Key components of the New Deal included initiatives like the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Social Security Act, and the Works Progress Administration, all of which were designed to stimulate job creation and alleviate poverty. By focusing on the economic and social needs of the population, the New Deal aimed to stabilize the economy and restore public confidence. Its impact not only addressed the immediate aftermath of the Great Depression but also redefined the role of the federal government in the economy and society, setting a precedent for future government intervention during times of economic distress. Understanding the New Deal is crucial as it reflects a significant shift in American economic policy and the relationship between the government and its citizens.

9. What did the Supreme Court establish in Marbury v. Madison (1803)?

- A. The legality of state laws**
- B. The principle of judicial review**
- C. The role of executive orders**
- D. The limits of Congressional power**

In Marbury v. Madison (1803), the Supreme Court established the principle of judicial review, which is the authority of the courts to review and invalidate government actions that are contrary to the Constitution. This landmark decision, delivered by Chief Justice John Marshall, asserted that it is the duty of the judiciary to interpret the law and ensure that no individual or institution, including Congress, acts beyond its constitutional powers. The case arose when William Marbury petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel Secretary of State James Madison to deliver his commission as a justice of the peace. In ruling against Marbury, the Court declared that the specific provision of the Judiciary Act of 1789 that granted the Supreme Court the power to issue such writs was unconstitutional. This ruling not only denied Marbury his commission but also affirmed the judiciary's role as a check on the other branches of government, thereby establishing judicial review as a fundamental principle of the American legal system.

10. Why was Franklin Roosevelt's use of radio significant during his presidential campaign?

- A. It allowed him to broadcast his policies effectively**
- B. It reached only wealthy citizens**
- C. It discouraged public engagement in politics**
- D. It was primarily used for entertainment**

Franklin Roosevelt's use of radio during his presidential campaign was significant because it allowed him to connect directly and effectively with a vast audience, disseminating his policies and ideas in a way that was unprecedented at the time. This medium provided a platform for Roosevelt to speak intimately to the American people, fostering a sense of personal connection that print media could not achieve. The radio allowed him to articulate his vision for the nation, respond to the public's concerns, and build support for his New Deal initiatives. By addressing the nation in a conversational tone, Roosevelt could convey optimism and reassurance, especially during the challenging economic times of the Great Depression. His "fireside chats" became a hallmark of his presidency, facilitating a dialogue with citizens and making them feel involved in the political process. As a result, radio became a powerful tool for political communication and engagement, setting a precedent for future campaigns.

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://aiceushistorypaper2.examzify.com>

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