

American History Checkpoint 1877-1945 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. What strategy did the United States implement for fighting Japan in the Pacific?**
 - A. Proxy wars**
 - B. Blockade and bombardment**
 - C. Island hopping**
 - D. Military occupation**

- 2. Who was the first African American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court?**
 - A. Colin Powell**
 - B. Thurgood Marshall**
 - C. Barack Obama**
 - D. James Baldwin**

- 3. What were the key provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862?**
 - A. It offered free college education to settlers**
 - B. It provided 160 acres of public land to settlers for a small fee**
 - C. It established federal control over all land in the West**
 - D. It required settlers to pay tax on discovered minerals**

- 4. What does the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) do?**
 - A. Insures bank deposits**
 - B. Regulates stock trading**
 - C. Funds public schools**
 - D. Supports agricultural subsidies**

- 5. What principle divides power between national and state governments?**
 - A. Separation of Powers**
 - B. Limited Government**
 - C. Federalism**
 - D. Popular Sovereignty**

- 6. What was the purpose of the Social Security Act of 1935?**
- A. To provide financial assistance to the elderly, unemployed, and disabled individuals**
 - B. To create jobs for unemployed Americans**
 - C. To regulate the stock market**
 - D. To fund public education programs**
- 7. What major act reformed the banking industry during the Great Depression?**
- A. The Federal Reserve Act**
 - B. The Glass-Steagall Act**
 - C. The Securities Act**
 - D. The Emergency Banking Act**
- 8. Who was a prominent leader of the American labor movement in the early 20th century?**
- A. Susan B. Anthony**
 - B. Samuel Gompers**
 - C. John L. Lewis**
 - D. Ceasar Chavez**
- 9. What were the major motivations driving American imperialism in the late 19th century?**
- A. Desire for political alliances and treaties**
 - B. Focus on domestic agriculture**
 - C. Economic expansion and national prestige**
 - D. Promotion of military interventions in Europe**
- 10. What did the term "Lend-Lease Act" refer to during World War II?**
- A. A program to draft soldiers for combat**
 - B. A program to provide military supplies to allies**
 - C. A strategy for land invasion in Europe**
 - D. A form of economic aid to Axis powers**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What strategy did the United States implement for fighting Japan in the Pacific?

- A. Proxy wars**
- B. Blockade and bombardment**
- C. Island hopping**
- D. Military occupation**

The strategy employed by the United States for fighting Japan in the Pacific during World War II was known as island hopping. This approach involved capturing specific islands and using them as bases to launch further attacks, rather than attempting to capture every single island held by Japanese forces. The rationale behind island hopping was to seize strategically important locations and cut off Japanese supply lines while bypassing heavily fortified positions. This method enabled American forces to advance toward Japan while conserving resources and minimizing casualties. Key battles in this campaign included those at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, all of which exemplified the effectiveness of the island-hopping strategy in the overall effort to defeat Japan.

2. Who was the first African American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court?

- A. Colin Powell**
- B. Thurgood Marshall**
- C. Barack Obama**
- D. James Baldwin**

Thurgood Marshall was the first African American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, marking a significant milestone in American history. His appointment in 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson was not just a personal achievement but also a reflection of the broader civil rights movement that was gaining momentum during that time. Marshall was known for his work as a civil rights lawyer and played a pivotal role in the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. This historical context underscores the importance of his appointment, as it symbolized progress towards racial equality in American institutions. In contrast, the other names presented do not have any connection to this role; Colin Powell was a notable general and Secretary of State, Barack Obama served as a U.S. president, and James Baldwin was a prominent writer and social critic. Their distinctions highlight various achievements in American history, but none relate to a Supreme Court appointment as Marshall's did.

3. What were the key provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862?

- A. It offered free college education to settlers
- B. It provided 160 acres of public land to settlers for a small fee**
- C. It established federal control over all land in the West
- D. It required settlers to pay tax on discovered minerals

The key provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 focused on providing incentives for westward expansion by granting individuals access to land. Specifically, the act offered 160 acres of public land to any adult citizen who was the head of a household, or had filed for naturalization. By paying a nominal fee, settlers could claim this land as long as they met certain conditions, such as living on the land for a minimum of five years and improving it by building a dwelling or cultivating crops. This was a significant step in encouraging settlement in the western United States, aiming to populate and develop the region while also addressing issues like land ownership and access. The other options do not align with the provisions of the Homestead Act. For instance, while education initiatives were important during this period, the Homestead Act specifically dealt with land allocation rather than educational opportunities. Additionally, it did not establish federal control over all land in the West, as states and territories still had certain powers regarding land management. Lastly, the act did not impose a tax on discovered minerals; it primarily focused on land distribution to promote settlement. Thus, the detail regarding the provision of 160 acres of land to settlers for a small fee is the most accurate reflection of the Homestead Act

4. What does the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) do?

- A. Insures bank deposits**
- B. Regulates stock trading
- C. Funds public schools
- D. Supports agricultural subsidies

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) plays a crucial role in maintaining public confidence in the U.S. financial system by providing insurance for bank deposits. This means that if a bank fails, the FDIC protects depositors by ensuring they receive their insured funds, up to a certain limit, even if the bank becomes insolvent. This insurance helps to prevent bank runs, where large numbers of customers withdraw their deposits simultaneously due to fears about a bank's solvency. By safeguarding individual savings, the FDIC contributes to the overall stability of the financial system and promotes trust in banking institutions. The other options pertain to different government functions; for instance, regulating stock trading is tasked to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), funding public schools is primarily a local and state responsibility, and agricultural subsidies fall under the purview of the Department of Agriculture.

5. What principle divides power between national and state governments?

- A. Separation of Powers**
- B. Limited Government**
- C. Federalism**
- D. Popular Sovereignty**

The principle that divides power between national and state governments is known as federalism. This system allows for a division of authority, where certain powers are reserved for the national government, such as regulating interstate commerce and conducting foreign affairs, while other powers are allocated to the state governments, such as administering education and local law enforcement. Federalism fosters a balance in governance, enabling states to exercise their own powers while still being subject to the overall authority of the national government. This structure is crucial for accommodating the diverse needs and preferences of different states, as it allows them to tailor policies that best suit their populations. In contrast, separation of powers primarily focuses on the division of government responsibilities among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches within a single level of government, rather than between different levels. Limited government refers to constraints on governmental powers to protect individual freedoms, but it does not inherently address the division of power between national and state levels. Popular sovereignty is about the principle that the government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, which is a fundamental concept but not directly related to the division of powers between different levels of government.

6. What was the purpose of the Social Security Act of 1935?

- A. To provide financial assistance to the elderly, unemployed, and disabled individuals**
- B. To create jobs for unemployed Americans**
- C. To regulate the stock market**
- D. To fund public education programs**

The Social Security Act of 1935 was primarily designed to provide financial assistance to vulnerable populations, including the elderly, unemployed, and disabled individuals. The significance of this act lies in its establishment of a safety net for Americans who faced economic hardships, particularly during the Great Depression. By offering benefits such as old-age insurance, unemployment compensation, and aid for dependent children and the disabled, the act aimed to reduce poverty and improve the overall welfare of those in need. It marked a pivotal moment in American social policy, laying the groundwork for the modern welfare state and shaping the government's role in providing economic security for its citizens.

7. What major act reformed the banking industry during the Great Depression?

- A. The Federal Reserve Act
- B. The Glass-Steagall Act**
- C. The Securities Act
- D. The Emergency Banking Act

The Glass-Steagall Act is recognized as a pivotal piece of legislation that reformed the banking industry during the Great Depression. Enacted in 1933, this act implemented significant changes aimed at restoring public confidence in the banking system, which had been severely undermined by the financial turmoil of the Great Depression. One of the most notable features of the Glass-Steagall Act was the separation of commercial banking from investment banking. This division was intended to prevent banks from engaging in high-risk investment activities that could jeopardize depositor funds. By legally delineating these two types of banking activities, the act aimed to reduce the risk of bank failures and protect consumers' savings. Additionally, the Glass-Steagall Act established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which provided federal insurance for bank deposits, further contributing to the stabilization of the banking system. This insurance helped reassure the public that their deposits were safe, which was crucial for restoring trust in the financial system during a period of widespread economic uncertainty. Overall, the Glass-Steagall Act addressed critical vulnerabilities in the banking sector, making it a cornerstone of the financial reforms implemented in response to the Great Depression.

8. Who was a prominent leader of the American labor movement in the early 20th century?

- A. Susan B. Anthony
- B. Samuel Gompers**
- C. John L. Lewis
- D. Ceasar Chavez

Samuel Gompers was a significant figure in the American labor movement during the early 20th century, primarily known for his role as the founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor (AFL). He advocated for skilled laborers and focused on practical improvements in labor conditions, such as better wages and shorter working hours. Gompers emphasized collective bargaining as a means to achieve these goals and was instrumental in expanding the labor movement's influence in American society during a time of rapid industrialization and the challenges that came with it. His approach and philosophy were centered around the idea of "pure and simple unionism," which sought to promote the interests of workers within existing capitalistic structures rather than pursuing broader social reforms. This focus helped to grow the AFL into a leading force for labor rights during an era when workers faced harsh conditions in factories and mines. Gompers' leadership helped shape the direction of American labor, advocating for the rights of workers and leaving a lasting legacy that influenced future generations of labor organizers and workers' movements.

9. What were the major motivations driving American imperialism in the late 19th century?

- A. Desire for political alliances and treaties**
- B. Focus on domestic agriculture**
- C. Economic expansion and national prestige**
- D. Promotion of military interventions in Europe**

The major motivations driving American imperialism in the late 19th century were centered around economic expansion and national prestige. This period followed the Civil War, during which the United States emerged as an industrial power with a strong desire to find new markets for its surplus goods. American businesses sought to expand their interests overseas, tapping into the resources and markets of other nations, especially in Asia and the Pacific. Additionally, the prevailing notion of American exceptionalism contributed to a belief that the United States had a duty to spread its values and way of life, enhancing its global prestige. The competition with European powers, who were also engaged in imperial expansion, motivated the U.S. to assert itself internationally, illustrating the desire for national prestige. The acquisition of territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines after the Spanish-American War underscored this dual drive for economic opportunities and the affirmation of the United States as a world power. In contrast, focusing on domestic agriculture does not align with the motivations behind imperialism, as this movement was primarily about expansion beyond U.S. borders. While political alliances and treaties were important, they were often secondary to economic interests and the quest for prestige. Additionally, promoting military interventions in Europe was not a central theme of American imperial

10. What did the term "Lend-Lease Act" refer to during World War II?

- A. A program to draft soldiers for combat**
- B. A program to provide military supplies to allies**
- C. A strategy for land invasion in Europe**
- D. A form of economic aid to Axis powers**

The term "Lend-Lease Act" referred to a significant program initiated during World War II that allowed the United States to provide military supplies, equipment, and other resources to allied nations. This legislation, passed in 1941, marked a shift in U.S. policy from neutrality to active support of countries fighting against the Axis powers, including the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China. Under the Lend-Lease Act, the U.S. could send military goods without requiring immediate payment, thereby bolstering the defense capabilities of its allies and helping to sustain their fight against fascism. This act played a crucial role in ensuring that allied forces were equipped and maintained the necessary supplies to continue their efforts during the war, significantly impacting the overall outcome. The Lend-Lease policy exemplified a form of economic and material support that was essential for the war effort and helped strengthen international alliances.

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://ahcheckpoint1877to1945.examzify.com>

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

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