

American Reconstruction 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 was the function of the Freedman's Bureau?**
 - A. To aid African-Americans deal with their new rights and integrating into society**
 - B. To punish former Confederates**
 - C. To manage war debts**
 - D. To regulate trade with Europe**

- 2. What is impeachment?**
 - A. The process of removing a president**
 - B. A law governing term lengths**
 - C. A Supreme Court trial procedure**
 - D. A parliamentary vote of no confidence**

- 3. What was the Wade-Davis Bill?**
 - A. Congress's response to Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan**
 - B. A plan to annex Canada**
 - C. A treaty with Great Britain**
 - D. A presidential order to end Reconstruction**

- 4. What was one reason for impeaching Andrew Johnson?**
 - A. Breaking the Tenure in Office Act**
 - B. Perjury**
 - C. Refusing to send funds to Ukraine**
 - D. Inciting a riot**

- 5. Which element was included in Johnson's Reconstruction plan regarding Confederate debts?**
 - A. States must pay war debts**
 - B. Erase all Confederate debts**
 - C. Forgive all Confederate debts and loans**
 - D. Create a new national debt to fund Reconstruction**

- 6. Who created the Tenure in Office Act?**
 - A. Radical Republicans**
 - B. Democrats**
 - C. Moderates**
 - D. Federalists**

- 7. The three issue states share membership in which geographic classification?**
- A. They Are All Southern States**
 - B. They Span Multiple Regions**
 - C. They Are All Western States**
 - D. They Are All Northeastern States**
- 8. Which of the following is a plausible description of the reason for the board's creation?**
- A. To Address Disagreement Over Elector Votes**
 - B. To Investigate Campaign Contributions**
 - C. To Implement Voter ID Laws**
 - D. To Redraw State Lines**
- 9. The Compromise of 1877 is an example of resolving electoral disputes through what mechanism?**
- A. A Board to Negotiate the Results**
 - B. A Direct Presidential Appointment by Congress**
 - C. A Constitutional Amendment Ratified by States**
 - D. A Nationwide Referendum**
- 10. Which amendment is foundational for birthright citizenship and due process?**
- A. The 14th Amendment**
 - B. The 13th Amendment**
 - C. The 15th Amendment**
 - D. The 19th Amendment**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the function of the Freedman's Bureau?

- A. To aid African-Americans deal with their new rights and integrating into society**
- B. To punish former Confederates**
- C. To manage war debts**
- D. To regulate trade with Europe**

The question tests understanding of what the Freedmen's Bureau actually did during Reconstruction. Its main purpose was to help newly freed African Americans transition to freedom and integrate into Southern society. It provided practical aid like food, clothing, medical care, and housing; it also funded schools, offered legal assistance, and helped with obtaining fair labor contracts and other support as people navigated their new rights. This focus on relief, education, legal aid, and civil rights support is why choosing the option that describes helping African-Americans deal with their new rights and integrate into society is the best fit. The other options don't match the Bureau's role: punishing former Confederates was not its function, and managing war debts or regulating trade with Europe fall outside its humanitarian and civil-rights scope.

2. What is impeachment?

- A. The process of removing a president**
- B. A law governing term lengths**
- C. A Supreme Court trial procedure**
- D. A parliamentary vote of no confidence**

Impeachment is the formal process used to charge a public official with misconduct that could lead to removal from office. In the United States, it starts in the House of Representatives, which brings impeachment by approving articles of impeachment. If that happens, the Senate holds a trial, and a conviction—usually with a two-thirds vote—can remove the official from office. So, impeachment is about charges and a potential removal, not just a criminal case or a simple vote. This matches the description that impeachment is the process of removing a president. Impeachment is not a law about term lengths, not a Supreme Court trial procedure, and not a parliamentary vote of no confidence, which belong to different systems or topics.

3. What was the Wade-Davis Bill?

- A. Congress's response to Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan**
- B. A plan to annex Canada**
- C. A treaty with Great Britain**
- D. A presidential order to end Reconstruction**

Reconstruction policy after the Civil War was about who would govern the South and what rights freedpeople would have. The Wade-Davis Bill captures Congress's tougher approach, written as a direct response to Lincoln's more lenient Ten Percent Plan. It proposed a much stricter path for Southern states to rejoin the Union: a large portion of white male citizens in a seceded state would have to take an ironclad oath of loyalty, effectively excluding many former Confederates from participating in new governments. It also aimed to ensure that those who had supported the Confederacy couldn't hold office, and that any new state governments would be formed by people who hadn't borne arms against the United States, with slavery to be addressed in the new constitutions. Because it would curb presidential authority and place Reconstruction largely in Congress's hands, it symbolized the Radical Republicans' push for a sterner, more control-driven approach. Lincoln did not sign it, effectively killing the bill, which is why it didn't become law. This isn't about annexing Canada, making a treaty with Britain, or issuing a presidential order to end Reconstruction.

4. What was one reason for impeaching Andrew Johnson?

- A. Breaking the Tenure in Office Act**
- B. Perjury**
- C. Refusing to send funds to Ukraine**
- D. Inciting a riot**

The question tests how presidential power and congressional limits played out in Reconstruction-era impeachment. Andrew Johnson was impeached mainly because he removed Edwin Stanton, the Secretary of War, without Senate approval, in direct violation of the Tenure of Office Act. That law was designed to restrict the President's ability to replace certain officeholders without legislative consent, giving Congress a check on executive action during Reconstruction. By defying this act, Johnson was seen as abusing his office and obstructing Congress, which is what the impeachment charges focused on. The other choices don't fit the historical situation: perjury would require lying under oath, the Ukraine funds idea is anachronistic, and inciting a riot isn't tied to the impeachment charges.

5. Which element was included in Johnson's Reconstruction plan regarding Confederate debts?

- A. States must pay war debts**
- B. Erase all Confederate debts**
- C. Forgive all Confederate debts and loans**
- D. Create a new national debt to fund Reconstruction**

Johnson's plan tied the fate of the former Confederate states to their own responsibilities, not to federal action. He argued that debt from the Confederacy was a state matter, so the states should repay their war debts rather than have the federal government assume or cancel them. This is why the answer that states must pay war debts best fits his approach: it kept Confederate obligations with the states and avoided creating a new national debt or erasing those debts at the federal level. In contrast, erasing or forgiving Confederate debts or creating a new federal debt would contradict his intent to keep Reconstruction relatively lenient and limited in federal overreach, while still requiring readmission conditions.

6. Who created the Tenure in Office Act?

- A. Radical Republicans**
- B. Democrats**
- C. Moderates**
- D. Federalists**

The act was a legislative tool born from the actions of Radical Republicans during Reconstruction. They wanted to curb the president's power to remove appointed officials who supported their plans for rebuilding the South and enforcing civil rights. By requiring Senate approval to remove certain officeholders, the act aimed to protect key officials—like Edwin Stanton, who backed Radical Republican policy—from being ousted by the president, specifically President Andrew Johnson. This focus on limiting executive power and preserving Reconstruction-friendly leadership is what makes the Radical Republicans the best answer. Democrats and Moderates did not push this measure in the same way, and Federalists were a much earlier party not active in this period.

7. The three issue states share membership in which geographic classification?

- A. They Are All Southern States**
- B. They Span Multiple Regions**
- C. They Are All Western States**
- D. They Are All Northeastern States**

Regional classification matters in Reconstruction because geography shaped politics, economy, and social policy. These three states lie in the Southern portion of the United States, the area that comprised the former Confederacy and faced the same postwar policies and social dynamics. Their shared location means they're categorized together as Southern states, rather than spanning multiple regions or belonging to the West or Northeast.

8. Which of the following is a plausible description of the reason for the board's creation?

- A. To Address Disagreement Over Elector Votes**
- B. To Investigate Campaign Contributions**
- C. To Implement Voter ID Laws**
- D. To Redraw State Lines**

The board was created to resolve a dispute in the electoral process. After the 1876 presidential election, several states sent conflicting electoral votes, creating a crisis over which votes should count. Congress established a special Electoral Commission to settle that disagreement and determine which electors would be counted. That purpose—to address disputes over who should cast the final electoral tally—fits the historical reason for creating a board in this context. Other options describe functions like investigating campaign contributions, imposing voter ID laws, or redrawing state lines, none of which address the specific issue of contested electoral votes that this board was meant to resolve.

9. The Compromise of 1877 is an example of resolving electoral disputes through what mechanism?

- A. A Board to Negotiate the Results**
- B. A Direct Presidential Appointment by Congress**
- C. A Constitutional Amendment Ratified by States**
- D. A Nationwide Referendum**

This question is about how disputed elections were settled through a temporary, bipartisan board. In 1876, a showdown over electoral votes led Congress to create a 15-member Electoral Commission drawn from Senators, Representatives, and Supreme Court justices. This board reviewed the contested ballots and decided which electors would count, effectively determining the presidency. That arrangement—using a special commission to negotiate and resolve the vote outcome—is what the Compromise of 1877 exemplifies. It isn't about a constitutional amendment, a direct presidential appointment by Congress, or a nationwide referendum; it's about a temporary, deliberative body specifically tasked with resolving electoral disputes.

10. Which amendment is foundational for birthright citizenship and due process?

- A. The 14th Amendment**
- B. The 13th Amendment**
- C. The 15th Amendment**
- D. The 19th Amendment**

Birthright citizenship and due process are secured by the 14th Amendment. The Citizenship Clause states that all persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens, which establishes birthright citizenship for those born here. The Due Process Clause protects individuals from state actions that would deprive them of life, liberty, or property without fair legal procedure, and over time the Court has applied most constitutional protections to the states through incorporation. Together, these provisions make the 14th Amendment the foundation for both who is a citizen by birth and the fair process government must follow. The other amendments address different issues: the 13th ends slavery, the 15th prohibits denying the vote based on race, and the 19th extends voting rights to women. They don't establish birthright citizenship or the broad state-level due process protections built into the 14th Amendment.

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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://americanreconstruction.examzify.com>

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

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