

AMSCO Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) 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

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- 1. Which group would most likely support the sentiments expressed in a social cartoon?**
 - A. Proponents of anti-monopoly legislation**
 - B. Labor union leaders**
 - C. Chambers of commerce**
 - D. Socialist activists**

- 2. Which of the following best explains why Nixon's foreign policy was a departure from previous administrations'?**
 - A. He prioritized domestic issues over foreign relations**
 - B. He was the first president willing to negotiate with communist leaders**
 - C. He focused solely on trade agreements**
 - D. He withdrew troops from Vietnam without conditions**

- 3. What was the main goal of the Marshall Plan?**
 - A. To increase military presence in Europe**
 - B. To aid the economic recovery of European nations after World War II**
 - C. To promote democratic governance in Eastern Europe**
 - D. To establish NATO alliances**

- 4. How did the public initially react to the "Brown" decision regarding school integration?**
 - A. Most schools complied without opposition**
 - B. Resistance and minimal integration were widespread**
 - C. There was unanimous support across the nation**
 - D. Financial resources were allocated to support integration**

- 5. Which development best demonstrates Henry Grady's vision for the South?**
 - A. Birmingham, Alabama, became a leading steel producer**
 - B. Agricultural exports increased significantly**
 - C. Expansion of textile mills in Georgia**
 - D. Increased support for agricultural cooperatives**

- 6. Which goal from the NOW Bill of Rights did the feminist movement most clearly fail to achieve?**
- A. Access to childcare services**
 - B. Equal pay for equal work**
 - C. Equal Rights Amendment**
 - D. Expanded job opportunities**
- 7. The 1966 NOW statement most emphasized which of the following?**
- A. Access to legal abortions**
 - B. Job opportunities**
 - C. Education reform**
 - D. Equal pay for equal work**
- 8. What was the main cause of the War of 1812?**
- A. Territorial disputes with Spain**
 - B. Economic competition with France**
 - C. British interference with American shipping**
 - D. The desire for westward expansion**
- 9. The sentiments in a certain cartoon contributed most directly to which significant historical event?**
- A. The formation of the Federal Reserve**
 - B. The breakup of Standard Oil**
 - C. The establishment of the New Deal**
 - D. The creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission**
- 10. During what historical period was the excerpt primarily concerned?**
- A. Post-World War I**
 - B. Great Depression**
 - C. World War II**
 - D. Cold War**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which group would most likely support the sentiments expressed in a social cartoon?

- A. Proponents of anti-monopoly legislation**
- B. Labor union leaders**
- C. Chambers of commerce**
- D. Socialist activists**

The sentiments expressed in the social cartoon are most likely to be supported by proponents of anti-monopoly legislation. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there was significant concern over the consolidation of power among large corporations and monopolies, which many believed stifled competition and harmed consumers. Advocates for anti-monopoly measures aimed to break up these large monopolies and restore competitive practices in the marketplace. This group was often composed of reformers who viewed monopolies as detrimental to democracy and economic fairness. The emphasis on equitable economic practices in the cartoon would resonate strongly with those advocating for policies intended to curb the excessive power of monopolistic corporations, making them the most likely supporters of such sentiments. While labor union leaders, chambers of commerce, and socialist activists may also have objections to monopolistic practices, their motives and goals differ significantly. Labor unions typically focused on workers' rights and issues such as wages and working conditions, while chambers of commerce often promote the interests of businesses rather than advocating for anti-monopoly legislation. Socialist activists would seek more extensive systemic changes than just breaking up monopolies, aiming for a fundamentally different economic structure overall.

2. Which of the following best explains why Nixon's foreign policy was a departure from previous administrations'?

- A. He prioritized domestic issues over foreign relations**
- B. He was the first president willing to negotiate with communist leaders**
- C. He focused solely on trade agreements**
- D. He withdrew troops from Vietnam without conditions**

Nixon's foreign policy marked a significant departure from those of previous administrations primarily because he was more open to engaging directly with communist leaders, notably during his historic visits to China and the Soviet Union. This willingness to negotiate was characterized by the policy of *détente*, which aimed to ease Cold War tensions through dialogue and diplomatic relations rather than military confrontation. Previous administrations, particularly in the early Cold War era, often adopted a more confrontational stance towards communism, largely adhering to the containment strategy that sought to prevent the spread of communism through various means, including military intervention and support for anti-communist regimes. Nixon's approach, therefore, represented a strategic shift towards acknowledging the existence of communist powers and seeking to work with them, which was exemplified by his engagement with leaders such as Mao Zedong and Leonid Brezhnev. This orientation towards diplomacy was also instrumental in leading to significant arms control agreements, such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), further illustrating how Nixon's foreign policy broke away from the more ideologically rigid stance of his predecessors.

3. What was the main goal of the Marshall Plan?

- A. To increase military presence in Europe
- B. To aid the economic recovery of European nations after World War II**
- C. To promote democratic governance in Eastern Europe
- D. To establish NATO alliances

The main goal of the Marshall Plan was to aid the economic recovery of European nations after World War II. Officially known as the European Recovery Program, the plan was initiated in 1948 by U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall. It aimed to provide financial assistance and support to help rebuild war-torn European countries, which were facing significant economic challenges, including infrastructure destruction, food shortages, and unemployment. By providing funds and resources, the Marshall Plan sought to stabilize these nations, promote economic recovery, and prevent the spread of communism, which was gaining traction in the post-war atmosphere of desperation and instability. This initiative not only boosted the economies of Western European countries but also fostered greater political stability, which aligned with the United States' strategic interests during the early stages of the Cold War. While promoting democratic governance in Eastern Europe and establishing NATO alliances were important components of U.S. foreign policy in the post-war era, they were not the primary focus of the Marshall Plan. Similarly, increasing military presence in Europe was not directly associated with the economic recovery goals that the Marshall Plan sought to achieve. The emphasis was clearly on economic aid as a means to secure a resilient and stable Europe.

4. How did the public initially react to the "Brown" decision regarding school integration?

- A. Most schools complied without opposition
- B. Resistance and minimal integration were widespread**
- C. There was unanimous support across the nation
- D. Financial resources were allocated to support integration

The "Brown" decision, formally known as *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), declared state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional. The public reaction to this landmark ruling was not one of universal acceptance. Instead, widespread resistance emerged, especially in the South, where many communities and local governments opposed the integration of schools. Following the ruling, numerous school districts delayed or outright refused to implement desegregation plans. This resistance was fueled by deeply ingrained social norms and the fear of change concerning racial dynamics. In many areas, minimal integration occurred, often limited to token efforts rather than the full compliance mandated by the court. The backlash included legislative actions aimed at circumventing the ruling and public demonstrations against integration efforts, underscoring the contentious atmosphere surrounding civil rights during this period. Thus, the option emphasizing that resistance and minimal integration were widespread accurately reflects the complexity and challenges faced in the aftermath of the "Brown" decision.

5. Which development best demonstrates Henry Grady's vision for the South?

- A. Birmingham, Alabama, became a leading steel producer**
- B. Agricultural exports increased significantly**
- C. Expansion of textile mills in Georgia**
- D. Increased support for agricultural cooperatives**

Henry Grady, a prominent journalist and orator in the late 19th century, is best known for advocating for the economic modernization of the South following the Civil War. He envisioned a "New South" that would transition from a reliance on agriculture, particularly cotton, to a more diversified economy that included industrial growth. The development of Birmingham, Alabama, as a leading steel producer is a clear manifestation of Grady's vision. Birmingham's emergence as a major center for steel production symbolizes the shift towards industrialization and economic diversification that Grady proposed. This industrial growth not only aimed to elevate the economic status of the South but also sought to break the region's dependence on agriculture, thereby integrating it more fully into the national economy. Other developments, such as increased agricultural exports and the expansion of textile mills, while important, do not fully encapsulate Grady's call for industrialization. The increase in agricultural cooperatives also does not directly align with the specific shift in focus from agriculture to a broader industrial base. Thus, the growth of Birmingham as a steel production hub distinctly aligns with Grady's aspirations for a transformed South.

6. Which goal from the NOW Bill of Rights did the feminist movement most clearly fail to achieve?

- A. Access to childcare services**
- B. Equal pay for equal work**
- C. Equal Rights Amendment**
- D. Expanded job opportunities**

The goal of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is the correct choice regarding what the feminist movement most clearly failed to achieve. The ERA was proposed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex, aimed at eliminating legal distinctions between men and women in matters of divorce, property, employment, and other areas. Although the movement to ratify the ERA gained significant momentum in the 1970s—a time of heightened feminist advocacy—it ultimately fell short of the necessary number of state ratifications by the deadline set by Congress in 1982. Despite being proposed multiple times since then, it has not yet been ratified, highlighting a significant gap in the feminist movement's accomplishments. In contrast, while access to childcare services, equal pay for equal work, and expanded job opportunities are areas where progress has been made, they often remain incomplete and continue to be subjects of ongoing advocacy and reform. Access to childcare services has seen improvements through various policy initiatives, and laws have been enacted that promote equal pay and prohibit gender discrimination in hiring practices. Thus, the ERA stands out as the goal that has not been successfully achieved in the same way as the other objectives.

7. The 1966 NOW statement most emphasized which of the following?

- A. Access to legal abortions**
- B. Job opportunities**
- C. Education reform**
- D. Equal pay for equal work**

The statement released by the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966 emphasized job opportunities as a central concern, advocating for women's rights in the workforce. This highlighted the broader feminist movement's focus on promoting equality not just in the home, but also in professional environments. The call for equal job opportunities underscored the systemic barriers women faced in attaining employment, securing promotions, and accessing careers traditionally dominated by men. While the other choices, such as legal abortion access and equal pay, were significant issues for the feminist movement, the NOW's 1966 statement specifically aimed to address and call attention to the underrepresentation of women in various job sectors, as well as the need for fair treatment and equality in employment practices. The emphasis on job opportunities laid the foundational groundwork for subsequent advocacy in other areas of women's rights, making it a pivotal part of the feminist discourse during that era.

8. What was the main cause of the War of 1812?

- A. Territorial disputes with Spain**
- B. Economic competition with France**
- C. British interference with American shipping**
- D. The desire for westward expansion**

The primary cause of the War of 1812 was British interference with American shipping. During this period, Britain was engaged in prolonged conflict with France, and as a result, the British navy imposed restrictions on American trade and seized American ships under the pretext of searching for British deserters. These actions not only harmed the economic interests of the United States but also provoked widespread public outrage and calls for war. Additionally, the British practice of impressment, which involved forcibly enlisting American sailors into the British Navy, further inflamed tensions. The combination of interference with trade and the violation of American sovereignty through impressment created a substantial desire among many Americans to assert their rights and independence, which made conflict increasingly likely. While territorial disputes with Spain, economic competition with France, and the desire for westward expansion were relevant aspects of the geopolitical landscape, they did not directly precipitate the War of 1812 in the same way that British actions against American shipping did. Thus, British interference was the central factor that galvanized American sentiment toward war.

9. The sentiments in a certain cartoon contributed most directly to which significant historical event?

- A. The formation of the Federal Reserve**
- B. The breakup of Standard Oil**
- C. The establishment of the New Deal**
- D. The creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission**

The sentiments expressed in the cartoon align closely with the antitrust movement of the early 20th century, which culminated in significant actions against monopolies like Standard Oil. During this time, public frustration with the power and influence of large corporations was rampant, as many Americans believed these entities stifled competition, exploited workers, and manipulated markets. The government, prompted by growing public sentiment and activism, ultimately responded by enforcing antitrust laws, leading to the breakup of monopolistic corporations. The specific example of Standard Oil serves as a pivotal moment in this movement, where the Supreme Court ruled in 1911 that the company had violated the Sherman Antitrust Act. This demonstrated a significant shift in government policy towards large corporations, emphasizing a commitment to curbing monopolistic practices in favor of fair competition. Thus, the sentiments captured in the cartoon contributed directly to this significant historical event.

10. During what historical period was the excerpt primarily concerned?

- A. Post-World War I**
- B. Great Depression**
- C. World War II**
- D. Cold War**

The excerpt is primarily concerned with the World War II period, which is characterized by significant global conflict from 1939 to 1945. This period saw the United States' active involvement in the war following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, and it transformed the nation's social, economic, and political landscapes. It also led to profound changes in international relations and the eventual emergence of the United States as a superpower. In this context, discussions during this period often focused on wartime mobilization, military strategies, and the impact of the conflict on American society, including the roles of various groups and the economy. The themes present in the excerpt likely reflect the urgency and challenges the U.S. faced as it engaged in total war efforts. The other historical periods mentioned involve distinct events and themes that do not align with the context of World War II. For instance, the post-World War I period was marked by the Treaty of Versailles and the beginning of the Roaring Twenties; the Great Depression focused on economic turmoil in the 1930s; and the Cold War involved tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, emerging after World War II. Understanding the unique characteristics and context of World War II is vital to appreciating

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://amscoapush.examzify.com>

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

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