

AMSCO AP European History Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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1. Which was a long-term consequence in urban areas of the conditions reported by Holinshed?

- A. The formation of joint-stock companies**
- B. The development of a more powerful gentry class**
- C. The emergence of Genoa, London, and Amsterdam as financial centers**
- D. The increase in wages for workers**

2. What was the significance of the Edict of Nantes?

- A. It abolished feudalism in France**
- B. It granted religious tolerance to Huguenots in France**
- C. It established the supremacy of the Catholic Church**
- D. It marked the beginning of the French Revolution**

3. The historians' statement most directly supports which interpretation?

- A. The most important causes of the Reformation were economic and political, rather than religious**
- B. The Reformation idea of spiritual equality failed to spark a profound and social transformation**
- C. The Reformation primarily expanded the power of the existing elite and state authorities**
- D. The ideas of the Reformation were rooted in earlier efforts to reform the Catholic Church**

4. The passage represents the continuation of which view of women that was commonly held prior to the French Revolution?

- A. The wife can take over the family business if the husband dies**
- B. The wife is economically dependent on the husband**
- C. The wife is at the level of a slave in the family**
- D. The wife is an equal economic partner in marriage**

5. What was the primary goal of the Warsaw Pact?

- A. A military alliance among capitalist countries**
- B. A trade agreement among European nations**
- C. A military alliance to counter NATO**
- D. A collective security agreement for the UN**

6. What does involvement in theatrical performance indicate about the middle class in the 19th century?

- A. They were focused on managing wealth**
- B. They were generally poorly educated**
- C. They had increasing leisure time**
- D. They were politically rebellious**

7. What event is often seen as a precursor to the French Revolution?

- A. The signing of the Magna Carta**
- B. The Estates-General meeting in 1789**
- C. The fall of the Bastille**
- D. The Reign of Terror**

8. What was the significance of the Berlin Wall?

- A. It represented the end of communism in Europe**
- B. It symbolized the division between East and West during the Cold War**
- C. It marked the beginning of World War II**
- D. It was a symbol of peace between nations**

9. Which empire was known as the "Sick Man of Europe" during the 19th century?

- A. Ottoman Empire**
- B. Austro-Hungarian Empire**
- C. Russian Empire**
- D. British Empire**

10. Which phrase best describes the form of British colonial activity that is referred to in the excerpt above (Letters to England from Mongols)?

- A. A case of crown monopoly**
- B. An example of missionary colonization**
- C. An investment by a private stock company**
- D. A case of government-approved privateering**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which was a long-term consequence in urban areas of the conditions reported by Holinshed?

- A. The formation of joint-stock companies
- B. The development of a more powerful gentry class
- C. The emergence of Genoa, London, and Amsterdam as financial centers**
- D. The increase in wages for workers

The correct answer points to the emergence of Genoa, London, and Amsterdam as financial centers as a long-term consequence of the urban conditions reported by Holinshed. During the period in question, urban areas were experiencing significant changes due to trade expansion, the growth of commerce, and the rise of capitalism. This transformation often led to certain cities becoming pivotal financial hubs. Genoa and Amsterdam, for instance, became crucial centers of banking and finance, facilitating international trade and commerce through innovative financial instruments and practices such as bills of exchange and joint-stock companies. London, similarly, evolved into an influential financial center by the late 16th and early 17th centuries, partly due to its strategic location and the establishment of various financial institutions. The conditions detailed by Holinshed highlighted the significant social and economic shifts taking place in cities, which in turn fostered the growth of these financial powerhouses. In contrast, while joint-stock companies played a role in economic development, their formation was more a result of the rising need for investment in trade and colonies, rather than a direct consequence of urban conditions reported by Holinshed. The gentry class's increased power related more to land ownership and agricultural developments than urban dynamics. Lastly, conditions in urban areas

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The Edict of Nantes, issued in 1598 by King Henry IV of France, was significant because it granted religious tolerance to Huguenots, who were French Protestants. This edict was a pivotal moment in the context of the French Wars of Religion, which had been marked by severe conflicts between Catholics and Protestants. By allowing Huguenots to practice their religion freely and providing them with civil rights, the edict aimed to restore peace and stabilize France after decades of religious strife. The edict enabled Huguenots to have equal rights in many areas, including political and civil rights, and even allowed them to maintain their own places of worship in certain regions. This was a considerable advancement toward the idea of religious pluralism, as it recognized the rights of a minority religious group in a predominantly Catholic nation. While the edict was later revoked in 1685 by Louis XIV, leading to further persecution of Huguenots, its initial establishment laid the groundwork for discussions about religious freedom in Europe and is often viewed as a crucial step towards the eventual secularization of the state. The other options do not accurately reflect the purpose or impact of the Edict of Nantes, as it did not abolish feudal

3. The historians' statement most directly supports which interpretation?

- A. The most important causes of the Reformation were economic and political, rather than religious**
- B. The Reformation idea of spiritual equality failed to spark a profound and social transformation**
- C. The Reformation primarily expanded the power of the existing elite and state authorities**
- D. The ideas of the Reformation were rooted in earlier efforts to reform the Catholic Church**

The statement aligns with the interpretation that the Reformation's concept of spiritual equality did not lead to significant social change. This perspective emphasizes that while Reformation ideas promoted a vision of equality before God, they did not translate into broader societal transformations, such as the equalization of social classes or the dismantling of existing power structures. This interpretation suggests that the Reformation may have been more focused on individual religious beliefs and practices rather than ushering in major societal shifts. Despite the potential for upheaval in social hierarchies, the Reformation largely maintained existing class distinctions and power dynamics, thus showing that the concept of spiritual equality did not extend into the realms of social policy or structure. The other options propose different focuses: economic and political causes for the Reformation, the expansion of elite power, or roots in earlier reform efforts. However, these do not directly reflect the assertion regarding the lack of societal transformation stemming from Reformation ideals about spiritual equality.

4. The passage represents the continuation of which view of women that was commonly held prior to the French Revolution?

- A. The wife can take over the family business if the husband dies**
- B. The wife is economically dependent on the husband**
- C. The wife is at the level of a slave in the family**
- D. The wife is an equal economic partner in marriage**

The correct answer highlights the view that women were seen as economically dependent on their husbands, which was a widely accepted notion in society prior to the French Revolution. This perspective was rooted in the patriarchal structure of the time, where women's roles were primarily domestic, limiting their opportunities for financial independence or participation in the market economy. This dependency was reinforced by legal systems and social norms that restricted women's rights to own property or engage in business without their husband's consent. The Revolution did bring about discussions regarding gender roles and rights, but the prevailing view before this period was that wives relied on their husbands for financial support and security. In contrast, the other options reflect different aspects of women's roles that do not align as closely with the historical context. For example, the idea that a wife could take over the family business upon her husband's death, while possible, did not reflect the general societal view. Similarly, describing a wife as being on the same level as a slave or as an equal economic partner in marriage does not capture the prevailing norms of dependence and subservience that characterized women's status in pre-Revolutionary France.

5. What was the primary goal of the Warsaw Pact?

- A. A military alliance among capitalist countries
- B. A trade agreement among European nations
- C. A military alliance to counter NATO**
- D. A collective security agreement for the UN

The primary goal of the Warsaw Pact was to establish a military alliance to counter NATO. Formed in 1955, the Warsaw Pact was a collective defense treaty among the Soviet Union and seven other Eastern Bloc socialist republics in response to the integration of West Germany into NATO. The pact was aimed at ensuring mutual defense and military collaboration among member states, reinforcing the Soviet Union's control over its satellite states in Eastern Europe, and counterbalancing the perceived threat posed by the Western military alliance. This context underscores the significance of the Warsaw Pact during the Cold War as both a political and military strategy for the Eastern bloc. The other options do not accurately reflect the intent of the Warsaw Pact. The alliance was distinctly not among capitalist countries, nor was it a trade agreement or a collective security agreement within the framework of the United Nations. These aspects clarify why the chosen answer correctly captures the essence of the Warsaw Pact's primary objective.

6. What does involvement in theatrical performance indicate about the middle class in the 19th century?

- A. They were focused on managing wealth
- B. They were generally poorly educated
- C. They had increasing leisure time**
- D. They were politically rebellious

Involvement in theatrical performance during the 19th century reflects the growing leisure time of the middle class. As industrialization progressed, the middle class saw significant improvements in their economic status and standard of living. This newfound wealth allowed them to enjoy leisure activities, including attending and participating in theatrical performances. The establishment of theaters and the popularity of performances catered to this demographic, who had the time and resources to engage in cultural pursuits. This shift marked a notable change from earlier periods when cultural activities were generally associated with the elite. While the options associated with wealth management or educational levels might touch on aspects of middle-class life, the connection to leisure time is the most direct indicator of their social and cultural evolution during this time period. Additionally, political rebellion, while significant in various contexts, is not as closely tied to theatrical involvement in the way that the pursuit of leisure is.

7. What event is often seen as a precursor to the French Revolution?

- A. The signing of the Magna Carta
- B. The Estates-General meeting in 1789**
- C. The fall of the Bastille
- D. The Reign of Terror

The meeting of the Estates-General in 1789 is widely recognized as a significant precursor to the French Revolution because it marked the first time in over 175 years that this body had been convened. The Estates-General was a legislative assembly representing the three estates of the realm: the clergy, the nobility, and the common people. The meeting highlighted the growing tensions between the different social classes in France, particularly due to the financial crisis and widespread discontent with the monarchy's inability to address the issues affecting the Third Estate (commoners). The convening of the Estates-General catalyzed discussions about representation, taxation, and the grievances of the Third Estate, which ultimately led to the formation of the National Assembly. This group sought to challenge the traditional power dynamics and establish a new political order based on principles of equality and popular sovereignty, laying the groundwork for revolutionary changes in France. The other events mentioned, while significant in the broader context of the French Revolution, occurred after the Estates-General meeting. The signing of the Magna Carta is associated with England's historical struggle for political rights and cannot be directly linked to the French Revolution. The fall of the Bastille occurred later in 1789 and symbolized the uprising against the monarchy but was a result of

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- B. It symbolized the division between East and West during the Cold War**
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The significance of the Berlin Wall lies in its role as a powerful symbol of the ideological and physical division between East and West during the Cold War. Erected in 1961, the Wall separated East Berlin, a communist stronghold, from West Berlin, which was aligned with democratic and capitalist nations. Its construction was a response from the Eastern Bloc to the mass exodus of people fleeing East Germany for the more prosperous West. The Wall not only physically divided a city but also represented the broader geopolitical struggle between the Soviet Union and its allies versus the Western powers led by the United States. The existence of the Berlin Wall became a visual representation of the "Iron Curtain" that separated the communist east from the democratic west, exemplifying the tensions and conflicts that characterized the Cold War era. Its eventual fall in 1989 marked a significant moment in history, leading to the reunification of Germany and symbolizing the decline of communist influence in Eastern Europe.

9. Which empire was known as the "Sick Man of Europe" during the 19th century?

- A. Ottoman Empire**
- B. Austro-Hungarian Empire**
- C. Russian Empire**
- D. British Empire**

The term "Sick Man of Europe" refers specifically to the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century, highlighting its declining power and influence in the region amidst rising nationalistic movements and territorial losses. Throughout this period, the Ottoman Empire faced internal strife, economic difficulties, and the challenge of various ethnic groups seeking independence or greater autonomy. This deterioration was symbolized by the empire's inability to modernize effectively and defend its vast territories against external pressures, especially from rising European powers. In contrast, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was more stable during the 19th century, despite facing its own nationalistic challenges. The Russian Empire, while it experienced some issues like serfdom and social unrest, was expanding its influence. The British Empire, on the other hand, was at the height of its power during this time, dominating global politics and economics. Thus, the designation of the Ottoman Empire as the "Sick Man of Europe" aptly underscores its weakened state compared to other empires in the 19th century.

10. Which phrase best describes the form of British colonial activity that is referred to in the excerpt above (Letters to England from Mongols)?

- A. A case of crown monopoly**
- B. An example of missionary colonization**
- C. An investment by a private stock company**
- D. A case of government-approved privateering**

The phrase that best describes the form of British colonial activity referred to in the excerpt is accurately identified as an investment by a private stock company. During the period of exploration and colonization, many British expeditions were undertaken by private companies that were funded by investors seeking profits from overseas ventures. These stock companies, such as the East India Company, facilitated trade, established settlements, and operated with significant autonomy, relying on private capital for their operations. In this context, the letters in the excerpt likely reflect the motivations and endeavors of such a private stock company, highlighting the focus on economic gain and the role of investors in expanding British influence. This form of colonial activity contrasted with other methods, such as government-sanctioned missionary efforts or military ventures that were directly controlled by the crown. It also differs from privateering, which primarily involved acts of piracy sanctioned by a government, rather than the establishment of trade and settlement by a company. Thus, the choice accurately encapsulates the nature of British colonialism in this instance.

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://amscoapeurohistory.examzify.com>

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

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