

AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 2 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. In what ways did women contribute to early American colonial society?**
 - A. They were primarily involved in political offices.**
 - B. They managed households and played a role in agriculture.**
 - C. They served as military leaders and warriors.**
 - D. They mainly worked in artisan trades and crafts.**
- 2. What term refers to laborers who contracted to work for a period in exchange for passage to America?**
 - A. Indentured servants**
 - B. Slaves**
 - C. Free laborers**
 - D. Apprentices**
- 3. Which profession in the colonial period typically required minimal formal training?**
 - A. Physician**
 - B. Lawyer**
 - C. Merchant**
 - D. Minister**
- 4. Which of the following groups made up the majority of the colonial population?**
 - A. Africans**
 - B. English**
 - C. Germans**
 - D. Native Americans**
- 5. What was a significant characteristic of the social system in the colonies compared to Europe?**
 - A. Widespread poverty**
 - B. Narrower class system**
 - C. More hereditary privileges**
 - D. No social mobility**

6. Which entity was established as a form of self-governance in Virginia?

- A. The Continental Congress**
- B. The House of Burgesses**
- C. The New England Confederation**
- D. The Council of New Jersey**

7. What led to the decline of the Native American population during European colonization?

- A. Disease, war, and displacement**
- B. Migration to other continents**
- C. Increased birth rates**
- D. Peaceful treaties with settlers**

8. What economic theory emphasizes the importance of trade and accumulation of wealth for national strength?

- A. Capitalism**
- B. Mercantilism**
- C. Socialism**
- D. Feudalism**

9. What characterized the economies of the Middle Colonies?

- A. Strictly agricultural**
- B. A strong focus on fishing and whaling**
- C. A mix of agriculture and industry, known for producing grains**
- D. Reliance on slave labor for plantation crops**

10. Who led about 1,000 Puritans to Massachusetts and established Boston in 1630?

- A. Roger Williams**
- B. William Bradford**
- C. John Winthrop**
- D. Thomas Hooker**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In what ways did women contribute to early American colonial society?

- A. They were primarily involved in political offices.
- B. They managed households and played a role in agriculture.**
- C. They served as military leaders and warriors.
- D. They mainly worked in artisan trades and crafts.

Women played a crucial role in early American colonial society through their responsibilities in managing households and contributing to agriculture. During this period, the role of women was primarily centered around the domestic sphere, where they were tasked with maintaining the home, caring for children, and ensuring the overall well-being of the family. This included growing food, preserving crops, and engaging in activities that supported the household economy. In agricultural settings, women often worked alongside men in the fields, participating in planting, harvesting, and other farming tasks essential for survival and sustenance. Their contributions helped sustain families and communities, particularly in rural areas where labor was divided among all members due to the demands of frontier life. The other choices do not accurately reflect the prevalent roles of women during this period. Women did not typically hold political offices or serve as military leaders; these positions were predominantly occupied by men. While some women may have engaged in artisan trades and crafts primarily within their households or in limited capacities, this was not the defining aspect of their contributions to colonial society. Instead, the significance of women's work in managing homes and participating in agricultural activities was far more impactful and integral to the survival and development of early American communities.

2. What term refers to laborers who contracted to work for a period in exchange for passage to America?

- A. Indentured servants**
- B. Slaves
- C. Free laborers
- D. Apprentices

The term that refers to laborers who contracted to work for a specified period in exchange for their passage to America is "indentured servants." This practice was particularly common in the 17th and 18th centuries, especially in the British colonies. Indentured servants would sign a contract, typically lasting between four to seven years, in which they agreed to work for a master in exchange for food, shelter, and the promise of land or money at the end of their service. This system was significant in the early colonial economy as it provided a source of labor for plantations and farms, which were crucial for the economy, especially in states like Virginia and Maryland where tobacco was a major crop. The indentured servant model allowed many poorer Europeans to migrate to America and improve their social status after their term of labor was completed. The other terms listed refer to different labor systems or conditions. Slaves were an entirely different class of laborers who were forced into lifelong servitude without any contracts. Free laborers operated independently and were paid for their work, while apprentices were typically young individuals learning a trade under a master craftsman for a limited time but were not tied to labor in exchange for passage across the ocean.

3. Which profession in the colonial period typically required minimal formal training?

- A. Physician**
- B. Lawyer**
- C. Merchant**
- D. Minister**

In the colonial period, the profession of a physician often required minimal formal training compared to other professions such as lawyers, merchants, or ministers. The medical field at that time was largely based on apprenticeship and personal experience rather than extensive formal education. Many colonial physicians learned their trade by working with experienced doctors or through self-study, as medical schools did not exist in the same capacity as they do today. This lack of rigorous institutional training meant that anyone with some practical experience could potentially enact the role of a physician, leading to a wide variation in the level of skill and knowledge among practitioners. In contrast, professions like law and ministry typically required a more substantial educational background. Lawyers often needed to study law, which involved comprehensive training and understanding of legal principles, while ministers usually underwent formal theological training in order to prepare for their religious duties and interpretations of scripture. Merchants, while they needed to possess business acumen and practical experience, were not bound by the same level of formal educational requirements as lawyers and ministers. Thus, the pathway to becoming a physician was notably less structured, resulting in a profession that could be entered with minimal formal training.

4. Which of the following groups made up the majority of the colonial population?

- A. Africans**
- B. English**
- C. Germans**
- D. Native Americans**

The majority of the colonial population in the early American colonies was composed of English settlers. This resulted from the early waves of colonization, particularly in the Chesapeake region and New England, where English immigrants established settlements. The English brought their culture, language, and social systems, which laid the foundation for the development of Colonial America. While other groups, such as Africans, Germans, and Native Americans, were significant parts of the population, none surpassed the numbers of English colonists. The African population, primarily through the transatlantic slave trade, made a substantial contribution, especially in the Southern colonies, but they were not the majority overall until later in the colonial period. Germans began immigrating in significant numbers during the 18th century and contributed to the diversity of the population but did not constitute a majority in the early years. Native Americans were present before and during European colonization, but their numbers decreased dramatically due to disease, warfare, and displacement. Therefore, the choice of English as the majority group reflects the demographic reality of colonial America during the early to mid-17th century.

5. What was a significant characteristic of the social system in the colonies compared to Europe?

- A. Widespread poverty**
- B. Narrower class system**
- C. More hereditary privileges**
- D. No social mobility**

The significant characteristic of the social system in the colonies compared to Europe was the narrower class system. In colonial America, there was a greater opportunity for social mobility, which distinguished it from the more rigid class structures prevalent in Europe. The colonies, particularly in the context of the early 18th century, were often seen as places where individuals could improve their social standing through hard work and entrepreneurship. The availability of land and the nature of the economy allowed for a relatively fluid social structure, which meant that while there were certainly wealthy landowners, there were also opportunities for others, including laborers and small farmers, to rise in status. In contrast, European societies, especially those with deeply entrenched aristocracies, often had clearly demarcated classes that limited mobility. The nobility in Europe maintained significant power and privilege, while the peasantry had little chance of advancement, reinforcing a more rigid social hierarchy. This distinction highlighted the unique social dynamics of colonial America, where individual merit and economic opportunity played a larger role than inherited status.

6. Which entity was established as a form of self-governance in Virginia?

- A. The Continental Congress**
- B. The House of Burgesses**
- C. The New England Confederation**
- D. The Council of New Jersey**

The House of Burgesses was established in Virginia in 1619 as the first elected legislative assembly in the Americas. This entity allowed colonists to create their own laws and govern themselves to a certain extent, reflecting the growing desire for self-rule among the English settlers. Members of the House of Burgesses were elected by Virginia's landowning men, and it played a crucial role in the development of representative government in colonial America. This assembly provided a venue for colonists to address grievances and make policy decisions, thus laying the groundwork for future democratic practices in the colonies. The establishment of the House of Burgesses marked a significant step towards self-governance, in contrast with other choices, which either pertained to different colonies or groups and did not focus solely on Virginia's governmental structure.

7. What led to the decline of the Native American population during European colonization?

- A. Disease, war, and displacement**
- B. Migration to other continents**
- C. Increased birth rates**
- D. Peaceful treaties with settlers**

The decline of the Native American population during European colonization can predominantly be attributed to disease, war, and displacement. Europeans brought various infectious diseases, such as smallpox and influenza, to which Native Americans had no immunity. These diseases spread rapidly and decimated entire communities, leading to massive population reductions before many direct conflicts even began. In addition to the impact of disease, violent conflicts between Indigenous peoples and European settlers contributed to the decline. Wars over land and resources, as well as violent confrontations fueled by cultural misunderstandings and colonial expansion, resulted in significant casualties for Native American groups. Displacement also played a major role, as colonization efforts led to the forced removal of Native peoples from their ancestral lands. This displacement disrupted traditional lifestyles, hunting, and agricultural practices while further exposing Indigenous populations to the adverse effects of European colonization. Overall, these factors together created a catastrophic decline in the Native American population during this period, making the first choice the correct answer.

8. What economic theory emphasizes the importance of trade and accumulation of wealth for national strength?

- A. Capitalism**
- B. Mercantilism**
- C. Socialism**
- D. Feudalism**

The correct answer is mercantilism, which is an economic theory that emphasizes the importance of trade and the accumulation of wealth as means to enhance national power and security. During the 16th to the 18th centuries, mercantilism shaped the policies of European powers, who believed that a nation's strength was directly tied to its wealth, primarily measured in gold and silver. Under this system, countries sought to maximize exports and minimize imports, thereby ensuring that they maintained a favorable balance of trade. Mercantilist policies often involved strict government regulation over the economy, including the establishment of monopolies and tariffs that protected domestic industries. The focus on colonial expansion was also a key aspect of mercantilism, as colonies provided raw materials and markets for manufactured goods, further bolstering the wealth of the mother country. This ideology laid the groundwork for many economic policies and practices that influenced early American economic development and its relationships with Europe and colonial territories.

9. What characterized the economies of the Middle Colonies?

- A. Strictly agricultural**
- B. A strong focus on fishing and whaling**
- C. A mix of agriculture and industry, known for producing grains**
- D. Reliance on slave labor for plantation crops**

The economies of the Middle Colonies were characterized by a mix of agriculture and industry, particularly known for their production of grains such as wheat, barley, and rye. This region benefited from its fertile land and a climate conducive to growing staple crops, allowing it to emerge as the "breadbasket" of early America. In addition to agriculture, the Middle Colonies had a diversified economy that also included industries such as milling, ironworks, and crafts, contributing to economic growth and urban development in places like Philadelphia and New York City. This combination of farming and manufacturing made the Middle Colonies distinctly different from the more plantation-focused economies of the Southern Colonies and the more homogenous agricultural structures found in the Northern Colonies. The other options do not accurately represent the diversity and economic structure of the Middle Colonies. While fishing and whaling were important to some coastal economies, they did not define the economy of this region. Similarly, the reliance on slave labor for plantation crops was more characteristic of the Southern Colonies, which focused on cash crops like tobacco and rice. Therefore, the recognition of the Middle Colonies' mixed economy of agriculture and industry—especially their significant grain production—highlights the region's unique economic landscape during this period.

10. Who led about 1,000 Puritans to Massachusetts and established Boston in 1630?

- A. Roger Williams**
- B. William Bradford**
- C. John Winthrop**
- D. Thomas Hooker**

The individual who led about 1,000 Puritans to Massachusetts and established Boston in 1630 is John Winthrop. He was a prominent Puritan leader and became the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Winthrop envisioned the colony as a "city upon a hill," a model of Christian charity and an example for others, which reflects the Puritan goal of creating a society based on their religious beliefs. His leadership during this pivotal migration was instrumental in the establishment and growth of the colony, shaping its early governance and religious practices. Roger Williams was known for his advocacy of religious freedom and founded Rhode Island after leaving the Massachusetts Bay Colony. William Bradford was a leader of the Pilgrims who settled Plymouth Colony but was not directly involved in the establishment of Boston. Thomas Hooker, another significant figure, led a group of Puritans to Connecticut and founded Hartford, but he was not involved in the founding of Massachusetts. Thus, John Winthrop stands out as the correct answer for this specific question.

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://amscoapushperiod2.examzify.com>

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

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