

AMSCO AP UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAM (APUSH) – PERIOD 2 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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. Why did the Spanish establish a presence in the Southwest region of the present-day United States?**
 - A. To find gold and silver mines
 - B. To colonize territories and convert Native Americans to Christianity
 - C. To seek agricultural land
 - D. To establish military forts against other powers
- 2. What did the Navigation Acts aim to enforce?**
 - A. Free trade among the colonies
 - B. Regulation of colonial trade to ensure it benefited France
 - C. Regulation of colonial trade and ensuring it benefited England
 - D. Control of shipping routes in the Caribbean
- 3. Which statement accurately reflects the role of women in early American colonies?**
 - A. Women were primarily engaged in political discourse.
 - B. Women played essential roles in managing homes and supporting the economy.
 - C. Women were excluded from agricultural production.
 - D. Women learned only domestic skills.
- 4. Who was the leader of Jamestown known for helping the colony survive its early hardships?**
 - A. William Bradford
 - B. Captain John Smith
 - C. John Rolfe
 - D. Thomas Jefferson
- 5. Which term describes the trade route where New England ships transported rum to Africa for slaves?**
 - A. Middle Passage
 - B. Triangular trade
 - C. Columbian Exchange
 - D. Atlantic trade route

- 6. Which of the following factors contributed to the emergence of slavery in the Southern colonies?**
- A. High costs of indentured servants
 - B. Need for skilled laborers
 - C. Desire for more governmental control
 - D. Technological advancements in farming
- 7. What type of agricultural labor was required in South Carolina, particularly for the growth of rice plantations?**
- A. Indentured Servitude
 - B. Sharecropping
 - C. Slavery
 - D. Migrant Labor
- 8. In the southern colonies, how was government typically administered at the county level?**
- A. Through elected officials
 - B. By law-enforcing sheriffs
 - C. By town councils
 - D. Through state legislatures
- 9. What was one major consequence of the Stono Rebellion of 1739?**
- A. A surge in abolitionist movements
 - B. Increased regulations and harsher laws on enslaved people
 - C. Reduction of slave imports to the colonies
 - D. Establishment of the first slave code
- 10. What colony was created by John Davenport?**
- A. Massachusetts Bay Colony
 - B. Plymouth Colony
 - C. Connecticut
 - D. New Haven

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Why did the Spanish establish a presence in the Southwest region of the present-day United States?

- A. To find gold and silver mines
- B. To colonize territories and convert Native Americans to Christianity**
- C. To seek agricultural land
- D. To establish military forts against other powers

The establishment of a Spanish presence in the Southwest region of present-day United States was primarily driven by the goal of colonizing territories and converting Native Americans to Christianity. This objective was a central element of Spanish colonial policy during the Age of Exploration. The Spanish crown viewed the conversion of Indigenous peoples to Christianity, especially Catholicism, as a moral duty and a way to expand the influence of the Catholic Church. In conjunction with missionary efforts, Spanish colonization also involved establishing settlements, missions, and presidios (military forts) to facilitate control over the vast territory and engage with Native American communities. This approach was evident in the missions founded throughout the region, where missionaries sought to evangelize Indigenous populations while Spanish settlers occupied and developed the land. Thus, while aspirations for economic opportunities, such as mining and agriculture, were certainly present, the overarching goal of spreading Christianity and securing Spanish territorial claims distinguished this movement.

2. What did the Navigation Acts aim to enforce?

- A. Free trade among the colonies
- B. Regulation of colonial trade to ensure it benefited France
- C. Regulation of colonial trade and ensuring it benefited England**
- D. Control of shipping routes in the Caribbean

The Navigation Acts were a series of laws enacted by the English Parliament in the 17th century aimed at regulating colonial trade. Their primary purpose was to ensure that trade between England and its colonies, as well as trade conducted by the colonies themselves, directly benefited England economically. These acts mandated that certain products produced in the colonies, known as enumerated goods, could only be shipped to England or English colonies. By doing so, the Navigation Acts sought to monopolize trade and enforce the mercantilist policy, which prioritized the economic interests of the mother country. This connection to benefiting England is key. The acts were designed not just to regulate but to create a system where the colonial economy supported the economic strength of England, enhancing its naval capabilities and securing its position in global trade. Thus, the focus was on regulatory measures that ensured profits from colonial trade flowed back to the English economy, aligning perfectly with the objectives set forth in the Navigation Acts.

3. Which statement accurately reflects the role of women in early American colonies?

- A. Women were primarily engaged in political discourse.
- B. Women played essential roles in managing homes and supporting the economy.**
- C. Women were excluded from agricultural production.
- D. Women learned only domestic skills.

The correct statement highlights that women in early American colonies played essential roles in managing homes and supporting the economy. During this period, women's contributions were vital, particularly in the domestic sphere where they were responsible for various tasks such as cooking, weaving, and caring for children. Additionally, many women participated in agricultural activities alongside men, whether by maintaining gardens, assisting with livestock, or contributing to food production, which was crucial for the survival and economic stability of their households. Their roles extended beyond the home as well; women were often involved in small-scale trade, ran family businesses, and during times of conflict, they could take on additional responsibilities in support of the economy. This multifaceted involvement illustrates that women's roles were not limited to the private sphere but were integral to colonial life and the development of early American society.

4. Who was the leader of Jamestown known for helping the colony survive its early hardships?

- A. William Bradford
- B. Captain John Smith**
- C. John Rolfe
- D. Thomas Jefferson

Captain John Smith was pivotal in the early survival of the Jamestown colony due to his leadership and resourcefulness. He implemented a strict work program and established trade with local Native American tribes, which were crucial in securing food and resources for the struggling settlers. Smith's famous edict that those who did not work would not eat encouraged productivity among the colonists during a time of severe hardship. His relationships with Native Americans, particularly with Chief Powhatan, also helped to ensure the colony received the necessary support to endure its early challenges. In contrast, William Bradford was a leader of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony, while John Rolfe is best known for introducing tobacco as a cash crop that would later drive economic success in Virginia. Thomas Jefferson, on the other hand, was a founding father and the third President of the United States, with no direct involvement in the early years of the Jamestown settlement.

5. Which term describes the trade route where New England ships transported rum to Africa for slaves?

- A. Middle Passage
- B. Triangular trade**
- C. Columbian Exchange
- D. Atlantic trade route

The term that best describes the trade route where New England ships transported rum to Africa for slaves is the Triangular trade. This system involved a three-part journey connecting Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Ships would leave New England with rum, sailing to West Africa, where they would trade the rum for enslaved Africans. The enslaved individuals would then be transported to the Caribbean or the American colonies, where they were sold, often for commodities like sugar or tobacco, which would be shipped back to Europe. This pattern of trade is significant because it highlights the interconnectivity of these regions during the colonial period and underscores the economic foundations of the transatlantic slave trade. This system was not simply about the transportation of goods; it also facilitated the brutal trade in human lives, reinforcing racial and economic dynamics that would have lasting implications in American history.

6. Which of the following factors contributed to the emergence of slavery in the Southern colonies?

- A. High costs of indentured servants**
- B. Need for skilled laborers
- C. Desire for more governmental control
- D. Technological advancements in farming

The emergence of slavery in the Southern colonies can be attributed to the high costs associated with indentured servants. Initially, many planters relied on indentured servants to fulfill their labor needs, as this system allowed them to bring in workers who would contract for several years in exchange for passage to America and the promise of land or money upon completion of their service. However, as the demand for labor grew—especially on cash crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo—the costs of maintaining this system became prohibitive. Additionally, the indentured servant population was not stable; many servants completed their contracts and left to seek opportunities elsewhere, creating a labor shortage. This situation prompted Southern landowners to turn increasingly to the more permanent and economically viable solution of African slavery. Enslaved individuals were viewed as a more controllable and long-term labor force that would not require the same financial commitments as indentured servants, thus facilitating the shift toward a slave-based economy in the South. The other factors, such as the need for skilled laborers and governmental control, did not have as significant an impact in comparison to the financial considerations and labor shortages created by the indentured servant system. While technological advancements in farming played a role in increasing crop production, they alone did

7. What type of agricultural labor was required in South Carolina, particularly for the growth of rice plantations?

- A. Indentured Servitude
- B. Sharecropping
- C. Slavery**
- D. Migrant Labor

The correct choice is slavery, particularly in the context of South Carolina's rice plantations. Slavery became the dominant form of agricultural labor required in the South, especially for labor-intensive crops like rice, which demanded extensive knowledge of irrigation and crop management. The geography and climate of South Carolina supported rice cultivation, creating a demand for a labor force that could withstand the strenuous conditions of plantation work and the technical expertise needed for production. Historically, enslaved Africans were forcibly brought to America and were well-versed in rice agriculture, having cultivated it in West Africa. This knowledge was invaluable to the successful operation of rice plantations, making enslaved labor not just a necessity but a more efficient option for plantation owners compared to other labor systems. Indentured servitude, while present in the colonies, was more common in the earlier years of settlement and typically involved individuals agreeing to work for a certain number of years in exchange for passage to America, land, or other compensation. Sharecropping emerged later, particularly after the Civil War during the Reconstruction era, as a system of self-sustaining farming among freedmen. Migrant labor refers to a labor system where workers move seasonally to find work, which doesn't align with the historical context of plantation labor in South Carolina.

8. In the southern colonies, how was government typically administered at the county level?

- A. Through elected officials
- B. By law-enforcing sheriffs**
- C. By town councils
- D. Through state legislatures

In the southern colonies, government at the county level was typically administered by law-enforcing sheriffs. These sheriffs played a crucial role in local governance, overseeing law enforcement, tax collection, and maintaining order within their jurisdictions. The county system was essential in the southern colonies due to the vast rural areas and the plantation economy, which necessitated a structured form of local governance to manage land and enforce laws. Elected officials were certainly part of governance, but their influence at the county level was more about formal representation rather than the direct enforcement of laws and day-to-day operations handled by sheriffs. Town councils were more common in New England rather than in the southern colonies, where the county system prevailed. State legislatures were responsible for broader legislative functions but did not govern local matters directly at the county level. Thus, the role of sheriffs was paramount in maintaining order and administering government functions locally in the southern colonies.

9. What was one major consequence of the Stono Rebellion of 1739?

- A. A surge in abolitionist movements
- B. Increased regulations and harsher laws on enslaved people**
- C. Reduction of slave imports to the colonies
- D. Establishment of the first slave code

The Stono Rebellion of 1739, one of the largest slave uprisings in the British colonies, had profound implications for the regulation of enslaved individuals. Following the rebellion, which involved enslaved Africans rising up against their masters in South Carolina with the aim of escaping to Spanish Florida, colonial authorities responded with increased fears of further uprisings. This led to the implementation of stricter laws to control enslaved populations, aimed at preventing such rebellions in the future. As a result, specific measures such as the Negro Act of 1740 were enacted, which imposed harsher restrictions on the movements, education, and assembly of enslaved people. These regulations were intended to curb their ability to organize or revolt, reflecting the heightened anxieties of white colonists regarding their control over enslaved laborers. While other developments occurred in the colonial response to slavery during this period, such as calls for abolition, none were as directly consequence-driven as the immediate and drastic policy changes following the Stono Rebellion. Thus, the increase in regulations and harsher laws on enslaved people is a direct consequence of the fear and societal unrest that the rebellion incited.

10. What colony was created by John Davenport?

- A. Massachusetts Bay Colony
- B. Plymouth Colony
- C. Connecticut
- D. New Haven**

John Davenport was instrumental in the founding of the New Haven Colony in the 1630s. He, along with other Puritan leaders, established the colony as a place where they could practice their religious beliefs freely and create a community based on their interpretation of the Christian faith. New Haven was founded specifically with a focus on creating a more strictly religious governance compared to other nearby settlements. This colony eventually merged with the Connecticut Colony in 1662, but its establishment marked a significant moment in the development of Puritan settlements in New England. In contrast, the other choices refer to different colonies established in New England and are not directly associated with Davenport. Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony were earlier Puritan settlements established by different groups of colonizers, while Connecticut was founded by individuals who had connections to the Massachusetts Bay Colony but was separate from Davenport's efforts in New Haven.

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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