

AMSCO AP UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAM (APUSH) – PERIOD 3 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. Who was the British general that led a disastrous expedition from Virginia during the French and Indian War?**
 - A. James Wolfe
 - B. Edward Braddock
 - C. John Burgoyne
 - D. Henry Clinton
- 2. What alignment characterized the views of New England delegates compared to those from middle colonies at the Second Continental Congress?**
 - A. Support for the British Crown
 - B. Determination to declare independence
 - C. Call for a military alliance
 - D. Desire for immediate negotiations
- 3. Who fought in disguise as a man for a year during the Revolutionary War?**
 - A. Abigail Adams
 - B. Mary McCauley
 - C. Deborah Sampson
 - D. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- 4. According to Washington's Farewell Address, which of the following should Americans avoid?**
 - A. Participation in state politics
 - B. Involvement in foreign affairs
 - C. Trade with other countries
 - D. Establishing a federal bank
- 5. Which principle involves the division of government into three separate branches?**
 - A. Separation of Powers
 - B. Checks and Balances
 - C. Judicial Review
 - D. Federalism

- 6. Which political party was dominant in Parliament around the time of colonial unrest?**
- A. Whigs
 - B. Tories
 - C. Democrats
 - D. Federalists
- 7. Which law imposed fines and jail time for individuals or newspapers that criticized the government?**
- A. Alien Act
 - B. Sedition Act
 - C. Espionage Act
 - D. Patriot Act
- 8. What does the Legislative Branch primarily consist of?**
- A. A single house of representatives
 - B. Executive members
 - C. A bicameral legislature
 - D. A judicial forum
- 9. Which document, prepared with James Otis in 1768, rallied against the Boston Massacre and inflamed anti-British sentiments?**
- A. Massachusetts Circular Letter
 - B. Declaration of Independence
 - C. Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania
 - D. Common Sense
- 10. Which founding figure aimed to strengthen the federal government and is known for his financial plans?**
- A. James Madison
 - B. Thomas Jefferson
 - C. Alexander Hamilton
 - D. John Jay

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who was the British general that led a disastrous expedition from Virginia during the French and Indian War?

- A. James Wolfe
- B. Edward Braddock**
- C. John Burgoyne
- D. Henry Clinton

The British general who led a disastrous expedition from Virginia during the French and Indian War was Edward Braddock. Braddock is best known for his command of an ill-fated campaign in 1755 aimed at capturing Fort Duquesne from the French. His forces faced significant difficulties, including being ambushed by French and Native American troops near present-day Pittsburgh. The defeat resulted in heavy British casualties and demonstrated the challenges of warfare in the American wilderness, contributing to a shift in British military strategy for the remainder of the war. This campaign highlighted issues such as the need for better understanding of the terrain and native tactics, as well as the importance of more adaptable military leadership in colonial warfare.

2. What alignment characterized the views of New England delegates compared to those from middle colonies at the Second Continental Congress?

- A. Support for the British Crown
- B. Determination to declare independence**
- C. Call for a military alliance
- D. Desire for immediate negotiations

The views of New England delegates at the Second Continental Congress were primarily characterized by a strong determination to declare independence from British rule. This region had been significantly affected by British policies and oppressive measures, such as the Intolerable Acts, which had inflamed revolutionary sentiment. Many of the delegates from New England were committed to the idea that the colonies should break away from Britain, advocating for a stronger stance against British authority. In contrast, delegates from the middle colonies often held more moderate views. While some did support independence, there was a noticeable emphasis on seeking reconciliation or negotiating with Britain among others, reflecting the diversity of perspectives present in that region. This divergence between the New England representatives, who leaned more decisively toward independence, and middle colony delegates, who considered more diplomatic solutions, illustrates the broader ideological rifts that existed within the Continental Congress during this period of escalating tensions.

3. Who fought in disguise as a man for a year during the Revolutionary War?

- A. Abigail Adams
- B. Mary McCauley
- C. Deborah Sampson**
- D. Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Deborah Sampson is recognized for her remarkable courage and determination during the Revolutionary War by disguising herself as a man to enlist and serve in the Continental Army. She adopted the name "Robert Shurtlieff" and fought for over a year, participating in several battles. Her story is significant as it highlights the roles women played in the war, often going unnoticed and unrecognized, and serves as an example of women's contributions to the revolutionary cause. Sampson's actions were not only a personal assertion of independence but also indicative of the broader themes of gender and personal agency during this transformative period in American history.

4. According to Washington's Farewell Address, which of the following should Americans avoid?

- A. Participation in state politics
- B. Involvement in foreign affairs**
- C. Trade with other countries
- D. Establishing a federal bank

Washington's Farewell Address emphasizes the importance of national unity and cautions against the dangers of entangling alliances with foreign nations. He believed that involvement in foreign affairs, particularly military alliances and political commitments, could lead to conflicts that might threaten the independence and stability of the United States. Washington advocated for a foreign policy of neutrality, suggesting that the U.S. should focus on its own challenges and maintain independence rather than becoming embroiled in the conflicts of Europe or other regions. This approach was intended to foster a sense of self-sufficiency and promote domestic unity over international entanglements. Washington's warning reflects his broader concerns about how foreign alliances could influence American politics and institutions and potentially lead to divisions within the country.

5. Which principle involves the division of government into three separate branches?

- A. Separation of Powers**
- B. Checks and Balances
- C. Judicial Review
- D. Federalism

The principle that involves the division of government into three separate branches is known as Separation of Powers. This framework was established in the United States Constitution to ensure that no single branch of government—executive, legislative, or judicial—could dominate the others, thereby protecting against tyranny and abuse of power. Each branch has its own distinct functions: the legislative branch makes laws, the executive branch enforces laws, and the judicial branch interprets laws. This division not only helps distribute power but also creates a system of governance where each branch can operate independently while still holding the others accountable, promoting a balanced government structure. This concept stands in contrast to the other options. Checks and Balances refer to the mechanisms that ensure all branches can limit each other's powers to maintain that balance. Judicial Review is the process by which the judiciary can invalidate laws and executive actions that are deemed unconstitutional, which is a function carried out within the judicial branch. Federalism describes the division of power between the national and state governments, rather than within the branches of a single government.

6. Which political party was dominant in Parliament around the time of colonial unrest?

A. Whigs

B. Tories

C. Democrats

D. Federalists

The Whigs were the dominant political party in Parliament during the time of colonial unrest in the 1760s and 1770s. This period was marked by significant tension between the American colonies and Great Britain, largely due to policies and taxes imposed by the British government, such as the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts. The Whigs, characterized by their opposition to what they saw as the overreach of royal authority and increased taxation without representation, were more sympathetic to the colonial grievances compared to the Tories. The Tories, on the other hand, were generally supportive of the king and his administration, often favoring the enforcement of British laws and colonial taxation. The Democrats and Federalists were not relevant in this context, as they emerged later in American politics after the Revolutionary War. Thus, the prominence of the Whigs at the time illustrates the political divisions in Great Britain that contributed to the growing unrest in the colonies, as they began to advocate for the rights of colonists against what they perceived to be tyrannical rule.

7. Which law imposed fines and jail time for individuals or newspapers that criticized the government?

A. Alien Act

B. Sedition Act

C. Espionage Act

D. Patriot Act

The Sedition Act, enacted in 1798, was a significant piece of legislation during a turbulent time in U.S. history, particularly reflecting the tensions surrounding the Federalist and Democratic-Republican parties. This law specifically targeted individuals and journalists who spoke or wrote against the government, imposing penalties such as fines and imprisonment for those found guilty of sedition. Its purpose was to suppress dissent and maintain national security during a period perceived as fraught with the potential for internal rebellion and external threats, notably in the context of conflicts with France. The Sedition Act was controversial as it raised serious questions about free speech and the limits of government power, leading to intensifying political debates that would contribute to the eventual rise of more robust protections for civil liberties. Understanding this act's implications is crucial as it sheds light on the early struggles of the United States in balancing governance and individual rights, a theme that continues to resonate in American political discourse today.

8. What does the Legislative Branch primarily consist of?

- A. A single house of representatives
- B. Executive members
- C. A bicameral legislature**
- D. A judicial forum

The Legislative Branch of the United States government primarily consists of a bicameral legislature, divided into two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate. This structure was established by the U.S. Constitution and reflects a compromise between different interests during the founding of the nation. The House of Representatives, with membership based on state populations, allows for representation that reflects the population distribution, while the Senate, with two senators from each state regardless of population, ensures equal representation for each state in the legislative process. This bicameral system is designed to balance the interests of both populous and less populous states, thereby fostering a system of checks and balances within the legislature itself. The other options do not accurately describe the structure of the Legislative Branch. A single house of representatives (the first option) would not reflect the bicameral nature of the legislature. Executive members pertain to the Executive Branch, responsible for enforcing laws rather than making them. A judicial forum relates to the Judicial Branch, which interprets laws and resolves legal disputes. Thus, the answer is correct as it appropriately identifies the bicameral composition of the Legislative Branch.

9. Which document, prepared with James Otis in 1768, rallied against the Boston Massacre and inflamed anti-British sentiments?

- A. Massachusetts Circular Letter**
- B. Declaration of Independence
- C. Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania
- D. Common Sense

The Massachusetts Circular Letter, prepared in 1768, played a crucial role in rallying public opinion against British policies, particularly following the Boston Massacre in 1770. Authored by James Otis and Samuel Adams, the letter was a powerful statement denouncing British impositions, such as the Townshend Acts, which American colonists found oppressive. It called for unity among the colonies to resist British authority, which helped to unify colonial resistance and escalate anti-British sentiments. This document's significance lies not only in its immediate impact on opinion in Massachusetts but also on the larger movement it inspired across other colonies. The circulation of the letter prompted more widespread discussions about colonial rights and liberties, contributing to the growing revolutionary spirit that characterized the period leading up to the American Revolution. It symbolized the emergence of organized resistance against British rule, laying the groundwork for future revolutionary actions.

10. Which founding figure aimed to strengthen the federal government and is known for his financial plans?

- A. James Madison
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. Alexander Hamilton**
- D. John Jay

The founding figure known for his efforts to strengthen the federal government through his financial plans is Alexander Hamilton. As the first Secretary of the Treasury under President George Washington, Hamilton devised a comprehensive financial strategy that included the establishment of a national bank, the federal assumption of state debts, and the implementation of tariffs and excise taxes. His vision was to create a stable national economy that would promote trade and encourage investment, thus strengthening the federal government's authority and functionality. Hamilton believed that a robust federal government was essential for the nation's prosperity and stability, contrasting with the views of those who favored stronger state governments. His financial policies played a crucial role in shifting the balance of power towards the federal government, laying the groundwork for an economic structure that supports a centralized political system. This vision was instrumental in shaping the economic landscape of the young United States and establishing a lasting influence on its governance.

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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:

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

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