

AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 5 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. What was the Lecompton Constitution?**
 - A. A pro-slavery constitution voted on in Kansas
 - B. A document declaring Kansas as a free state
 - C. A treaty between the North and South
 - D. A plan for Kansas to join the Union
- 2. What agricultural practice involved African Americans farming land owned by others for a share of the crops?**
 - A. Tenant farming
 - B. Sharecropping
 - C. Factory labor
 - D. Sustained farming
- 3. What was the aim of the Crittenden Compromise offered by Senator Crittenden?**
 - A. To abolish slavery in all territories
 - B. To recognize slavery in territories south of the 36°30' line
 - C. To grant voting rights to all former slaves
 - D. To increase tariffs on Southern goods
- 4. Which President attempted to balance pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions but ultimately failed?**
 - A. James Buchanan
 - B. Andrew Johnson
 - C. Martin Van Buren
 - D. Calvin Coolidge
- 5. What was the primary focus of the Wilmot Proviso in relation to the territories acquired after the Mexican War?**
 - A. To allow slavery in all newly acquired territories
 - B. To establish a federal ban on slavery in new territories
 - C. To determine the status of territories regarding slavery
 - D. To promote the spread of free labor

6. Which plan required only 10% of white men in Southern states to pledge an oath for the state to be readmitted?

- A. Johnson's Reconstruction Plan**
- B. Reconstruction Act of 1867**
- C. Proclamation of Amnesty**
- D. Military Reconstruction Act**

7. What crucial outcome did the Compromise of 1877 have for the Southern states?

- A. Established military rule**
- B. Supported economic reform**
- C. Ended Reconstruction efforts**
- D. Facilitated industrial growth**

8. What term refers to the acquisition of money through dishonest means, such as bribery?

- A. Corruption**
- B. Fraud**
- C. Graft**
- D. Extortion**

9. What event led to the passage of the Conscription Act?

- A. The need for more soldiers as the war progressed.**
- B. The victory at Gettysburg.**
- C. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln.**
- D. The end of slavery in the Confederate states.**

10. What was the primary purpose of the New England Emigrant Aid Company?

- A. To promote southern settlement in Kansas**
- B. To support the establishment of Kansas as a free state**
- C. To finance the construction of railroads in Kansas**
- D. To assist in the spread of abolitionist literature**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the Lecompton Constitution?

- A. A pro-slavery constitution voted on in Kansas**
- B. A document declaring Kansas as a free state**
- C. A treaty between the North and South**
- D. A plan for Kansas to join the Union**

The Lecompton Constitution was indeed a pro-slavery constitution that was drafted in Kansas during the struggle over whether Kansas would enter the Union as a free or slave state. It was developed by pro-slavery forces in 1857 and presented to the residents of Kansas for a vote. However, the voting process was deeply flawed and contentious, leading to significant controversy. The document's provisions protected slaveholders in the territory and sought to secure Kansas as a slave state. This context reflects the larger national crisis around slavery during the 1850s, particularly in the wake of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed the settlers in those territories to determine through popular sovereignty whether they would be free or slave states. The rejection of the Lecompton Constitution by many anti-slavery supporters indicated the deep divisions within the territory and the country regarding the issue of slavery. Ultimately, Kansas would be admitted as a free state in 1861, highlighting the failure of the Lecompton Constitution to gain widespread acceptance.

2. What agricultural practice involved African Americans farming land owned by others for a share of the crops?

- A. Tenant farming**
- B. Sharecropping**
- C. Factory labor**
- D. Sustained farming**

Sharecropping is the agricultural practice where African Americans, particularly in the post-Civil War South, would farm land that was owned by white landowners in return for a share of the crops produced. This system emerged during the Reconstruction era as a means of economic survival for many formerly enslaved individuals who lacked the resources to own land themselves. Under sharecropping agreements, laborers would cultivate a portion of the owner's land, and at harvest time, they would split the profits or crops with the landowner. This practice often led to a cycle of poverty and debt, as sharecroppers had to borrow supplies and tools from landowners and were frequently taken advantage of. While tenant farming can also involve renting land and sharing crop yields, sharecropping specifically refers to the arrangement where the laborers did not necessarily pay rent in cash but instead paid with a portion of the harvest, making it a distinct arrangement in the context of African American agricultural labor during this period.

3. What was the aim of the Crittenden Compromise offered by Senator Crittenden?

- A. To abolish slavery in all territories**
- B. To recognize slavery in territories south of the 36°30' line**
- C. To grant voting rights to all former slaves**
- D. To increase tariffs on Southern goods**

The Crittenden Compromise aimed to resolve the growing sectional conflict over slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War. It was proposed by Senator John J. Crittenden in late 1860 and sought to prevent Southern states from seceding from the Union. The key component of this compromise was the proposal to extend the Missouri Compromise line of 36°30' westward, thereby allowing slavery to be recognized and protected in all territories south of that line. This approach was intended to appease Southern states and maintain the Union by creating a clear demarcation that would secure their interests regarding slavery. The premise was that by giving legal protections to slavery in the territories south of the line, the Crittenden Compromise could avert the immediate crisis over slavery and prevent the fracture of the nation. Thus, the proposal fundamentally aimed to balance the interests of slaveholding states with those of free states at a time of significant national tension over this issue.

4. Which President attempted to balance pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions but ultimately failed?

- A. James Buchanan**
- B. Andrew Johnson**
- C. Martin Van Buren**
- D. Calvin Coolidge**

James Buchanan's presidency (1857-1861) was marked by significant tension between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions, largely due to the divisions within the country surrounding the issue of slavery. He sought to maintain a precarious balance between the two sides, believing that compromise was the best path toward preserving the Union. His support for the controversial Kansas-Nebraska Act and his endorsement of the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitution in Kansas exemplify his attempts to satisfy Southern interests while also appeasing Northern anti-slavery sentiments. However, Buchanan's efforts to manage the divisions ultimately failed, as they alienated both sides. He was unable to secure support for the Lecompton Constitution, leading to increased polarization. His presidency was characterized by the inability to effectively address the deepening crisis over slavery, contributing to the conditions that led to the Civil War. Therefore, he stands out as the president who most visibly grappled with the challenge of balancing these competing factions but did so unsuccessfully.

5. What was the primary focus of the Wilmot Proviso in relation to the territories acquired after the Mexican War?

- A. To allow slavery in all newly acquired territories**
- B. To establish a federal ban on slavery in new territories**
- C. To determine the status of territories regarding slavery**
- D. To promote the spread of free labor**

The Wilmot Proviso was primarily concerned with determining the status of slavery in the territories acquired from Mexico as a result of the Mexican-American War. Introduced by Congressman David Wilmot in 1846, the Proviso explicitly aimed to ban slavery in any territory gained from Mexico. This reflected the heated debates of the time regarding the expansion of slavery in the new territories, emphasizing the deep divisions within the United States over the issue of slavery. While the Proviso sought to address the status of slavery, it did not directly establish a federal ban or promote the spread of free labor; rather, it aimed to clarify and provoke discussion on how the question of slavery would be handled in these new areas. The debate ignited by the Proviso led to significant political tensions, showcasing the complexities of territorial governance and the contentious nature of slavery in American politics. Thus, the correct interpretation recognizes that the main issue at hand was indeed the determination of slavery's status in the newly acquired territories.

6. Which plan required only 10% of white men in Southern states to pledge an oath for the state to be readmitted?

- A. Johnson's Reconstruction Plan**
- B. Reconstruction Act of 1867**
- C. Proclamation of Amnesty**
- D. Military Reconstruction Act**

The Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, issued by President Abraham Lincoln in December 1863, outlined a lenient approach to reuniting the nation following the Civil War. This plan stipulated that if 10% of the eligible white male voters in a Southern state took a loyalty oath to the Union, that state could be readmitted into the United States and establish a new government. This relatively forgiving requirement was intended to encourage quicker reconciliation and to reintegrate the Southern states back into the Union, fostering a sense of national healing after the war. Lincoln's strategy emphasized forgiveness over punishment and sought to diminish the power of Confederate leaders, promoting a rapid recovery for the South. The 10% threshold demonstrated a willingness to restore political rights and facilitate the reintegration of Southern states rather than imposing harsh punitive measures, which would be characteristic of later Reconstruction policies. The other options presented correspond to different aspects of the Reconstruction era. Johnson's Reconstruction Plan followed Lincoln's, but it had variations and involved more than just the 10% loyalty pledge. The Reconstruction Act of 1867 and the Military Reconstruction Act were more stringent; they imposed military oversight in the South and required broader reforms, including the establishment of new state constitutions that guaranteed African American men the

7. What crucial outcome did the Compromise of 1877 have for the Southern states?

- A. Established military rule**
- B. Supported economic reform**
- C. Ended Reconstruction efforts**
- D. Facilitated industrial growth**

The Compromise of 1877 marked the end of Reconstruction, a critical era following the Civil War aimed at rebuilding the South and ensuring civil rights for newly freed African Americans. This agreement effectively resolved the disputed 1876 presidential election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden. In exchange for conceding the presidency to Hayes, Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South. The withdrawal of these troops resulted in a significant shift in power dynamics in Southern states. Without federal enforcement, Southern states were free to enact laws that suppressed the rights of African Americans, leading to the establishment of Jim Crow laws and the disenfranchisement of Black voters. The end of Reconstruction also allowed Southern Democrats, often referred to as "Redeemers," to regain political control and implement policies that reinforced segregation and white supremacy. While the other outcomes listed may have relevant historical implications, they do not capture the primary consequence of the Compromise of 1877 as it pertains to Southern states, which was the definitive conclusion of Reconstruction efforts and the subsequent regression in civil rights advancements.

8. What term refers to the acquisition of money through dishonest means, such as bribery?

- A. Corruption**
- B. Fraud**
- C. Graft**
- D. Extortion**

The term that refers to the acquisition of money through dishonest means, specifically through practices like bribery, is graft. Graft typically involves the illicit use of political power for personal gain, often manifesting in the form of bribery, where officials exploit their positions to profit financially. This understanding of graft highlights its connection to political corruption and unethical behavior in governance. Corruption, while related, is a broader term that encompasses a variety of dishonest acts, not limited to financial gains through bribery. Fraud also pertains to deceitful practices aimed at securing unfair or unlawful gain but is often associated with more general deception, not specifically tied to a public office. Extortion, on the other hand, specifically involves coercion or threats to obtain money or benefits, distinct from the subtler practices of graft. Understanding graft's specific connotation within the realm of political corruption clarifies why it is the most accurate term for dishonest monetary acquisition through methods like bribery.

9. What event led to the passage of the Conscription Act?

- A. The need for more soldiers as the war progressed.**
- B. The victory at Gettysburg.**
- C. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln.**
- D. The end of slavery in the Confederate states.**

The Conscription Act, passed in 1863, was primarily driven by the Union's escalating need for soldiers as the Civil War progressed. Early in the war, volunteers filled the ranks of both the Union and Confederate armies, but as the conflict dragged on and casualties mounted, it became clear that relying solely on voluntary enlistment was insufficient to maintain troop levels. By instituting a draft, the government sought to ensure that enough soldiers were available to meet military demands, especially after significant battles and the heavy losses suffered by Union forces. This act marked a significant shift in military policy, reflecting the urgency of the situation and the commitment to seeing the war through, highlighting the growing manpower needs as the war intensified. The other choices focus on specific events that, while significant in their own right, do not directly relate to the fundamental reason behind the passage of the Conscription Act.

10. What was the primary purpose of the New England Emigrant Aid Company?

- A. To promote southern settlement in Kansas**
- B. To support the establishment of Kansas as a free state**
- C. To finance the construction of railroads in Kansas**
- D. To assist in the spread of abolitionist literature**

The New England Emigrant Aid Company was designed primarily to support the establishment of Kansas as a free state. Founded in 1854, its main objective was to encourage anti-slavery settlers from the Northern states to migrate to Kansas in response to the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed the territories of Kansas and Nebraska to determine their status regarding slavery based on popular sovereignty. By promoting settlement in this manner, the company hoped to create a significant population of free-state supporters in Kansas, thereby influencing the region's political alignment and ultimately combating the expansion of slavery into new territories. This movement was part of the broader struggle known as "Bleeding Kansas," which pitted pro-slavery factions against anti-slavery advocates, significantly contributing to the tensions leading up to the Civil War.

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://amscoapushperiod5.examzify.com>

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

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