

AMSCO AP UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAM (APUSH) – PERIOD 5 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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 name of the campaign led by General Sherman that involved a march of Union troops through Georgia, destroying everything in their path?**
 - A. Battle of Atlanta
 - B. Sherman's March to the Sea
 - C. Siege of Vicksburg
 - D. Battle of Sherman's Ridge

- 2. What does the 15th Amendment prohibit?**
 - A. Discrimination against voters based on age
 - B. Discrimination against voters based on race and previous servitude
 - C. Discrimination against women in voting
 - D. Discrimination against voters based on income

- 3. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects citizens from voter discrimination based on race?**
 - A. 12th Amendment
 - B. 15th Amendment
 - C. 19th Amendment
 - D. 24th Amendment

- 4. What notorious organization was formed to exploit government contracts related to the Union Pacific Railroad?**
 - A. Whiskey Ring
 - B. Credit Mobilier
 - C. Redeemers
 - D. Ku Klux Klan

- 5. What was the significance of the Compromise of 1877?**
 - A. It ended federal support for Reconstruction
 - B. It marked the beginning of Jim Crow laws
 - C. It established the Freedmen's Bureau
 - D. It redefined agricultural practices in the South

- 6. What was the primary tactic of the Ku Klux Klan when it was founded in 1866?**
- A. Political lobbying
 - B. Violence and intimidation
 - C. Social activism
 - D. Education reform
- 7. What term describes a war that involves the complete mobilization of resources and people, impacting all citizens in the warring countries?**
- A. Conventional Warfare
 - B. Guerrilla Warfare
 - C. Limited War
 - D. Total War
- 8. Which group in Congress was characterized by its push for harsher measures against the South after the Civil War?**
- A. Moderate Republicans
 - B. Radical Republicans
 - C. Conservative Democrats
 - D. Libertarian Coalition
- 9. What was the focus of the Pacific Railway Act?**
- A. Resettling Native Americans.
 - B. Encouraging the construction of a transcontinental railroad.
 - C. Raising funds for the Civil War.
 - D. Regulating interstate trade.
- 10. Who was the Chief Justice that wrote the important decision in the Dred Scott case, asserting the principle of social responsibility of private property?**
- A. John Marshall
 - B. Roger Taney
 - C. William Howard Taft
 - D. Oliver Wendell Holmes

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the name of the campaign led by General Sherman that involved a march of Union troops through Georgia, destroying everything in their path?

- A. Battle of Atlanta
- B. Sherman's March to the Sea**
- C. Siege of Vicksburg
- D. Battle of Sherman's Ridge

The campaign led by General Sherman that involved a destructive march through Georgia is known as Sherman's March to the Sea. This military strategy was conducted from November to December 1864 and aimed to cripple the Confederate war effort by targeting not only military targets but also infrastructure and civilian property. Sherman's tactics were designed to disrupt supply lines and undermine the morale of the Southern populace, effectively demonstrating the real implications of war on civilians and their resources. This campaign was pivotal in hastening the end of the Civil War and is often cited as a significant example of total war.

2. What does the 15th Amendment prohibit?

- A. Discrimination against voters based on age
- B. Discrimination against voters based on race and previous servitude**
- C. Discrimination against women in voting
- D. Discrimination against voters based on income

The 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, specifically prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." This amendment was a crucial step in the Reconstruction era aimed at enfranchising African American men, ensuring that their right to vote could not be infringed upon due to their race or history of slavery. Understanding this context highlights its significance in American history as it addressed systemic inequalities in voting rights. Other options do not accurately reflect the provisions of the 15th Amendment. Age, gender, and income discrimination are not covered under this amendment, which focused solely on racial and prior servitude prohibitions in voting rights.

3. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects citizens from voter discrimination based on race?

- A. 12th Amendment
- B. 15th Amendment**
- C. 19th Amendment
- D. 24th Amendment

The 15th Amendment is the correct choice because it explicitly prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Ratified in 1870, this amendment was a significant achievement following the Civil War and aimed to secure voting rights for African American men, although it took further legislative and societal efforts to ensure these rights were fully realized. In the context of voter discrimination, while the 12th Amendment addresses the electoral process for the president and vice president, and the 19th Amendment guarantees women the right to vote regardless of sex, neither addresses racial discrimination. The 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964, prohibits poll taxes in federal elections but does not directly address racial discrimination. Thus, the 15th Amendment remains the foundational constitutional protection against racial voter discrimination.

4. What notorious organization was formed to exploit government contracts related to the Union Pacific Railroad?

- A. Whiskey Ring
- B. Credit Mobilier**
- C. Redeemers
- D. Ku Klux Klan

The organization that was formed to exploit government contracts related to the Union Pacific Railroad was Credit Mobilier. This scandal emerged in the 1860s during the construction of the transcontinental railroad and involved a construction company that was set up as a front to siphon off profits from the railroad's federal contracts. The company created inflated bills for the work done, allowing its executives and investors to profit significantly at the expense of the government and taxpayers. The scandal was significant as it highlighted issues of corruption, cronyism, and the intertwining of business and politics during the Gilded Age, leading to a loss of public trust in government institutions. The other organizations mentioned pertain to different contexts: the Whiskey Ring was involved in a liquor tax scandal during Grant's presidency; the Redeemers were a political coalition in the South after Reconstruction aimed at restoring white Democratic rule; and the Ku Klux Klan was a white supremacist group that emerged to intimidate and suppress African Americans and their allies during and after the Reconstruction era. These distinctions clarify the unique role that Credit Mobilier played in the realm of corruption related to railroad expansions.

5. What was the significance of the Compromise of 1877?

- A. It ended federal support for Reconstruction**
- B. It marked the beginning of Jim Crow laws
- C. It established the Freedmen's Bureau
- D. It redefined agricultural practices in the South

The significance of the Compromise of 1877 lies in its role in effectively bringing an end to the Reconstruction era. As part of the agreement that settled the disputed 1876 presidential election, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was awarded the presidency in exchange for the withdrawal of federal troops from the southern states. This marked a critical turning point because it signaled the end of federal intervention in Southern affairs, which had been a central feature of Reconstruction. With the removal of federal troops, Southern state governments, many of which were composed of Republicans and supported by African American voters, lost protection against white supremacist groups and violence. This shift allowed Southern states to soon implement laws and policies that rolled back the gains made by African Americans during Reconstruction, leading to the establishment of discriminatory practices and the Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation. The other choices do touch on important aspects of the era, but they do not capture the central significance of the Compromise of 1877 in the same way. While the compromise did precede the rise of Jim Crow laws, its immediate impact was to discontinue federal support for the civil rights of African Americans in the South. The Freedmen's Bureau was established earlier during Reconstruction, and while agricultural practices in the South were indeed

6. What was the primary tactic of the Ku Klux Klan when it was founded in 1866?

- A. Political lobbying
- B. Violence and intimidation**
- C. Social activism
- D. Education reform

The primary tactic of the Ku Klux Klan when it was founded in 1866 was violence and intimidation. The Klan emerged during the Reconstruction era in the South, a time when many white Southerners were resistant to the social changes brought about by the Civil War and the Reconstruction Amendments, which aimed to secure rights for newly freed African Americans. The Klan used acts of terror, including lynching, arson, and physical violence, as a means to instill fear in African Americans and those who supported their rights. This violent approach was not only aimed at preventing African Americans from exercising their rights, such as voting or holding office, but also served to reassert white supremacy and restore the prewar social order. The Klan's actions were a direct response to legislative changes and were designed to undermine the Federal government's efforts to enforce civil rights and maintain order in the South. Political lobbying, social activism, and education reform do not accurately represent the violent and terror-driven methods that the Klan employed during its inception. These other options imply a focus on advocacy or community improvement, which contrasts sharply with the Klan's strategy of intimidation and violence.

7. What term describes a war that involves the complete mobilization of resources and people, impacting all citizens in the warring countries?

- A. Conventional Warfare
- B. Guerrilla Warfare
- C. Limited War
- D. Total War**

Total War refers to a conflict in which a nation mobilizes all of its available resources—human, economic, and industrial—to achieve complete victory over its opponent. This concept signifies that the war effort extends beyond just the military to include the entire population and economy. Citizens are often directly involved in supporting the war, whether through military service or working in industries critical to the war effort, such as manufacturing weapons or providing food and supplies. Total War often leads to significant changes in the way societies function during conflict, including the implementation of rationing, propaganda efforts to bolster support for the war, and the targeting of civilian infrastructure to demoralize the enemy. Historical examples, such as World War I and World War II, showcase how countries engaged in Total War, leading to widespread societal impacts and changes in everyday life. In contrast, the other types of warfare listed—Conventional Warfare, Guerrilla Warfare, and Limited War—do not encompass the full societal involvement and resource mobilization characteristic of Total War. Conventional Warfare typically involves organized military forces engaging in battle, Guerrilla Warfare consists of irregular forces using hit-and-run tactics, and Limited War refers to conflicts that are constrained in scope, objectives, or areas of engagement, often avoiding full-scale mobilization and

8. Which group in Congress was characterized by its push for harsher measures against the South after the Civil War?

- A. Moderate Republicans
- B. Radical Republicans**
- C. Conservative Democrats
- D. Libertarian Coalition

The group characterized by its push for harsher measures against the South after the Civil War was the Radical Republicans. This faction sought to impose stricter policies, including civil rights protections for formerly enslaved people and greater federal control over Southern states to ensure compliance with the new laws and amendments aimed at securing these rights. Radical Republicans believed that a more punitive approach was necessary to rebuild the South and to transform its society, which was largely characterized by its previous support for slavery. They were instrumental in the passage of the Reconstruction Acts, which divided the South into military districts and required states to draft new constitutions guaranteeing black male suffrage as a condition for reentry into the Union. Their efforts were a direct counter to the leniency often advocated by other groups, reflecting a fundamental disagreement about the nature of Reconstruction and the appropriate approach to reintegrating the Southern states into the Union.

9. What was the focus of the Pacific Railway Act?

- A. Resettling Native Americans.
- B. Encouraging the construction of a transcontinental railroad.**
- C. Raising funds for the Civil War.
- D. Regulating interstate trade.

The Pacific Railway Act, passed in 1862, primarily aimed to encourage the construction of a transcontinental railroad. This legislative act facilitated the expansion of the United States westward by providing federal support, including land grants and loans, to railroad companies tasked with building the railway. The completion of this railroad was seen as crucial for promoting settlement in the West, improving transportation across the country, and fostering economic growth. By linking the eastern and western parts of the United States, the transcontinental railroad would facilitate the movement of people, goods, and mail, ultimately transforming the nation's economy and its societal landscape. The act not only reinforced the government's commitment to westward expansion but also reflected the belief in Manifest Destiny, the idea that Americans were destined to expand across the continent. The other options relate to significant issues of the time but do not capture the primary goal of the Pacific Railway Act. Resettling Native Americans involved different policies and acts aimed at managing Indigenous populations in the context of westward expansion. While raising funds for the Civil War was a separate priority requiring financial measures and acts during that era, it wasn't the specific focus of the Pacific Railway Act. Regulating interstate trade would pertain more to commerce and economic regulation than to infrastructure development as

10. Who was the Chief Justice that wrote the important decision in the Dred Scott case, asserting the principle of social responsibility of private property?

A. John Marshall

B. Roger Taney

C. William Howard Taft

D. Oliver Wendell Holmes

Roger Taney was the Chief Justice who authored the majority opinion in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case in 1857. This landmark decision held that African Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be American citizens and therefore had no standing to sue in federal court. Additionally, Taney's opinion asserted that the federal government had no power to regulate slavery in the territories, thereby emphasizing the protection of property rights, which included the right of slave owners to their "property." The Dred Scott decision had profound implications by reinforcing the institution of slavery and highlighting the contentious issues around states' rights and federal authority leading up to the Civil War. This ruling was a central moment in the legal history of the United States, reflecting the tensions between free and slave states, and it ultimately contributed to the growing divide that led to the Civil War.

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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:

<https://amscoapushperiod5.examzify.com>

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

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