

# AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 6 Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>17</b>

# 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## **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.**

## **7. Use Other Tools**

**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!**

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## Questions

- 1. How did the U.S. acquire Hawaii in 1898?**
  - A. By purchasing the territory**
  - B. Through a military invasion**
  - C. Through annexation and support from American planters**
  - D. By a treaty with Japan**
- 2. Who delivered the famous "Cross of Gold" speech that captivated delegates and made him the Democratic nominee for president?**
  - A. William Jennings Bryan**
  - B. John M. Palmer**
  - C. Grover Cleveland**
  - D. Benjamin Harrison**
- 3. What movement was initiated due to middle-class citizens' fear of unchecked power by trusts?**
  - A. Labor movement**
  - B. Antitrust movement**
  - C. Regulatory movement**
  - D. Populist movement**
- 4. Which act promoted westward expansion by providing land to settlers?**
  - A. The Dawes Act**
  - B. The Homestead Act of 1862**
  - C. The Morrill Act**
  - D. The Land Ordinance of 1785**
- 5. Which 1890 act aimed to combat monopolies in the U.S.?**
  - A. The Clayton Antitrust Act**
  - B. The Sherman Antitrust Act**
  - C. The Federal Trade Commission Act**
  - D. The Robinson-Patman Act**

- 6. What concept refers to the policy of extending a nation's authority over other countries?**
- A. Colonialism**
  - B. Nationalism**
  - C. Imperialism**
  - D. Protectionism**
- 7. Which president won the election of 1876 and ended Reconstruction by withdrawing federal troops from the South?**
- A. Chester A. Arthur**
  - B. Rutherford B. Hayes**
  - C. Ulysses S. Grant**
  - D. James A. Garfield**
- 8. What was the main political reform demanded by the Omaha Platform in 1892?**
- A. Direct popular election of U.S. senators**
  - B. Establishment of a national bank**
  - C. Imposition of federal income tax**
  - D. Lowering tariffs on imports**
- 9. Which set of practices served to legitimize the disenfranchisement of African Americans in the southern states, including literacy tests?**
- A. Jim Crow Laws**
  - B. Grandfather clauses**
  - C. Segregation laws**
  - D. Discrimination laws**
- 10. Which legislative act was designed to improve labor conditions by regulating working hours and conditions?**
- A. The Fair Labor Standards Act**
  - B. The National Labor Relations Act**
  - C. The Child Labor Act**
  - D. The Mine Safety and Health Act**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. How did the U.S. acquire Hawaii in 1898?

- A. By purchasing the territory
- B. Through a military invasion
- C. Through annexation and support from American planters**
- D. By a treaty with Japan

The acquisition of Hawaii in 1898 was primarily facilitated through annexation, driven by the involvement and support of American planters who had settled in the islands. These planters, particularly in the sugar industry, were influential figures who sought to gain political power and were opposed to the tariff policies that threatened their economic interests. Their discontent with the existing monarchy led them to seek support from the U.S. government. In 1893, a group of American planters and businessmen orchestrated a coup that overthrew Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning monarch of Hawaii. The provisional government that replaced her was predominantly composed of American interests. The subsequent desire for U.S. annexation gained momentum, particularly under the administration of President William McKinley, who favored expansionism. Congress approved the annexation through a joint resolution in 1898, formalizing the transition of Hawaii into U.S. territory. This path of acquisition reflects broader trends of American imperialism and the strategic interests of the U.S. in the Pacific, which aligned with the desires of those American settlers who wielded significant economic influence in Hawaii. This context sets apart the acquisition method from other possibilities, like military invasion or a treaty with other nations, making it

## 2. Who delivered the famous "Cross of Gold" speech that captivated delegates and made him the Democratic nominee for president?

- A. William Jennings Bryan**
- B. John M. Palmer
- C. Grover Cleveland
- D. Benjamin Harrison

The "Cross of Gold" speech was delivered by William Jennings Bryan at the Democratic National Convention in 1896. This speech strongly advocated for the free coinage of silver, which Bryan argued would benefit working-class Americans and those in agrarian sectors who were struggling economically. His passionate oratory captivated the delegates, leading to his nomination as the Democratic candidate for president. The speech's central metaphor contrasted the struggles of common people with the wealthy elite, using the image of a "cross of gold" to symbolize the burden placed on laborers by the existing gold standard. This resonated deeply with many in the party, especially given the economic hardships of the time, marking Bryan as a unifying figure for the populist movement. Other figures mentioned, such as John M. Palmer, Grover Cleveland, and Benjamin Harrison, did not deliver this speech nor did they play a similar pivotal role in the 1896 convention or its context surrounding monetary policy. Their political positions did not align with the central themes of the "Cross of Gold," thus highlighting Bryan's unique impact on the convention and his subsequent nomination.

**3. What movement was initiated due to middle-class citizens' fear of unchecked power by trusts?**

- A. Labor movement**
- B. Antitrust movement**
- C. Regulatory movement**
- D. Populist movement**

The antitrust movement was initiated by middle-class citizens who were increasingly concerned about the monopolistic practices and unchecked power of large corporations, known as trusts. These trusts often led to unfair business practices that stifled competition, manipulated markets, and harmed consumers. As a response, the antitrust movement sought to promote competition and protect consumers, resulting in the establishment of laws aimed at breaking up monopolies and regulating business practices. The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, for example, was one of the first federal acts to curtail the power of these large corporations, signaling a significant shift in government policy towards regulating the economy to safeguard public interests. While other movements like the labor movement focused on workers' rights and the Populist movement catered primarily to farmers' economic concerns, the antitrust movement specifically targeted the economic power concentration and sought to establish fair competition in markets, making it the most relevant response to the issue of unchecked corporate power during that period.

**4. Which act promoted westward expansion by providing land to settlers?**

- A. The Dawes Act**
- B. The Homestead Act of 1862**
- C. The Morrill Act**
- D. The Land Ordinance of 1785**

The Homestead Act of 1862 is the correct choice as it specifically aimed to encourage westward expansion by offering 160 acres of public land to settlers for a small fee and the requirement to improve the land by building a dwelling and cultivating crops. This act was significant in promoting the settlement of the western territories of the United States, as it provided an incentive for individuals and families to migrate westward, thus facilitating the growth of communities and the economy in these areas. This act played a crucial role in the westward migration during the post-Civil War era, aligning with the broader spirit of Manifest Destiny, which was the belief that American settlers were destined to expand across North America. The accessible land was intended to support farming and the establishment of a more agrarian society. In contrast, other options focus on different aspects of land use or policies. The Dawes Act aimed to assimilate Native Americans by allotting them individual plots of land, often resulting in the loss of tribal land. The Morrill Act provided land grants to establish colleges focused on agriculture and the mechanical arts, which supported education rather than direct land distribution for immediate settlement. The Land Ordinance of 1785 set the framework for surveying and selling land in the North West Territory but

**5. Which 1890 act aimed to combat monopolies in the U.S.?**

- A. The Clayton Antitrust Act**
- B. The Sherman Antitrust Act**
- C. The Federal Trade Commission Act**
- D. The Robinson-Patman Act**

The Sherman Antitrust Act, passed in 1890, was a landmark piece of legislation aimed at curbing the power of monopolies and trusts that were seen as restraining trade and commerce. The act specifically made it illegal to restrain trade or commerce among the several states or with foreign nations, thereby targeting oppressive business practices. It was the first federal legislation to ban monopolistic practices, setting a precedent for future antitrust laws. The significance of the Sherman Antitrust Act lies in its intention to maintain competition in the marketplace and prevent unfair practices that stifle innovation and consumer choice. This act served as a foundation for later legislation aimed at promoting fair competition and addressing the economic imbalances created by large corporations. In contrast, the Clayton Antitrust Act, while also focused on antitrust measures, was enacted in 1914 and built upon the principles established in the Sherman Act by providing more specific provisions against certain practices that the earlier act did not fully address. The Federal Trade Commission Act, established in 1914, created the Federal Trade Commission to enforce antitrust laws and protect consumers from unfair business practices. The Robinson-Patman Act, passed in 1936, specifically aimed to address price discrimination and its impact on competition. Thus, while

**6. What concept refers to the policy of extending a nation's authority over other countries?**

- A. Colonialism**
- B. Nationalism**
- C. Imperialism**
- D. Protectionism**

The concept that refers to the policy of extending a nation's authority over other countries is known as imperialism. This term encompasses the various methods through which a nation might exert its power and control, such as through military force, diplomatic pressure, or economic influence. Historically, imperialism is often associated with the expansion of empires, where stronger nations establish dominance over weaker ones, thereby often exploiting resources and influencing local governments. Colonialism is related but more specifically denotes the practice of settling and directly controlling foreign territories, which is a part of imperialism. Nationalism refers to the strong sense of pride and loyalty to one's own nation, often leading to the desire for self-determination and independence, rather than the domination of others. Protectionism is an economic policy designed to restrict international trade to protect domestic industries, which does not inherently involve the authority over other countries. Thus, imperialism distinctly captures the essence of extending national authority over foreign lands.

**7. Which president won the election of 1876 and ended Reconstruction by withdrawing federal troops from the South?**

**A. Chester A. Arthur**

**B. Rutherford B. Hayes**

**C. Ulysses S. Grant**

**D. James A. Garfield**

Rutherford B. Hayes won the election of 1876 and played a pivotal role in the end of Reconstruction by withdrawing federal troops from the South. This election was one of the most disputed in American history, with Hayes losing the popular vote but winning the presidency through a highly controversial compromise. The Compromise of 1877, which followed his election, resulted in the agreement to remove federal troops from the Southern states in exchange for the Democrats allowing Hayes to assume the presidency. This withdrawal marked a significant turning point, effectively ending the Reconstruction era, which had aimed to integrate formerly enslaved people into society and rebuild the South after the Civil War. The departure of federal troops allowed Southern states to implement Jim Crow laws and impose racial segregation and disenfranchisement methods that would last for decades. Hayes's presidency is often viewed in the context of his attempts to bring about reconciliation between the North and South, but the compromise ultimately led to the abandonment of the rights of African Americans in the South.

**8. What was the main political reform demanded by the Omaha Platform in 1892?**

**A. Direct popular election of U.S. senators**

**B. Establishment of a national bank**

**C. Imposition of federal income tax**

**D. Lowering tariffs on imports**

The Omaha Platform, adopted by the Populist Party in 1892, called for several significant reforms aimed at increasing democracy and addressing the needs of farmers and the working class. Among these reforms, one of the most critical was the demand for the direct popular election of U.S. senators. Prior to this reform, senators were selected by state legislatures, which often led to corruption and a lack of accountability to the electorate. By advocating for direct election, the Populists aimed to make senators more responsive to the general public and enhance democratic principles in the political system. The other choices presented reflect important economic concerns of the time, but they were not the core focus of the Omaha Platform. Establishing a national bank, imposing a federal income tax, and lowering tariffs addressed other aspects of economic reform and regulation but did not specifically relate to the central political reforms highlighted in the Omaha Platform. Thus, the emphasis on the direct election of senators stands out as the primary political reform advocated by this significant movement.

**9. Which set of practices served to legitimize the disenfranchisement of African Americans in the southern states, including literacy tests?**

**A. Jim Crow Laws**

**B. Grandfather clauses**

**C. Segregation laws**

**D. Discrimination laws**

The correct answer is Jim Crow Laws, which were a collection of state and local statutes enacted primarily in the southern United States from the late 19th century until the mid-20th century. These laws institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans, effectively disenfranchising them through various legal and social means. Literacy tests, along with other practices such as poll taxes and understanding clauses, were implemented as parts of these laws to restrict voting rights specifically for African Americans and, in some cases, poor white voters. These measures were framed as necessary to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, but they were designed explicitly to suppress the African American vote and maintain white supremacy. While grandfather clauses, segregation laws, and discrimination laws are related to the broader context of racial inequality and disenfranchisement, they are not as encompassing as Jim Crow Laws. Grandfather clauses, for example, allowed individuals to bypass literacy tests if their ancestors had voting rights before the Civil War, which still tied back to the Jim Crow framework. Segregation laws focused on separating races in public spaces and did not directly impact voting rights in the same way. Discrimination laws is a more general term and lacks specificity about the legal framework established to disenfranchise African

**10. Which legislative act was designed to improve labor conditions by regulating working hours and conditions?**

**A. The Fair Labor Standards Act**

**B. The National Labor Relations Act**

**C. The Child Labor Act**

**D. The Mine Safety and Health Act**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was a landmark piece of legislation enacted in 1938, specifically aimed at improving labor conditions across the United States. It established key regulations regarding minimum wage, overtime pay, and the prohibition of child labor, thereby addressing various aspects of workers' rights and working conditions. This act directly responded to the grievances of labor movements and the need for fair labor practices, especially during a time when industrialization had led to harsh working conditions and excessive hours for many employees. By mandating a 40-hour work week and setting minimum wage standards, the FLSA sought to ensure that workers were compensated fairly for their labor while promoting a healthier work environment. In contrast, other acts like the National Labor Relations Act primarily focused on the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively, the Child Labor Act addressed specific restrictions on child labor without broader employment standards, and the Mine Safety and Health Act aimed at protecting health and safety specifically within the mining industry. Thus, while all these acts contributed to labor rights, none offered the comprehensive approach to hours and conditions that the Fair Labor Standards Act did.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://amscoapushperiod6.examzify.com>**

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