

AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 6 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 were farmers' alliances primarily formed for by 1890?**
 - A. Increasing prices of crops**
 - B. Declining import of foreign goods**
 - C. Serving farmers' needs for education and political action**
 - D. Establishing large corporate farms**

- 2. 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**

- 3. What organization was formed in 1874 and advocated total abstinence from alcohol?**
 - A. Temperance Society**
 - B. Salvation Army**
 - C. Women's Suffrage Movement**
 - D. National Temperance League**

- 4. Which theory supported the view of economic conservatives based on natural selection?**
 - A. Utilitarianism**
 - B. Social Darwinism**
 - C. Classical economics**
 - D. Modernism**

- 5. What type of integration involves a company controlling every stage of the industrial process?**
 - A. Horizontal integration**
 - B. Vertical integration**
 - C. Conglomerate integration**
 - D. Monopoly integration**

- 6. Which event is often referenced as a symbol of the end of the Indian Wars?**
- A. Battles at the Canadian border**
 - B. Pine Ridge Reservation events**
 - C. Wounded Knee Massacre**
 - D. The Sand Creek Massacre**
- 7. What major event was the Pullman Strike associated with in the late 19th century?**
- A. Labor rights for women**
 - B. Railroad monopolies**
 - C. Mining reforms**
 - D. School reform**
- 8. According to Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis, how did the frontier affect social classes?**
- A. Strengthened class divisions**
 - B. Reinforced racial hierarchies**
 - C. Acted as a social leveler**
 - D. Increased governmental authority**
- 9. What process involved blasting air through molten iron to produce high-quality steel?**
- A. Bessemer process**
 - B. Open-hearth process**
 - C. Electric arc furnace**
 - D. Continuous casting**
- 10. Who created the frontier thesis, claiming that the frontier experience promoted independence and equality?**
- A. Frederick Jackson Turner**
 - B. John D. Rockefeller**
 - C. Andrew Carnegie**
 - D. Mark Twain**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What were farmers' alliances primarily formed for by 1890?

- A. Increasing prices of crops
- B. Declining import of foreign goods
- C. Serving farmers' needs for education and political action**
- D. Establishing large corporate farms

Farmers' alliances were primarily formed as a response to the economic challenges faced by farmers in the late 19th century. By 1890, these alliances focused on serving the needs of farmers through education, cooperative efforts, and political action. The alliances aimed to address issues such as crop prices, rising debt, and a lack of access to markets. They organized meetings, created cooperatives to bypass middlemen, and engaged in political advocacy to secure measures that would benefit farmers, such as currency reform and the regulation of railroads. This grassroots movement mobilized farmers to collectively voice their grievances and sought to empower them politically, which was crucial during a time when their economic conditions were precarious. The emphasis on education also reflected a desire among farmers to understand the market forces affecting their livelihoods and to develop strategies for improving their situations. In contrast, the other options don't align as directly with the primary goals of the farmers' alliances. While increasing prices of crops was certainly a concern, it was more a result of their advocacy rather than a foundational aim of the alliances. Declining imports and establishing large corporate farms did not accurately reflect the grassroots and community-focused nature of the alliances, which were fundamentally about empowering individual and small-scale farmers rather than promoting

2. 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

3. What organization was formed in 1874 and advocated total abstinence from alcohol?

- A. Temperance Society**
- B. Salvation Army**
- C. Women's Suffrage Movement**
- D. National Temperance League**

The organization formed in 1874 that advocated total abstinence from alcohol is actually the Temperance Society, often referred to as a temperance movement group. The National Temperance League, while also related to the temperance movement, was not established in 1874 and focused more broadly on the reduction of alcohol consumption rather than total abstinence. While the Salvation Army was founded around the same time and engaged in various social services, its primary focus was on religious outreach and helping the impoverished, rather than specifically advocating for abstinence from alcohol. The Women's Suffrage Movement, likewise, was centered on securing voting rights for women and did not primarily focus on alcohol abstinence. The Temperance Society played a vital role in the temperance movement during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With the growing concern over the social issues associated with alcohol consumption, this organization and others like it helped to raise awareness and push for policies that promoted abstinence, ultimately contributing to the Prohibition era in the United States.

4. Which theory supported the view of economic conservatives based on natural selection?

- A. Utilitarianism**
- B. Social Darwinism**
- C. Classical economics**
- D. Modernism**

The theory that supported the view of economic conservatives based on natural selection is Social Darwinism. This concept applied Charles Darwin's ideas of natural selection and survival of the fittest to human society and economics. Proponents believed that individuals and businesses that were more adept at adapting to their environment would naturally succeed, while those who failed to do so would decline. This line of thinking emphasized a lack of intervention by the government in economic affairs, aligning with the beliefs of economic conservatives who advocated for minimal regulation and support of those who they perceived to be less capable in the competitive marketplace. The other options are distinct in their focus: Utilitarianism is a philosophical theory that promotes actions that maximize happiness and well-being. Classical economics lays out the principles of free markets and minimal government intervention but does not tie itself specifically to natural selection. Modernism refers to a cultural and artistic movement rather than economic theories. Therefore, Social Darwinism is uniquely aligned with the economic conservative worldview that incorporates Darwin's ideas into the social fabric.

5. What type of integration involves a company controlling every stage of the industrial process?

- A. Horizontal integration**
- B. Vertical integration**
- C. Conglomerate integration**
- D. Monopoly integration**

Vertical integration refers to a strategy where a company expands its operations by controlling every stage of the industrial process, from raw materials to production to distribution. This approach allows a business to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve access to resources and markets. By having control over multiple stages, a company can streamline its processes, avoid supply chain disruptions, and maintain higher profit margins. For example, a steel manufacturer that owns iron ore mines and transportation networks is practicing vertical integration. This strategy contrasts with horizontal integration, where a company expands its reach by acquiring or merging with competitors at the same stage of production, thereby increasing market share. Conglomerate integration involves diversifying by acquiring businesses in different industries, while monopoly integration typically refers to a market structure where a single firm dominates the market. Vertical integration specifically emphasizes the control over the supply chain, which is why it is the correct choice.

6. Which event is often referenced as a symbol of the end of the Indian Wars?

- A. Battles at the Canadian border**
- B. Pine Ridge Reservation events**
- C. Wounded Knee Massacre**
- D. The Sand Creek Massacre**

The Wounded Knee Massacre, which occurred in 1890, is often referenced as a symbol of the end of the Indian Wars due to its significant impact on Native American resistance against U.S. government policies. This tragic event resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Lakota Sioux, including many women and children, and represented a culmination of tensions between the U.S. government and Native American tribes. Following the massacre, there was a notable decline in armed resistance among Indigenous peoples, as the brutality of the event underscored the overwhelming force of the U.S. military and the futility of continued armed conflict. Wounded Knee is seen not just as a violent confrontation but also as a turning point that led to the acceptance of a new, tragic reality for Native Americans—one characterized by reservation life and assimilation policies rather than warfare. The events at the Pine Ridge Reservation leading up to the massacre were indeed crucial as they contributed to the context of the conflict, but the massacre itself is more commonly recognized as the definitive closing chapter in the prolonged series of conflicts referred to as the Indian Wars. Other events, like the Sand Creek Massacre, were brutal and significant but occurred earlier in the timeline of Native American-U.S. relations and do not carry the

7. What major event was the Pullman Strike associated with in the late 19th century?

- A. Labor rights for women**
- B. Railroad monopolies**
- C. Mining reforms**
- D. School reform**

The Pullman Strike, which occurred in 1894, is closely associated with railroad monopolies as it specifically involved the Pullman Company, a major manufacturer of railroad cars, and was triggered by issues related to wages and working conditions in the context of a broader struggle against the economic power of large corporations over labor. The strike began when the American Railway Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, supported the workers of the Pullman Company who were striking due to significant wage cuts amidst high rents in company-owned housing. This significant labor dispute highlighted the tensions between workers seeking fair treatment and the monopolistic practices of railroad companies that dominated freight and passenger transport. The federal government intervened by dispatching troops to break the strike, which further emphasized the power and influence of railroad monopolies and their interconnection with government authority during this period. The other choices do not directly relate to the central themes of the Pullman Strike. While labor rights for women, mining reforms, and school reform were important social issues of the era, they were not the focal points of the events surrounding the Pullman Strike. Instead, the strike exemplified the struggles of workers against powerful monopolies in the railroad industry, marking a critical moment in labor history in the United States.

8. According to Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis, how did the frontier affect social classes?

- A. Strengthened class divisions**
- B. Reinforced racial hierarchies**
- C. Acted as a social leveler**
- D. Increased governmental authority**

Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis posits that the existence and settlement of the American frontier played a crucial role in shaping American democracy and society. He argued that the frontier acted as a social leveler, diminishing distinctions among social classes. As settlers moved westward, they engaged in a shared experience of hardship and opportunity that encouraged egalitarian attitudes and minimized existing class stratifications. The frontier provided opportunities for individuals to own land, achieve economic independence, and participate in the democratic process, which contributed to a more fluid social structure. Unlike the established class systems in Europe, the challenges of frontier life necessitated cooperation and reliance on one another, fostering a sense of community that transcended social divisions. This leveling effect was critical in shaping the identity of American society during westward expansion. In contrast to this concept, other aspects such as strengthened class divisions, reinforced racial hierarchies, or increased governmental authority do not align with Turner's interpretation of the frontier. These ideas suggest a more rigid societal structure or increasing class and racial tensions, which Turner explicitly sought to refute in his analysis of the American experience in relation to the frontier.

9. What process involved blasting air through molten iron to produce high-quality steel?

- A. Bessemer process**
- B. Open-hearth process**
- C. Electric arc furnace**
- D. Continuous casting**

The Bessemer process is a significant advancement in steel manufacturing that involves blowing air through molten iron to remove impurities and produce high-quality steel. This method, developed by Henry Bessemer in the mid-19th century, revolutionized steel production by making it faster and more efficient than previous techniques. By forcing air through the molten iron, the carbon content is reduced, resulting in a stronger and more durable material that became essential for the rapid industrialization of the United States during this period. In contrast, the open-hearth process, while also used for steel production, involves melting iron in a furnace and typically utilizes a longer time frame to process the materials, making it less efficient than the Bessemer method. The electric arc furnace uses electric arcs to melt scrap steel and produces quality steel but is a more modern technique that emerged later in the 19th century. Continuous casting is a different process that follows solidification, allowing molten steel to be poured into molds to create semi-finished sections but does not involve the initial refinement of iron into steel. Thus, the identification of the Bessemer process directly corresponds to its innovative approach to steel manufacturing, which significantly impacted industrial practices.

10. Who created the frontier thesis, claiming that the frontier experience promoted independence and equality?

- A. Frederick Jackson Turner**
- B. John D. Rockefeller**
- C. Andrew Carnegie**
- D. Mark Twain**

The frontier thesis was developed by Frederick Jackson Turner in his influential 1893 essay, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History." Turner posited that the American frontier experience played a crucial role in shaping the national character, particularly by fostering qualities such as individualism, democracy, and equality. He argued that the challenges of the frontier led to the development of a unique American identity, distinct from European influences. Turner's thesis highlighted the idea that as settlers moved westward, they were able to create new opportunities, escape restrictive social structures, and cultivate a sense of independence that was integral to the American spirit. This notion has significantly impacted how historians interpret the role of westward expansion in American history. The other figures mentioned did not formulate this thesis; their contributions were in different realms—Rockefeller in industry and oil, Carnegie in steel production and philanthropy, and Twain in literature and social commentary. Thus, Turner's articulation of the frontier as a pivotal aspect of American life remains foundational in understanding the dynamics of U.S. history during this period.

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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