

AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 9 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

- 1. What major event in 1989 symbolized the end of the Cold War?**
 - A. The fall of the Berlin Wall**
 - B. The signing of the INF Treaty**
 - C. The end of the Soviet Union**
 - D. The Gulf War**
- 2. What Supreme Court case affirmed the right to same-sex marriage?**
 - A. United States v. Windsor**
 - B. Obergefell v. Hodges**
 - C. Lawrence v. Texas**
 - D. Bowers v. Hardwick**
- 3. Which factor contributed significantly to data theft during the rise of cyber attacks?**
 - A. Encryption technology**
 - B. Increased internet usage**
 - C. Enhanced security protocols**
 - D. Outdated computer systems**
- 4. What was a result of the Iran-Contra Affair?**
 - A. Funding for military in Iraq**
 - B. Support for Nicaraguan rebels**
 - C. Diplomatic relations with Iran**
 - D. A ban on military intervention**
- 5. In what year did Clinton secure reelection, becoming the first Democratic president to do so since FDR?**
 - A. 1992**
 - B. 2000**
 - C. 1996**
 - D. 1988**

- 6. What is ISIS and how did it recruit members?**
- A. A militant group that used traditional media**
 - B. A peacekeeping force that provided humanitarian aid**
 - C. A militant group that recruited members through social media**
 - D. A government organization that focused on counterterrorism**
- 7. Which famous Supreme Court case ruled that segregation was constitutional if "separate but equal" conditions were met?**
- A. Brown v. Board of Education**
 - B. Plessy v. Ferguson**
 - C. Loving v. Virginia**
 - D. Miranda v. Arizona**
- 8. Which cultural ideas gained prominence due to influences from the American South and West?**
- A. Jazz music and civil rights activism**
 - B. Evangelical Protestantism and country music**
 - C. Hollywood films and pop music**
 - D. Racial equality and urban art movements**
- 9. How much of the nation's wealth did the bottom 80% own in 2007?**
- A. 5%**
 - B. 10%**
 - C. 15%**
 - D. 20%**
- 10. Why did cyber attacks become a significant issue during this time?**
- A. They were primarily state-sponsored efforts**
 - B. They involved data theft and leaks**
 - C. They resulted in physical damage to infrastructure**
 - D. They were easily traceable and preventable**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. What major event in 1989 symbolized the end of the Cold War?

- A. The fall of the Berlin Wall**
- B. The signing of the INF Treaty**
- C. The end of the Soviet Union**
- D. The Gulf War**

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 is often considered the major event that symbolized the end of the Cold War due to its powerful representation of the collapse of communist control in Eastern Europe and the diminishing influence of the Soviet Union. The wall had been a physical and ideological barrier separating East and West Berlin since 1961, epitomizing the division of Europe and the broader ideological struggle between capitalism and communism. When the wall fell, it marked a significant shift in political dynamics, leading to the reunification of Germany and a wave of democratic movements across Eastern Europe. This event underscored the loss of Soviet power in the region and set into motion the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, solidifying the conclusion of the Cold War era. Therefore, the fall of the Berlin Wall serves as a potent symbol of the end of the long-standing geopolitical tensions that defined the Cold War period.

2. What Supreme Court case affirmed the right to same-sex marriage?

- A. United States v. Windsor**
- B. Obergefell v. Hodges**
- C. Lawrence v. Texas**
- D. Bowers v. Hardwick**

The Supreme Court case that affirmed the right to same-sex marriage is Obergefell v. Hodges. Decided in 2015, this landmark ruling established that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry under the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protection and due process. The Court determined that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violated both the principles of equality and the rights to liberty and personal autonomy. This decision built upon earlier cases related to LGBTQ rights by reinforcing the fundamental nature of marriage as a right for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation. The ramifications of this ruling not only legalized same-sex marriage across the entire nation but also represented a significant victory for the LGBTQ rights movement, affirming that marriage is a civil right that must be extended to all individuals equally.

3. Which factor contributed significantly to data theft during the rise of cyber attacks?

- A. Encryption technology**
- B. Increased internet usage**
- C. Enhanced security protocols**
- D. Outdated computer systems**

The rise of data theft is closely linked to increased internet usage. As more individuals and organizations connected to the internet, the volume of accessible data grew substantially. This expansion created more opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit vulnerabilities in online systems, making it easier for them to execute attacks and steal sensitive information. The growing interconnectivity among devices and networks means that a larger attack surface is available for malicious actors. Increased internet usage has also facilitated the proliferation of online activities, such as e-commerce and social networking, where sensitive data is often shared, further heightening the risk of data breaches. While encryption technology and enhanced security protocols are important for protecting data, they serve as defenses against cyber attacks rather than factors contributing to their rise. Similarly, outdated computer systems can be a vulnerability, but the primary driver of increased data theft has been the overall expansion of internet usage, which creates more opportunities for attacks.

4. What was a result of the Iran-Contra Affair?

- A. Funding for military in Iraq**
- B. Support for Nicaraguan rebels**
- C. Diplomatic relations with Iran**
- D. A ban on military intervention**

The Iran-Contra Affair was a significant political scandal in the United States during the 1980s that ultimately led to support for Nicaraguan rebels. This affair involved secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, which was under an arms embargo, with the proceeds from these sales being diverted to fund the Contras, a rebel group fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. The Contras were seen by the Reagan administration as a crucial ally in its efforts to combat what it viewed as the spread of communism in Central America. The decision to support the Contras was controversial because it circumvented Congress, which had prohibited further funding for the rebels. Despite this prohibition, the Reagan administration viewed aid to the Contras as essential for U.S. foreign policy interests, leading to the covert operations that became the center of the scandal. Consequently, the affair raised significant questions about executive power, the role of Congress in foreign policy, and the ethical implications of such actions. In summary, the outcome of the Iran-Contra Affair was directly linked to the support for Nicaraguan rebels, making it a pivotal moment in U.S. Cold War policy that highlighted the complexities and controversies surrounding U.S. military and foreign engagements during that period.

5. In what year did Clinton secure reelection, becoming the first Democratic president to do so since FDR?

- A. 1992**
- B. 2000**
- C. 1996**
- D. 1988**

Bill Clinton secured reelection in 1996, making him the first Democratic president to win a second term since Franklin D. Roosevelt, who served from the 1930s until his death in 1945. Clinton's reelection came during a period of economic prosperity in the United States, characterized by low unemployment and a budget surplus, which contributed significantly to his victory over Republican candidate Bob Dole. This win is notable in the context of American political history as it demonstrated the resurgence of the Democratic Party in the 1990s after a long period of Republican dominance in presidential elections dating back to the Reagan era. The years 1988 and 1992 refer to elections won by Republicans and Clinton's initial election, respectively, while 2000 marks a different electoral context with the rise of George W. Bush. Thus, identifying 1996 as the year of Clinton's reelection highlights a significant moment in the political landscape of that time.

6. What is ISIS and how did it recruit members?

- A. A militant group that used traditional media**
- B. A peacekeeping force that provided humanitarian aid**
- C. A militant group that recruited members through social media**
- D. A government organization that focused on counterterrorism**

ISIS, or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is a militant group recognized for its extreme interpretation of Islam and its violent actions. The group's recruitment strategy heavily relied on modern technology, particularly social media platforms. Through these platforms, ISIS was able to disseminate propaganda, share ideologically driven content, and exploit social connections to attract individuals from diverse backgrounds. These social media channels allowed ISIS to create a compelling narrative that appealed to potential recruits by presenting themselves as a solution to perceived injustices in the Muslim world. They offered a sense of belonging and purpose, which was particularly attractive to young people feeling alienated or disenfranchised. The use of social media also enabled ISIS to bypass traditional barriers to communication and reach a global audience, making it easier to recruit members across different countries and demographics. This method of recruitment marked a significant evolution in the way militant groups could engage with followers and gain support.

7. Which famous Supreme Court case ruled that segregation was constitutional if "separate but equal" conditions were met?

A. Brown v. Board of Education

B. Plessy v. Ferguson

C. Loving v. Virginia

D. Miranda v. Arizona

The Supreme Court case that ruled segregation was constitutional under the doctrine of "separate but equal" is Plessy v. Ferguson. Decided in 1896, this landmark decision established that racial segregation in public facilities was permissible as long as the separate facilities for the different races were equal in quality. This case arose from an incident where Homer Plessy, a man of mixed race, challenged Louisiana's segregation laws by refusing to sit in a segregated railway car. The ruling provided legal justification for segregation and discrimination, influencing laws and practices well into the 20th century, until it was ultimately overturned by Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. Understanding the implications of the Plessy ruling is crucial for comprehending the legal basis for segregation and the civil rights movements that followed.

8. Which cultural ideas gained prominence due to influences from the American South and West?

A. Jazz music and civil rights activism

B. Evangelical Protestantism and country music

C. Hollywood films and pop music

D. Racial equality and urban art movements

The correct answer highlights the significant cultural contributions that emerged from the American South and West, particularly focusing on Evangelical Protestantism and country music. The American South is well-known for its deep roots in evangelical Christian traditions, which have shaped not only religious practices but also broader cultural narratives throughout the country. These traditions often emphasize personal faith, community, and social responsibility, influencing various social movements, including those related to civil rights. Country music, originating primarily in the Southern United States, encapsulates the life experiences, struggles, and values of its people, reflecting themes such as love, hardship, and the rural lifestyle. This genre has significantly impacted American culture, spreading beyond its regional origins to become a major facet of the national music scene. In contrast, while other options may reference important cultural movements or ideas, they do not specifically connect to the distinct influences from the American South and West in the same way. For example, jazz music is more closely associated with African American culture in the urban settings of the Northeast. Similarly, Hollywood films, while influential, represent a broader entertainment landscape that goes beyond regional influences. Therefore, focusing on evangelical Protestantism and country music directly ties back to the cultural ideas stemming from the South and West, making this answer particularly fitting in

9. How much of the nation's wealth did the bottom 80% own in 2007?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 15%**
- D. 20%

In 2007, the bottom 80% of Americans owned approximately 15% of the nation's wealth. This statistic highlights the significant wealth disparity that existed in the United States prior to the Great Recession, where the richest individuals held a disproportionate amount of wealth in comparison to the majority of the population. The wealth distribution reflects economic inequality trends, whereby a small percentage of the population controls the majority of wealth, leaving a larger segment with much less. Understanding this context is vital, as it illustrates how economic policies and growth can benefit wealth concentrations in society, often at the expense of broader middle and lower-income groups. The option indicating that the bottom 80% owned just 15% of the wealth depicts a critical aspect of discussions around income inequality, social justice, and economic reform in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

10. Why did cyber attacks become a significant issue during this time?

- A. They were primarily state-sponsored efforts
- B. They involved data theft and leaks**
- C. They resulted in physical damage to infrastructure
- D. They were easily traceable and preventable

The significance of cyber attacks during this period can largely be attributed to the impact of data theft and leaks. As technology advanced and society became increasingly reliant on the internet and digital communication, personal, corporate, and governmental data became frequent targets for cyber criminals and foreign adversaries. High-profile breaches exposed sensitive information, affecting millions of individuals and leading to significant financial, reputational, and security ramifications. The implications of these attacks highlighted vulnerabilities in data protection and the ethical considerations surrounding privacy and security in the digital age. This concern over data theft and its consequences prompted numerous discussions on cybersecurity measures, regulations, and the need for public awareness regarding protecting sensitive information. While state-sponsored efforts and incidents resulting in physical damage did happen during this period, the overwhelming concern among the public and policymakers focused on how breaches of data compromised personal safety and national security. The perception of cyber attacks as easily traceable and preventable does not align with the reality that many attacks remain sophisticated and difficult to attribute to specific actors, further complicating the issue.

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://amscoapushperiod9.examzify.com>

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