

# Ancient Civilizations and Early Human Survival Terra Nova 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. In ancient societies, what term describes free men who could be citizens?**
  - A. Citizens**
  - B. Slaves**
  - C. Women**
  - D. Foreigners**
  
- 2. Which ancient civilization is renowned for its advanced urban drainage systems?**
  - A. Mesopotamia**
  - B. Mesoamerica**
  - C. Indus Valley**
  - D. Nile Valley**
  
- 3. Which ancient society is known for its democratic governance?**
  - A. Sparta**
  - B. Athens**
  - C. Rome**
  - D. Carthage**
  
- 4. Which invention significantly improved farming?**
  - A. Almanac**
  - B. Wheel**
  - C. Sails**
  - D. Plow**
  
- 5. Which term describes a period of peace under Roman rule?**
  - A. Pax Romana**
  - B. Pax Britannica**
  - C. Pax Aeterna**
  - D. Pax Americana**

- 6. Why was writing important for governments?**
- A. Writing taxed citizens.**
  - B. Writing foretold weather.**
  - C. Writing explained rituals.**
  - D. Writing facilitated communication.**
- 7. Roman city layouts used what pattern?**
- A. Isolated farms**
  - B. Radial design**
  - C. Grid pattern**
  - D. Winding streets**
- 8. Which civilization built pyramids?**
- A. Greece built pyramids.**
  - B. Mesopotamia built pyramids.**
  - C. China built pyramids.**
  - D. Egypt built pyramids.**
- 9. Which city-state is renowned for training citizens for war and military strength?**
- A. Athens**
  - B. Corinth**
  - C. Carthage**
  - D. Sparta**
- 10. Which society worshiped many gods?**
- A. Romans**
  - B. Greeks**
  - C. Egyptians**
  - D. Sumerians**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. In ancient societies, what term describes free men who could be citizens?**

**A. Citizens**

**B. Slaves**

**C. Women**

**D. Foreigners**

Citizenship is the status that defined who could take part in a city's public life. In many ancient societies, the perk of being free and male came with political rights and responsibilities, such as voting, holding office, and participating in assemblies or councils. Those who enjoyed these privileges were called citizens. This distinction sets citizens apart from slaves, who had no political rights; foreigners living in a city (often called outsiders ormetics in some places) who were not granted full rights; and women, who, in most ancient systems, did not have the same political privileges as male citizens. So the term that best describes free men who could participate as members of the political community is citizens.

**2. Which ancient civilization is renowned for its advanced urban drainage systems?**

**A. Mesopotamia**

**B. Mesoamerica**

**C. Indus Valley**

**D. Nile Valley**

The key idea here is that ancient urban planning and sanitation reached an extraordinary level in the Indus Valley. In cities like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, streets were laid out in a grid, and houses connected directly to a network of brick-lined drains that ran beneath the streets. These drains carried wastewater away to larger sewer channels, with access points and cleanly designed slopes, showing a deliberate, city-wide system for sanitation. This combination of standardized bricks, organized layouts, and integrated waste removal is what makes their drainage systems particularly renowned and distinctive. Other civilizations had impressive achievements as well—Mesopotamia emphasized irrigation and monumental architecture, Mesoamerica developed large urban centers, and the Nile Valley centered on flood-based agriculture and monumental projects. But the Indus Valley stands out for the sophistication and ubiquity of its urban drainage, reflecting a strong emphasis on public health and organized civic infrastructure.

### 3. Which ancient society is known for its democratic governance?

- A. Sparta
- B. Athens**
- C. Rome
- D. Carthage

Direct participation by citizens in making laws and government decisions is being tested here. Athens is known for establishing a form of direct democracy in the classical period, where eligible male citizens could attend the Assembly to debate and vote on laws and policies. The city also ran a citizen council that prepared legislation, and many public offices were chosen by lot to reduce corruption, with juries made up of ordinary citizens deciding court cases. This level of citizen involvement in everyday governance distinguishes Athens from other ancient societies. Sparta operated under a more oligarchic, mixed system with two kings and a council of elders, emphasizing military discipline. Rome began as a republic with elected representatives and magistrates, later shifting toward imperial rule, which is not direct democracy. Carthage tended to be governed by a powerful commercial elite rather than broad citizen participation. So Athens stands out as the society most closely associated with democratic governance.

### 4. Which invention significantly improved farming?

- A. Almanac
- B. Wheel
- C. Sails
- D. Plow**

Turning and preparing soil efficiently is essential for good crop growth. The plow made this possible on a large scale: it breaks up hard ground, buries weeds and residue, and brings nutrients up to the surface, all while allowing farmers to work much larger plots with animal or later mechanical power. That leap in soil management leads directly to bigger harvests and the rise of organized agriculture. An almanac helps with planning and timing but doesn't change how soil is prepared; sails aid transport and trade, and the wheel improves movement, yet neither directly improves farming soil more than the plow does.

### 5. Which term describes a period of peace under Roman rule?

- A. Pax Romana**
- B. Pax Britannica
- C. Pax Aeterna
- D. Pax Americana

Pax Romana describes a long stretch of relative peace and stable governance across the Roman Empire, roughly from the reign of Augustus to about the end of the second century CE. During this time the empire experienced fewer large-scale internal wars, trade across the Mediterranean flourished, roads and administration were standardized, and provinces were governed more uniformly. It's the name historians use to describe that era of sustained stability under Roman rule. Pax Britannica names Britain's era of imperial dominance in the 19th century, Pax Aeterna isn't a standard historical label for a specific period, and Pax Americana refers to the post-World War II influence of the United States. These refer to different places or times, so they don't fit as descriptions of peace under Roman rule.

## 6. Why was writing important for governments?

- A. Writing taxed citizens.
- B. Writing foretold weather.
- C. Writing explained rituals.
- D. Writing facilitated communication.**

Writing matters for governments because it creates a durable system for orders, records, and coordination across large populations. When rulers issue laws, decrees, or treaties, writing preserves them so they can be consulted long after a single person's memory fades. Writing also lets authorities track taxes, censuses, inventories, and budgets, which is essential for collecting revenue and distributing resources. It supports a bureaucracy by keeping standardized records that officials across different regions can rely on, and it enables clear communication between the capital and distant provinces, helping manage defense, public works, and everyday administration. Historical examples show this clearly: Mesopotamian governments used writing on clay tablets to record harvests, taxes, and legal codes; ancient Egyptian state administration relied on writing for temple estate management and state projects; later empires depended on written records and formal correspondence to govern vast territories. So the real importance of writing for governments lies in its ability to facilitate organized communication and reliable record-keeping, which underpin lawful governance and coordinated administration.

## 7. Roman city layouts used what pattern?

- A. Isolated farms
- B. Radial design
- C. Grid pattern**
- D. Winding streets

Roman city planning centered on a grid pattern: streets laid out at right angles to form a rectangular network. Planners used straight lines and a regular grid to keep the city orderly and easy to navigate, with the main axes—one running north-south and the other east-west—often meeting near the forum. This arrangement supported efficient movement of people and goods, organized public spaces, water and sewage systems, and military logistics as cities grew. Isolated farms describe rural landscapes, winding streets reflect later medieval organic growth, and radial designs are not typical of standard Roman towns, which makes the grid pattern the best fit for how Roman cities were laid out.

## 8. Which civilization built pyramids?

- A. Greece built pyramids.
- B. Mesopotamia built pyramids.
- C. China built pyramids.
- D. Egypt built pyramids.**

Pyramids as monumental stone tombs are a defining feature of ancient Egypt, built to honor pharaohs and ensure their journey in the afterlife. The most famous example, the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza, dates to around 2580-2560 BCE and showcases how Egypt organized vast labor and used durable stone to create enduring monuments. Other civilizations did not construct true pyramids in the Egyptian sense: Mesopotamia built ziggurats—stepped temple towers— rather than smooth-sided burial pyramids; Greece focused on temples and public buildings rather than pyramid tombs; and China is known for impressive tomb complexes and mound burials, not classic pyramid monuments. Thus, pyramids are most closely associated with Egypt.

## 9. Which city-state is renowned for training citizens for war and military strength?

- A. Athens
- B. Corinth
- C. Carthage
- D. Sparta**

In ancient Greece, city-states differed in how they prepared their citizens for conflict, and one stands out for turning military readiness into the core of daily life. Sparta built its entire society around training citizens to be formidable warriors. From a young age, boys entered the agoge, an intensive program of physical endurance, discipline, and combat drill designed to forge loyal, capable soldiers who could fight effectively together in a phalanx. This lifelong military focus extended into many aspects of life, shaping education, social roles, and daily routines, with the aim of maintaining a powerful, disciplined army to defend and dominate their region. Athens, by contrast, is famous for its philosophy, arts, and democratic principles, along with strong naval power, rather than a state-sponsored program that molds every citizen into a soldier. Corinth is known for wealth and strategic trade position rather than a distinctive military-education system. Carthage is renowned for its naval prowess and use of mercenaries rather than the lifelong citizen-soldier model Sparta practiced. Through this lens, the city-state most closely associated with training citizens for war and military strength is Sparta.

## 10. Which society worshiped many gods?

- A. Romans
- B. Greeks**
- C. Egyptians
- D. Sumerians

Polytheism is the belief in many gods, each governing different aspects of the world and human life. The Greeks built a rich pantheon around Mount Olympus, with gods and goddesses like Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Athena, and numerous others who interact with people, inspire myths, and shape daily rituals and festivals. This expansive, well-documented system makes the Greeks a classic example of a society that worshiped many gods. While other ancient cultures—Romans, Egyptians, and Sumerians—also honored multiple deities, the Greek mythic tradition is the most commonly cited in studies as a standout representation of polytheism.

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

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

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

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

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