

# 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. Which civilization emphasized law codes?**
  - A. Rome**
  - B. Greece**
  - C. Egypt**
  - D. Sumer**
  
- 2. What major transition marks the shift from hunter-gatherer societies to settled farming communities?**
  - A. Neolithic Revolution**
  - B. Industrial Revolution**
  - C. Urbanization**
  - D. Iron Age Shift**
  
- 3. The city of Ur is most closely associated with which civilization?**
  - A. Maya**
  - B. Indus Valley**
  - C. Mesopotamia**
  - D. Egyptians**
  
- 4. Pyramids were primarily built as tombs for whom?**
  - A. For defense.**
  - B. Mainly as tombs.**
  - C. As markets.**
  - D. As temples to the sun.**
  
- 5. Which environmental factor is often cited as contributing to the collapse of the Maya civilization?**
  - A. Volcanic eruption**
  - B. Invasion**
  - C. Prolonged drought**
  - D. Overhunting**

- 6. The transition to agriculture in multiple regions indicates what broader pattern of human history?**
- A. Global trade of crops**
  - B. Rapid urbanization everywhere**
  - C. Widespread use of writing first**
  - D. Independent development of farming in different areas**
- 7. Why were ancient laws often created?**
- A. To promote trade**
  - B. To maintain order.**
  - C. To describe myths**
  - D. To record calendars**
- 8. Mummification is associated with which ancient civilization?**
- A. Egypt**
  - B. China**
  - C. Rome**
  - D. Mesopotamia**
- 9. In ancient Athens, which group were considered citizens?**
- A. Free men**
  - B. Women**
  - C. Slaves**
  - D. Foreigners**
- 10. What was a primary reason civilizations engaged in trade?**
- A. Shared religion.**
  - B. Proximity to mountains.**
  - C. Lack of resources.**
  - D. Desire for conquest.**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Which civilization emphasized law codes?

- A. Rome
- B. Greece
- C. Egypt
- D. Sumer**

Law codes written down to govern behavior show an organized approach to justice and governance. Sumer, in southern Mesopotamia, gave us some of the earliest known written law codes, with Ur-Nammu's code dating to around 2100 BCE. These laws laid out explicit rules and penalties on matters like marriage, property, and punishment, demonstrating a centralized effort to regulate society through formal statutes. While later civilizations in the region and beyond—such as the Babylonians with Hammurabi's code, as well as Egypt, Greece, and Rome—developed influential legal systems, the emphasis on creating and enforcing codified written laws begins with Sumer. This makes Sumer the best answer to the question.

## 2. What major transition marks the shift from hunter-gatherer societies to settled farming communities?

- A. Neolithic Revolution**
- B. Industrial Revolution
- C. Urbanization
- D. Iron Age Shift

The major transition being tested is the shift to agriculture and permanent settlements, which is known as the Neolithic Revolution. This change introduced systematic farming and domestication of plants and animals, allowing people to stay in one place, build villages, store surplus food, and support larger populations. It laid the groundwork for social diversification and the rise of civilizations. The other choices describe later developments or different processes: the Industrial Revolution involves machinery and urban-industrial society; urbanization is the growth of cities that can follow farming but does not itself mark the initial switch to farming; the Iron Age Shift isn't a standard term for this transition and points to a later technological era.

## 3. The city of Ur is most closely associated with which civilization?

- A. Maya
- B. Indus Valley
- C. Mesopotamia**
- D. Egyptians

Ur sits in the region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the heartland of Mesopotamian civilization. It was one of the great southern Mesopotamian city-states, part of the culture of Sumer that developed urban life, centralized administration, and early writing like cuneiform. This place and its artifacts—such as the monumental ziggurats and extensive tablet records—are emblematic of Mesopotamia's early civilizations. The other regions correspond to different parts of the world: the Maya to Mesoamerica, the Indus Valley to South Asia, and ancient Egyptians along the Nile. None of those cultures are tied to Ur or its archaeological site. So Ur is most closely associated with Mesopotamia.

#### 4. Pyramids were primarily built as tombs for whom?

- A. For defense.
- B. Mainly as tombs.**
- C. As markets.
- D. As temples to the sun.

Pyramids were built as monumental tombs for pharaohs and, in some cases, other high-ranking individuals. In the Old Kingdom, rulers used pyramid complexes to house the pharaoh's burial chamber and grave goods, reflecting the belief in a powerful, protected afterlife and the pharaoh's enduring divine status. The Great Pyramids at Giza, for example, are royal tombs with accompanying temples and causeways as part of a larger funerary complex. While solar symbolism and religious ideas about the sun god Ra are part of Egyptian belief, the primary purpose of pyramids themselves was to serve as tombs, not as defenses, markets, or sun temples. This is why the correct understanding is that pyramids were mainly tombs.

#### 5. Which environmental factor is often cited as contributing to the collapse of the Maya civilization?

- A. Volcanic eruption
- B. Invasion
- C. Prolonged drought**
- D. Overhunting

Prolonged droughts that cut rainfall are a leading factor in the Maya collapse. The Maya Lowlands depended on predictable rains for growing maize and for filling water reservoirs. When multiyear dry spells occurred, crops failed, water sources diminished, and cities faced severe food and water shortages. This environmental stress helped trigger social and political turmoil, migrations, and the abandonment of urban centers during the Terminal Classic period. While volcanic eruptions can cause short-term cooling and invasions or overhunting can pose stresses, they don't fit the long, widespread pattern of decline as well as sustained drought does, making drought the best-supported environmental explanation for the collapse.

#### 6. The transition to agriculture in multiple regions indicates what broader pattern of human history?

- A. Global trade of crops
- B. Rapid urbanization everywhere
- C. Widespread use of writing first
- D. Independent development of farming in different areas**

The transition to farming in multiple regions shows that agricultural practices arose independently in different places because communities in varied environments found similar ways to domesticate local plants and animals. This parallel development reflects a common solution to the challenge of providing reliable food, which allowed people to settle, support larger populations, and eventually build more complex societies. It's not about one origin that everyone learned from others, or about writing or trade driving the change first; those elements happened later in some regions. The broad pattern is multiple, separate centers of farming emerging as people adapted to their local resources.

## 7. Why were ancient laws often created?

- A. To promote trade
- B. To maintain order.**
- C. To describe myths
- D. To record calendars

Ancient laws were created chiefly to keep society orderly. They set expectations for behavior, spell out penalties for breaking rules, and provide a predictable framework for resolving disputes. This stability supports daily life, trade, and the functioning of the community, especially as populations grow and diverse groups interact. For example, a formal code in Mesopotamia helped unify different groups under a common standard of justice and protected property and family rights. While legal texts can touch on economic activity or reflect religious beliefs, their main function is to prevent chaos and keep social life functioning.

## 8. Mummification is associated with which ancient civilization?

- A. Egypt**
- B. China
- C. Rome
- D. Mesopotamia

Preservation of the body for the afterlife is closely tied to ancient Egyptian belief systems. They believed the dead would continue to exist after death, so they developed mummification to protect the body from decay. The process involved carefully removing internal organs, drying the body with natron, and wrapping it in linen with amulets and spells to aid the deceased on the journey to the afterlife. This highly ritualized approach to preserving the body is a defining aspect of Egyptian burial practices, setting it apart from other ancient cultures. While other civilizations had their own burial customs, they did not emphasize mummification to the same extent, so the practice is most strongly associated with ancient Egypt.

## 9. In ancient Athens, which group were considered citizens?

- A. Free men**
- B. Women
- C. Slaves
- D. Foreigners

In ancient Athens, political involvement and legal status were reserved for free male citizens who were born to Athenian citizen parents. This group could participate in the Assembly, vote on laws, hold public offices, and serve in the military. Women, slaves, and resident foreigners did not have these political rights and were not considered citizens. So the group that qualifies as citizens is the free men.

**10. What was a primary reason civilizations engaged in trade?**

- A. Shared religion.**
- B. Proximity to mountains.**
- C. Lack of resources.**
- D. Desire for conquest.**

Trade happens mainly because civilizations need resources that are scarce or unavailable in their own lands. Geography, climate, and local environments shape what a society can produce, so one region may have plenty of grain or textiles while another has timber, metals, salt, or luxury goods in abundance. By exchanging surplus goods for these scarce items, communities gain what they can't make themselves, supporting growth, technology, and daily life. That scarcity-driven motive explains why trade became such a widespread practice across ancient world networks, from river valleys to desert caravans and coastal routes. Shared religion or mountains shaping routes can influence who trades with whom or how routes develop, but they don't explain why trade exists in the first place. Conquest might accompany trade, but it's about control and power rather than the basic exchange of goods that fulfills essential needs.

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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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