

# AP African American Studies Units 2.1 to 2.13 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. Juan Garrido's role in the Spanish conquest of Mexico suggests that:**
  - A. People of African descent only served as slaves.**
  - B. People of African descent had diverse roles in early American exploration and conquest.**
  - C. People of African descent were primarily soldiers.**
  - D. People of African descent were not involved in exploration.**
  
- 2. How did the Missouri Compromise intend to address the issue of slavery?**
  - A. By abolishing slavery in all territories**
  - B. By maintaining balance between slave and free states**
  - C. By allowing popular sovereignty in new states**
  - D. By establishing strict laws against slave escapees**
  
- 3. What was one of the primary functions of spirituals for enslaved African Americans?**
  - A. To convey messages of resistance and rebellion against enslavers**
  - B. To entertain during leisure hours on plantations**
  - C. To promote a sense of unity and identity among the enslaved population**
  - D. To express contentment with their enslavement**
  
- 4. What characterized the Collective Black Experience during Reconstruction?**
  - A. The establishment of fully integrated schools**
  - B. The struggle for civil rights and social justice**
  - C. The emergence of a sizable Black middle class**
  - D. The lack of organized political representation**
  
- 5. How did the April 1992 Los Angeles riots reflect racial tensions in America?**
  - A. They were a celebration of cultural diversity**
  - B. They resulted from the acquittal of police officers in a brutal case**
  - C. They marked a turning point in local politics**
  - D. They led to significant improvements in police-community relations**

- 6. What events led to the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement?**
- A. It originated from the need for better educational resources**
  - B. It emerged in response to police violence and systemic racism**
  - C. It was founded on the need for economic reform**
  - D. It started as a youth-led environmental initiative**
- 7. Who was Ida B. Wells known for advocating against?**
- A. Racial segregation**
  - B. Child labor**
  - C. Anti-lynching**
  - D. Women's suffrage**
- 8. What role did fear play in the environment of slave ships?**
- A. It encouraged collaboration between enslaved individuals**
  - B. It increased the likelihood of revolt**
  - C. It was used as a tactic by crew to maintain control**
  - D. It had little effect on the overall dynamics**
- 9. What were the major factors contributing to the urban riots of the 1960s?**
- A. Rising unemployment and lack of housing**
  - B. Economic inequality, police brutality, and systemic racism**
  - C. Increase in educational opportunities for African Americans**
  - D. Expansion of African American political representation**
- 10. Who is recognized as a leading figure in introducing jazz into literature during the Harlem Renaissance?**
- A. Zora Neale Hurston**
  - B. Langston Hughes**
  - C. Claude McKay**
  - D. Countee Cullen**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Juan Garrido's role in the Spanish conquest of Mexico suggests that:**

- A. People of African descent only served as slaves.
- B. People of African descent had diverse roles in early American exploration and conquest.**
- C. People of African descent were primarily soldiers.
- D. People of African descent were not involved in exploration.

Juan Garrido's role in the Spanish conquest of Mexico highlights the diversity of contributions made by individuals of African descent during early American exploration and conquest. Rather than being restricted to the role of slaves or limited to specific occupations, people of African descent, such as Garrido, operated in various capacities, including as explorers, soldiers, and laborers. Garrido, in particular, is noted for being one of the first Africans to reach the New World. He actively participated in the conquest alongside Hernán Cortés, showcasing his significant involvement in military campaigns and the broader narrative of exploration. This participation illustrates that people of African descent had agency and played integral roles in shaping the historical context of the Americas, contradicting any oversimplified perceptions of their involvement during this period. This understanding is essential, as it acknowledges the contribution of African-descended individuals to the early histories of exploration and conquest, thus enriching the narrative of this historical era.

**2. How did the Missouri Compromise intend to address the issue of slavery?**

- A. By abolishing slavery in all territories
- B. By maintaining balance between slave and free states**
- C. By allowing popular sovereignty in new states
- D. By establishing strict laws against slave escapees

The Missouri Compromise aimed to address the contentious issue of slavery by maintaining a balance between slave and free states in the Union. Specifically, it was enacted in 1820 to manage the conflict that arose from Missouri's application for statehood as a slave state, which threatened to disrupt the delicate balance of power in Congress. The compromise allowed Missouri to enter as a slave state while simultaneously admitting Maine as a free state. This was significant as it preserved the political equilibrium between the North and the South. Additionally, the compromise included a provision that prohibited slavery in the territories north of the 36°30' parallel, which further aimed to delineate where slavery would be legally recognized and where it would not. This compromise was crucial in delaying the sectional tensions over slavery, illustrating an early attempt to navigate the fraught political landscape of the time.

**3. What was one of the primary functions of spirituals for enslaved African Americans?**

- A. To convey messages of resistance and rebellion against enslavers**
- B. To entertain during leisure hours on plantations**
- C. To promote a sense of unity and identity among the enslaved population**
- D. To express contentment with their enslavement**

One of the primary functions of spirituals for enslaved African Americans was to convey messages of resistance and rebellion against enslavers. Spirituals often contained coded messages and imagery that expressed the desire for freedom or highlighted the struggles faced by the enslaved. Through their lyrics, these songs served as an outlet for hope, resilience, and the longing for liberation, while also fostering a sense of solidarity among those who shared similar experiences of oppression. The use of spirituals in this manner illustrates how music became a vital tool for both personal expression and collective resistance within the enslaved community.

**4. What characterized the Collective Black Experience during Reconstruction?**

- A. The establishment of fully integrated schools**
- B. The struggle for civil rights and social justice**
- C. The emergence of a sizable Black middle class**
- D. The lack of organized political representation**

The correct choice highlights the pivotal role that the struggle for civil rights and social justice played in shaping the Collective Black Experience during Reconstruction. Following the Civil War, the period of Reconstruction was marked by significant efforts from African Americans to secure their rights and establish a foothold in a society that had systematically oppressed them. This included the push for voting rights, educational opportunities, and the dismantling of discriminatory laws, all of which were central to the African American community's quest for equality. During this time, African Americans began to organize politically, forming alliances and advocating for their rights. The establishment of organizations like the Freedmen's Bureau aimed to provide assistance and protection to formerly enslaved individuals, but it was ultimately the active engagement of Black citizens that fueled efforts towards greater civil rights. While there were indeed efforts towards integrated schooling and the emergence of a Black middle class, the essence of the Reconstruction era for many African Americans was defined by their organized movements and demands for civil rights and social justice—struggles that laid the groundwork for future civil rights advancements. Additionally, even though political representation was challenged, many African Americans began to participate in politics, indicating a complex and dynamic experience rather than a lack of representation. In summary, the struggle for civil rights and social

**5. How did the April 1992 Los Angeles riots reflect racial tensions in America?**

- A. They were a celebration of cultural diversity**
- B. They resulted from the acquittal of police officers in a brutal case**
- C. They marked a turning point in local politics**
- D. They led to significant improvements in police-community relations**

The April 1992 Los Angeles riots were primarily sparked by the acquittal of police officers who were involved in the brutal beating of Rodney King, which was captured on video and drew widespread outrage. This incident highlighted existing racial tensions, as many African Americans and other communities of color felt that the legal system did not provide them with justice or protection against police violence. The riots became a manifestation of deep-seated frustrations related to systemic racism, economic inequalities, and the perception of law enforcement as an oppressive force rather than a protective one. This context underscores why the acquittal of the officers was pivotal; it served as a flashpoint that ignited pent-up anger and disillusionment. The events that unfolded during the riots were not merely random acts of violence but a collective response to a broader societal issue regarding race relations in America. Therefore, the choice that connects the riots to the acquittal serves to accurately represent the underlying causes of the unrest.

**6. What events led to the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement?**

- A. It originated from the need for better educational resources**
- B. It emerged in response to police violence and systemic racism**
- C. It was founded on the need for economic reform**
- D. It started as a youth-led environmental initiative**

The Black Lives Matter movement emerged primarily in response to police violence and systemic racism, which have historically marginalized and oppressed Black individuals and communities in the United States. The movement began in 2013, catalyzed by the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, a Black teenager. This incident ignited national outrage and mobilized people around issues of police brutality, racial profiling, and the broader systemic injustices faced by Black Americans. The movement gained further momentum in 2014 with the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, which highlighted the urgent need to address and challenge the structures of systemic racism within law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Black Lives Matter framed these issues within a larger context of equality and justice, advocating for the rights and dignity of Black lives in a society that has often denied them. The other options focus on different aspects that aren't the primary catalysts for the formation of this specific movement. While educational resources and economic reform are important social issues, they do not capture the immediate impetus for Black Lives Matter, which centers on addressing violence and oppression in a starkly racialized context. Similarly, an environmental initiative does not align with the core issues at the heart of Black Lives Matter. The movement specifically arose

**7. Who was Ida B. Wells known for advocating against?**

- A. Racial segregation**
- B. Child labor**
- C. Anti-lynching**
- D. Women's suffrage**

Ida B. Wells is best known for her vigorous advocacy against lynching, making her a key figure in the anti-lynching movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She utilized her platform as a journalist to expose the brutal realities of lynching and the societal complacency surrounding it. Her investigative reporting, particularly her pamphlet "Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases," highlighted the racial violence faced by African Americans, revealing the truth behind the justifications often given for such acts. This work not only aimed to inform the public but also sought to mobilize people to take action against these injustices, ultimately contributing to the broader civil rights movement. Therefore, her fight against lynching is central to her legacy, making this the correct answer.

**8. What role did fear play in the environment of slave ships?**

- A. It encouraged collaboration between enslaved individuals**
- B. It increased the likelihood of revolt**
- C. It was used as a tactic by crew to maintain control**
- D. It had little effect on the overall dynamics**

Fear played a critical role in shaping the environment on slave ships, serving as a tactic employed by the crew to maintain control over the enslaved individuals. The crew often instilled fear through violent practices, harsh punishments, and intimidation. This created an atmosphere where enslaved people were less likely to challenge their captors or resist, as the consequences for defiance could be brutal. By fostering an environment of fear, the crew aimed to minimize uprisings and maintain order during the harrowing transatlantic journey. The oppressive conditions and psychological stress inflicted on the enslaved served to reinforce the crew's authority and keep the enslaved individuals subdued, making it easier for them to carry out their profit-driven objectives without interference. Thus, fear was an effective means of control that significantly impacted the dynamics aboard slave ships.

**9. What were the major factors contributing to the urban riots of the 1960s?**

- A. Rising unemployment and lack of housing**
- B. Economic inequality, police brutality, and systemic racism**
- C. Increase in educational opportunities for African Americans**
- D. Expansion of African American political representation**

The urban riots of the 1960s were significantly influenced by economic inequality, police brutality, and systemic racism. During this period, many African American communities faced severe social and economic disparities, which were deeply rooted in the legacy of discrimination and segregation. Economic inequality played a critical role, as many African Americans were disproportionately affected by high unemployment rates, low wages, and poor living conditions. The frustration stemming from these systemic inequities often boiled over into riots when communities felt their grievances were ignored. Police brutality was another vital factor. Many African Americans experienced aggressive and violent policing, which heightened tensions between law enforcement and residents. Incidents of police violence served as flashpoints for larger protests, as they symbolized the broader systemic injustices faced by the community. Systemic racism was the overarching framework that connected these issues. Policies and societal structures consistently marginalized African Americans, limiting their access to economic opportunities and contributing to a sense of hopelessness and anger. This environment created a volatile situation where many felt that riots were a necessary means of expressing their frustration and demanding change. In contrast, the expansion of educational opportunities and political representation were more optimistic developments that, while important, did not directly contribute to the riots. Instead, they may have been perceived as insufficient in

**10. Who is recognized as a leading figure in introducing jazz into literature during the Harlem Renaissance?**

- A. Zora Neale Hurston**
- B. Langston Hughes**
- C. Claude McKay**
- D. Countee Cullen**

Langston Hughes is recognized as a leading figure in introducing jazz into literature during the Harlem Renaissance due to his innovative integration of jazz rhythms and themes into his poetry and prose. His works often reflect the cultural and social dynamics of African American life, capturing the energy and spontaneity of jazz music. Hughes embraced the sounds and spirit of jazz, using them to convey the struggles and joys of the African American experience, making his voice distinctive and influential in this literary movement. While other figures, like Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, and Countee Cullen, contributed significantly to the Harlem Renaissance through their own styles and themes, it was Hughes who most directly infused jazz elements into his literary work, effectively bridging the genres of music and literature. His ability to evoke the musicality of jazz in written form helped establish a new narrative voice that represented African American culture.

## 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://apfricanamericanstudiesunit2.examzify.com>**

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

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