

AP Comparative Government (AP COGO) China Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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1. What role do mass organizations play in policy-making in China?

- A. They have significant influence over legislation**
- B. They are limited to expressing views within strict limits**
- C. They operate as independent agencies**
- D. They enforce government policies**

2. What general approach does the Chinese government take towards NGOs?

- A. Complete freedom to operate without oversight**
- B. Encouragement to engage in political discourse**
- C. Strict regulation and oversight**
- D. Autonomy to manage their affairs as they see fit**

3. What is the primary role of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in China's economy?

- A. To compete with foreign companies in innovation**
- B. To dominate critical parts of the economy**
- C. To support private businesses exclusively**
- D. To promote environmental sustainability**

4. What major shift occurred during Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms?

- A. Encouraged full government control of all industries**
- B. Increased market forces and reduced government control**
- C. Closed down several state-owned enterprises**
- D. Promoted foreign investment without restrictions**

5. What is the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) primarily responsible for?

- A. Supervising local governments**
- B. Directing party affairs**
- C. Managing military operations**
- D. Creating educational policies**

6. What was one major consequence of the policies under Deng Xiaoping for ordinary citizens?

- A. Increased poverty rates among rural populations**
- B. Encouragement to work harder and pursue personal wealth**
- C. Reduction in available employment opportunities**
- D. Higher taxes on private enterprises**

7. Which of the following best describes the control of economic decisions in China after reforms?

- A. Centralized control by the Communist Party**
- B. Decentralized to families, factory managers, and business owners**
- C. Decisions made exclusively by state planners**
- D. Authority remains with local governments**

8. When does the Chinese legislature convene?

- A. When the president is in session**
- B. When congress is in session**
- C. Only during national holidays**
- D. When local governments call for a meeting**

9. How does the head of the State Council relate to the government in China?

- A. Acts independently from the government**
- B. Directs it**
- C. Advises the President**
- D. Is subordinate to the CCP**

10. What does collectivization refer to in the context of Chinese agricultural reforms?

- A. The encouragement of private farming**
- B. The elimination of private property by government takeover**
- C. The establishment of farmer cooperatives**
- D. The promotion of capitalist farming methods**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What role do mass organizations play in policy-making in China?

- A. They have significant influence over legislation**
- B. They are limited to expressing views within strict limits**
- C. They operate as independent agencies**
- D. They enforce government policies**

Mass organizations in China play a crucial role within the confines of the Communist Party's structure, primarily serving as conduits for the government's goals rather than functioning as independent entities. Their primary purpose is to mobilize and organize citizens, allowing the Communist Party to gauge public sentiment and promote specific policies. These organizations can articulate views and concerns from various segments of society, but they do so within strict boundaries that align with party ideology and objectives. This limited scope means that while they may express opinions and facilitate communication between the government and the populace, their influence is not independent or substantial enough to directly alter legislation or engage in independent policy-making. Instead, they mirror government interests and serve to reinforce the existing political framework. Thus, the role of mass organizations in policy-making can be characterized by their ability to express views, albeit within defined parameters, which aligns with the broader aim of maintaining party control while presenting a facade of responsiveness to public opinion.

2. What general approach does the Chinese government take towards NGOs?

- A. Complete freedom to operate without oversight**
- B. Encouragement to engage in political discourse**
- C. Strict regulation and oversight**
- D. Autonomy to manage their affairs as they see fit**

The Chinese government takes a general approach of strict regulation and oversight towards non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This means that while NGOs may operate in various sectors, such as social services and environmental advocacy, they are required to register with the government and often face significant bureaucratic hurdles. The state maintains a tight grip on their activities to ensure they do not challenge the authority of the Communist Party or engage in political activism that could disrupt social stability. The rationale behind this strict oversight is rooted in the government's desire to maintain control over civil society and prevent any forms of dissent or organization that might threaten the ruling party's hegemony. NGOs often have to navigate a complex network of laws and regulations, and those perceived as stepping outside their designated roles can be subject to penalties, restrictions, or even closure. In contrast, other approaches like complete freedom to operate or autonomy to manage affairs do not accurately reflect the reality of the government's stance towards NGOs in China, where oversight is a fundamental part of the operational framework. Encouragement to engage in political discourse also doesn't align with the overall strategy of the Chinese state, which discourages political mobilization outside of the Party's control.

3. What is the primary role of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in China's economy?

- A. To compete with foreign companies in innovation
- B. To dominate critical parts of the economy**
- C. To support private businesses exclusively
- D. To promote environmental sustainability

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) play a crucial role in China's economy by dominating critical sectors. These enterprises are typically involved in industries deemed essential for national security and economic stability, such as energy, telecommunications, and transportation. The Chinese government maintains significant control over SOEs, using them as tools to implement economic policies, influence market behavior, and secure resources. By dominating key sectors, SOEs help the government achieve broader economic objectives, such as maintaining control over strategic industries and facilitating the transition of the economy during periods of restructuring or reform. They also contribute to the government's ability to implement long-term planning and state priorities, which can include initiatives in innovation and infrastructure development. While innovation and environmental sustainability are important considerations for SOEs, their fundamental role is centered on maintaining control over vital parts of the economy rather than exclusively supporting private businesses or competing directly with foreign companies in innovation.

4. What major shift occurred during Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms?

- A. Encouraged full government control of all industries
- B. Increased market forces and reduced government control**
- C. Closed down several state-owned enterprises
- D. Promoted foreign investment without restrictions

During Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms, a significant shift took place characterized by the increased reliance on market forces and a reduction of government control over the economy. This transformation marked a departure from the strict centrally planned economy that had dominated China under Mao Zedong. Deng introduced concepts such as the "socialist market economy," which allowed for greater private enterprise, the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and encouraged competition in various sectors. The reforms led to an influx of foreign investment and technological advancements, which significantly boosted economic growth and development in China. While there were moves to downsize state-owned enterprises and promote foreign investment, the core of Deng's reforms was the shift from an economy that was tightly controlled by the government to one that integrated market principles. This blend of socialism and market dynamics set the foundation for China's rapid economic expansion in subsequent decades.

5. What is the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) primarily responsible for?

- A. Supervising local governments
- B. Directing party affairs**
- C. Managing military operations
- D. Creating educational policies

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is primarily responsible for directing party affairs, making it the most appropriate choice. This body plays a crucial role in shaping the policies, strategies, and overall direction of the party. Comprising a core group of high-ranking officials and leaders, the Central Committee is tasked with making key decisions about political, economic, and social issues that affect the party and the nation. The Central Committee meets regularly and engages in discussions that lead to the formulation of important policies and directives that align with the overarching goals of the CCP, including maintaining the party's political power and managing the country's governance. It serves as a central hub of leadership where strategic planning occurs, reinforcing its role in directing the affairs of the party rather than focusing on operational details such as local governance, military operations, or educational policy creation—areas that may fall under other branches or departments within the government or party structure.

6. What was one major consequence of the policies under Deng Xiaoping for ordinary citizens?

- A. Increased poverty rates among rural populations
- B. Encouragement to work harder and pursue personal wealth**
- C. Reduction in available employment opportunities
- D. Higher taxes on private enterprises

The policies under Deng Xiaoping marked a significant shift in China's economic landscape, transitioning from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one. This shift encouraged individuals to work harder and pursue personal wealth, which was a departure from the previous emphasis on collective ownership and egalitarianism. Deng's economic reforms included the introduction of the household responsibility system, which allowed farmers to keep and sell their surplus produce after meeting state quotas. This incentivized individuals to increase productivity and innovate, reflecting a broader acceptance of personal profit as a motivation. Additionally, the establishment of Special Economic Zones attracted foreign investment and created opportunities for entrepreneurship, further fostering a culture that valued individual effort and the pursuit of wealth. While there were challenges, such as disparities in wealth and social inequality that emerged from these policies, the primary consequence for many ordinary citizens was the newfound freedom to engage in economic activities with the aim of personal enrichment. This change fundamentally altered the Chinese economy and the lives of its citizens, allowing for greater economic mobility and initiatives.

7. Which of the following best describes the control of economic decisions in China after reforms?

- A. Centralized control by the Communist Party**
- B. Decentralized to families, factory managers, and business owners**
- C. Decisions made exclusively by state planners**
- D. Authority remains with local governments**

The correct response highlights the significant shift in economic decision-making in China after the reforms initiated in the late 1970s. Following the implementation of these reforms, there was a notable move away from the purely centralized command economy of the Maoist era towards a more market-oriented approach. This transition allowed families, factory managers, and business owners to have greater autonomy over economic decisions, promoting individual initiative and entrepreneurship. This decentralized approach has led to increased productivity and innovation, as local managers and private business owners are better positioned to respond to market demands than central planners. Furthermore, the reforms empowered local governments to make certain economic choices, leading to regional variations in development and economic policies. While the Communist Party retains significant overarching authority and ideological control, the daily economic operations reflect a more decentralized system where decision-making power has been distributed beyond central planners to various stakeholders in the economy.

8. When does the Chinese legislature convene?

- A. When the president is in session**
- B. When congress is in session**
- C. Only during national holidays**
- D. When local governments call for a meeting**

The correct answer is that the Chinese legislature, known as the National People's Congress (NPC), convenes during its own designated sessions, which typically align with the annual meetings of the congress in early March. The NPC is the highest state body in China and plays a crucial role in the legislative process, including enacting laws, electing the president, and approving budgets. While the NPC technically operates independently of other government branches, it does hold its sessions similarly to how other national legislative bodies operate. The alignment of congressional sessions suggests a parliamentary system, allowing for coordinated governance and legislative action. The other choices do not accurately reflect the NPC's functioning. The Chinese president does not dictate when the NPC meets, local government meetings do not call for it to convene, and national holidays do not serve as a basis for legislative sessions. The primary purpose of the NPC meetings is to conduct national legislative business, underscoring the significance of option B as the best representation of how and when the Chinese legislature operates.

9. How does the head of the State Council relate to the government in China?

- A. Acts independently from the government**
- B. Directs it**
- C. Advises the President**
- D. Is subordinate to the CCP**

The head of the State Council, typically known as the Premier, plays a crucial role in directing the government in China. The State Council functions as the chief administrative authority in the country and is responsible for implementing laws and policies, guiding economic development, and managing the overall administration. The Premier leads the State Council and coordinates the functions of various ministries and agencies. This leadership role involves setting the governmental agenda and ensuring that the government's policies align with the directives of the Communist Party of China (CCP). In this context, the Premier's authority and responsibility for directing the actions of the State Council clearly illustrates the integral connection between the head of the State Council and the broader governmental framework in China. By directing the government, the Premier not only ensures that policy initiatives are executed efficiently, but also reinforces the CCP's governance and approach to policy-making in a state where political authority is centralized.

10. What does collectivization refer to in the context of Chinese agricultural reforms?

- A. The encouragement of private farming**
- B. The elimination of private property by government takeover**
- C. The establishment of farmer cooperatives**
- D. The promotion of capitalist farming methods**

Collectivization in the context of Chinese agricultural reforms primarily refers to the elimination of private property by government takeover. This process, initiated under Mao Zedong's leadership, aimed to consolidate individual landholdings and labor into collective farms or communes. The goal was to increase agricultural productivity and enhance the state's control over farming practices. By abolishing private ownership, the government intended to redistribute resources more equally among the population and to eliminate socioeconomic inequalities that existed under a market-based agricultural system. Through collectivization, the government sought to establish farms that were collectively managed, where all decisions regarding production, distribution, and labor were made by the state or collective leadership rather than individual farmers. This fundamentally changed the structure of agriculture in China, leading to the creation of large-scale collective farms where farmers worked together under state mandates. The outcome of this approach was complex, often resulting in significant disruptions to agricultural productivity and contributing to famines during the Great Leap Forward. The other options do not accurately encapsulate the nature of collectivization in China. Options that discuss the encouragement of private farming, the establishment of farmer cooperatives, or the promotion of capitalist farming methods contradict the fundamental principles of collectivization, which emphasized state control and communal farming over private enterprise or capitalist practices.

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://apcogochina.examzify.com>

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

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