

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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 statement describes Safavid treatment of religious minorities as per the material?**
 - A. They ignored Christians and Jews.**
 - B. They forced all to convert to Shi'ism.**
 - C. They also respected Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians because they each had their holy texts.**
 - D. They banned non-Muslims from practicing.**

- 2. What democratic elements did Mohammad Reza Shah establish in his early term?**
 - A. Freedom of speech, independent judiciary and competitive elections**
 - B. One-party rule**
 - C. Absolute monarchy**
 - D. Military rule**

- 3. What is the Majles, and what is its function?**
 - A. The Majles is the Iranian version of parliament**
 - B. The Majles is the Supreme Leader's advisory council**
 - C. The Majles is responsible for religious matters only**
 - D. The Majles has no legislative power**

- 4. What is a Rentier State?**
 - A. A country that relies on domestic manufacturing for growth**
 - B. A country that imports most goods**
 - C. A country with a large service sector**
 - D. A country that obtains lucrative income by exporting raw materials or leasing out natural resources to foreign companies**

- 5. In Khomeini's framework, what guides judges' decisions?**
 - A. Secular constitutional law**
 - B. International treaties**
 - C. Islamic principles**
 - D. Administrative decrees**

- 6. What was Iran's official name before it changed to Iran?**
- A. Iran**
 - B. The Persian Empire**
 - C. Persia Minor**
 - D. Persia**
- 7. Which language is spoken by the largest share of Iran's population according to the statistics?**
- A. 26% speak Turkic**
 - B. 8% speak Gilaki**
 - C. 51% speak Farsi**
 - D. 7% speak Kurdish**
- 8. Which region accounted for 7% of Iran's foreign trade in the 19th century?**
- A. The United States**
 - B. The Middle East**
 - C. Russia**
 - D. Britain**
- 9. What is the religious makeup of Iran?**
- A. 70% Shi'ite, 20% Sunni, 10% others**
 - B. 50% Shi'ite, 50% Sunni**
 - C. 89% Shi'ite**
 - D. 95% Shi'ite, 5% Sunni**
- 10. What is the Expediency Council's primary role?**
- A. It mediates between Majles and Guardian Council**
 - B. It drafts legislation for the Majles**
 - C. It handles foreign policy**
 - D. It enforces laws through the judiciary**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement describes Safavid treatment of religious minorities as per the material?

- A. They ignored Christians and Jews.**
- B. They forced all to convert to Shi'ism.**
- C. They also respected Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians because they each had their holy texts.**
- D. They banned non-Muslims from practicing.**

The main idea is how Safavid rulers treated religious minorities within a Shi'a state. The Safavids promoted Shi'a Islam as the official religion, but they did not erase other faiths; Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians were allowed to practice their religions and keep their own sacred texts. This reflects a protected, plural approach common in many Islamic empires: recognizing certain minorities as legitimate communities with their own religious laws, as long as these communities paid appropriate taxes and adhered to state rules. The other statements imply complete neglect, forced conversion, or outright bans, which does not align with how these groups were treated under Safavid rule. Therefore, the described respectful treatment—allowing minority communities to maintain their holy texts and practices—is the best description.

2. What democratic elements did Mohammad Reza Shah establish in his early term?

- A. Freedom of speech, independent judiciary and competitive elections**
- B. One-party rule**
- C. Absolute monarchy**
- D. Military rule**

During his early years, Iran retained a constitutional framework that allowed some liberal practices. Freedom of speech meant people could express opinions and publish debate; an independent judiciary indicated that courts could rule without direct political interference; and competitive elections meant political parties could organize and contest seats in the legislature. Together, these elements embody civil liberties, the rule of law, and political competition—hallmarks of democratic governance. The other options describe systems that concentrate power—one-party rule, absolute monarchy, or military rule—which contrast with the democratic features present in the early term.

3. What is the Majles, and what is its function?

- A. The Majles is the Iranian version of parliament**
- B. The Majles is the Supreme Leader's advisory council**
- C. The Majles is responsible for religious matters only**
- D. The Majles has no legislative power**

The Majles is Iran's national legislature, elected by the people. Its main job is to write, debate, and pass laws and to approve the national budget. It also exercises oversight of the executive by questioning ministers and influencing appointments. Once the Majles approves a law, it goes to the Guardian Council, which can review for constitutionality and Islamic compatibility and may veto or require changes; if there's a dispute, the Expediency Discernment Council helps resolve it. This shows why it's described as the Iranian version of parliament—an official lawmaking body within the broader political system.

4. What is a Rentier State?

- A. A country that relies on domestic manufacturing for growth
- B. A country that imports most goods
- C. A country with a large service sector
- D. A country that obtains lucrative income by exporting raw materials or leasing out natural resources to foreign companies**

A Rentier State relies mainly on external rents for its revenue—money paid to the state from resources or concessions rather than taxes collected from its own people or profits from domestic production. In practical terms, the government earns large, stable income by selling the country's natural resources to foreign buyers or by leasing out mineral or oil rights to foreign firms. This external income funds public spending without needing strong tax collection or broad domestic industry. That's why the statement about obtaining lucrative income by exporting raw materials or leasing out natural resources to foreign companies is the best fit. It captures the essence of external rents that propping up the state budget without relying on citizens' taxes or domestic manufacturing. The other options describe different economic bases—manufacturing, high reliance on imports, or a large service sector—that do not reflect the rentier model.

5. In Khomeini's framework, what guides judges' decisions?

- A. Secular constitutional law
- B. International treaties
- C. Islamic principles**
- D. Administrative decrees

Judges are guided by Islamic principles. In Khomeini's framework, the law comes from Sharia and Islamic jurisprudence, interpreted through qualified religious scholars. This means decisions are grounded in Qur'anic and Hadith-based norms, as shaped by fiqh and usul al-fiqh, rather than secular constitutional rules, international treaties, or administrative decrees. The constitution and the guardian jurist's authority reinforce that Islamic principles should govern judicial outcomes, ensuring each ruling aligns with Islam.

6. What was Iran's official name before it changed to Iran?

- A. Iran
- B. The Persian Empire
- C. Persia Minor
- D. Persia**

The country was historically known as Persia in English. Persia is the English rendering of the region and its people and appears in references to the ancient Persian empires as well as long-standing usage in diplomacy. In 1935 the Shah asked foreign representatives to use Iran, the native name meaning "land of the Aryans," for the country. So for the question of the official name before the change, Persia is the correct answer. The other options refer to different ideas: Iran is the current name, the Persian Empire denotes ancient empires, and Persia Minor isn't a recognized designation.

7. Which language is spoken by the largest share of Iran's population according to the statistics?

- A. 26% speak Turkic**
- B. 8% speak Gilaki**
- C. 51% speak Farsi**
- D. 7% speak Kurdish**

Persian (Farsi) is the language spoken by the largest share of Iran's population. It functions as the official language and is the common medium of education, government, media, and daily communication, so it tends to be the primary language for more people than any other single language group. The other languages—Turkic varieties, Kurdish, and Gilaki—have substantial communities but smaller shares overall, so none of them exceed Persian in the number of speakers. That's why the statement that about half the population speaks Farsi best fits the question.

8. Which region accounted for 7% of Iran's foreign trade in the 19th century?

- A. The United States**
- B. The Middle East**
- C. Russia**
- D. Britain**

Trade patterns in 19th-century Iran show that nearby regions did play a role, but the big swings in who did most of the business came from distant powers with influence inside Iran's borders. Britain and Russia dominated the era's foreign trade due to their imperial interests, concessions, and strategic leverage in the region. The Middle East, being the immediate neighboring region with shared markets and overland routes, contributed a modest share—about seven percent—reflecting its role as a regional partner rather than a primary strategic trader. The United States was not a major player at this time, so its share would be much smaller. Hence, the Middle East is the correct region to account for roughly 7% of Iran's 19th-century foreign trade.

9. What is the religious makeup of Iran?

- A. 70% Shi'ite, 20% Sunni, 10% others**
- B. 50% Shi'ite, 50% Sunni**
- C. 89% Shi'ite**
- D. 95% Shi'ite, 5% Sunni**

Iran is overwhelmingly Shia Muslim, with the vast majority of the population practicing Twelver Shia Islam. Estimates typically place Shia Muslims in the high 80s to around 90 percent, while Sunni Muslims are a minority concentrated in specific border regions, and there are smaller communities of Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians, Bahá'ís, and others. Saying about 89% Shia fits well with these common estimates, making it the best representation among the options. The other choices imply a much larger Sunni share or an even split, which does not reflect Iran's actual religious landscape.

10. What is the Expediency Council's primary role?

A. It mediates between Majles and Guardian Council

B. It drafts legislation for the Majles

C. It handles foreign policy

D. It enforces laws through the judiciary

The main function is to act as an arbiter between Iran's two legislative gatekeepers, the Majles and the Guardian Council. When the Majles passes a bill and the Guardian Council vetoes or requires changes, the Expediency Council reviews the dispute and helps decide whether the bill should proceed, be modified, or be rejected. This mediation keeps legislation moving forward and resolves constitutional or legal disagreements between these powerful bodies. It doesn't draft legislation—that's the Majles's job. It isn't primarily responsible for foreign policy, which is handled by the leadership and relevant policy organs. It also doesn't enforce laws through the judiciary, which is the judiciary's role.

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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.

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

<https://apcogoiran.examzify.com>

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

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