

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. The death of Khomeini occurred in which year?**
 - A. 1999**
 - B. 1990**
 - C. 1989**
 - D. 1979**

- 2. How does the material describe Iran's wartime conduct?**
 - A. Iran has attacked multiple neighboring countries.**
 - B. Iran has been invaded by many, but never attacked.**
 - C. Iran has both attacked and been invaded many times.**
 - D. It has never attacked a country yet it has been invaded 12 times.**

- 3. What was Iran's official name before it changed to Iran?**
 - A. Iran**
 - B. The Persian Empire**
 - C. Persia Minor**
 - D. Persia**

- 4. Which relationship is described as struggling for Iran?**
 - A. Relationship with the US**
 - B. Relationship with the EU**
 - C. Relationship with neighboring countries**
 - D. Relationship with the UN**

- 5. Which description best summarizes the Safavid dynasty's role in governance, according to the material?**
 - A. They lasted until 1722.**
 - B. They basically played as the form of government in Iran, though they were small and had to work alongside other workers.**
 - C. They were Sunni rulers.**
 - D. They ended in 1900.**

- 6. Which party did the Pahlavi Foundation claim as the only legitimate party?**
- A. The Green Movement**
 - B. The National Front**
 - C. The Resurgence Party**
 - D. The People's Mujahedin**
- 7. According to the material, how did the Safavid dynasty function in governance?**
- A. They basically played the form of the government in Iran, though they were small and had to work alongside other workers.**
 - B. They were the sole rulers with absolute power.**
 - C. They created a modern parliamentary system.**
 - D. They never influenced governance.**
- 8. What was the Islamic Republic?**
- A. A system lasting from 1979 to 2001**
 - B. A constitution drafted in 1979 by the Assembly of Religious Experts**
 - C. A republic with broad popular elections**
 - D. A theocracy with no formal constitution**
- 9. Who holds the most political power in Iran?**
- A. The President**
 - B. The Majles**
 - C. The Guardian Council**
 - D. The Supreme Leader**
- 10. 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**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. The death of Khomeini occurred in which year?

- A. 1999
- B. 1990
- C. 1989**
- D. 1979

Khomeini died in 1989. He led Iran after the 1979 revolution, serving as the Supreme Leader until his death in June 1989. His passing that year set the stage for Ali Khamenei to assume the leadership role later in 1989, shaping Iran's direction after the revolution. The other years don't correspond to his death: 1979 is when the revolution occurred, while 1990 and 1999 come after his death.

2. How does the material describe Iran's wartime conduct?

- A. Iran has attacked multiple neighboring countries.
- B. Iran has been invaded by many, but never attacked.
- C. Iran has both attacked and been invaded many times.
- D. It has never attacked a country yet it has been invaded 12 times.**

The material emphasizes a defensive pattern in Iran's wartime conduct: it has faced repeated invasions from outside powers but has not initiated major attacks on other countries. The point about being invaded 12 times serves to illustrate a long history of defending the homeland rather than expanding territory. So, the description that best fits is that Iran has never attacked a country yet it has been invaded 12 times. This aligns with examples like the Iran-Iraq War, where Iran defended against an invasion rather than starting one. The other statements would imply aggression or mixed behavior that the material does not attribute to Iran.

3. 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.

4. Which relationship is described as struggling for Iran?

- A. Relationship with the US
- B. Relationship with the EU
- C. Relationship with neighboring countries**
- D. Relationship with the UN

The key idea here is Iran's effort to shape and manage influence right in its own region. Iran views its neighboring countries as part of a strategic arena where it seeks security, economic ties, and political sway. This involves managing cross-border issues, supporting allied movements or governments, and countering rivals at a very tangible, ongoing level. That ongoing push to influence and secure favorable alignments with neighbors is why this relationship is described as something Iran is continuously struggling with. Relationships with the US, the EU, or the UN are certainly important and often contentious, but they are typically framed in terms of diplomacy, sanctions, and international negotiation rather than the persistent, ground-level competition for regional influence that characterizes Iran's dealings with its immediate neighbors.

5. Which description best summarizes the Safavid dynasty's role in governance, according to the material?

- A. They lasted until 1722.
- B. They basically played as the form of government in Iran, though they were small and had to work alongside other workers.**
- C. They were Sunni rulers.
- D. They ended in 1900.

The Safavid dynasty's governance role centers on them serving as the main political framework for Iran during a large stretch of the early modern period. They established a centralized state with the shah at the top, built a formal administrative and military structure, and anchored state authority in Shi'a Islam, which gave the regime legitimacy and coherence across the realm. In practice, they functioned as the governing authority over much of Iran, coordinating with provincial elites and other influential groups to run the country. That makes the description that they effectively acted as the form of government in Iran the best fit. The other statements are off: the dynasty did not simply end in 1722 or 1900, and they were not Sunni rulers.

6. Which party did the Pahlavi Foundation claim as the only legitimate party?

- A. The Green Movement**
- B. The National Front**
- C. The Resurgence Party**
- D. The People's Mujahedin**

In this period, Iran's political system was pushed toward a single-party framework, with the state presenting one party as the legitimate channel for political life and modernization. The Resurgence Party was created by the Shah and promoted by the Pahlavi Foundation as the only legal, legitimate party in the country. This move to one-party rule meant other parties were banned or sidelined, and political activity was channeled through this party. The Green Movement, the National Front, and the People's Mujahedin operated outside this framework or were opposed by the regime, so they were not considered legitimate by the state.

7. According to the material, how did the Safavid dynasty function in governance?

- A. They basically played the form of the government in Iran, though they were small and had to work alongside other workers.**
- B. They were the sole rulers with absolute power.**
- C. They created a modern parliamentary system.**
- D. They never influenced governance.**

The Safavid state centered on the shah as the ultimate authority, but real governance depended on balancing and working with other power centers. Provincial governors, powerful military and tribal leaders, religious scholars, and urban elites all mattered for how policies were carried out and how stability was maintained. In practice, the dynasty united Iran through centralized rule and state religion, while its ability to govern rested on securing loyalty from these diverse groups, not on ruling completely unchallenged or in isolation.

8. What was the Islamic Republic?

- A. A system lasting from 1979 to 2001**
- B. A constitution drafted in 1979 by the Assembly of Religious Experts**
- C. A republic with broad popular elections**
- D. A theocracy with no formal constitution**

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a political order established after the 1979 revolution that blends religious authority with republican institutions. It rests on a constitution ratified in 1979, drafted by the Assembly of Experts, which creates elected offices like the president and parliament but places ultimate authority in religious leadership and bodies that oversee and interpret Islamic law, such as the Supreme Leader and the Guardian Council. This structure means it is not simply a pure theocracy with no constitution, nor is it limited to a single date or a straightforward broad-based democracy. The description that fits best is that it is a republic with a constitution drafted in 1979 by the Assembly of Religious Experts. It has continued well beyond 2001, shaping Iranian politics for decades.

9. Who holds the most political power in Iran?

- A. The President**
- B. The Majles**
- C. The Guardian Council**
- D. The Supreme Leader**

The Supreme Leader holds the most political power in Iran. This position sits at the top of both the religious and political system, giving ultimate authority over major state functions. The Leader controls the core levers of power: the armed forces and security agencies, the judiciary through key appointments, and influential state institutions like the media. He can shape foreign and defense policy, and he has the authority to appoint or dismiss the heads of important bodies, including the Guardian Council in large part, which in turn can approve or disqualify candidates and veto legislation. The Leader can also dismiss the president, ensuring that the executive branch operates within the bounds of the Leader's vision. While the President and the Majles play significant roles in governance, their powers are constrained by the Guardian Council and, above all, by the Supreme Leader's overarching authority.

10. 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.

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!

SAMPLE