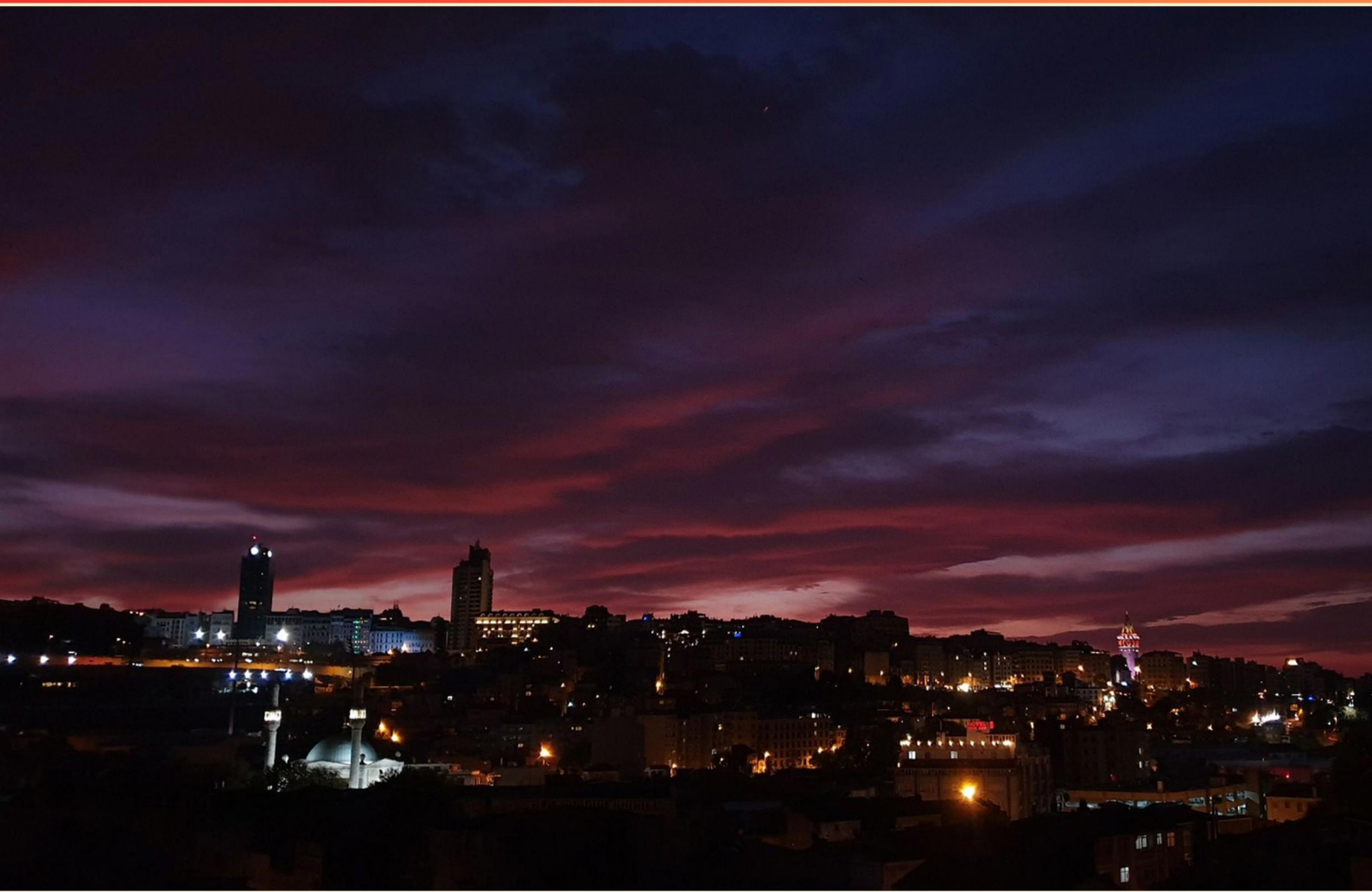


# AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT (COGO) IRAN PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



*Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence*



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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. Bazargan's resignation was connected to protests and attacks on which target?**
  - A. The Parliament
  - B. The National Radio
  - C. The US Embassy in Tehran
  - D. The Army Barracks
  
- 2. Which statement about the Iranian president is true?**
  - A. The president is appointed by the Supreme Leader
  - B. The president is popularly elected, limited to two four-year terms
  - C. The president is always a cleric
  - D. The president has no role in foreign policy
  
- 3. 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
  
- 4. Which actor is renowned for controlling security and intelligence operations and having extensive economic interests, shaping domestic and foreign policy?**
  - A. The Majles
  - B. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
  - C. The Guardian Council
  - D. The President
  
- 5. Which policy did the Safavids implement toward religious minorities?**
  - A. They expelled minorities who refused taxes.
  - B. They forced all to convert to Shi'ism.
  - C. They allowed minorities to stay as long as they paid taxes and accepted a Shi'ite leader.
  - D. They had no policy towards minorities.

- 6. What helped spark Iran's Constitutional Revolution (1905-1909) according to the material?**
- A. Britain's oil influence and debts owed to Europe sparked unrest.
  - B. Drought triggered the movement.
  - C. Reform within the clergy sparked the revolution.
  - D. Pandemics caused the uprising.
- 7. How are human rights characterized within Iran's political system?**
- A. Rights exist under the constitution but are limited by Islamic law and national security concerns.
  - B. Rights are absolute and unbounded by religion.
  - C. There are no constitutional rights.
  - D. Civil liberties are stronger than in liberal democracies.
- 8. How is the President elected and what are the constitutional constraints on presidential power?**
- A. The President is elected by the people for six years with no term limits.
  - B. The President is appointed by the Supreme Leader for four years.
  - C. The President is elected by popular vote for a four-year term (two consecutive terms only) but operates under the Supreme Leader's authority and Guardian Council oversight.
  - D. The President serves for life and cannot be removed.
- 9. What was Iran's official name before it changed to Iran?**
- A. Iran
  - B. The Persian Empire
  - C. Persia Minor
  - D. Persia
- 10. What is the role of the Guardian Council in elections and legislation?**
- A. It drafts the nation's budget and tax policy.
  - B. It vets candidates and reviews laws for compatibility with the constitution and Sharia, shaping the policy field.
  - C. It administers the national elections directly.
  - D. It oversees foreign policy and treaties.



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Bazargan's resignation was connected to protests and attacks on which target?**

- A. The Parliament
- B. The National Radio
- C. The US Embassy in Tehran**
- D. The Army Barracks

*The situation shows why Bazargan stepped down: the dramatic takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by revolutionary students became a focal point of the crisis and demonstrated that militant anti-American forces could overwhelm the provisional government. Bazargan's administration tried to guide Iran through a transition, but the embassy siege exposed the limits of his authority and shifted political power toward the revolutionary leadership around Ayatollah Khomeini. Because the event centered on the U.S. Embassy, it is the clearest link to his resignation and the broader shift away from his moderate, transitional approach. The other targets you might hear about were less decisive in triggering his departure. Parliament, while a symbol of traditional political authority, did not itself drive the resignation. National Radio and Army Barracks did see protests at times, but they did not encapsulate the moment that led to Bazargan leaving office. The embassy seizure, with its international resonance and deep symbolism, uniquely captured the crisis and the new direction Iran was taking.*

**2. Which statement about the Iranian president is true?**

- A. The president is appointed by the Supreme Leader
- B. The president is popularly elected, limited to two four-year terms**
- C. The president is always a cleric
- D. The president has no role in foreign policy

*In Iran, the presidency is an office filled through popular elections and the holder is limited to two four-year terms. This means voters directly choose the president in nationwide elections, and a person can serve at most two terms, ensuring turnover in the executive leadership. While the president leads the government and helps shape policy, ultimate authority rests with the Supreme Leader, and candidates must be vetted by the Guardian Council, a body with ties to the Leader. The president is not necessarily a cleric; many presidents have been non-clerics, and the president does engage in foreign policy, though final say on major foreign policy directions lies with the Supreme Leader and other institutions. Therefore, the statement that the president is popularly elected and limited to two four-year terms is the true description.*

**3. 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.*

**4. Which actor is renowned for controlling security and intelligence operations and having extensive economic interests, shaping domestic and foreign policy?**

- A. The Majles
- B. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps**
- C. The Guardian Council
- D. The President

*In Iran, a single organization combines hard security control with extensive economic power, giving it outsized influence over both domestic and foreign policy. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps operates its own security and intelligence apparatus, allowing it to shape security policy, suppress opposition, and protect regime interests. It also runs a large network of economic enterprises—banks, construction, energy, and more—providing financial resources that fund operations and extend political leverage. That blend of controlling security and wielding economic clout lets it sway decisions at home and abroad more than civilian actors like the president, the parliament (the Majles), or the Guardian Council.*

**5. Which policy did the Safavids implement toward religious minorities?**

- A. They expelled minorities who refused taxes.
- B. They forced all to convert to Shi'ism.
- C. They allowed minorities to stay as long as they paid taxes and accepted a Shi'ite leader.**
- D. They had no policy towards minorities.

*The key idea here is that the Safavids, who made Twelver Shi'ism the state religion, governed religious minorities within a dhimmi-style framework: minorities could live in the empire and practice their faith, but they had to pay special taxes and acknowledge the Shi'a leadership. This arrangement kept minorities in place and ensured their loyalty and revenue for the state, rather than expelling them or forcing universal conversion. So, allowing minorities to stay as long as they paid taxes and accepted a Shi'ite leader best fits how the Safavids integrated diverse communities under a Shi'a state.*

**6. What helped spark Iran's Constitutional Revolution (1905-1909) according to the material?**

- A. Britain's oil influence and debts owed to Europe sparked unrest.**
- B. Drought triggered the movement.
- C. Reform within the clergy sparked the revolution.
- D. Pandemics caused the uprising.

*The main driver here is that foreign economic influence and debt undermined legitimacy and fed popular and elite push for constitutional limits. Iran's rulers depended on foreign capital and concessions, particularly Britain's involvement in oil, and owed substantial debts to European powers. This created a perception that the Qajar regime was captive to foreign interests and lacked genuine sovereignty. Merchants, ulema, and reform-minded elites grew frustrated with autocratic rule that appeared to bow to European creditors and corporate interests rather than protecting Iran's independence. That sense of external domination and financial pressure helped mobilize broad opposition and organize demands for a constitution, a parliament, and checks on royal power. Drought affected livelihoods but did not by itself trigger a political uprising. Reform within the clergy could influence ideas but was not the primary spark. Pandemics did not drive the movement either.*

## 7. How are human rights characterized within Iran's political system?

- A. Rights exist under the constitution but are limited by Islamic law and national security concerns.
- B. Rights are absolute and unbounded by religion.
- C. There are no constitutional rights.
- D. Civil liberties are stronger than in liberal democracies.

*In Iran, human rights exist within the constitutional framework but are bounded by Islamic law and national security concerns. The constitution recognizes certain civil liberties and political rights, but these are interpreted and limited by Sharia and by the state's emphasis on public order and security. Institutions tied to the religious leadership, including the Supreme Leader and bodies that review legislation for compatibility with Islam, ensure that rights can be curtailed when they are seen as conflicting with Islamic principles or state stability. This makes the described balance—rights in principle, constrained by religion and security—the best fit. The other statements overstate the scope of rights (they are not absolute), deny constitutional rights exist, or claim civil liberties exceed those found in liberal democracies, none of which aligns with how Iran's system actually operates.*

## 8. How is the President elected and what are the constitutional constraints on presidential power?

- A. The President is elected by the people for six years with no term limits.
- B. The President is appointed by the Supreme Leader for four years.
- C. The President is elected by popular vote for a four-year term (two consecutive terms only) but operates under the Supreme Leader's authority and Guardian Council oversight.
- D. The President serves for life and cannot be removed.

*The key idea is that Iran's presidency blends popular elections with strong religious-legal checks that limit the president's power. The President is chosen through a nationwide popular vote for a four-year term and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Before any candidate can run, the Guardian Council reviews and can disqualify candidates, shaping who can actually be on the ballot. After election, the President heads the executive branch and manages day-to-day governance, but his authority is limited by the Supreme Leader, who holds ultimate control over major state matters such as national security and foreign policy. The Guardian Council and the Expediency Discernment Council also constrain legislation and oversight, and the President's appointments (including ministers) must be approved by the Parliament. In short, electoral legitimacy comes from the people, but real power rests with the Supreme Leader and these supervising bodies, so the President cannot act independently of the religious-constitutional framework.*

## 9. 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.*

**10. What is the role of the Guardian Council in elections and legislation?**

- A. It drafts the nation's budget and tax policy.
- B. It vets candidates and reviews laws for compatibility with the constitution and Sharia, shaping the policy field.**
- C. It administers the national elections directly.
- D. It oversees foreign policy and treaties.

*The important idea here is that the Guardian Council acts as a constitutional and religious-legal guard for Iran's political system. It has the power to screen who can run in elections (vetting candidates for qualifications and adherence to Islamic law and the constitution) and to review laws passed by the parliament to ensure they fit the constitution and Sharia. This is how it helps shape which people can hold office and which laws can become binding, influencing policy from behind the scenes. That's why the correct idea is that it vets candidates and reviews laws for compatibility with the constitution and Sharia, shaping the policy field. It does not draft the budget, directly administer elections, or oversee foreign policy and treaties, which are handled by other parts of the government.*

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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://apcogoiran.examzify.com>

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

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