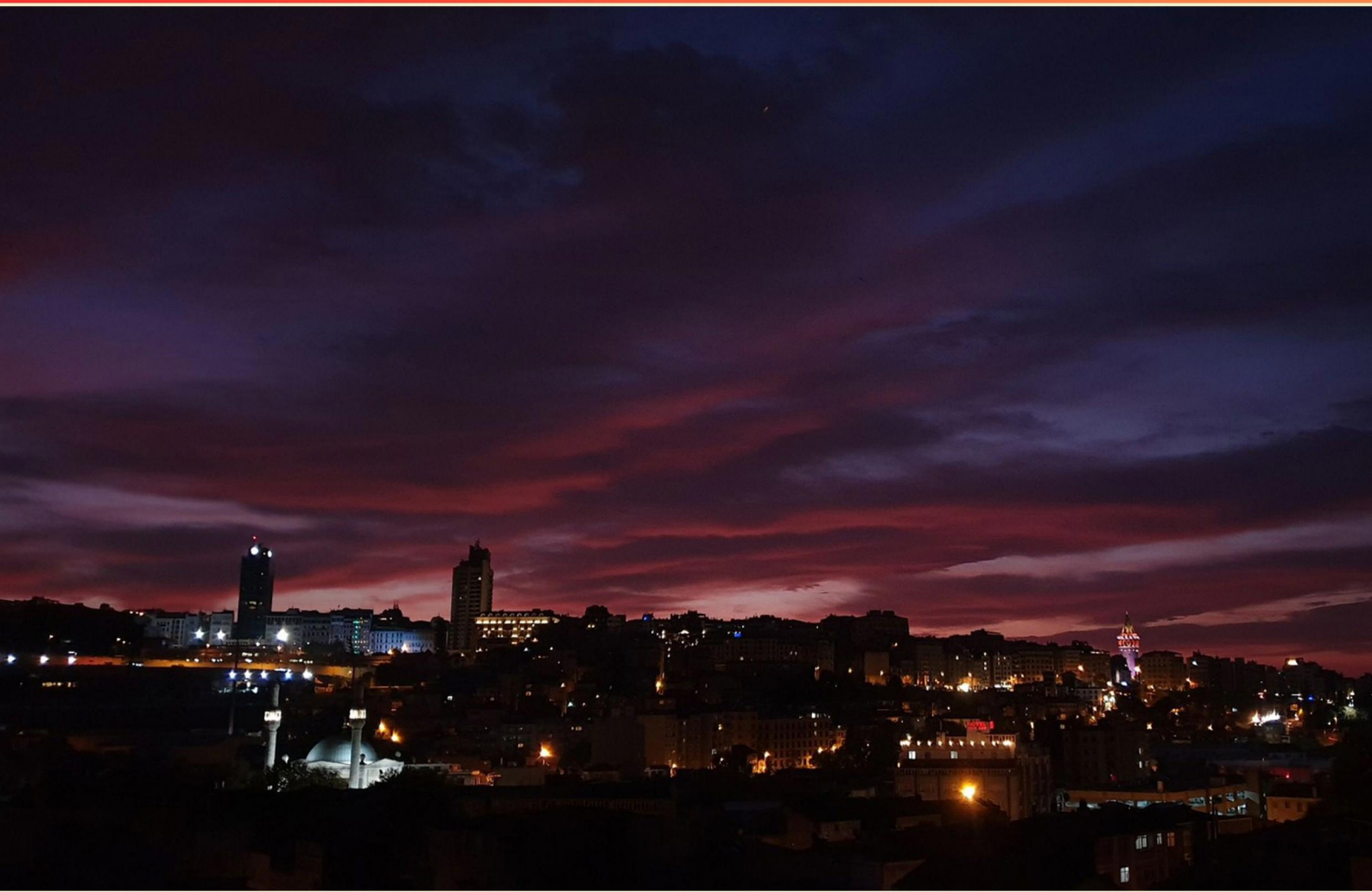


AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT (COGO) IRAN PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. What is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and what roles does it play beyond security?**
 - A. A purely ceremonial unit with limited power.
 - B. A parallel military and political force with economic influence and involvement in foreign policy; the Quds Force conducts external operations.
 - C. A domestic police force with no international role.
 - D. Primarily a logistical arm of the regular army with no separate authority.
- 2. What functions do local councils serve in Iran's governance system?**
 - A. They draft national budgets.
 - B. They have complete legislative power.
 - C. They manage local services, represent citizens locally, and provide a channel for participation, though their power is constrained by central authorities.
 - D. They are only ceremonial.
- 3. What factor contributed to Ahmadinejad's 2005 victory?**
 - A. Large abstention by voters
 - B. Opposition split between conservatives and reformers
 - C. Mobilized veterans of the Iran-Iraq War
 - D. Promised to distribute oil revenues among the poor
- 4. Which body was institutionalized by Khomeini's constitution?**
 - A. The Guardian Council
 - B. The Majles
 - C. The Expediency Council
 - D. The Assembly of Religious Experts
- 5. How do crises or sanctions affect the regime's legitimacy?**
 - A. They have no effect on legitimacy.
 - B. They can be used to justify policy choices and bolster legitimacy.
 - C. They automatically erode legitimacy.
 - D. They are used only for external messaging.

- 6. Which description best captures Iran's approach to civil liberties and political opposition?**
- A. Protests are allowed and parties operate freely.
 - B. Censorship and a strong security apparatus tightly regulate civil liberties.
 - C. There is complete freedom of the press.
 - D. There are no restrictions on political activity.
- 7. Who shapes foreign policy decisions—President or Supreme Leader—and why?**
- A. The President shapes most strategic decisions; the Supreme Leader handles diplomacy and implementation under Leader guidance.
 - B. The President shapes foreign policy decisions, with the Supreme Leader overseeing.
 - C. The Expediency Council dictates foreign policy and execution.
 - D. The Supreme Leader shapes most strategic decisions; the President handles diplomacy and implementation under Leader guidance.
- 8. Which combination of domestic issues is most likely to trigger protests in Iran?**
- A. Economic hardship, political repression, corruption, and environmental problems
 - B. Economic hardship, political repression, corruption, women's rights, and environmental problems
 - C. Economic hardship, political repression, and corruption
 - D. Environmental problems and women's rights
- 9. Guardian Council and their role?**
- A. 8 members; veto power over Majles
 - B. 12 members (6 appointed, 6 chosen by judge), veto bills, review presidential candidates
 - C. 20 members; oversight of elections
 - D. 4 members; appoints judges

10. Who were the Pahlavis?

- A. They appeared from 1925 to 1979 with General Reza Khan described as a prince on a white horse
- B. They were a religious group
- C. They were a foreign monarchy installed later
- D. They were the military wing of the revolution

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and what roles does it play beyond security?

- A. A purely ceremonial unit with limited power.
- B. A parallel military and political force with economic influence and involvement in foreign policy; the Quds Force conducts external operations.**
- C. A domestic police force with no international role.
- D. Primarily a logistical arm of the regular army with no separate authority.

The IRGC is a parallel security and political force in Iran, created to protect the revolution and operate alongside the regular armed forces. It has its own ground, naval, and air components and a large volunteer corps known as the Basij, giving it a separate military structure from the regular army. But its role extends well beyond security: it has grown into a powerful economic actor, controlling numerous enterprises and investments across sectors like energy, construction, and finance, which gives it substantial influence over the economy. It also plays a major role in domestic politics, with leadership tied closely to the ruling theocracy and security decision-making. On the international side, the Quds Force, a unit within the IRGC, conducts external operations and shapes Iran's foreign policy by supporting allied groups and conducting covert activities abroad. So the IRGC functions as a powerful, multi-faceted force that blends military power, economic clout, and political influence with overseas operations.

2. What functions do local councils serve in Iran's governance system?

- A. They draft national budgets.
- B. They have complete legislative power.
- C. They manage local services, represent citizens locally, and provide a channel for participation, though their power is constrained by central authorities.**
- D. They are only ceremonial.

Local councils in Iran are elected bodies that connect residents to municipal governance and oversee city life. Their core functions involve managing local services—things like urban planning, infrastructure, sanitation, and public spaces—and supervising the work of the mayor and municipal staff to ensure they carry out policies effectively. They also serve as a channel for citizen participation, allowing residents to voice concerns, propose local projects, and request accountability for how local resources are used. These councils operate within a centralized political system, so while they have real influence over local matters, their authority is constrained by central authorities and appointed officials at higher levels. They do not draft national budgets or shape national legislation, and they are more than ceremonial bodies because they play an active role in local governance and oversight. This combination—local service management, citizen representation, and participatory channels, with limited autonomy—best describes their function.

3. What factor contributed to Ahmadinejad's 2005 victory?

- A. Large abstention by voters
- B. Opposition split between conservatives and reformers**
- C. Mobilized veterans of the Iran-Iraq War
- D. Promised to distribute oil revenues among the poor

Fragmentation of the political opposition into separate camps—the reformists and the conservative establishment failing to unite behind a single challenger—was the decisive factor. In Iran, presidential votes hinge on whether a broad coalition can coalesce around one candidate. In 2005, the reformist camp did not rally behind one candidate, and conservatives were not fully unified against Ahmadinejad either. This division allowed him to attract a large share of votes from across factions, giving him a landslide victory in the first round. While his populist messages about helping the poor and critiquing elites resonated with many, the lack of a unified opposition best explains his win.

4. Which body was institutionalized by Khomeini's constitution?

- A. The Guardian Council
- B. The Majles
- C. The Expediency Council**
- D. The Assembly of Religious Experts

The idea being tested is how Iran's post-revolution constitution created a mechanism to manage tension between the elected legislature and the religious-legal oversight, ensuring laws fit both secular and Islamic requirements. The expediency council was formed to act as the arbiter in disputes between the Majlis (the parliament) and the Guardian Council. When the Majlis passes a law that the Guardian Council vetoes or questions for compatibility with Islam and the constitution, the expediency council can review and, if needed, propose a course of action or legislation that moves things forward. It also serves as an advisory body to the Supreme Leader on important policy issues. This setup—an empowerment to resolve legislative deadlock under the Leader's oversight—was incorporated into the constitution to keep the system functional and coherent. The Guardian Council and Assembly of Experts existed as other constitutional bodies, but the expediency council is the one specifically institutionalized to bridge and resolve conflicts between the dominant legislative and religious-legal authorities.

5. How do crises or sanctions affect the regime's legitimacy?

- A. They have no effect on legitimacy.
- B. They can be used to justify policy choices and bolster legitimacy.**
- C. They automatically erode legitimacy.
- D. They are used only for external messaging.

Crises and sanctions offer a powerful stage for the regime to shape how people view its authority. When pressure hits, leaders can frame their responses as necessary for national survival, sovereignty, or protecting citizens, so tough policy choices—like economic reforms or security measures—are cast as prudent, legitimate decisions rather than arbitrary acts. In Iran, for example, external sanctions are often depicted as unjust pressure from foreign powers, while the regime presents itself as steadfast in defending the nation, using that narrative to bolster legitimacy and maintain support. If the regime manages the crisis well and communicates effectively, this framing can strengthen perceptions of competence and resolve. If it handles things poorly, legitimacy can suffer, but the core idea is that crises and sanctions can be used to justify actions and shore up legitimacy through the narrative of necessity and national resilience.

6. Which description best captures Iran's approach to civil liberties and political opposition?

- A. Protests are allowed and parties operate freely.
- B. Censorship and a strong security apparatus tightly regulate civil liberties.**
- C. There is complete freedom of the press.
- D. There are no restrictions on political activity.

The description shows how civil liberties and political opposition are controlled: censorship and a strong security apparatus tightly regulate civil liberties. In Iran, freedom of expression and the press are limited, with media often under state control or subject to censorship, and dissent is monitored or suppressed by security forces. Protests and opposition activities are not freely tolerated; gatherings can be restricted, organizers detained, and political groups operate under tight constraints. The other scenarios imagine broad freedoms that Iran does not exhibit, so the best fit is the pattern of centralized control through censorship and a powerful security apparatus.

7. Who shapes foreign policy decisions—President or Supreme Leader—and why?

- A. The President shapes most strategic decisions; the Supreme Leader handles diplomacy and implementation under Leader guidance.
- B. The President shapes foreign policy decisions, with the Supreme Leader overseeing.
- C. The Expediency Council dictates foreign policy and execution.
- D. The Supreme Leader shapes most strategic decisions; the President handles diplomacy and implementation under Leader guidance.**

In Iran, foreign policy is driven by the Supreme Leader, who holds final authority over national security, the armed forces, and overall direction of diplomacy. The President runs the executive branch, handles day-to-day diplomacy, negotiates and implements policies, but only within the framework and limits set by the Leader. Treaties and major strategic moves typically require the Leader's approval, and he can steer policy through how he appoints and directs key security and political institutions. The Expediency Council mainly resolves disputes between the Parliament and Guardian Council, not shape foreign policy itself. So the best explanation is that the Supreme Leader shapes most strategic decisions, and the President handles diplomacy and implementation under Leader guidance.

8. Which combination of domestic issues is most likely to trigger protests in Iran?

- A. Economic hardship, political repression, corruption, and environmental problems
- B. Economic hardship, political repression, corruption, women's rights, and environmental problems**
- C. Economic hardship, political repression, and corruption
- D. Environmental problems and women's rights

Protests in Iran tend to erupt when people face multiple, overlapping grievances across economy, politics, social rights, and the environment. Economic hardship and sanctions fuel anger about living standards, while political repression and corruption undermine trust in rulers and institutions. Women's rights have become a powerful mobilizing issue, drawing in broad segments of society and highlighting restrictions on personal freedoms. Environmental problems—like water shortages and pollution—create urgent, localized grievances that add to the pressure for change. When all these tensions collide, as in the option that includes economic hardship, political repression, corruption, women's rights, and environmental problems, the potential for broad, sustained protests is greatest. Other options miss one or more of these major drivers, making widespread mobilization less likely.

9. Guardian Council and their role?

- A. 8 members; veto power over Majles
- B. 12 members (6 appointed, 6 chosen by judge), veto bills, review presidential candidates**
- C. 20 members; oversight of elections
- D. 4 members; appoints judges

The Guardian Council acts as a powerful constitutional and electoral gatekeeper in Iran. It has 12 members: six clerics appointed by the Supreme Leader and six jurists selected by the judiciary and approved by the parliament. This mix ensures both religious legitimacy and legal expertise. The Council can veto legislation passed by the Majles, ensuring laws align with the constitution and Islamic law. It also oversees elections and, crucially, vets presidential candidates to determine who is eligible to run. That combination of veto power over bills and the authority to review presidential candidates best captures the Council's role.

10. Who were the Pahlavis?

- A. They appeared from 1925 to 1979 with General Reza Khan described as a prince on a white horse**
- B. They were a religious group
- C. They were a foreign monarchy installed later
- D. They were the military wing of the revolution

The Pahlavis were Iran's ruling dynasty from 1925 to 1979. A military officer, Reza Khan, rose to power in the early 1920s, became Reza Shah Pahlavi, and founded the Pahlavi dynasty, establishing a modernizing, secular monarchy that his son Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi continued until the 1979 revolution. The image of Reza Khan as a "prince on a white horse" captures the public portrayal of a strong, reformist leader who reshaped Iran's government and society, at least for a time. This description fits best because it identifies the correct time frame and the central figure who established the dynasty; the other options describe different entities that do not match who the Pahlavis were.

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:

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

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