

# AP Human Geography - Agriculture Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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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. The Second Agricultural Revolution is defined by**
  - A. Benefiting from the Industrial Revolution, improved methods of cultivation, harvesting, and storage**
  - B. The invention of the internet for agriculture**
  - C. The decline of farm machinery**
  - D. The abandonment of farming**
  
- 2. Which practice involves cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a metropolitan area?**
  - A. Urban Farming**
  - B. Pastoral Nomadism**
  - C. Food Desert**
  - D. Value-Added Specialty Crops**
  
- 3. Herding of domesticated animals as the main subsistence strategy is called?**
  - A. Pastoral Nomadism**
  - B. Urban Farming**
  - C. Food Desert**
  - D. Agribusiness**
  
- 4. High-yield seeds are seeds that are created to produce more agricultural products per seed.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. They are seeds that only grow in arctic climates**
  - D. They are seeds used only for ornamentals**
  
- 5. What is the process in which water dries up and leaves beds of salt behind?**
  - A. Soil salinization**
  - B. Irrigation**
  - C. Desertification**
  - D. Pollution**

- 6. Which term best defines meeting present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs?**
- A. Sustainability**
  - B. Biodiversity**
  - C. Fertilizer**
  - D. Pesticide**
- 7. Which term describes farming within city limits or nearby areas that focuses on local production and distribution?**
- A. Urban Farming**
  - B. Pastoral Nomadism**
  - C. Agribusiness**
  - D. Value-Added Specialty Crops**
- 8. What farming technique involves cutting down trees and burning them to clear and fertilize land?**
- A. Slash and burn agriculture**
  - B. Terrace farming**
  - C. Deforestation**
  - D. Irrigation**
- 9. Which term describes a farming system where land is cultivated and then abandoned as farmers move to new plots, typical of tropical environments?**
- A. Shifting cultivation**
  - B. Nomadic herding**
  - C. Ranching**
  - D. Intensive agriculture**
- 10. An area in a developed country where healthy food is difficult to obtain.**
- A. Food Desert**
  - B. Urban Farming**
  - C. Pastoral Nomadism**
  - D. Agribusiness**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. The Second Agricultural Revolution is defined by**

- A. Benefiting from the Industrial Revolution, improved methods of cultivation, harvesting, and storage**
- B. The invention of the internet for agriculture**
- C. The decline of farm machinery**
- D. The abandonment of farming**

The defining idea is that this period grew out of the Industrial Revolution and brought big gains in farming productivity through new technology and techniques. As factories and mechanization spread, agriculture became more efficient and market-oriented. Innovations in cultivation and harvesting—such as better farming practices and more effective devices for planting, threshing, and reaping—along with advances in storage and distribution, allowed farmers to produce more with less labor. This combination of mechanization, improved methods, and better storage is what characterizes the Second Agricultural Revolution. The other options don't fit because they describe developments outside this historical pattern. The internet for agriculture is a modern advancement, not a defining feature of this era. A decline in farm machinery would undermine the very mechanization central to this revolution. Abandonment of farming would not reflect the growth and intensification of agricultural production that defines the period.

**2. Which practice involves cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a metropolitan area?**

- A. Urban Farming**
- B. Pastoral Nomadism**
- C. Food Desert**
- D. Value-Added Specialty Crops**

Urban farming focuses on growing food within cities or immediately around them, often blending cultivation with processing and distributing products to local communities. This approach brings food production closer to consumers, supports fresh produce in dense urban areas, and uses spaces like rooftops, vacant lots, and community gardens, sometimes complemented by local processing and markets to move the food to nearby neighborhoods. That fits the idea of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or near a metropolitan area. Pastoral nomadism centers on mobile livestock herding across landscapes, not urban production. A food desert describes a lack of access to groceries, not a practice. Value-added specialty crops involve transforming crops to higher-value products, which can occur anywhere and isn't inherently tied to urban areas.

**3. Herding of domesticated animals as the main subsistence strategy is called?**

- A. Pastoral Nomadism**
- B. Urban Farming**
- C. Food Desert**
- D. Agribusiness**

Pastoral nomadism is the practice of herding domesticated animals as the primary way people obtain food and livelihood, often involving movement to follow seasonal pastures and water. In arid or semi-arid regions where crop farming is difficult, people rely on herds of cattle, sheep, goats, or camels for meat, milk, hides, and wool, moving as needed to access grazing. This focus on mobility and livestock distinguishes it from urban farming (cultivating crops in cities), a food desert (areas with limited access to fresh foods), and agribusiness (large-scale commercial farming).

**4. High-yield seeds are seeds that are created to produce more agricultural products per seed.**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. They are seeds that only grow in arctic climates**
- D. They are seeds used only for ornamentals**

High-yield seeds are varieties bred to maximize the amount of crop produced from each plant and, overall, per unit of land. They carry traits that boost how much food a single plant can yield and how efficiently it uses water, nutrients, and sunlight. Because of these improvements, one seed planted can lead to a much larger harvest, which is why the statement is true. They're not limited to arctic climates and are not designed only for ornamentals.

**5. What is the process in which water dries up and leaves beds of salt behind?**

- A. Soil salinization**
- B. Irrigation**
- C. Desertification**
- D. Pollution**

Water evaporates from the soil and from irrigation water, leaving behind the dissolved salts. When drainage is poor, those salts accumulate near the surface and within the soil profile, creating beds of salt. This buildup is known as soil salinization (soil salinity). It reduces soil permeability and harms plant growth because high salt concentrations create osmotic stress for roots. The other terms describe different issues: irrigation is merely applying water to crops; desertification is broader land degradation from drought and other factors; pollution refers to contamination by harmful substances.

**6. Which term best defines meeting present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs?**

**A. Sustainability**

**B. Biodiversity**

**C. Fertilizer**

**D. Pesticide**

Sustainability means meeting present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. It emphasizes using resources at a renewable, careful pace, protecting ecosystems, and balancing environmental health with economic and social well-being so communities can thrive over the long term. In agriculture, this translates to practices like conserving soil and water, reducing waste, and maintaining biodiversity to keep yields reliable for years to come. Biodiversity is about the variety of living things in an area, not the overarching aim of long-term viability. Fertilizer and pesticides are specific inputs used to boost yields or protect crops, but they describe tools rather than the broader goal of sustainable, enduring farming.

**7. Which term describes farming within city limits or nearby areas that focuses on local production and distribution?**

**A. Urban Farming**

**B. Pastoral Nomadism**

**C. Agribusiness**

**D. Value-Added Specialty Crops**

Urban farming focuses on growing food within city limits or in nearby areas, with an emphasis on producing food locally and getting it to nearby consumers quickly. This often happens on rooftops, in community gardens, or on vacant lots, and it supports shorter food chains through local distribution channels like farmers markets, CSA programs, or on-site sales. The goal is to increase access to fresh produce for urban residents, reduce food miles, and strengthen local food systems. Other terms describe different patterns: pastoral nomadism is traditional nomadic herding across large tracts of land; agribusiness involves large-scale, integrated farming and processing often far from urban centers; value-added specialty crops focus on processing or branding crops to boost their value, not necessarily tied to urban production.

**8. What farming technique involves cutting down trees and burning them to clear and fertilize land?**

**A. Slash and burn agriculture**

**B. Terrace farming**

**C. Deforestation**

**D. Irrigation**

This concept is about clearing land by cutting vegetation and burning it to release nutrients into the soil. In slash and burn agriculture, farmers fell trees and brush, set the debris on fire, and use the resulting ash to fertilize the field. The ash adds minerals like potassium and phosphorus, giving a quick boost to soil fertility, which suits shifting cultivation patterns in tropical regions where soil can be nutrient-poor. After a few years of farming, the land's fertility declines, so farmers move on to a new patch and let the old one rest. This approach is different from terrace farming, which builds flat steps on hillsides to reduce runoff; it's not simply deforestation, which is the removal of forests for various reasons, nor irrigation, which is about supplying water to crops. The description in the question matches slash and burn most precisely because it involves cutting and burning vegetation to clear land and fertilize it.

**9. Which term describes a farming system where land is cultivated and then abandoned as farmers move to new plots, typical of tropical environments?**

**A. Shifting cultivation**

**B. Nomadic herding**

**C. Ranching**

**D. Intensive agriculture**

Shifting cultivation is a farming system in tropical regions where land is cleared, cultivated for a time, and then abandoned as farmers move to new plots. Farmers typically clear forest, burn the vegetation to release nutrients, and plant crops for a few years before moving on when fertility declines or the plot is exhausted, letting the land lie fallow to recover. This pattern of cultivating land briefly and then abandoning it to allow natural regrowth is characteristic of tropical environments where soil nutrients can be quickly depleted and rapid regeneration occurs when given time. The other practices don't fit this cycle: nomadic herding follows animal movement rather than crop cultivation on fixed plots; ranching focuses on large-scale livestock grazing; intensive agriculture involves high input, continuous use of the same land.

**10. An area in a developed country where healthy food is difficult to obtain.**

**A. Food Desert**

**B. Urban Farming**

**C. Pastoral Nomadism**

**D. Agribusiness**

Access to healthy food in developed areas can be limited, which is described as a food desert. This term refers to places where residents have few opportunities to buy affordable, nutritious foods like fresh fruits and vegetables, often because supermarkets are scarce, transportation is limited, or store locations favor less healthy options. Even in wealthy countries, economic and spatial factors—distance to grocery stores, lack of reliable transit, and cost barriers—can create pockets where healthy choices are hard to come by, contributing to poorer diets and related health issues. Other options don't fit this specific pattern. Urban farming describes growing food within cities, which can help alleviate shortages rather than define the shortage itself. Pastoral nomadism is a traditional mobility pattern focused on herding, not the access to food in urban or developed settings. Agribusiness refers to large-scale commercial farming and food production, which is about how food is produced rather than where or how easily people can obtain healthy foods.

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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://aphumangeoagriculture.examzify.com>**

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

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