AP Human Geography (APHG) Models & Theories Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

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

1. **In Rostow's Modernization Model, which stage is labeled 'Takeoff'?**

   A. Stage 3: Takeoff

   B. Stage 2: Preconditions for Takeoff

   C. Stage 4: Drive to Maturity

   D. Stage 5: Age of Mass Consumption

2. **Rostow's Stages of Growth describe five stages of economic development. Which sequence lists these stages in order?**

   A. Traditional Society, Preconditions for Take-off, Take-off, Drive to Maturity, Age of High Mass Consumption

   B. Traditional Society, Take-off, Preconditions for Take-off, Drive to M maturity, Age of Mass Consumption

   C. Preconditions for Take-off, Traditional Society, Take-off, Drive to Maturity, Age of High Mass Consumption

   D. Traditional Society, Drive to Maturity, Take-off, Preconditions for Take-off, Age of High Mass Consumption

3. **Who developed the Kurgan hypothesis about the Proto-Indo-European language?**

   A. Marija Gimbutas

   B. Vladimir Koppen

   C. Carl Sauer

   D. Carl Renfrew

4. **The Heartland Theory was formulated by which geographer?**

   A. Halford Mackinder

   B. Nicholas Spykman

   C. Thomas Malthus

   D. Alfred Weber

5. **The Rimland Theory was proposed by which geographer?**

   A. Nicholas Spykman

   B. Halford Mackinder

   C. Von Thunen

   D. Boserup

6. Who is recognized as the creator of the world-systems theory?

   A. Immanuel Wallerstein

   B. Andre Gunder Frank

   C. Karl Marx

   D. Thomas Friedman

7. Which model describes a Latin American city with nine zones including CBD, Wholesale/Light Manufacturing, Low-Class Residential, Medium-Class Residential, High-Class Residential, Heavy Manufacturing, Outlying BD, Residential Suburb, and Industrial Suburb, with social groups arranged around activity nodes?

   A. Latin American City Model

   B. Griffin-Ford Model

   C. Central Place Theory

   D. Demographic Transition Model

8. Who created the Concentric Zone Model of the North American city?

   A. Burgess, Ernst

   B. Hoyt

   C. Harris

   D. Vance

9. The urban model characterized by circular rings around a central business district is known as the Concentric Zone Model. Which model name corresponds to this description?

   A. Concentric Zone Model

   B. Sector Model

   C. Multiple Nuclei Model

   D. Peripheral Model

10. Who developed the Locational Interdependence theory that suggests competitors will locate adjacent to one another in the center of their shared customer base?

A. Losch, August

B. Hotelling, Harold

C. Weber, Max

D. Thunen, Johann

Answers

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

Explanations

1. In Rostow's Modernization Model, which stage is labeled 'Takeoff'?

A. Stage 3: Takeoff

B. Stage 2: Preconditions for Takeoff

C. Stage 4: Drive to Maturity

D. Stage 5: Age of Mass Consumption

In Rostow's model, growth passes through a sequence from traditional society to mass consumption. The period labeled Takeoff is the third phase. This stage marks a shift to rapid, self-sustaining industrial growth driven by rising investment, expanding industrial activity, and developing infrastructure. The economy moves beyond subsistence-level farming as capital accumulates, technology spreads, and sectors diversify, fueling sustained growth. Before this is the stage of Preconditions for Takeoff, which sets up the conditions for growth, and after it is the Drive to Maturity, where investment and innovation support a more complex, mature economy. The final stage is the Age of Mass Consumption, where economic activity shifts toward consumer-oriented industries and high living standards. So, the stage labeled Takeoff corresponds to the third phase of Rostow's model.

2. Rostow's Stages of Growth describe five stages of economic development. Which sequence lists these stages in order?

A. Traditional Society, Preconditions for Take-off, Take-off, Drive to Maturity, Age of High Mass Consumption

B. Traditional Society, Take-off, Preconditions for Take-off, Drive to M maturity, Age of Mass Consumption

C. Preconditions for Take-off, Traditional Society, Take-off, Drive to Maturity, Age of High Mass Consumption

D. Traditional Society, Drive to Maturity, Take-off, Preconditions for Take-off, Age of High Mass Consumption

Rostow's model describes a linear path from a traditional, agriculture-based economy to a modern, high mass consumption society. The stages in order are: traditional society; the Preconditions for Take-off; Take-off; Drive to Maturity; Age of High Mass Consumption. The second stage marks the development of the economic and social foundations—infrastructure, institutions, and capital—that prepare the economy for sustained growth. The take-off stage is where growth becomes self-sustaining through rising investment and industrialization. In the drive to maturity, the economy diversifies, tech advances, and productivity spreads across sectors, raising living standards. Finally, the age of high mass consumption features a mature economy centered on services and consumer goods, with high standards of living. This sequence hinges on preconditions preceding take-off and take-off preceding drive to maturity, so any ordering that places those stages out of that order would not fit Rostow's framework.

3. Who developed the Kurgan hypothesis about the Proto-Indo-European language?

A. Marija Gimbutas

B. Vladimir Koppen

C. Carl Sauer

D. Carl Renfrew

Diffusion of Indo-European languages is explained by migrations from the Pontic-Caspian steppe, a model often called the Kurgan hypothesis. Marija Gimbutas developed this view, arguing that Proto-Indo-European originated in the steppe region north of the Black Sea and spread into Europe and Asia through migrating communities associated with kurgan burial mounds, horse domestication, and other technological changes. The spread happened over several millennia, shaping linguistic and cultural patterns as these populations moved. For context, Vladimir Koppen is known for climate classification, not language origins. Carl Sauer is associated with cultural landscapes in geography. Colin Renfrew proposed an Anatolian hypothesis, which places Indo-European origins in Anatolia and emphasizes agricultural diffusion rather than steppe migrations. The Kurgan hypothesis remains the best-known linkage of language diffusion to migrating pastoralist groups from the steppe, which is why Marija Gimbutas is the correct attribution.

4. The Heartland Theory was formulated by which geographer?

A. Halford Mackinder

B. Nicholas Spykman

C. Thomas Malthus

D. Alfred Weber

The main idea here is identifying who created the Heartland Theory. Halford Mackinder developed this concept, arguing that dominion over the central area of Eurasia—the Heartland—would grant immense geopolitical power. He famously framed it as a progression: who controls East Europe can influence the Heartland; who controls the Heartland can command the World-Island (the Eurasian landmass plus its connected rim); and who commands the World-Island can control the world. This pinpointed central Eurasia as the geopolitical pivot and anchored the theory in Mackinder's writings from the early 1900s, such as his influential essays on the pivot of history. The other figures mentioned are associated with different ideas: Nicholas Spykman emphasized the Rimland around Eurasia; Thomas Malthus is known for population-resource dynamics; Alfred Weber developed the least-cost theory of industrial location.

5. The Rimland Theory was proposed by which geographer?

A. Nicholas Spykman

B. Halford Mackinder

C. Von Thunen

D. Boserup

The Rimland Theory holds that power in global geopolitics comes from controlling the coastal fringe of Eurasia—the rim around the continent. These coastal areas include Europe's coast, the Middle East, and South and East Asia, where dense populations, abundant resources, and crucial sea routes converge. By dominating these regions, a state can project naval power, control trade chokepoints, and effectively encircle the interior heartland, limiting any rival's ability to dominate Eurasia. This idea was proposed by Nicholas Spykman. This contrasts with Halford Mackinder's Heartland Theory, which stressed controlling the interior of Eurasia rather than its coastal margins. The other two figures are linked to different concepts: Von Thunen developed a land-use model around a city, and Boserup focused on how population pressure drives agricultural change.

6. Who is recognized as the creator of the world-systems theory?

A. Immanuel Wallerstein

B. Andre Gunder Frank

C. Karl Marx

D. Thomas Friedman

World-systems theory analyzes the global economy as one interconnected system organized around core, semi-periphery, and periphery regions, with wealth and power circulating through these positions. Immanuel Wallerstein is recognized as the creator of this approach, formalizing the idea that capitalism operates on a world-economy rather than isolated national economies. His work, especially The Modern World-System, shows how core countries extract surplus from less powerful areas, shaping development and inequality across the globe. While Andre Gunder Frank contributed to related ideas like dependency theory and Karl Marx laid the groundwork for analyzing capitalism, Wallerstein's framework is the one that established world-systems as a distinct theory. Thomas Friedman writes about globalization, but not as the originator of this theory.

7. **Which model describes a Latin American city with nine zones including CBD, Wholesale/Light Manufacturing, Low-Class Residential, Medium-Class Residential, High-Class Residential, Heavy Manufacturing, Outlying BD, Residential Suburb, and Industrial Suburb, with social groups arranged around activity nodes?**

   A. Latin American City Model

   B. Griffin-Ford Model

   C. Central Place Theory

   D. Demographic Transition Model

This item focuses on recognizing a Latin American city pattern where a central business district sits at the core, a commercial spine stretches outward, and social groups are arranged along activity nodes as the city expands. In this model, wealthier groups tend to cluster along a corridor radiating from the CBD, with mixed-use and lower-income zones layered around that spine, and manufacturing and industry occupying the outer fringes. The described nine zones fit that pattern precisely. The CBD anchors the center, a Wholesale/Light Manufacturing area lies along the expanding spine, and residential zones reflect social classes from high to low as you move away from the center. Heavy Manufacturing appears toward the periphery, while an Outlying Business District sits beyond the main zones. The Residential Suburb and Industrial Suburb occupy the outer rings, completing the outward spread of the city's activity nodes. This arrangement is characteristic of the Latin American City Model (often called the Griffin-Ford model), which emphasizes social stratification organized around a central spine and peri-urban manufacturing and commerce. Other concepts describe different ideas—Central Place Theory focuses on market areas in a rural pattern, and the Demographic Transition Model explains population change over time—so they don't match the described urban structure as closely.

8. **Who created the Concentric Zone Model of the North American city?**

   A. Burgess, Ernst

   B. Hoyt

   C. Harris

   D. Vance

The question tests understanding of the Concentric Zone Model, which imagines a city growing outward from a central point in circular rings. In this model, the center is the Central Business District, surrounded by successive rings with distinct characteristics—such as a transitional zone with industry and housing, followed by working-class housing, better residential areas, and finally a distant commuter belt. The idea comes from Ernst Burgess, who analyzed Chicago in the early 20th century and proposed that land value and use change with distance from the core as transportation and social factors push people and activities outward. That's why Ernst Burgess is the right answer. The other names are associated with different urban models: the Sector Model emphasizes growth in wedges radiating from the center; the Multiple Nuclei Model suggests several centers of activity rather than one central core; and Vance is linked to other urban theories not based on concentric rings around the CBD.

9. The urban model characterized by circular rings around a central business district is known as the Concentric Zone Model. Which model name corresponds to this description?

A. Concentric Zone Model

 B. Sector Model

 C. Multiple Nuclei Model

 D. Peripheral Model

The idea being tested is how a city grows outward in circular layers from its center. This pattern is the Concentric Zone Model, which envisions the central business district at the core and successive circular rings around it representing different land uses and social groups. As distance from the center increases, the rings typically transition from newer, more transitional areas to more stable, residential zones, eventually reaching outer suburban areas. Understanding why this model fits: it treats urban structure as a series of nested circles, with each ring representing a distinct zone that reflects how accessibility and land value change with distance from the CBD. This contrasts with other models that describe cities expanding along spokes or into multiple centers, such as sectors extending outward in wedges, multiple nuclei with several activity hubs, or peripheral growth surrounding a core with edge cities. In those cases, the arrangement isn't strictly circular around a single center, which is why the ringed pattern points to the Concentric Zone Model.

10. Who developed the Locational Interdependence theory that suggests competitors will locate adjacent to one another in the center of their shared customer base?

A. Losch, August

 B. Hotelling, Harold

 C. Weber, Max

 D. Thunen, Johann

Harold Hotelling developed locational interdependence—the idea that competing firms tend to cluster close to one another in the center of their shared customer base. In a simple market where customers are spread along a line, each seller wants to minimize the distance customers must travel, so both push toward a central position and end up locating next to each other. This creates a visible cluster of similar businesses serving the same market. Other theorists focus on different ideas—Losch on the profitable market radius, Weber on minimizing production and transport costs, and Thünen on concentric agricultural rings around a market town—none describe this specific competition-driven clustering.

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://aphgmodelstheories.examzify.com

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