

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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	16

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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 McGee model explains land-use patterns in which region?**
 - A. Southeast Asia**
 - B. Latin America**
 - C. North America**
 - D. Africa**

- 2. Who developed the Koppen climate classification system?**
 - A. Koppen, Vladimir**
 - B. Halford Mackinder**
 - C. Alexander von Humboldt**
 - D. Carl Ritter**

- 3. The agricultural land-use model that predicts land use based on distance to market and is often drawn as rings, sectors, or realms is named after which economist?**
 - A. Von Thunen, Johann**
 - B. Hoyt, Homer**
 - C. Christaller, Walter**
 - D. Mackinder, Halford**

- 4. Which American agricultural scientist introduced specially bred crops to developing nations, spurring the Green Revolution?**
 - A. Norman Borlaug**
 - B. George Washington Carver**
 - C. Luther Burbank**
 - D. Henry A. Wallace**

- 5. Which theory explains core, semi-periphery, periphery, and external areas in the global economy?**
 - A. World Systems Theory**
 - B. Dependency Theory**
 - C. Modernization Theory**
 - D. Ravenstein's Laws**

- 6. In World Systems Theory, which zone benefits the most from the capitalist world economy?**
- A. Core**
 - B. Semi-periphery**
 - C. Periphery**
 - D. External areas**
- 7. What does the Epidemiologic Transition Model predict about the age distribution of deaths as mortality declines?**
- A. Age Distribution of Deaths Shifts Upward**
 - B. Becomes Younger**
 - C. Remains Constant**
 - D. Becomes Evenly Distributed Across Ages**
- 8. Which theory argues low-income societies develop only by adopting modern institutions and values that emphasize savings?**
- A. Modernization Theory**
 - B. Sustainable Development**
 - C. Dependency Theory**
 - D. World Systems Theory**
- 9. Which urban model describes a city as a series of circular zones emanating from a central business district?**
- A. Burgess Concentric Zone Model**
 - B. Sector Model**
 - C. Peripheral Model**
 - D. Multiple Nuclei Model**
- 10. Who is recognized as the creator of the world-systems theory?**
- A. Immanuel Wallerstein**
 - B. Andre Gunder Frank**
 - C. Karl Marx**
 - D. Thomas Friedman**

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 McGee model explains land-use patterns in which region?

- A. Southeast Asia**
- B. Latin America**
- C. North America**
- D. Africa**

The McGee model describes Southeast Asian cities as polycentric, with a port-centered core and multiple secondary centers that arise along transportation routes, along with dense, informal settlements around coastal and river areas. This pattern fits cities like Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Manila, where growth occurs around several nuclei rather than around a single dominant downtown core. The other regions tend to show different dominant configurations—Latin American cities often emphasize a strong central spine from the CBD, while North American and African patterns involve different forms of centralized or segmented growth not captured by the McGee model. The region associated with this land-use pattern is Southeast Asia.

2. Who developed the Köppen climate classification system?

- A. Köppen, Vladimir**
- B. Halford Mackinder**
- C. Alexander von Humboldt**
- D. Carl Ritter**

The Köppen climate classification system was created by Vladimir Köppen, a German-Russian climatologist. He built the system to categorize climates using typical monthly temperature and precipitation patterns, linking those patterns to the kinds of vegetation that can thrive there. The original scheme appeared in the late 1800s and was later refined with Geiger, leading to the well-known Köppen-Geiger version still used today. Other historical figures mentioned—Halford Mackinder, Alexander von Humboldt, and Carl Ritter—made important contributions to geography and related fields, but they did not develop this climate classification system.

3. The agricultural land-use model that predicts land use based on distance to market and is often drawn as rings, sectors, or realms is named after which economist?

A. Von Thunen, Johann

B. Hoyt, Homer

C. Christaller, Walter

D. Mackinder, Halford

This question tests how distance to a market shapes what is grown where, with land use arranged in rings around a central market. The model shows land rent and profitability decrease as you move away from the market, so different crops and activities appear in successive rings to minimize transport costs and spoilage. The model described is named after Johann Heinrich von Thünen. He proposed a single-market, concentric-ring pattern where near the market you find perishable, high-value crops and dairy; a surrounding ring for timber; then grains farther out; and pasture or grazing on the outer rings. This explains why different agricultural activities are located at varying distances from the market: transport costs and perishability drive the organization of land use. Other options reference different geographic theories (urban sectors around a city, or geopolitical realms), not this agricultural land-use pattern driven by distance to market.

4. Which American agricultural scientist introduced specially bred crops to developing nations, spurring the Green Revolution?

A. Norman Borlaug

B. George Washington Carver

C. Luther Burbank

D. Henry A. Wallace

High-yielding crop varieties and their spread to developing nations sparked the Green Revolution. Norman Borlaug developed and promoted high-yielding, disease-resistant dwarf wheat varieties and led international breeding programs that brought these crops to Mexico, India, Pakistan, and beyond. This work, paired with improved irrigation and fertilizer use, dramatically boosted agricultural yields and helped avert famines. The other figures contributed to agriculture in important ways—Carver worked on soil improvement and crop diversification, Burbank bred fruit varieties, and Wallace played a role in agricultural policy—but Borlaug’s breeding programs and their rapid adoption are what specifically propelled the Green Revolution forward.

5. Which theory explains core, semi-periphery, periphery, and external areas in the global economy?

- A. World Systems Theory**
- B. Dependency Theory**
- C. Modernization Theory**
- D. Ravenstein's Laws**

World-Systems Theory describes the global economy as an integrated system divided into core, semi-periphery, periphery, and external areas. Core countries concentrate advanced industries, technology, financial power, and high-value activities, which allows them to capture most of the profits from international trade. Peripheral countries supply raw materials and labor, often with little industrial diversification and weaker bargaining power, so they receive a smaller share of the value added. Semi-peripheral countries sit between these two poles, producing some manufactured goods and services but still relying on core regions and facing vulnerability to shifts in global demand. External areas are regions outside the main capitalist world-economy, historically outside its core flows, but their status can change as they become more integrated or remain marginal. This framework explains why wealth and development are unevenly distributed across regions and how economic power moves over time.

6. In World Systems Theory, which zone benefits the most from the capitalist world economy?

- A. Core**
- B. Semi-periphery**
- C. Periphery**
- D. External areas**

We're looking at how wealth and power are organized in the world economy under World-Systems Theory. The core benefits the most because it concentrates capital, advanced technology, and skilled labor to drive high-value production, finance, and services. This position also yields political influence and owns the institutions and infrastructure that keep its economic advantages, while it draws resources and cheap labor from other regions on terms that favor the core. The periphery provides raw materials and low-cost labor but remains limited in industrial diversification and gains, making it more vulnerable to market swings. The semi-periphery sits between these zones, extracting some advantages from core regions while still facing exploitation and dependence on others, so it doesn't reach core-level dominance. External areas are not as integrated into the capitalist world economy. Therefore, the core is the zone that benefits the most.

7. What does the Epidemiologic Transition Model predict about the age distribution of deaths as mortality declines?

- A. Age Distribution of Deaths Shifts Upward**
- B. Becomes Younger**
- C. Remains Constant**
- D. Becomes Evenly Distributed Across Ages**

The main idea is that as mortality declines, people live longer and deaths occur at older ages. When a population reduces deaths from infectious diseases and malnutrition, infant and early-life deaths drop, and more people survive into old age. That means the age at which most deaths occur moves upward, so the share of deaths among older people increases. This is why the best answer is that the age distribution of deaths shifts upward. The other patterns—deaths becoming younger, staying the same, or becoming evenly distributed across ages—don't align with how life expectancy rises and aging populations change where deaths occur.

8. Which theory argues low-income societies develop only by adopting modern institutions and values that emphasize savings?

- A. Modernization Theory**
- B. Sustainable Development**
- C. Dependency Theory**
- D. World Systems Theory**

Modernization theory asserts that low-income societies develop primarily by adopting modern institutions and values—such as formal education, bureaucratic governance, secular rationality, and a culture that emphasizes saving and investment. Savings provides the capital needed for investment in technology, industry, and infrastructure, which drives economic growth and moves a society from traditional to modern forms of organization. This perspective treats development as a linear progression through stages once a society adopts these modern practices. Sustainable Development centers on meeting present needs without compromising future resources, focusing on balancing environmental, social, and economic goals rather than a specific path of institutional adoption. Dependency Theory emphasizes external constraints from more powerful, wealthier nations and unequal trade relationships, not the internal adoption of savings-focused institutions as the sole route to development. World Systems Theory highlights core-periphery dynamics within the global capitalist system, again focusing on external structures rather than a unilateral internal modernization path tied specifically to savings.

9. Which urban model describes a city as a series of circular zones emanating from a central business district?

A. Burgess Concentric Zone Model

B. Sector Model

C. Peripheral Model

D. Multiple Nuclei Model

A city organized in circular rings around the central business district is described by the Burgess Concentric Zone Model. This idea, developed by Ernest Burgess after studying Chicago, places the CBD at the center and imagines successive circular zones outward: a transition zone, a working-class zone, a higher-income residential zone, and finally commuter or suburban rings. The pattern highlights how land use and social groups are arranged with distance from the core increasing. Other models describe different layouts: the Sector Model envisions growth in wedges or sectors radiating from the center; the Peripheral Model emphasizes suburbs and a surrounding belt of development around a metropolitan core; the Multiple Nuclei Model argues for several separate centers or nodes of activity. The circular, layered structure is the hallmark of the Burgess Concentric Zone Model.

10. 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.

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!

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