

APUSH Period 8 - Cold War and Civil Rights 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. Which major event in 1989 symbolized the conclusion of the Cold War?**
 - A. The signing of the Treaty of Paris**
 - B. The fall of the Berlin Wall**
 - C. The dissolution of NATO**
 - D. The establishment of the European Union**

- 2. What was the main purpose of the War on Poverty initiated by Lyndon B. Johnson?**
 - A. To increase military funding**
 - B. To reduce poverty through government programs and initiatives**
 - C. To promote civil rights legislation**
 - D. To implement free healthcare for all**

- 3. Which event marked the consolidation of power for Joseph Stalin after Lenin's death?**
 - A. World War II**
 - B. The Great Purge**
 - C. Industrial Revolution**
 - D. The October Revolution**

- 4. What were the Freedom Rides?**
 - A. Protests in Washington D.C.**
 - B. Integrated bus trips through the South to challenge segregation**
 - C. Political campaigns for civil rights legislation**
 - D. Public demonstrations for economic justice**

- 5. What event did the Selma to Montgomery marches directly contribute to?**
 - A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964**
 - B. The Voting Rights Act of 1965**
 - C. The Kerner Commission report**
 - D. The Free Speech Movement**

- 6. How did the U.S. government respond to the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957?**
- A. By reducing funding for science education**
 - B. By increasing investment in education and technology, including the space program**
 - C. By launching a military space program**
 - D. By forming an alliance with European nations against the USSR**
- 7. Which term refers to the influence of the American military and arms industry on public policy?**
- A. Military-Industrial Unity**
 - B. Cold War Consensus**
 - C. Military-Industrial Complex**
 - D. Defense Spending Coalition**
- 8. What was a major impact of the Cold War on American foreign policy?**
- A. Increased isolationism**
 - B. The establishment of military alliances**
 - C. The promotion of free trade agreements**
 - D. A focus on humanitarian aid**
- 9. What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 aim to address?**
- A. Discriminatory voting practices that disenfranchised African Americans**
 - B. Access to education for all children**
 - C. Segregation in public transport**
 - D. Employment opportunities for minorities**
- 10. Which document is associated with the beginning of the New Left?**
- A. The Port Huron Statement**
 - B. The Southern Manifesto**
 - C. The Civil Rights Act**
 - D. The Constitution**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which major event in 1989 symbolized the conclusion of the Cold War?

- A. The signing of the Treaty of Paris**
- B. The fall of the Berlin Wall**
- C. The dissolution of NATO**
- D. The establishment of the European Union**

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 is widely regarded as a pivotal event that symbolized the conclusion of the Cold War. The wall, erected in 1961, physically and ideologically divided East and West Berlin, representing the broader divide between the communist East and the democratic West. Its destruction marked a significant moment in history, as it not only facilitated the reunification of Germany but also signified the weakening of communist control in Eastern Europe. The events surrounding the wall's fall were part of a larger wave of revolutions in Eastern Europe that led to the collapse of communist governments across the region. This seismic shift fundamentally altered the geopolitical landscape and led to the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, effectively closing the chapter on the Cold War era.

2. What was the main purpose of the War on Poverty initiated by Lyndon B. Johnson?

- A. To increase military funding**
- B. To reduce poverty through government programs and initiatives**
- C. To promote civil rights legislation**
- D. To implement free healthcare for all**

The main purpose of the War on Poverty initiated by Lyndon B. Johnson was to reduce poverty through government programs and initiatives. This ambitious program was part of Johnson's broader Great Society agenda, which aimed to address various social issues in the United States, particularly the significant economic inequalities that persisted since the Great Depression. The War on Poverty led to the establishment of several key programs and initiatives designed to provide assistance to the poor, including Job Corps, Head Start, and the Food Stamp Program, among others. These initiatives focused on improving education, providing job training, and ensuring access to food and healthcare, which were essential for lifting individuals and families out of poverty. By targeting a reduction in poverty rates, Johnson sought to create a more equitable society and improve the living conditions of marginalized communities. This approach marked a significant shift in government policy, emphasizing the need for proactive measures to combat poverty systematically, rather than merely addressing its symptoms.

3. Which event marked the consolidation of power for Joseph Stalin after Lenin's death?

- A. World War II
- B. The Great Purge**
- C. Industrial Revolution
- D. The October Revolution

The choice of the Great Purge correctly identifies a pivotal event in the consolidation of Joseph Stalin's power following Lenin's death. After Lenin passed away in 1924, there was a power struggle within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Stalin, who had gradually positioned himself as a key figure in the party, initiated a campaign of political repression known as the Great Purge. This involved the widespread elimination of perceived enemies within the Communist Party and the broader society, including former allies and party members who opposed his leadership. The Great Purge, which lasted from the late 1930s to the early 1940s, led to the arrest, execution, or exile of hundreds of thousands of people, instilling fear and ensuring Stalin's dominance. By removing potential challengers and dissenters, he not only consolidated his power but also reshaped the party apparatus to respond directly to his authority, fundamentally transforming Soviet governance. The other events mentioned, such as World War II and the Industrial Revolution, while significant in their own rights, do not directly relate to Stalin's consolidation of power after Lenin's death. World War II occurred later and had implications for Stalin's leadership but was not the immediate catalyst for his rise. The Industrial Revolution had already shaped

4. What were the Freedom Rides?

- A. Protests in Washington D.C.
- B. Integrated bus trips through the South to challenge segregation**
- C. Political campaigns for civil rights legislation
- D. Public demonstrations for economic justice

The Freedom Rides were a pivotal event during the Civil Rights Movement aimed at challenging segregation in the southern United States. Organized in 1961 by civil rights activists, these integrated bus trips were designed to test the enforcement of Supreme Court rulings that prohibited racial segregation in interstate bus travel and at bus terminals. The riders, consisting of both African American and white activists, traveled together through the Deep South to confront the deeply entrenched racism and discriminatory practices that still existed despite earlier legal advancements. They faced violent opposition, including attacks by angry mobs and police, which drew national attention to the struggle for civil rights. The Freedom Rides not only highlighted ongoing segregation but also galvanized support for the civil rights movement, leading to significant legislative changes. This option stands out as the most accurate representation of the Freedom Rides, as it encapsulates the essence of the actions taken by the riders and the broader goals of the Civil Rights Movement during that era.

5. What event did the Selma to Montgomery marches directly contribute to?

- A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964**
- B. The Voting Rights Act of 1965**
- C. The Kerner Commission report**
- D. The Free Speech Movement**

The Selma to Montgomery marches were pivotal in drawing national attention to the struggle for voting rights for African Americans in the South. These marches, which occurred in March 1965, highlighted the violent resistance faced by civil rights activists. The brutal response from law enforcement, particularly during the march known as "Bloody Sunday," galvanized public opinion and increased pressure on the federal government to act. In the aftermath of the marches, the Johnson administration pushed for legislative reforms, leading to the introduction and eventual passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This landmark legislation aimed to eliminate legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote. The act outlawed discriminatory practices such as literacy tests and provided for federal oversight of voter registration in areas with a history of racial discrimination. Thus, the Selma to Montgomery marches played a crucial direct role in contributing to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, fundamentally transforming the landscape of American voting rights.

6. How did the U.S. government respond to the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957?

- A. By reducing funding for science education**
- B. By increasing investment in education and technology, including the space program**
- C. By launching a military space program**
- D. By forming an alliance with European nations against the USSR**

The U.S. government's response to the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957 was characterized by a notable increase in investment in education and technology, particularly focusing on the space program. The successful launch of Sputnik marked a significant moment in the Cold War, as it demonstrated Soviet technological prowess and raised concerns about U.S. national security and technological superiority. In reaction to this event, federal initiatives were enacted to improve scientific and technical education in the United States. The National Defense Education Act was passed in 1958, which provided funding for education in math, science, and foreign languages. This included increased financial support for schools, colleges, and universities to bolster the nation's competitive edge in technology and space exploration. Additionally, the launch of Sputnik led to an acceleration of the U.S. space program, with the establishment of NASA in 1958 and a commitment to achieving significant milestones in space exploration, including the eventual moon landing. This response demonstrated a recognition of the need to catch up with Soviet advances and to ensure that the U.S. maintained its status as a global leader in technology and innovation during the Cold War era.

7. Which term refers to the influence of the American military and arms industry on public policy?

A. Military-Industrial Unity

B. Cold War Consensus

C. Military-Industrial Complex

D. Defense Spending Coalition

The term that best describes the influence of the American military and arms industry on public policy is the Military-Industrial Complex. This concept originated from President Dwight D. Eisenhower's farewell address in 1961, where he warned about the potential dangers of the close relationship between the military and defense contractors. The Military-Industrial Complex highlights how the military establishment and private industry can have a significant effect on national policy, often leading to increased defense spending and military readiness. This interdependence can sometimes result in policies that prioritize military solutions over diplomatic ones, demonstrating a powerful influence over both domestic and foreign affairs. This term encapsulates concerns about the potential for this alliance to promote excessive military spending, affecting a range of aspects including the economy, foreign relations, and social priorities. Other options do not adequately represent this specific concept or its historical context related to military and industry leaders influencing national policy.

8. What was a major impact of the Cold War on American foreign policy?

A. Increased isolationism

B. The establishment of military alliances

C. The promotion of free trade agreements

D. A focus on humanitarian aid

The establishment of military alliances was a significant impact of the Cold War on American foreign policy. During this period, the United States sought to counter the influence of the Soviet Union and communism globally. This prompted the formation of key military alliances such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in 1949, which included Western European nations, Canada, and the United States itself. The principle of collective defense enshrined in NATO meant that an attack on one member would be regarded as an attack on all, significantly strengthening Western military unity against perceived Soviet aggression. Additionally, the U.S. also developed other alliances, such as SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) and CENTO (Central Treaty Organization), to secure its interests and contain communism in different regions. This focus on military partnerships was a defining characteristic of U.S. foreign policy throughout the Cold War, reflecting the belief in a need for international cooperation against a common threat. The resulting network of alliances not only shaped military strategy but also influenced diplomatic relations and global power dynamics during this era.

9. What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 aim to address?

- A. Discriminatory voting practices that disenfranchised African Americans**
- B. Access to education for all children**
- C. Segregation in public transport**
- D. Employment opportunities for minorities**

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed to address discriminatory voting practices that disenfranchised African Americans, primarily in the Southern states. Prior to this legislation, many African Americans faced numerous obstacles when trying to register to vote, including literacy tests, poll taxes, and other forms of systemic racism designed to suppress their voting rights. The Act sought to eliminate these barriers by prohibiting such discriminatory practices and providing for federal oversight and enforcement of voter registration and election processes in areas with a history of discrimination. This law was a significant milestone in the Civil Rights Movement, as it aimed to ensure that all citizens, regardless of race, would have equal access to the electoral process.

10. Which document is associated with the beginning of the New Left?

- A. The Port Huron Statement**
- B. The Southern Manifesto**
- C. The Civil Rights Act**
- D. The Constitution**

The Port Huron Statement is the document most closely associated with the beginning of the New Left movement in the 1960s. Authored by students of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in 1962, it articulated a vision of social change that emphasized participatory democracy, civil rights, and opposition to the Vietnam War. The statement criticized both the existing political structures and the prevailing liberalism of the time, calling for active participation in the democratic process and a sense of moral responsibility among citizens. The Port Huron Statement represents a pivotal moment in American political history, as it encapsulated the aspirations and grievances of a new generation that sought to challenge traditional values and engage more directly with societal issues. This document laid the groundwork for various movements that would emerge in the 1960s, including anti-war protests, civil rights activism, and other forms of countercultural expression. The other documents mentioned relate to important historical contexts but do not specifically mark the inception of the New Left. The Southern Manifesto was a reaction against desegregation, the Civil Rights Act was a major legislative achievement in the civil rights movement, and the Constitution is a foundational legal document of the United States but is not tied to the New Left.

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://apushperiod8.examzify.com>

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

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