

Arizona State University (ASU) HST102 Europe and the Mediterranean: Ancient and Medieval Practice Exam (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. What was the central goal of the Crusades?**
 - A. To expand territory**
 - B. To capture Jerusalem**
 - C. To trade with Asia**
 - D. To spread democracy**

- 2. Who was the key figure in the spread of Christianity in the early medieval period?**
 - A. Pope Gregory I**
 - B. Charlemagne**
 - C. Aquinas**
 - D. Augustine of Canterbury**

- 3. What notable architectural innovation is associated with Gothic structures?**
 - A. Use of large solid walls**
 - B. Invention of the architrave**
 - C. Utilization of flying buttresses**
 - D. Construction of single-story buildings**

- 4. In which city did Joan of Arc achieve her first victory as part of the French Army?**
 - A. Paris**
 - B. Orleans**
 - C. Reims**
 - D. Rouen**

- 5. Who led the Carthaginian army during the Second Punic War?**
 - A. Scipio Africanus**
 - B. Hannibal Barca**
 - C. Julius Caesar**
 - D. Augustus**

- 6. How did Cleopatra's relationships with Roman leaders affect her kingdom's status?**
- A. They isolated Egypt from Rome**
 - B. They strengthened Egypt's political standing in Rome**
 - C. They had no significant impact on her rule**
 - D. They led to military defeat and loss of territory**
- 7. What were some factors that led to the decline of the Roman Empire?**
- A. Artistic innovations and cultural exchanges**
 - B. Military overreach and internal strife**
 - C. Heightened economic prosperity**
 - D. Minimal warfare with neighboring tribes**
- 8. What was the impact of the Black Death on Europe?**
- A. A significant decline in population, labor shortages, and social upheaval**
 - B. An increase in trade and cultural exchange**
 - C. Strengthened feudalism and class distinctions**
 - D. Improvement of public health and sanitation**
- 9. What were scriptoriums in monasteries specifically used for?**
- A. Teaching monks**
 - B. Writing and copying texts**
 - C. Dining and resting**
 - D. Studying scripture**
- 10. What was the Code of Hammurabi known for?**
- A. A collection of philosophical beliefs**
 - B. The first written laws establishing justice and rule of law**
 - C. A historical account of Babylonian kings**
 - D. An epic poem about the creation of the world**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the central goal of the Crusades?

- A. To expand territory
- B. To capture Jerusalem**
- C. To trade with Asia
- D. To spread democracy

The central goal of the Crusades was to capture Jerusalem. The Crusades were a series of religious wars initiated by Christian states of Europe during the medieval period, with the primary objective of reclaiming the Holy Land, particularly the city of Jerusalem, which held significant religious importance to Christians. Jerusalem was known as the site of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, making its capture a religious aspiration for many Christians of the time. The focus on Jerusalem as the ultimate prize is evident in the First Crusade, which was called by Pope Urban II in 1095. He encouraged knights and nobles to embark on this mission not just for territorial gains, but primarily to respond to a religious calling to free the Holy City from Muslim control. While expanding territory was also a factor and some Crusaders sought personal gain or land, the underlying religious motivation that drove the campaigns was the desire to reclaim Jerusalem. Additionally, while trade with Asia and spreading democracy may have been peripheral interests during the Crusades, they were not the primary goals driving these undertakings. The overarching desire to restore Christian control over Jerusalem firmly establishes it as the focal point of the Crusades.

2. Who was the key figure in the spread of Christianity in the early medieval period?

- A. Pope Gregory I
- B. Charlemagne
- C. Aquinas
- D. Augustine of Canterbury**

The key figure in the spread of Christianity in the early medieval period is Augustine of Canterbury. Sent as a missionary by Pope Gregory I in 596 AD, Augustine is credited with bringing Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons in England. His efforts established the Christian church in England and helped convert various tribes, thus significantly expanding the reach of Christianity during this time. Augustine's mission was pivotal not only for its immediate impact on the individuals he converted but also for the longer-term foundation it laid for Christianity's growth in the British Isles. His work led to the establishment of important ecclesiastical structures and set the stage for further missionary activities throughout Europe, making his role central to the Christianization of England and illustrating the broader spread of Christianity during the early medieval period. The other figures mentioned played important roles in different contexts: Pope Gregory I was instrumental in the papacy's role during this period and in the promotion of Christian doctrine, Charlemagne contributed to the Christian empire by enforcing Christianity in his conquests, and Aquinas is known for his theological writings in a later period of the medieval era. While significant in their own rights, their contributions do not compare to Augustine's direct involvement in the initial spread of Christianity in the early medieval context.

3. What notable architectural innovation is associated with Gothic structures?

- A. Use of large solid walls**
- B. Invention of the architrave**
- C. Utilization of flying buttresses**
- D. Construction of single-story buildings**

The utilization of flying buttresses is a key architectural innovation associated with Gothic structures. Flying buttresses are external supports that allow for the construction of higher walls and larger windows, which became a hallmark of the Gothic style. This design feature enabled architects to distribute the weight of the roof and walls more effectively, allowing for the incorporation of stained glass windows that filled cathedrals with light and intricate designs. Unlike previous architectural styles that relied heavily on thick, solid walls, Gothic architecture embraced verticality and light, making use of these innovative supports. This not only advanced the aesthetic aspects of building design but also reflected a shift in structural engineering during the medieval period. The flying buttress became an integral part of many famous Gothic cathedrals, such as Notre-Dame in Paris and Chartres Cathedral, exemplifying the style's emphasis on height and luminosity.

4. In which city did Joan of Arc achieve her first victory as part of the French Army?

- A. Paris**
- B. Orleans**
- C. Reims**
- D. Rouen**

Joan of Arc's first significant military victory occurred in the city of Orléans during the Hundred Years' War. This event was pivotal as it marked a turning point in the French campaign against English occupation. In 1429, she played a crucial role in lifting the siege that had been placed on Orléans by English forces. Her leadership and inspiration helped to rally the French troops, leading to a successful assault that ultimately saw the English retreat. The victory at Orléans not only boosted French morale but also solidified Joan's position as a national heroine and a key figure in the French resistance. This event paved the way for Charles VII's coronation in Reims shortly thereafter, further demonstrating the importance of the victory in the context of the larger conflict. While the other cities listed are significant in relation to Joan of Arc, they do not represent her first military success. Paris was a major target but not the location of her initial victory, Rouen was where she was later tried and executed, and Reims is notable for the coronation of Charles VII following her successes, but it does not relate to her first victory in battle.

5. Who led the Carthaginian army during the Second Punic War?

- A. Scipio Africanus
- B. Hannibal Barca**
- C. Julius Caesar
- D. Augustus

Hannibal Barca was the commanding general of the Carthaginian army during the Second Punic War, which lasted from 218 to 201 BCE. He is well-known for his military strategies and tactics, especially for his audacious crossing of the Alps to invade Italy. Hannibal's leadership was marked by several significant victories against Rome, including the famous Battle of Cannae in 216 BCE, where he decisively defeated a much larger Roman army. His tactics and maneuvers have been studied for centuries and are considered a hallmark of brilliant military strategy. Scipio Africanus, while a crucial figure in the Second Punic War, was actually one of Hannibal's principal adversaries, eventually leading Roman forces to victory at the Battle of Zama. Julius Caesar and Augustus were prominent Roman leaders, but they lived after the Second Punic War had concluded, making them irrelevant to this specific historical context.

6. How did Cleopatra's relationships with Roman leaders affect her kingdom's status?

- A. They isolated Egypt from Rome
- B. They strengthened Egypt's political standing in Rome**
- C. They had no significant impact on her rule
- D. They led to military defeat and loss of territory

Cleopatra's relationships with Roman leaders, particularly her alliances with Julius Caesar and later Mark Antony, were strategically aimed at strengthening Egypt's political standing within the Roman sphere of influence. By aligning herself with powerful figures in Rome, Cleopatra sought to secure her kingdom against external threats and enhance her own authority. Her affair with Julius Caesar resulted in the stabilization of Egypt's economy and bolstered her position on the throne, as Caesar's support was crucial during a time of internal political strife. Following Caesar's assassination, Cleopatra's relationship with Mark Antony further reinforced her efforts to maintain Egypt's significance amidst Roman politics. Antony's backing provided her with military support and political alliances that were intended to counteract the growing power of Octavian, Caesar's adopted heir. Thus, these relationships did not merely serve personal or romantic interests; they were calculated moves to bolster Egypt's power dynamics, allowing Cleopatra to play an influential role on the larger Mediterranean stage. The alliances underscored Egypt's importance in the geopolitical landscape of the time, as Cleopatra adeptly navigated the complexities of Roman politics to elevate her kingdom's status.

7. What were some factors that led to the decline of the Roman Empire?

- A. Artistic innovations and cultural exchanges
- B. Military overreach and internal strife**
- C. Heightened economic prosperity
- D. Minimal warfare with neighboring tribes

The decline of the Roman Empire can be largely attributed to military overreach and internal strife, making this the most accurate answer. Military overreach refers to the expansion of the empire to such vast territories that it became increasingly difficult to manage and defend. As Roman armies were stretched thin across distant frontiers, they faced logistical challenges and were often unable to respond effectively to threats. This overextension made the empire vulnerable to invasions by external forces, particularly from various Germanic tribes and others. Internal strife also played a critical role in the empire's decline. Political instability, corruption, and civil wars weakened the central authority. The empire frequently experienced power struggles, with competing factions vying for control, leading to a distracted and divided government. This internal conflict diminished Rome's ability to effectively deal with external pressures, further exacerbating its vulnerability. Together, these factors created a precarious situation for the Roman Empire, contributing to its eventual fall. In contrast, the other options do not align with the realities of the Roman decline, as artistic innovations and cultural exchanges typically represent strength, heightened economic prosperity indicates stability rather than decline, and minimal warfare with neighboring tribes doesn't reflect the true military challenges faced during this period.

8. What was the impact of the Black Death on Europe?

- A. A significant decline in population, labor shortages, and social upheaval**
- B. An increase in trade and cultural exchange
- C. Strengthened feudalism and class distinctions
- D. Improvement of public health and sanitation

The impact of the Black Death on Europe was profound and multifaceted, leading to a significant decline in population, labor shortages, and social upheaval. During the pandemic in the 14th century, it is estimated that approximately one-third of Europe's population perished due to the plague. This dramatic reduction in population created immediate labor shortages, as there were fewer workers to maintain agricultural output and fulfill other economic roles. In response to these labor shortages, surviving workers often demanded higher wages and improved working conditions, resulting in shifts in power dynamics between laborers and landowners. This shift contributed to a gradual decline of the feudal system, as peasants found themselves in a stronger bargaining position due to the scarcity of labor. Furthermore, the widespread mortality generated considerable social upheaval, leading to changes in societal structures, increased mobility for peasants, and in some regions, the weakening of the hierarchical norms of feudalism. The societal dislocation also fostered an environment where new ideas could spread more freely, even as the immediate consequences of the plague were devastating. In contrast to this choice, the other options do not accurately reflect the primary consequences of the Black Death. While it might be argued that trade and cultural exchange were influenced in complex ways,

9. What were scriptoriums in monasteries specifically used for?

- A. Teaching monks**
- B. Writing and copying texts**
- C. Dining and resting**
- D. Studying scripture**

Scriptoriums in monasteries were designated spaces specifically for the writing and copying of texts. These areas played a crucial role in preserving knowledge during the Middle Ages, particularly before the advent of the printing press. Monks in these scriptoriums meticulously reproduced religious texts, classical literature, and other important works, ensuring the survival of these documents through the centuries. The environment of the scriptorium was often quiet and orderly, suitable for focused work on manuscripts, which included not only writing but also illuminating texts with intricate designs and decorations. While teaching monks and studying scripture were important activities in monasteries, these were generally conducted in separate areas designated for education or worship. Scriptoriums had a specific function tied to the preservation and dissemination of knowledge, which was vital for the intellectual life of the Middle Ages. Dining and resting would not occur in scriptoriums, as those activities would take place in other parts of the monastery.

10. What was the Code of Hammurabi known for?

- A. A collection of philosophical beliefs**
- B. The first written laws establishing justice and rule of law**
- C. A historical account of Babylonian kings**
- D. An epic poem about the creation of the world**

The Code of Hammurabi is recognized as one of the earliest and most complete written legal codes in history, emerging from ancient Babylon around 1754 BCE. It is renowned for establishing a comprehensive set of laws that sought to outline justice and the rule of law within society. The Code encompassed various aspects of everyday life, including trade, family relations, and property rights, and it introduced the principle of retributive justice, famously encapsulated in the phrase "an eye for an eye." This document not only reflects the legal standards of the time but also indicates a significant step in the advancement of governance and societal order, setting a precedent for future legal systems. Moreover, it served to publicize the laws, making them accessible to the citizens rather than being kept within the confines of oral tradition or the ruling elite's discretion. This aspect is pivotal in understanding the evolution of law and governance in ancient civilizations.

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://asu-hst102.examzify.com>

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

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