

# BMS Social Studies

# Academic Team Practice

# Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 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.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**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!**

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## **Questions**

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- 1. Who was the U.S. president that was a major general in the War of 1812 and represented Tennessee in the House of Representatives?**
  - A. Martin Van Buren**
  - B. Andrew Jackson**
  - C. James Polk**
  - D. William Henry Harrison**
  
- 2. What is the economic system characterized by a stateless, classless society, often confused with Socialism?**
  - A. Capitalism**
  - B. Monarchism**
  - C. Communism**
  - D. Social Democracy**
  
- 3. What was the ancient capital of the Aztec Empire that is now Mexico City?**
  - A. Tenochtitlán**
  - B. Chichen Itza**
  - C. Cuzco**
  - D. Cahokia**
  
- 4. Which Portuguese navigator led the first European expedition to sight the Cape of Good Hope?**
  - A. Ferdinand Magellan**
  - B. Vasco da Gama**
  - C. Bartolomeu Dias**
  - D. Christopher Columbus**
  
- 5. What major conflict occurred between 1846 and 1848 during James Polk's presidency?**
  - A. Mexican-American War**
  - B. Civil War**
  - C. Spanish-American War**
  - D. War of 1812**

**6. What significant role did Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben play during the American Revolutionary War?**

- A. He served as a general in the Continental Army.**
- B. He trained and disciplined the Continental forces.**
- C. He was a spy for the American forces.**
- D. He helped draft the Declaration of Independence.**

**7. What was the outcome of the Punic Wars for Carthage?**

- A. Strengthened its political power in Europe**
- B. Gained control over Sicily**
- C. Amassed a strong naval fleet**
- D. Led to the destruction of Carthage**

**8. What type of economic activity focuses on the exchange of goods and services, significantly benefiting from specialization?**

- A. Trade**
- B. Industry**
- C. Agriculture**
- D. Manufacturing**

**9. During which holiday do Jews light a menorah for eight nights and play with a dreidel?**

- A. Yom Kippur**
- B. Hanukkah**
- C. Passover**
- D. Sukkot**

**10. What was the peak of the pandemic that possibly killed 30 to 60 percent of Europe's population in the fourteenth century?**

- A. Bubonic Plague**
- B. Spanish Flu**
- C. Cholera**
- D. Black Death**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Who was the U.S. president that was a major general in the War of 1812 and represented Tennessee in the House of Representatives?**

- A. Martin Van Buren**
- B. Andrew Jackson**
- C. James Polk**
- D. William Henry Harrison**

Andrew Jackson is the correct answer because he was a prominent military leader during the War of 1812, famously defeating the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. His leadership and military success helped him gain national fame, which later contributed to his election as president. After the war, Jackson also served as a U.S. Congressman representing Tennessee, showcasing his political involvement alongside his military career. His role in both the military and government significantly shaped his legacy as a key figure in American history during that era.

**2. What is the economic system characterized by a stateless, classless society, often confused with Socialism?**

- A. Capitalism**
- B. Monarchism**
- C. Communism**
- D. Social Democracy**

The economic system characterized by a stateless, classless society is communism. In theoretical terms, communism envisions a society where all property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs. This system arises after a revolutionary overthrow of capitalist structures, leading to the elimination of class distinctions. The confusion with socialism often stems from the fact that both systems advocate for economic equality and may involve collective ownership. However, socialism typically allows for some degree of state involvement and regulation in the economy, whereas communism seeks an extreme form of collectivism with the goal of abolishing the state entirely, once a classless society is achieved. This distinction highlights the more radical ideological underpinnings of communism, distinguishing it from other systems where both public and private ownership can coexist. This understanding of communism's goals and characteristics is essential when discussing different economic systems, particularly in how they relate to concepts of class and state authority.

**3. What was the ancient capital of the Aztec Empire that is now Mexico City?**

**A. Tenochtitlán**

**B. Chichen Itza**

**C. Cuzco**

**D. Cahokia**

Tenochtitlán was the capital of the Aztec Empire, established in the 14th century on an island in Lake Texcoco. This remarkable city is famous for its advanced architecture, including temples, palaces, and a complex system of canals that facilitated trade and transportation. The Aztecs built Tenochtitlán where they saw an eagle perched on a cactus, leading to the founding of their capital as mentioned in their mythology. Today, the location of Tenochtitlán aligns closely with modern-day Mexico City, which developed over the ruins of the ancient city after the Spanish conquest in the 16th century. Other locations mentioned, such as Chichen Itza, served as a major ceremonial site for the Maya civilization in the Yucatán Peninsula, while Cuzco was the capital of the Inca Empire in present-day Peru. Cahokia, in what is now the United States, was an important pre-Columbian Native American city but not related to the Aztecs. Therefore, recognizing Tenochtitlán as the capital of the Aztec Empire is essential for understanding the history and cultural significance of this influential civilization.

**4. Which Portuguese navigator led the first European expedition to sight the Cape of Good Hope?**

**A. Ferdinand Magellan**

**B. Vasco da Gama**

**C. Bartolomeu Dias**

**D. Christopher Columbus**

The answer is Bartolomeu Dias, who is credited with leading the first European expedition to successfully round the Cape of Good Hope in 1488. This crucial milestone was significant for European exploration as it provided a sea route to the Indian Ocean, which was key for trade with Asia. Dias's exploration efforts not only advanced maritime navigation but also opened up new territories for European powers. His journey around the southern tip of Africa helped demonstrate that it was possible to reach the Indian Ocean from the Atlantic, paving the way for future explorers, including Vasco da Gama, who would later capitalize on these findings to establish a sea route to India.

**5. What major conflict occurred between 1846 and 1848 during James Polk's presidency?**

- A. Mexican-American War**
- B. Civil War**
- C. Spanish-American War**
- D. War of 1812**

The major conflict that occurred between 1846 and 1848 during James Polk's presidency is the Mexican-American War. This war was primarily driven by the territorial expansionist policies under Polk, who was a proponent of Manifest Destiny, the belief that the United States was destined to expand across the North American continent. Tensions between the United States and Mexico escalated following the annexation of Texas, which Mexico still considered part of its territory despite Texas declaring independence in 1836. The conflict officially began when U.S. forces were ordered to advance into the disputed territory between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, leading to clashes with Mexican troops. The war resulted in significant territorial gains for the United States, including present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, as formalized in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. In contrast, the Civil War occurred much later, from 1861 to 1865, and involved a different set of political and social issues related to slavery and states' rights. The Spanish-American War took place in 1898 and involved conflicts primarily in the Caribbean and the Philippines. The War of 1812 happened between 1812 and 1815, centered around maritime issues.

**6. What significant role did Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben play during the American Revolutionary War?**

- A. He served as a general in the Continental Army.**
- B. He trained and disciplined the Continental forces.**
- C. He was a spy for the American forces.**
- D. He helped draft the Declaration of Independence.**

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben played a crucial role in the American Revolutionary War primarily through his function as a trainer and disciplinarian for the Continental Army. After moving to America from Prussia, he brought with him a wealth of military knowledge and experience that was vital for improving the effectiveness of the American troops who were often poorly trained and lacked proper discipline. At Valley Forge, where many recruits were suffering from harsh conditions, von Steuben implemented a rigorous training program, introducing standardized drills, military tactics, and a focus on hygiene and organization within the ranks. This training not only enhanced the soldiers' combat abilities but also greatly improved morale, instilled a sense of discipline, and contributed to the overall success of the Continental Army in subsequent battles. His influence helped turn the U.S. fighting force into a more effective military one, which was instrumental in achieving eventual victory against the British.

## 7. What was the outcome of the Punic Wars for Carthage?

- A. Strengthened its political power in Europe**
- B. Gained control over Sicily**
- C. Amassed a strong naval fleet**
- D. Led to the destruction of Carthage**

The outcome of the Punic Wars for Carthage was indeed the destruction of the city. The Punic Wars, comprising three major conflicts fought between Rome and Carthage from 264 BC to 146 BC, ultimately led to significant consequences for Carthage. By the end of the Third Punic War, Rome decisively defeated Carthage, culminating in the complete razing of the city in 146 BC. This destruction marked the end of Carthaginian power and influence in the Mediterranean, as Rome sought to eliminate any future threats from this formidable rival. The Romans not only destroyed the city but also reportedly sowed salt into the fields to prevent future agricultural growth, symbolizing total annihilation. Therefore, this outcome highlights how the Punic Wars significantly altered the balance of power in the region, ultimately establishing Rome as a dominant force. The other options refer to potential outcomes that did not materialize for Carthage. It did not strengthen its political power in Europe, nor did it gain control over Sicily, which was a central point of contention during the wars. Additionally, although Carthage had a strong naval fleet early in the wars, it was dismantled over time due to Roman victories. Thus, the

## 8. What type of economic activity focuses on the exchange of goods and services, significantly benefiting from specialization?

- A. Trade**
- B. Industry**
- C. Agriculture**
- D. Manufacturing**

The correct choice emphasizes the concept of trade, which is fundamentally the exchange of goods and services between parties. This economic activity greatly benefits from specialization, wherein individuals, businesses, or countries focus on producing particular goods or services that they can create more efficiently or effectively than others. This specialization allows for a higher quality and quantity of production, which then becomes ideal for trade. When entities specialize in what they do best, they can produce surplus goods or enhance their service offerings, making trade not only possible but beneficial for both parties involved. The exchange is facilitated by the differences in production capacities and focuses, which enable economies to capitalize on their unique strengths. This interdependence fostered by trade encourages economic growth, innovation, and a wider variety of goods and services available to consumers. The other options—industry, agriculture, and manufacturing—are all important economic activities but do not directly encapsulate the broader activity of exchanging goods and services in the same way that trade does. While they can involve specialization, they each focus more on the production side of the economy rather than on the exchange mechanism itself.

**9. During which holiday do Jews light a menorah for eight nights and play with a dreidel?**

- A. Yom Kippur**
- B. Hanukkah**
- C. Passover**
- D. Sukkot**

The holiday during which Jews light a menorah for eight nights and play with a dreidel is Hanukkah. This festival, also known as the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days despite there being only enough for one day. The lighting of the menorah, specifically an eight-branched candelabrum, symbolizes this miracle, with one additional candle, known as the shamash, used to light the others. The dreidel, a spinning top, is played with during Hanukkah as a game that also recalls the historical context of the holiday, as it provided a way for Jews to avoid detection while studying their religious texts under oppressive rule.

**10. What was the peak of the pandemic that possibly killed 30 to 60 percent of Europe's population in the fourteenth century?**

- A. Bubonic Plague**
- B. Spanish Flu**
- C. Cholera**
- D. Black Death**

The correct answer is the Black Death, which refers specifically to the pandemic that swept through Europe in the fourteenth century, leading to the deaths of an estimated 30 to 60 percent of the continent's population. This catastrophic event was primarily caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, which was transmitted through fleas that lived on rats and infected humans. The Black Death not only had devastating immediate effects on the population but also brought significant social, economic, and cultural changes to European society. The context of the Black Death is crucial, as it was one of the most significant pandemics in human history, leading to labor shortages that altered the feudal system and prompted changes in social structures and attitudes towards life and death. The term "Bubonic Plague" refers to one form of plague associated with the Black Death, but it does not capture the entirety of the pandemic's impact and the broader historical context. The Spanish Flu and cholera outbreaks, while severe in their own right, occurred later or were not responsible for such a dramatic reduction in Europe's population during the 1300s. Thus, the Black Death is the most accurate and specific term to describe the peak of the pandemic that had such profound effects on Europe during that period.

# 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://bmssocstudiesacadteam.examzify.com>**

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

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