

# Civil Rights Movement 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 organization is abbreviated SNCC and was formed by students?**
  - A. Congress of Racial Equality**
  - B. Southern Christian Leadership Conference**
  - C. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee**
  - D. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**
  
- 2. Beyond the South, the Civil Rights Movement led to greater enforcement of equal rights in which areas?**
  - A. Housing, schools, and public services.**
  - B. Military bases and border control.**
  - C. Agricultural policy and farming subsidies.**
  - D. International trade and tariffs.**
  
- 3. Which organization was designed to help African-Americans win better housing, jobs, and education as well as defend civil rights?**
  - A. ACLU**
  - B. NAACP**
  - C. SCLC**
  - D. CORE**
  
- 4. What were the objectives and outcomes of the Birmingham Campaign of 1963?**
  - A. To desegregate public facilities and improve equal access; faced violent police response but drew federal attention and prompted policy changes.**
  - B. To desegregate only schools and avoid federal involvement.**
  - C. To desegregate public facilities and improve equal access; drew federal attention but did not prompt policy changes.**
  - D. To protest quietly and achieve desegregation without any police clashes.**
  
- 5. Ella Baker is known for mentoring many young activists and helping form which organization?**
  - A. SNCC**
  - B. CORE**
  - C. SCLC**
  - D. NAACP**

- 6. The 24th Amendment is associated with which period of U.S. history?**
- A. The Great Society**
  - B. The Progressive Era**
  - C. Civil Rights Movement**
  - D. The Gilded Age**
- 7. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed to eliminate discriminatory voting practices by banning literacy tests and providing what kind of oversight?**
- A. Federal oversight and enforcement**
  - B. Local polling place transparency only**
  - C. No enforcement provisions**
  - D. A nationwide literacy exam**
- 8. President who ordered the integration of the military in 1948.**
- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower**
  - B. Harry Truman**
  - C. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
  - D. John F. Kennedy**
- 9. What happened during the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965, and what was their significance?**
- A. Protested school desegregation with a sit-in.**
  - B. Campaigned for fair housing across Alabama.**
  - C. Marched to demand immediate desegregation of all public buses nationwide.**
  - D. Marched for voting rights; Bloody Sunday exposed brutality; contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.**
- 10. An activist known as the 'mother of the freedom movement' whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.**
- A. Ella Baker**
  - B. Rosa Parks**
  - C. Jo Ann Robinson**
  - D. Claudette Colvin**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which organization is abbreviated SNCC and was formed by students?**

- A. Congress of Racial Equality**
- B. Southern Christian Leadership Conference**
- C. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee**
- D. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

SNCC stands for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a group created by students during the early 1960s civil rights movement. It grew out of student-led sit-ins and activism, with organizers like Ella Baker helping mobilize young people to take action in a nonviolent, coordinated way. The aim was to coordinate student efforts across the South to desegregate and push for voting rights, empowering students to organize, plan, and carry out protests and demonstrations. Other organizations listed are different in origin and focus. The Congress of Racial Equality, or CORE, began in the 1940s as a mixed-race group using nonviolent tactics but not formed by students. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, or SCLC, was church-based and led by ministers, notably MLK Jr. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP, is an older organization that focused on legal challenges to segregation and civil rights reform. The distinct student-led nature of SNCC is what sets it apart.

**2. Beyond the South, the Civil Rights Movement led to greater enforcement of equal rights in which areas?**

- A. Housing, schools, and public services.**
- B. Military bases and border control.**
- C. Agricultural policy and farming subsidies.**
- D. International trade and tariffs.**

The movement pushed the federal government to enforce equal rights nationwide, not just in the South, especially in housing, schools, and access to public services. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 barred discrimination in public accommodations and in employment, so places like hotels, restaurants, and theaters across the country had to treat people of all races alike and allowed everyone equal access to these services. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 extended these protections to where people live, outlawing discriminatory selling, rental practices, and housing advertisements. Courts and federal agencies also pressed for desegregation in schools beyond the Southern states, using federal enforcement and funding conditions to promote integration. These areas—housing, education, and public services—were the main domains where nationwide enforcement of equal rights expanded in this period.

**3. Which organization was designed to help African-Americans win better housing, jobs, and education as well as defend civil rights?**

- A. ACLU
- B. NAACP**
- C. SCLC
- D. CORE

The organization described is the NAACP. Founded in 1909, its mission centers on advancing justice for African-Americans through legal challenges, lobbying, and public education to secure equal access to housing, jobs, and education and to defend civil rights. This emphasis on using the courts and policy work to dismantle discrimination in everyday opportunities matches the description precisely. The other groups have important roles in the movement but focus on broader civil liberties (ACLU) or on nonviolent protest and direct action (SCLC, CORE), rather than a sustained legal-defense approach aimed specifically at improving housing, employment, and education opportunities.

**4. What were the objectives and outcomes of the Birmingham Campaign of 1963?**

- A. To desegregate public facilities and improve equal access; faced violent police response but drew federal attention and prompted policy changes.
- B. To desegregate only schools and avoid federal involvement.
- C. To desegregate public facilities and improve equal access; drew federal attention but did not prompt policy changes.**
- D. To protest quietly and achieve desegregation without any police clashes.

The key idea is that the Birmingham Campaign used nonviolent direct action to push for desegregation of public facilities and equal access, while also drawing intense federal attention that helped push for concrete changes in policy and enforcement. Protesters targeted downtown public accommodations—stores, lunch counters, restrooms, and other facilities that were still segregated—to show that segregation harmed everyday life and violated principles of equal rights. The campaign faced brutal, televised resistance from city authorities, especially violence from police, which became a national focal point and intensified pressure on the federal government to act. That pressure did not stay at the level of public opinion; it translated into federal intervention and, ultimately, policy changes. The campaign helped catalyze the push for federal civil rights legislation, contributing to momentum toward landmark actions like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related enforcement efforts. So the best description is that the campaign aimed to desegregate public facilities and expand equal access, while drawing federal attention and prompting policy changes—making that outcome more comprehensive than simply drawing attention or achieving desegregation without federal action.

**5. Ella Baker is known for mentoring many young activists and helping form which organization?**

- A. SNCC**
- B. CORE**
- C. SCLC**
- D. NAACP**

Ella Baker's approach centers on empowering people at the grassroots and letting those closest to the issue lead the work. She mentored a generation of young activists and stressed that leadership should come from ordinary people who organize together, not from a single heroic figure or from above. This mindset helped bring about the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a student-led civil rights organization established in 1960. Baker encouraged students who had organized sit-ins and other actions to create their own group with a focus on democratic participation, decentralized leadership, and hands-on, local action. The idea was that students would govern their efforts and sustain momentum through their own networks, training, and organizing. Other groups—like CORE, SCLC, and the NAACP—were more traditional in structure or strategy, often led by a core leadership or focused on legal challenges. SNCC's emphasis on youth leadership and grassroots, participatory organizing reflects Baker's influence and set it apart as the movement's student-driven arm.

**6. The 24th Amendment is associated with which period of U.S. history?**

- A. The Great Society**
- B. The Progressive Era**
- C. Civil Rights Movement**
- D. The Gilded Age**

The main idea here is how voting rights were protected by constitutional change during the Civil Rights Movement. The 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964, bans poll taxes in federal elections. Poll taxes had been used to suppress African American turnout, so removing that barrier directly supported the movement's push for equal access to the ballot. While broader reforms like the Voting Rights Act would come a year later and the Great Society era pursued many programs, the 24th Amendment is best understood as part of the Civil Rights Movement's efforts to secure voting rights and dismantle Jim Crow obstacles. The other periods—Gilded Age and Progressive Era—occurred much earlier and aren't tied to this specific constitutional guarantee, making the Civil Rights Movement the fitting association.

**7. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed to eliminate discriminatory voting practices by banning literacy tests and providing what kind of oversight?**

- A. Federal oversight and enforcement**
- B. Local polling place transparency only**
- C. No enforcement provisions**
- D. A nationwide literacy exam**

The key idea here is that the Voting Rights Act strengthened protection by adding federal oversight and enforcement to ensure that states and localities could not undermine voting rights. By banning literacy tests, the act also gave the federal government a mechanism to intervene when voting rules or practices were changed in ways that could disenfranchise voters. This oversight was carried out through mechanisms like federal review and preclearance, where certain jurisdictions had to obtain federal approval before changing voting laws, and through active enforcement by the Department of Justice and federal courts. In short, the act empowers the federal government to monitor, approve or block changes, and take action to uphold equal access to the ballot. That's why federal oversight and enforcement is the best fit. Local transparency alone wouldn't stop discriminatory changes, there would still be no guaranteed enforcement, and a nationwide literacy exam would contradict the purpose of protecting voting rights.

**8. President who ordered the integration of the military in 1948.**

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower**
- B. Harry Truman**
- C. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- D. John F. Kennedy**

This question tests knowledge of who began desegregating the U.S. military through a formal policy. Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 in 1948, directing that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin, and creating a plan to implement this policy. This move came in the wake of World War II, when Black service members proved their contributions and civil rights advocates pressed for change, making the military desegregation a landmark step in the broader civil rights movement. The other presidents listed didn't start this policy—Roosevelt's era ended before such an order could take effect, Eisenhower's notable civil rights actions occurred in other contexts, and Kennedy's presidency began later. So, Truman is the correct answer.

**9. What happened during the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965, and what was their significance?**

- A. Protested school desegregation with a sit-in.**
- B. Campaigned for fair housing across Alabama.**
- C. Marched to demand immediate desegregation of all public buses nationwide.**

**D. Marched for voting rights; Bloody Sunday exposed brutality; contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.**

These marches show how visible, nonviolent protest can push the federal government to protect voting rights. In 1965, protesters marched from Selma to Montgomery to demand that Black citizens be able to exercise their right to vote. The first march, often called Bloody Sunday, ended in brutal police violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the televised images of the assault shocked the nation. That outcry helped accelerate national support for stronger protections, culminating in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which banned racial discrimination in voting and established powerful federal oversight to prevent discriminatory practices at the state and local level. The other descriptions describe issues like school desegregation, fair housing, or nationwide bus desegregation campaigns, which are not what these events centered on. So this option best captures the purpose, the violence broadcast on that day, and the lasting legislative impact.

**10. An activist known as the 'mother of the freedom movement' whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.**

- A. Ella Baker**
- B. Rosa Parks**
- C. Jo Ann Robinson**
- D. Claudette Colvin**

The key idea is identifying the act and person whose refusal to yield a bus seat became the catalyst for a mass civil rights protest. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus on December 1, 1955. Her arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a sustained, nonviolent protest organized by local leaders and the Montgomery Improvement Association. The boycott showed that a community could mobilize, coordinate, and sustain economic pressure to challenge segregation, and it helped propel the broader civil rights movement onto a national stage, with Rosa Parks becoming a powerful symbol of resistance. While Claudette Colvin also resisted segregation earlier, Parks's act occurred at a moment that allowed a wider movement to respond and gain momentum.

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

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

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