

CLEP US HISTORY II PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 mission of the Salvation Army?**
 - A. Providing education exclusively to children
 - B. Delivering food, shelter, and employment to families
 - C. Establishing orphanages
 - D. Conducting military-style training camps
- 2. What strategy did FDR and Churchill agree upon for World War II?**
 - A. To focus on defeating Japan first
 - B. To seek negotiations with Germany
 - C. To defeat Germany first before addressing Japan
 - D. To establish peace treaties with all nations involved
- 3. Which speech is William Jennings Bryan famous for that criticized the gold standard?**
 - A. The Spirit of the Age
 - B. The Cross of Gold speech
 - C. The Declaration of Rights
 - D. The Grapes of Wrath
- 4. What was the primary purpose of the Peace Corps when it was established in 1961?**
 - A. To support anti-colonial movements in Africa
 - B. To provide military aid to Latin America
 - C. To be a model of liberal anticommunism in third world countries
 - D. To establish economic partnerships with Eastern Europe
- 5. Who led the Women's Christian Temperance Union after the Civil War?**
 - A. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 - B. Theodore Roosevelt
 - C. William H. Taft
 - D. Francis Willard

- 6. What was a significant outcome of the Yalta Conference in 1945?**
- A. Established the United Nations
 - B. Pledged to support communist regimes in Europe
 - C. Agreed on the international monetary system
 - D. Decided to split Germany into zones of occupation
- 7. Who was executed for leaking atomic secrets to the Soviets?**
- A. John Foster Dulles
 - B. Rosenbergs
 - C. Eugene V. Debs
 - D. Guzman
- 8. What was a consequence of the Civil Rights Cases decided by the Supreme Court?**
- A. Strengthening of the Civil Rights Act of 1875
 - B. Nullification of the Fourteenth Amendment
 - C. Limitation of federal protection against private discrimination
 - D. Expansion of voting rights for African Americans
- 9. What was a precursor to the Great Depression characterized by low agricultural prices?**
- A. Stock market crash
 - B. Farm crisis
 - C. Industrial recession
 - D. Mortgage crisis
- 10. What legislative act was challenged and eventually deemed unconstitutional by the court in the case Schechter v. U.S.?**
- A. NRA (National Recovery Administration)
 - B. New Deal Programs
 - C. Wagner Act
 - D. Civilian Conservation Corps

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the mission of the Salvation Army?

- A. Providing education exclusively to children
- B. Delivering food, shelter, and employment to families**
- C. Establishing orphanages
- D. Conducting military-style training camps

The Salvation Army was established in 1865 with the mission of providing practical assistance to those in need, which encompasses delivering food, shelter, and employment to families. Recognized as a charitable organization, the Salvation Army focuses on a holistic approach to aid, addressing both immediate physical needs and long-term social issues. Their services include various initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, disaster relief, and rehabilitation programs, all geared towards supporting families and communities in crisis. This focus on comprehensive support makes the option of delivering essential resources and job opportunities the core aspect of their mission. The other options do not accurately reflect the main focus of the Salvation Army. While education and orphanages may be a secondary part of their broader mission, they are not the primary objectives. Similarly, conducting military-style training camps is not aligned with the organization's humanitarian efforts and community support initiatives. Instead, the Salvation Army emphasizes social services and charity as the foundation of its work.

2. What strategy did FDR and Churchill agree upon for World War II?

- A. To focus on defeating Japan first
- B. To seek negotiations with Germany
- C. To defeat Germany first before addressing Japan**
- D. To establish peace treaties with all nations involved

The strategy that Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) and Winston Churchill agreed upon during World War II was to prioritize defeating Germany first before addressing the situation with Japan. This decision stemmed from the belief that Germany posed a greater threat to Allied interests in Europe and was essential for maintaining stability on that continent. Both leaders recognized that a well-coordinated effort against Germany was crucial to ensure that the Axis powers could not regain momentum or consolidate their control in Europe, which would subsequently assist in ultimately confronting Japan in the Pacific. This "Germany First" strategy was formalized during several meetings between the two leaders, including the Arcadia Conference in December 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. By focusing on Germany and the European theater, the Allies aimed to secure victory in Europe, which would then allow them to shift more attention and resources to the fight against Japan in the Pacific, thus ensuring a more effective and concentrated war effort. This strategy shaped the early stages of Allied military operations throughout the war.

3. Which speech is William Jennings Bryan famous for that criticized the gold standard?

- A. The Spirit of the Age
- B. The Cross of Gold speech**
- C. The Declaration of Rights
- D. The Grapes of Wrath

William Jennings Bryan is most famous for his "Cross of Gold" speech, delivered at the Democratic National Convention in 1896. This speech passionately advocated for the free coinage of silver and criticized the gold standard, which he argued was harming farmers and the working class by limiting the money supply and causing deflation. Bryan framed the issue in moral and religious terms, declaring that the gold standard represented an undue burden on the masses, while silver coinage would aid ordinary people by increasing the amount of money in circulation. This speech was pivotal in establishing Bryan as a leading figure in the Populist movement and the Democratic Party during that period. It also highlighted the deep economic divides in American society at the time, as the debate over the gold standard versus bimetallism was central to the political discourse of the late 19th century. Bryan's oratory was effective in captivating his audience and remains one of the most memorable moments in American political history.

4. What was the primary purpose of the Peace Corps when it was established in 1961?

- A. To support anti-colonial movements in Africa
- B. To provide military aid to Latin America
- C. To be a model of liberal anticommunism in third world countries**
- D. To establish economic partnerships with Eastern Europe

The primary purpose of the Peace Corps, when established in 1961, was to promote liberal anticommunism in developing countries, often referred to as "third world" nations. This initiative was part of a broader strategy during the Cold War, in which the United States sought to counter the influence of communism by fostering good will and development in nations that could potentially fall under Soviet influence. The Peace Corps aimed to send American volunteers to assist in various sectors such as education, health, and agriculture, thereby improving living standards and promoting democratic values. By doing so, the U.S. hoped to create an image of American generosity and support for development, in contrast to Soviet models that often involved coercive political tactics. The mission aligned with the belief that by addressing the needs of these countries through positive engagement, it would diminish the appeal of communism as an alternative. This approach formed a key component of U.S. foreign policy during this era, distinguishing it from other activities focused solely on military or economic dominance. The initiatives undertaken by the Peace Corps were crucial for implementing a model of engagement that emphasized partnership and support rather than exploitation or direct intervention.

5. Who led the Women's Christian Temperance Union after the Civil War?

- A. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- B. Theodore Roosevelt
- C. William H. Taft
- D. Francis Willard**

Francis Willard is the correct choice as she became the president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in 1879 and played a pivotal role in leading the organization until her death in 1898. Under her leadership, the WCTU expanded significantly, advocating for temperance and women's suffrage, and Willard effectively utilized her public speaking skills and organizational talents to raise awareness about the social issues associated with alcohol consumption. Her emphasis on the moral and social implications of drinking laid the groundwork for broader reform movements during the Progressive Era. Willard's impact on the temperance movement and her ability to galvanize women through the WCTU made her a prominent figure in American social reform, distinguishing her leadership from that of other historical figures connected to this period.

6. What was a significant outcome of the Yalta Conference in 1945?

- A. Established the United Nations**
- B. Pledged to support communist regimes in Europe
- C. Agreed on the international monetary system
- D. Decided to split Germany into zones of occupation

The Yalta Conference in February 1945, attended by leaders from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, resulted in several important decisions concerning the post-war world. One of the key outcomes was the agreement to create the United Nations. This international organization was designed to foster international cooperation, prevent future conflicts, and promote peace and security following the devastation of World War II. The establishment of the United Nations marked a significant step toward organizing international relations and addressing global issues collectively. While the Yalta Conference did address other topics, the formation of the United Nations is notable for its long-lasting impact on global diplomacy and international law, shaping the way countries interact and resolve conflicts to this day. The conference also discussed the situation in Europe, including plans for Germany, but the initiative for the UN was a defining hallmark of the meeting's legacy.

7. Who was executed for leaking atomic secrets to the Soviets?

- A. John Foster Dulles
- B. Rosenbergs**
- C. Eugene V. Debs
- D. Guzman

The Rosenbergs, Julius and Ethel, were executed for their involvement in espionage activities that included leaking atomic secrets to the Soviet Union during the early years of the Cold War. They were charged with conspiring to commit espionage, and their trial in 1951 drew significant public attention and controversy. The evidence presented suggested that they had passed on classified information about the atomic bomb, which aided the Soviet atomic program. Their execution in 1953 marked a significant event in American history, highlighting the intense fears of communist infiltration and espionage during that era. This event remains a pivotal moment in discussions about national security and civil liberties during the Cold War.

8. What was a consequence of the Civil Rights Cases decided by the Supreme Court?

- A. Strengthening of the Civil Rights Act of 1875
- B. Nullification of the Fourteenth Amendment
- C. Limitation of federal protection against private discrimination**
- D. Expansion of voting rights for African Americans

The correct answer highlights a significant outcome of the Civil Rights Cases decided by the Supreme Court in 1883. In these cases, the Court ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which aimed to prohibit racial discrimination in public accommodations, was unconstitutional. This decision reinforced the idea that the federal government could not regulate private discrimination, essentially allowing private businesses to practice discrimination without federal oversight. As a result, this ruling limited the federal protections that individuals, particularly African Americans, had against discrimination by private entities. The Court maintained that the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause applied only to state action and not to actions taken by private individuals or businesses. This interpretation weakened the enforcement mechanisms that could have been employed to protect African Americans from discrimination in the post-Reconstruction era, leading to a prolonged period of racial segregation and inequality. Thus, the consequences were far-reaching, impacting civil rights advancements for many years following the decision.

9. What was a precursor to the Great Depression characterized by low agricultural prices?

- A. Stock market crash
- B. Farm crisis**
- C. Industrial recession
- D. Mortgage crisis

The farm crisis served as a significant precursor to the Great Depression, primarily due to the dramatic decline in agricultural prices that severely impacted farmers' livelihoods. In the years leading up to the Great Depression, many farmers experienced overproduction as they sought to capitalize on the profitable conditions during World War I. However, after the war, demand for agricultural products fell sharply, and prices plummeted. This situation caused widespread financial hardship in rural America, leading to increasing debt among farmers, many of whom could not afford to pay their mortgages or maintain their farms. As farms began to fail, the economic instability in agricultural areas contributed to overall economic decline, setting the stage for the broader economic downturn that characterized the Great Depression. The other options address different aspects of economic distress but do not encapsulate the specific challenges faced by the farming sector that directly aligned with the conditions leading to the Great Depression. The stock market crash was a catalyst for the Great Depression rather than a precursor defined by agricultural struggles. An industrial recession pertains more to manufacturing rather than agriculture. Similarly, the mortgage crisis deals with real estate but does not specifically highlight the unique issues prevalent in farming during the years before the Depression.

10. What legislative act was challenged and eventually deemed unconstitutional by the court in the case Schechter v. U.S.?

A. NRA (National Recovery Administration)

B. New Deal Programs

C. Wagner Act

D. Civilian Conservation Corps

The case Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States (1935) dealt specifically with the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), which created the National Recovery Administration (NRA) as its component. The Supreme Court ruled that the NRA was unconstitutional because it overstepped the bounds of federal power, arguing that it regulated intrastate commerce in a way that was not permissible under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The Court's decision emphasized that the federal government could not intervene in local businesses that did not engage in interstate commerce. The ruling marked a significant moment in the evaluation of New Deal programs, highlighting the limits of federal powers and setting a precedent for the balance of authority between state and federal regulations. While the New Deal Programs, the Wagner Act, and the Civilian Conservation Corps pertain to broader aspects of the social and economic reforms during that era, the specific constitutional challenge in Schechter v. U.S. revolved around the provisions and implications of the NRA within the National Industrial Recovery Act.

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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://clepushistory2.examzify.com>

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

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