

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HISTORY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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	15

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

1. What were Slave Codes?

- A. Laws to protect slave rights
- B. Laws to regulate trade with foreign nations
- C. Laws to control slaves
- D. Laws to abolish slavery

2. The boundary origins of DC include land from which pair of states?

- A. Maryland and Virginia
- B. Maryland and Delaware
- C. Virginia and Pennsylvania
- D. Delaware and Maryland

3. The Nacotchtanke tribe spread along which river?

- A. Potomac River
- B. Rappahannock River
- C. Susquehanna River
- D. Anacostia River

4. What is a restrictive covenant?

- A. A rental agreement clause
- B. A zoning ordinance
- C. A legally binding condition attached to land or property that limits what the owner can do with it
- D. A mortgage clause

5. Which 1947 case attempted to integrate eleven Black students and was dismissed?

- A. Brown v. Board of Education
- B. Boiling v. Sharpe
- C. Plessy v. Ferguson
- D. Korematsu v United States

- 6. General Oliver O. Howard served as the third president of which university?**
- A. Harvard University
 - B. Howard University
 - C. Yale University
 - D. Princeton University
- 7. The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in which year?**
- A. 1922
 - B. 1933
 - C. 1899
 - D. 1965
- 8. Which area is commonly referred to as Capitol Hill?**
- A. White House District
 - B. Capitol Hill
 - C. Georgetown
 - D. Mount Vernon
- 9. Nacostins/Anacostins are**
- A. The two subgroups of the Nacotchtanke Tribe in DC
 - B. A pair of colonial settlements along the Potomac
 - C. A religious sect among early settlers
 - D. A method of water irrigation
- 10. Which building anchors the eastern end of the National Mall?**
- A. The White House
 - B. The U.S. Capitol
 - C. The Lincoln Memorial
 - D. The Jefferson Memorial

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What were Slave Codes?

- A. Laws to protect slave rights
- B. Laws to regulate trade with foreign nations
- C. Laws to control slaves
- D. Laws to abolish slavery

Slave Codes were laws enacted to define the status of enslaved people and give slaveholders broad, legal power over their lives. They controlled everyday activities and rights—who enslaved people could marry, whether they could learn to read or write, where they could travel, and how they could gather or move about. They also established harsh punishments for disobedience or attempts to escape. The underlying purpose was clear: to keep enslaved people under tight supervision and to protect the economic system that relied on unpaid labor. Although each colony had its own version, the unifying goal across the codes was control and suppression, not rights for enslaved people or steps toward abolition. In the District of Columbia, these codes reflected broader regional practices, showing how slavery continued to be regulated by law even in the nation's capital.

2. The boundary origins of DC include land from which pair of states?

- A. Maryland and Virginia
- B. Maryland and Delaware
- C. Virginia and Pennsylvania
- D. Delaware and Maryland

The boundary origins come from land ceded by two states along the Potomac to create a federal district. In 1790, Maryland and Virginia each ceded territory for the capital's location, with the portion north of the Potomac from Maryland and the portion south from Virginia. Although Virginia's portion was later retroceded in 1847, the original origin of the land for the district involves Maryland and Virginia. The other states listed did not contribute land for the capital.

3. The Nacotchtanke tribe spread along which river?

- A. Potomac River
- B. Rappahannock River
- C. Susquehanna River
- D. Anacostia River

The Nacotchtanke, also called the Anacostians, lived along the Anacostia River in the area that is now Washington, D.C. Their name and identity are tied to this river, which flows through the city and into the Potomac. Although the Potomac is the major river nearby, the tribe's historical homeland is specifically the Anacostia, making it the best answer. The other rivers listed are not the traditional homeland of the Nacotchtanke.

4. What is a restrictive covenant?

- A. A rental agreement clause
- B. A zoning ordinance
- C. A legally binding condition attached to land or property that limits what the owner can do with it**
- D. A mortgage clause

A restrictive covenant is a legally binding condition attached to land or property that limits what the owner can do with it. It's a private agreement that runs with the land, so it binds current and future owners until it's released or expires. These covenants are created in the deed or a separate agreement and are enforced by the person or group that benefits from them, often a developer or neighboring property owners. They're commonly used to maintain neighborhood character, restricting things like the type of buildings, allowed uses, or specific features such as height or setbacks. Zoning ordinances are government rules that apply broadly to a district and are enforced by the city, not private contracts tied to a single parcel. A mortgage clause comes from a loan agreement and governs the lender–borrower relationship and financing remedies, not land-use restrictions. So the correct idea is a private, property-bound restriction that travels with the land and limits what the owner may do.

5. Which 1947 case attempted to integrate eleven Black students and was dismissed?

- A. Brown v. Board of Education
- B. Bolling v. Sharpe**
- C. Plessy v. Ferguson
- D. Korematsu v United States

Desegregation of public schools and how the legal system extended equal protection to the capital region is the idea being tested. In this DC-area case, eleven Black students sought to enroll in an all-white public school, but their bid was dismissed in the lower court. The situation highlighted that segregation in Washington, D.C. faced a different route than state segregation, because the 14th Amendment's protections don't apply there in the same way. The remedy came through *Bolling v. Sharpe*, a companion to *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Supreme Court treated the DC segregation issue under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, concluding that separate educational facilities could not be maintained in the nation's capital, just as *Brown* held for states. This case and *Brown* together helped establish the broader desegregation framework for public schools nationwide. The other options involve different issues or contexts (earlier segregation principles, internment during World War II, or a later 1954 decision), which is why *Bolling v. Sharpe* is the one that fits the description.

6. General Oliver O. Howard served as the third president of which university?

- A. Harvard University
- B. Howard University**
- C. Yale University
- D. Princeton University

General Oliver Otis Howard was a Union Army general who later played a pivotal role in Reconstruction-era education for freedpeople. He is the namesake of Howard University, the historically Black university in Washington, DC, and he served as its third president, guiding the school's early development and mission. The other universities listed—Harvard, Yale, and Princeton—were not led by him, and there is no direct connection between them and his presidency. The clear link is that Howard University is named for him and he led it as its third president.

7. The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in which year?

A. 1922

B. 1933

C. 1899

D. 1965

The moment a national monument is officially opened to the public is its dedication, and for the Lincoln Memorial that moment happened in 1922. The building's groundwork began with a cornerstone laid on Lincoln's birthday in 1914, and the statue of Lincoln inside was completed after years of work, with the formal dedication ceremony held on May 30, 1922. That year is the recognized opening to the nation and is the only one among the options that fits the event. The other dates refer to other moments in history and do not correspond to the memorial's dedication.

8. Which area is commonly referred to as Capitol Hill?

A. White House District

B. Capitol Hill

C. Georgetown

D. Mount Vernon

Capitol Hill is the name used for the Washington, DC, neighborhood that surrounds the U.S. Capitol building. In everyday use, when people say Capitol Hill, they're referring to that specific area east of the National Mall where Congress and related government offices are located. The other places are distinct neighborhoods or areas: the White House area is centered around the executive residence, Georgetown is a separate historic district to the northwest, and Mount Vernon (Square) is a different downtown area. Therefore, the area commonly referred to as Capitol Hill is the Capitol Hill neighborhood itself.

9. Nacostins/Anacostins are

A. The two subgroups of the Nacotchtanke Tribe in DC

B. A pair of colonial settlements along the Potomac

C. A religious sect among early settlers

D. A method of water irrigation

The names Nacostins and Anacostins refer to internal divisions within the Native American group that lived around the Anacostia and Potomac areas in what is now Washington, DC. The Nacotchtanke (often called the Anacostians in colonial records) were made up of smaller bands or subgroups, and in historical sources these two subgroups are named as Nacostins and Anacostins. This shows tribal organization in the DC region—different bands within the same people—rather than a pair of settlements, a religious sect, or a method of irrigation. So the best answer identifies these as subgroups of the Nacotchtanke Tribe.

10. Which building anchors the eastern end of the National Mall?

- A. The White House
- B. The U.S. Capitol**
- C. The Lincoln Memorial
- D. The Jefferson Memorial

Think about how Washington, D.C.'s National Mall is laid out as a ceremonial axis. It runs from east to west, with the Capitol building marking the eastern starting point and the Lincoln Memorial at the western end. The Capitol anchors that end because the Mall's design deliberately centers on a sightline from the Capitol toward the monuments at the far end. The White House sits nearby to the north of the Mall, the Lincoln Memorial is at the far western end, and the Jefferson Memorial sits off to the Tidal Basin rather than at an end. So the building at the eastern anchor is the U.S. Capitol.

SAMPLE

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://dchistory.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE