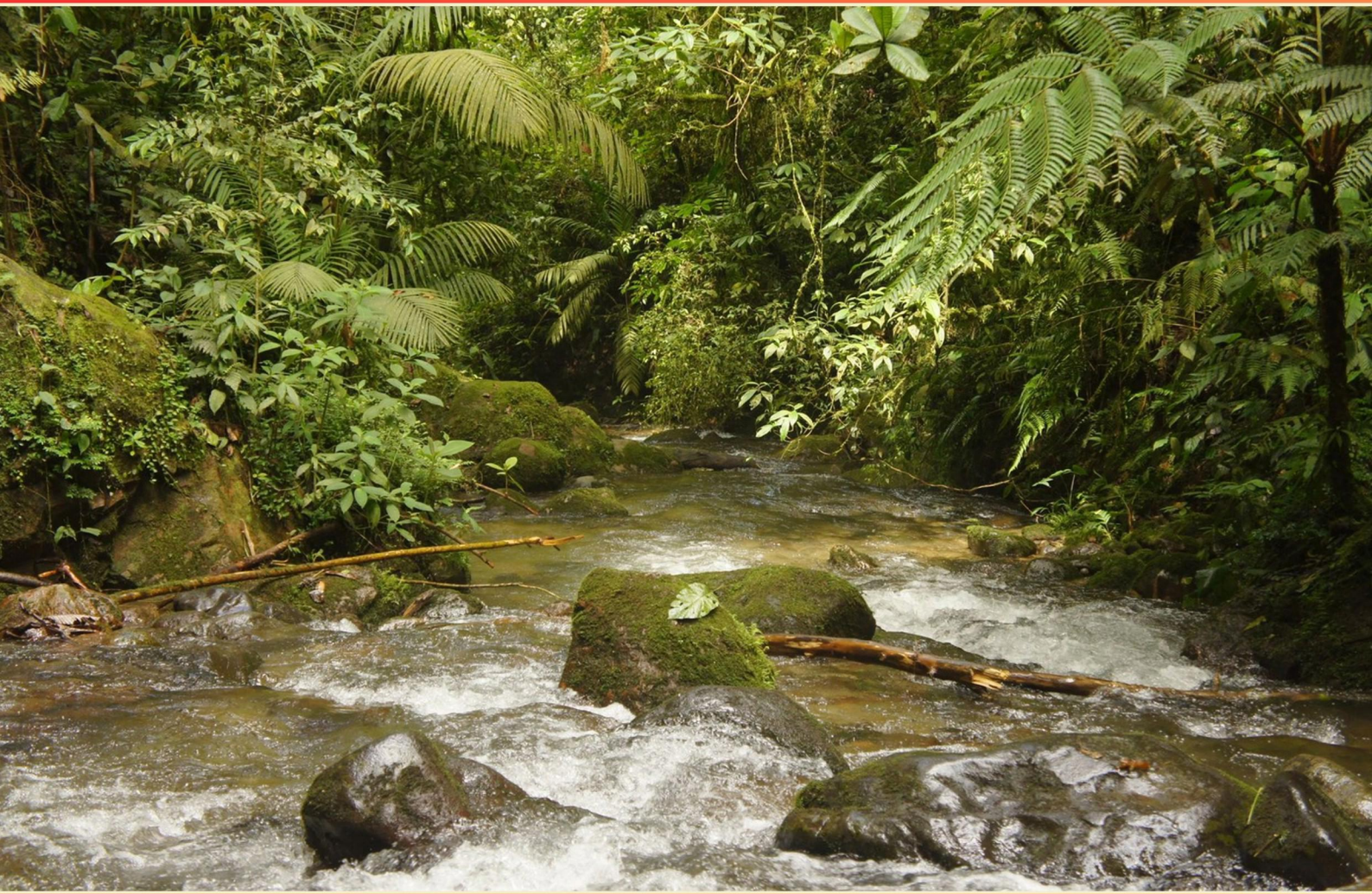


DSST HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://dssthistoryofvietnamwar.examzify.com>



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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	15

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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. In what year did the Geneva Conference take place, at which the Viet Minh participated?**
 - A. 1950
 - B. 1954
 - C. 1956
 - D. 1958
- 2. The pacification policy, including Strategic Hamlets, was intended to do which of the following?**
 - A. Build protective villages to separate peasants from VC influence
 - B. Strengthen guerrilla factions in rural areas
 - C. Increase urban military deployments
 - D. Shift focus to aerial bombardment in the countryside
- 3. What did the War Powers Act of 1973 require?**
 - A. A requirement for the President to consult Congress and obtain authorization for extended military action.
 - B. The President may deploy troops indefinitely without Congress.
 - C. Congress must approve all military actions within 24 hours.
 - D. The Supreme Court must approve military actions.
- 4. The Viet Cong was a communist-led army and guerrilla force in South Vietnam also known as what?**
 - A. Viet Cong
 - B. National Liberation Front
 - C. South Vietnamese Army
 - D. Hmong Free Fighters
- 5. What occurred at My Lai in 1968?**
 - A. A mass killing of hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese civilians by U.S. troops
 - B. A major victory for U.S. forces
 - C. A peaceful protest in the village
 - D. A humanitarian aid operation

- 6. Which international agreement partitioned Vietnam at the 17th parallel and called for nationwide elections in 1956?**
- A. Paris Peace Accords
 - B. Geneva Accords of 1954
 - C. Potsdam Agreement
 - D. Yalta Conference
- 7. The term "Strategic Hamlets" is associated with which policy approach in rural Vietnam?**
- A. Detente
 - B. Guerrilla warfare
 - C. Pacification
 - D. Vietnamization
- 8. Which journalist's reporting intensified skepticism about the war after Tet?**
- A. Dan Rather
 - B. Walter Cronkite
 - C. Peter Arnett
 - D. Tom Brokaw
- 9. Which statement most accurately describes the ARVN's role during the war?**
- A. It was the South Vietnamese army allied with the United States
 - B. It was the North Vietnamese regular army
 - C. It was the Viet Cong's political wing
 - D. It was a U.S. civilian security force
- 10. Who were the Viet Cong, and how did they relate to the North Vietnamese Army?**
- A. The Viet Cong were American allies; the North Vietnamese Army were regular South Vietnamese forces.
 - B. The Viet Cong were South Vietnamese communist guerrillas; the North Vietnamese Army were the regular North Vietnamese forces.
 - C. The Viet Cong were the regular North Vietnamese forces; the North Vietnamese Army were South Vietnamese guerrillas.
 - D. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army were the same organization.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In what year did the Geneva Conference take place, at which the Viet Minh participated?

- A. 1950
- B. 1954**
- C. 1956
- D. 1958

Timing of the Geneva Conference and Viet Minh participation is the focus. After the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, negotiations among France, the Viet Minh, and other powers were held in Geneva. The conference in 1954 produced the Geneva Accords, establishing a ceasefire, the withdrawal of French forces, and a temporary division of Vietnam at the 17th parallel with elections planned for reunification. That makes 1954 the correct year for when the Viet Minh took part in the Geneva Conference. The other years don't fit the sequence: 1950 comes before the decisive end of the war, while 1956 and 1958 occur after the Geneva proceedings and its agreements.

2. The pacification policy, including Strategic Hamlets, was intended to do which of the following?

- A. Build protective villages to separate peasants from VC influence**
- B. Strengthen guerrilla factions in rural areas
- C. Increase urban military deployments
- D. Shift focus to aerial bombardment in the countryside

Pacification programs were about winning the support of rural people by keeping them safe and improving their lives, not by increasing fighting. The Strategic Hamlet idea tried to move villagers into fortified, government-protected settlements where security forces could shield them from Viet Cong coercion and influence while development and local governance were built up. By keeping peasants away from VC influence, the policy aimed to deny the insurgents their rural base and reduce their recruitment and support networks. That focus on protecting and winning the loyalty of the countryside is why building protective villages to separate peasants from VC influence is the best description of the policy. The other options don't fit because the plan wasn't about strengthening guerrilla factions, boosting urban deployments, or turning more toward aerial bombardment; it centered on securing rural areas and gaining peasant support.

3. What did the War Powers Act of 1973 require?

- A. A requirement for the President to consult Congress and obtain authorization for extended military action.**
- B. The President may deploy troops indefinitely without Congress.
- C. Congress must approve all military actions within 24 hours.
- D. The Supreme Court must approve military actions.

The main idea here is congressional oversight over war-making. The War Powers Act was designed to reassert Congress's role by requiring the President to involve Congress in decisions to commit U.S. armed forces to hostilities beyond a brief initial period. It sets up a process: the President must consult with Congress before introducing forces and must report to Congress within 48 hours of deployment. If Congress does not authorize the action or declare war, the President is limited to 60 days of military action, with a 30-day withdrawal period to pull troops out. These provisions are meant to ensure that extended military actions have legislative backing rather than being unchecked executive power. Options that suggest indefinite deployment without Congress, or that bank on immediate court approval, don't fit the Act's framework.

4. The Viet Cong was a communist-led army and guerrilla force in South Vietnam also known as what?

- A. Viet Cong
- B. National Liberation Front**
- C. South Vietnamese Army
- D. Hmong Free Fighters

The main idea is that the Viet Cong operated as the military arm of a broader political coalition. That coalition, formed in 1960, was called the National Liberation Front. The Viet Cong carried out guerrilla warfare and other insurgent actions to advance the NLF's aim of ending the South Vietnamese government and unifying Vietnam under a communist system, with support from North Vietnam. The other groups listed aren't correct: the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) was the non-communist state army, and the Hmong Free-Fighters were a separate ethnic-military unit allied with the U.S. The Viet Cong name is the common shorthand for the insurgents, but their formal umbrella organization was the National Liberation Front.

5. What occurred at My Lai in 1968?

- A. A mass killing of hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese civilians by U.S. troops**
- B. A major victory for U.S. forces
- C. A peaceful protest in the village
- D. A humanitarian aid operation

The question tests your understanding of the My Lai incident as a mass killing of civilians by U.S. troops during the Vietnam War. In March 1968, in the village of My Lai in Quảng Ngãi Province, a company of American soldiers killed hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese civilians, including women and children. This was not a battle against armed fighters; it was a brutal massacre that later became a symbol of wartime atrocity and raised serious questions about military conduct and accountability. The event was initially concealed by some in the chain of command and only came to light through investigative reporting and official inquiries, fueling outrage at home and spurring military trials. The most widely cited consequence was the perception of civilian harm as a central moral issue of the war, influencing public opinion and policy discussions about U.S. conduct in Vietnam.

6. Which international agreement partitioned Vietnam at the 17th parallel and called for nationwide elections in 1956?

- A. Paris Peace Accords
- B. Geneva Accords of 1954**
- C. Potsdam Agreement
- D. Yalta Conference

This question tests knowledge of the Geneva Accords of 1954. After the First Indochina War, the Geneva conference produced agreements that created a temporary division of Vietnam along the 17th parallel and called for nationwide elections in 1956 to reunify the country. The ceasefire and election plan were meant to pave a path to self-determination and peaceful unification, but the elections were never held, and Vietnam remained divided, setting the stage for deeper conflict. The other options refer to different events: the Paris Peace Accords were signed in 1973 to end U.S. involvement in Vietnam; the Potsdam and Yalta conferences were WWII meetings about postwar Europe.

7. The term "Strategic Hamlets" is associated with which policy approach in rural Vietnam?

- A. Detente
- B. Guerrilla warfare
- C. Pacification**
- D. Vietnamization

Pacification focuses on securing rural areas, protecting villagers from insurgent influence, and winning their support to undermine the enemy's base of support. The Strategic Hamlet Program was a central part of this effort in rural Vietnam: peasants were relocated into fortified villages or "hamlets" under government protection, with local security forces and civil administration present to deter Viet Cong influence and provide services. The idea was that by separating villagers from the insurgents and demonstrating government legitimacy and security, the population would turn away from the Viet Cong and reduce their ability to operate in the countryside. This isn't detente, which is about easing Cold War tensions with other powers; it isn't guerrilla warfare, which describes the Viet Cong's fighting methods; and it isn't Vietnamization, which aimed to shift combat duties to South Vietnamese forces and reduce U.S. military involvement. The Strategic Hamlet approach embodies pacification by trying to win the loyalty of rural communities through security and governance.

8. Which journalist's reporting intensified skepticism about the war after Tet?

- A. Dan Rather
- B. Walter Cronkite**
- C. Peter Arnett
- D. Tom Brokaw

The main idea tested is how a trusted media voice can shape public opinion about a war. Walter Cronkite, as the anchor of CBS Evening News, used his platform to frame the Vietnam War after the Tet Offensive as likely unwinnable and in need of negotiations rather than escalation. His on-the-ground impressions and sober assessment carried immense credibility with a national audience, turning late-1960s skepticism about U.S. policy into a broader public demand for a change in strategy. The Tet Offensive had already exposed a gap between optimistic government portrayals and the reality on the ground; Cronkite's authoritative verdict helped cement that credibility gap in the minds of many Americans, making his reporting the moment that intensified scepticism about continuing the war.

9. Which statement most accurately describes the ARVN's role during the war?

- A. It was the South Vietnamese army allied with the United States**
- B. It was the North Vietnamese regular army
- C. It was the Viet Cong's political wing
- D. It was a U.S. civilian security force

ARVN stands for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the military force of South Vietnam. It was the South Vietnamese army and fought alongside the United States against the communist North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong throughout the war. This alliance—South Vietnam's regular army working with U.S. support—defines its role in the conflict. The other descriptions mix up who ARVN was or who they fought. The North Vietnamese regular army is a separate force from the North, the enemy ARVN opposed. The Viet Cong's political wing refers to the insurgent organization in the South, not the South Vietnamese army itself. A U.S. civilian security force would describe a civilian or paramilitary entity, not the national army of South Vietnam.

10. Who were the Viet Cong, and how did they relate to the North Vietnamese Army?

- A. The Viet Cong were American allies; the North Vietnamese Army were regular South Vietnamese forces.
- B. The Viet Cong were South Vietnamese communist guerrillas; the North Vietnamese Army were the regular North Vietnamese forces.
- C. The Viet Cong were the regular North Vietnamese forces; the North Vietnamese Army were South Vietnamese guerrillas.
- D. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army were the same organization.

The main idea here is that the Viet Cong were a South Vietnamese communist guerrilla movement, while the North Vietnamese Army was the regular military force of North Vietnam. The Viet Cong operated inside South Vietnam, conducting guerrilla warfare and trying to undermine the Saigon government from within, with support and direction from Hanoi. They were not foreign allies with the same status as regular South Vietnamese troops. The North Vietnamese Army, by contrast, was the formal, conventional army of the North, moving troops and equipment into the South to strengthen the communist effort. In practice, the two worked closely, with the Viet Cong handling insurgent actions in the countryside and cities and the North Vietnamese Army providing trained troops, larger-scale operations, and logistics. They remained distinct organizations but coordinated as part of a unified campaign against the South Vietnamese government and American forces.

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://dssthistoryofvietnamwar.examzify.com>

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

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