

Dual Enrollment US History 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. Where did Columbus land on his voyage?**
 - A. The Canary Islands**
 - B. The Bahamas**
 - C. Hispaniola**
 - D. Jamaica**

- 2. What contributions did Inca culture make?**
 - A. Built large pyramids and temples.**
 - B. They domesticated horses and cattle.**
 - C. Made beautiful textiles, domesticated llamas and alpacas, and used coca plant.**
 - D. Developed a writing system similar to cuneiform.**

- 3. Which figure served as conservative, pro-English lieutenant governor and acting governor of Massachusetts, and was smeared by Adams?**
 - A. Francis Bernard**
 - B. Sam Adams**
 - C. Thomas Hutchinson**
 - D. George Washington**

- 4. Who were the first people to settle the Americas?**
 - A. Farmers**
 - B. Hunter-gatherers**
 - C. Traders**
 - D. Explorers**

- 5. Which term refers to the Aztec people?**
 - A. Aztec**
 - B. Maya**
 - C. Olmec**
 - D. Inca**

- 6. What is a key difference between indentured servitude and chattel slavery?**
- A. Indentured servitude was longer in duration than slavery.**
 - B. Indentured servitude is for a fixed term; chattel slaves are permanent property.**
 - C. Slaves could gain freedom through land ownership; indentured servants could not.**
 - D. Indentured servants could vote; slaves could not.**
- 7. Who reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, opening sea route to Asia?**
- A. Vasco da Gama**
 - B. Bartholomew Dias**
 - C. Christopher Columbus**
 - D. Ferdinand Magellan**
- 8. What was the Reconquista?**
- A. The driving out of Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula**
 - B. The discovery of the Americas**
 - C. The unification of the French kingdoms**
 - D. The rise of the Ottoman Empire**
- 9. To what extent did terrain influence Africa's cultural diversity during medieval times?**
- A. Differing terrain**
 - B. Distinct climates across regions**
 - C. A single ancient language family**
 - D. Uniform political borders**
- 10. Which colony was established in 1628 after Puritans sought a charter by presenting a joint stock venture to Charles I?**
- A. Plymouth**
 - B. Massachusetts Bay Colony**
 - C. Rhode Island**
 - D. Connecticut**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where did Columbus land on his voyage?

- A. The Canary Islands
- B. The Bahamas**
- C. Hispaniola
- D. Jamaica

The main idea here is recalling where Columbus first reached land in the Americas on his 1492 voyage. He set sail from the Canary Islands and crossed the Atlantic in search of a westward route to Asia. The first land he sighted in the New World was in the Bahamas, on an island he would name San Salvador. The Canary Islands were simply the starting point of the voyage, not a landfall. He did later encounter other Caribbean lands such as Hispaniola, and Jamaica was reached on later legs or trips, but the initial landfall is the Bahamas.

2. What contributions did Inca culture make?

- A. Built large pyramids and temples.
- B. They domesticated horses and cattle.
- C. Made beautiful textiles, domesticated llamas and alpacas, and used coca plant.**
- D. Developed a writing system similar to cuneiform.

Inca culture is best understood through three enduring contributions: sophisticated textiles, the domestication of llamas and alpacas, and the use of coca leaves. The weaving tradition produced textiles renowned for their beauty, complexity, and usefulness in trade and social hierarchy across the empire. Llamas and alpacas provided crucial labor, wool, meat, and means of transport in the rugged Andean terrain, shaping daily life and the economy. Coca leaves held cultural significance and practical value, offering energy and medicinal properties at high altitudes and featuring in ceremonial rituals. These elements together reflect how the Inca adapted to their environment and organized production around essential goods. They did not build large pyramids and temples like some other civilizations; horses and cattle were not domesticated by the Inca, since those animals were brought by Europeans; and they did not develop a writing system akin to cuneiform, instead using quipu for record-keeping.

3. Which figure served as conservative, pro-English lieutenant governor and acting governor of Massachusetts, and was smeared by Adams?

- A. Francis Bernard**
- B. Sam Adams**
- C. Thomas Hutchinson**
- D. George Washington**

In colonial Massachusetts, the person described is someone who stood firmly for British authority, holding the lieutenant governor's role and acting as governor when the royal governor was away. This position gave real influence in a period of mounting tension between colonial assemblies and Parliament. Thomas Hutchinson fits this profile: he was a loyalist who advocated enforcing imperial policies and maintaining order, serving as lieutenant governor and acting governor during disputes with the colonial leadership. He became a central target for radical leaders like Samuel Adams, who smeared him by publicizing private correspondence with British officials—the Hutchinson Letters—to portray him as colluding with Parliament against the colonists. This combination of staunch pro-British stance and being the subject of a smear campaign is why he is the best answer. Francis Bernard was the governor, not the lieutenant governor; Sam Adams and George Washington were associated with different roles and loyalties.

4. Who were the first people to settle the Americas?

- A. Farmers**
- B. Hunter-gatherers**
- C. Traders**
- D. Explorers**

The earliest people to settle the Americas were hunter-gatherers. When the last Ice Age lowered sea levels, people from northeastern Asia crossed into North America via the Bering land bridge and began living as mobile foragers. They followed migrating animals, fished, and gathered wild plants, moving gradually across the continents as climates and habitats changed. This pattern of nomadic foraging provided the initial populations and cultural spread that eventually populated both North and South America long before farming took hold in various regions. Farming came later, as communities learned to domesticate crops like maize in parts of Mesoamerica and tubers in the Andes, leading to more permanent settlements and complex civilizations. Traders and explorers define later historical roles that emerged after initial settlement, so they don't fit the description of who first settled the continents.

5. Which term refers to the Aztec people?

- A. Aztec**
- B. Maya**
- C. Olmec**
- D. Inca**

The term used for the people who built the central Mexican empire around Tenochtitlan is Aztec. This label specifically refers to the Mexica people, who founded the city of Tenochtitlan and formed the major empire in the Valley of Mexico. The Mexica called themselves Mēxihcah in Nahuatl, so “Aztec” is a later designation that became the common way to refer to them and their empire in English and other languages. Other groups—Maya (in southern Mexico and Central America), Olmec (an earlier culture on the Gulf Coast), and Inca (in the Andean highlands)—are distinct civilizations with their own names, regions, and histories. So the best term for the central Mexican civilization is Aztec.

6. What is a key difference between indentured servitude and chattel slavery?

- A. Indentured servitude was longer in duration than slavery.**
- B. Indentured servitude is for a fixed term; chattel slaves are permanent property.**
- C. Slaves could gain freedom through land ownership; indentured servants could not.**
- D. Indentured servants could vote; slaves could not.**

The essential difference is the nature and duration of the labor relationship. Indentured servitude rests on a contract to work for a fixed term in exchange for passage, food, and shelter, and once that term ends, the person is free to pursue other opportunities, sometimes receiving a final reward like land or tools. Slavery, in contrast, treats a person as property to be owned for life, with that status typically inheritable by children and with no guaranteed path to freedom within the system. That fixed-term, contract-based freedom after a set period is what makes the distinction clear and why this option is the best answer.

7. Who reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, opening sea route to Asia?

- A. Vasco da Gama**
- B. Bartholomew Dias**
- C. Christopher Columbus**
- D. Ferdinand Magellan**

Rounding the southern tip of Africa and proving a sea path to Asia happened when Bartholomeu Dias sailed to the Cape of Good Hope in 1488. His voyage demonstrated that a direct route from Europe to the Indian Ocean was possible by sea, which opened up successful maritime trade with Asia instead of relying on land routes or intermediaries. The voyage also earned the cape its hopeful name, signaling a gateway to new global connections and commerce that would accelerate the era of exploration. Vasco da Gama later reached India by sea in 1497-1498, building on the idea of reaching Asia by sailing around Africa. Christopher Columbus sought a western route to Asia but landed in the Americas in 1492, not near Africa. Ferdinand Magellan organized the first circumnavigation, which began in 1519 and completed in 1522, proving the world's oceans are connected through global navigation.

8. What was the Reconquista?

- A. The driving out of Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula**
- B. The discovery of the Americas**
- C. The unification of the French kingdoms**
- D. The rise of the Ottoman Empire**

The Reconquista was the long Christian effort to reclaim the Iberian Peninsula from Muslim rule, a process that began after the initial conquest in the early 700s and ended in 1492 with the fall of the Muslim-ruled kingdom of Granada. Over centuries, Christian kingdoms like Castile and Aragon expanded southward, culminating under the Catholic Monarchs, whose union helped finalize the reclamation of most of Iberia. This description fits because it captures both the gradual reclaiming of territory and the religious dimension of the era. It's not about discovering the Americas, the unification of France, or the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

9. To what extent did terrain influence Africa's cultural diversity during medieval times?

- A. Differing terrain**
- B. Distinct climates across regions**
- C. A single ancient language family**
- D. Uniform political borders**

Terrain differences across Africa shaped how people lived, organized themselves, and connected with others, creating a wide cultural mosaic in medieval times. Landscapes such as the Sahara, the savannas of West Africa, the Nile valley, tropical forests, and East African coastlines offered very different resources, mobility patterns, and trade opportunities. The Sahara fostered nomadic routes and caravan networks that linked distant regions, while river valleys and irrigation systems supported centralized states and specialized agriculture. Forest regions developed societies adapted to dense environments with different subsistence bases, and the East African coast built bustling city-states through Indian Ocean trade. High plateaus and highlands encouraged relative isolation and unique cultural developments, like those seen in the Ethiopian highlands. All these varied settings meant languages, religions, and social practices diversified in tandem with the land, economies, and networks that geography enabled. Climate differences exist across regions, but they arise from the underlying terrain and resource patterns that geography governs; the terrain itself provides the broader framework for cultural diversification. The idea of a single ancient language family throughout medieval Africa and the notion of uniform political borders don't match the historical record, which shows multiple language groups and a patchwork of independent kingdoms and polities shaped by local environments.

10. Which colony was established in 1628 after Puritans sought a charter by presenting a joint stock venture to Charles I?

- A. Plymouth**
- B. Massachusetts Bay Colony**
- C. Rhode Island**
- D. Connecticut**

Puritans used a joint-stock company to pool resources and secure royal permission to settle in New England. They formed the Massachusetts Bay Company and presented a request to King Charles I for a charter, which gave them legal rights to establish and govern a new colony. When the charter was granted, they founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony around Boston in the late 1620s and early 1630s. This setup—a religiously motivated migration funded as a joint-stock venture and authorized by the crown—is what ties the event to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Plymouth was settled earlier by Separatists without this kind of corporate charter, Rhode Island was founded later by exiles seeking religious liberty, and Connecticut followed with its own Puritan settlements in the 1630s.

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://dualenrollmenttushist.examzify.com>

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

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