

# Early Cold War and Civil Rights Movement Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

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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. The Korean Armistice Agreement of 1953 established what outcome?**
  - A. Ceasefire and creation of the DMZ at the 38th parallel**
  - B. Reunification of Korea**
  - C. Immediate peace treaty**
  - D. Withdrawal of all foreign troops**
  
- 2. Which theory suggested that if one country fell to communism, neighboring countries would follow?**
  - A. Truman Doctrine**
  - B. Domino Theory**
  - C. Containment**
  - D. Massive Retaliation**
  
- 3. Which political barrier isolated Eastern Europe after WWII and restricted travel?**
  - A. Iron Curtain**
  - B. Iron Barrier**
  - C. East-West Divide**
  - D. Curtain Wall**
  
- 4. In what year did Shirley Chisholm become the first Black woman elected to Congress?**
  - A. 1964**
  - B. 1968**
  - C. 1972**
  - D. 1980**
  
- 5. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 was notable for establishing what federal commission in the Justice Department?**
  - A. National Labor Relations Board**
  - B. Civil Rights Commission**
  - C. Food and Drug Administration**
  - D. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

- 6. The bloc of Southern Democrats and one Republican that blocked civil rights legislation was known as what?**
- A. The Old South Coalition**
  - B. The Solid South**
  - C. The Free South**
  - D. The Dixie Alliance**
- 7. Which organization, founded in 1942, used non-violent protest and coordinated demonstrations?**
- A. NAACP**
  - B. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)**
  - C. Congress on Racial Equality (CORE)**
  - D. Black Panther Party**
- 8. The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency reflected a broader trend in the 1970s of rising environmentalism. Which option best describes this trend?**
- A. Rise in environmentalism**
  - B. Increase in deregulation**
  - C. Decline in consumer protections**
  - D. Growth of urban sprawl**
- 9. Which term describes the postwar era of intense fear of communism and broad accusations, associated with Senator McCarthy?**
- A. Red Scare**
  - B. Detente**
  - C. Truman Doctrine**
  - D. McCarthyism**
- 10. What term describes the close relationship between the military, defense industry, and government that grew in the 1950s?**
- A. Military-Industrial Complex**
  - B. Domestic Welfare State**
  - C. Truman Doctrine**
  - D. Deterrence Theory**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. The Korean Armistice Agreement of 1953 established what outcome?**

- A. Ceasefire and creation of the DMZ at the 38th parallel**
- B. Reunification of Korea**
- C. Immediate peace treaty**
- D. Withdrawal of all foreign troops**

The key idea is that the armistice ended active fighting and created a buffer zone between the Koreas. The Korean Armistice Agreement established a ceasefire and set up a Demilitarized Zone along the border roughly following the 38th parallel. This halted large-scale hostilities but did not produce a formal peace treaty or reunification, so the war technically remained unresolved. Foreign troops stayed in place—UN forces in the South and North Korea with its allies continued to exist—rather than being withdrawn. That's why the result described is the ceasefire plus the DMZ.

**2. Which theory suggested that if one country fell to communism, neighboring countries would follow?**

- A. Truman Doctrine**
- B. Domino Theory**
- C. Containment**
- D. Massive Retaliation**

The key idea here is the Domino Theory—the belief that if one country falls to communism, its neighbors would be likely to follow in a chain reaction. Proponents argued that political instability, fear of encirclement, and the spread of communist influence could topple governments nearby, so the United States would need to intervene early to stop the spread. This differs from the Truman Doctrine, which centers on providing support to countries resisting subjugation by communism, not a prediction about regional collapse. It also differs from Containment, a broader strategy aimed at preventing the worldwide spread of communism using a variety of tools, not a specific domino effect. Massive Retaliation, on the other hand, is about deterrence through the threat of major nuclear punishment, not about how regimes influence one another across borders.

**3. Which political barrier isolated Eastern Europe after WWII and restricted travel?**

**A. Iron Curtain**

**B. Iron Barrier**

**C. East-West Divide**

**D. Curtain Wall**

When a region of Europe split into Soviet-influenced countries and Western democracies after World War II, a powerful image emerged to describe that separation and the control over people moving across it. The term that fits best is the Iron Curtain. It was popularized in a 1946 speech by Winston Churchill and became the shorthand historians use for the political, ideological, and physical barriers that kept Eastern Europe isolated from the West. It reflects not just a line on a map, but the realities of restricted travel, censorship, surveillance, and the suppression of dissent that characterized the Eastern bloc. Other phrases aren't used to capture this idea in history. Iron Barrier isn't a standard label, and East-West Divide is a broader descriptor of the overall split rather than the specific, historically used metaphor for the travel-imposing barrier. Curtain Wall is an architectural term and doesn't refer to political isolation.

**4. In what year did Shirley Chisholm become the first Black woman elected to Congress?**

**A. 1964**

**B. 1968**

**C. 1972**

**D. 1980**

Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968. She won the election that year for New York's 12th district, and she took office in January 1969. So 1968 is the year she was elected. This happened during a period of expanding civil rights and efforts to increase representation in national politics, making her victory a landmark moment for both Black Americans and women.

**5. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 was notable for establishing what federal commission in the Justice Department?**

- A. National Labor Relations Board**
- B. Civil Rights Commission**
- C. Food and Drug Administration**
- D. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

The question is testing how the first major federal move to monitor and report on civil rights violations came about. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 created a federal body called the United States Commission on Civil Rights. This commission was a bipartisan group charged with investigating civil rights abuses and reporting its findings to Congress, giving the federal government a structured way to study and address issues like voting rights attacks in the South. It marked a formal step in federal civil rights oversight beyond what had existed since Reconstruction and laid groundwork for later, broader enforcement efforts. Think about why the other options don't fit this act. The National Labor Relations Board is a much older agency focused on union-management relations and wasn't created by this act. The Food and Drug Administration has its roots in earlier food-and-drug regulation laws and isn't connected to civil rights enforcement. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was established later, by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to handle employment discrimination. So the Civil Rights Commission is the entity the 1957 act brought into federal structure to study and report on civil rights issues.

**6. The bloc of Southern Democrats and one Republican that blocked civil rights legislation was known as what?**

- A. The Old South Coalition**
- B. The Solid South**
- C. The Free South**
- D. The Dixie Alliance**

The key idea is a regional voting bloc that consistently opposed civil rights measures in Congress. After Reconstruction, the Southern states organized a strong, unified Democratic coalition—the Solid South—that tended to block or stall civil rights legislation through coordinated votes and filibusters in the Senate. This label captures both how Southern voters leaned politically and how their representatives acted together on national policy, especially on desegregation and civil rights. While there were moments of cross-party votes or exceptions, the term Solid South best describes this enduring pattern of bloc opposition, which is why it's the best fit.

**7. Which organization, founded in 1942, used non-violent protest and coordinated demonstrations?**

**A. NAACP**

**B. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)**

**C. Congress on Racial Equality (CORE)**

**D. Black Panther Party**

Nonviolent direct action organized across multiple sites is the key idea. CORE was founded in 1942 by James Farmer and others specifically to pursue racial equality through nonviolent means. It built its strategy around coordinated demonstrations—like the Freedom Rides and various sit-ins—that tested desegregation by organizing actions in many places at once. While other groups played important roles in the civil rights movement, CORE uniquely matches both the founding year and the emphasis on coordinated, nonviolent protests.

**8. The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency reflected a broader trend in the 1970s of rising environmentalism. Which option best describes this trend?**

**A. Rise in environmentalism**

**B. Increase in deregulation**

**C. Decline in consumer protections**

**D. Growth of urban sprawl**

The event reflects a surge in environmental awareness and policy action in the 1970s. Public concern about pollution and conservation grew, leading to landmark laws and new agencies to regulate environmental issues. The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970 embodies this shift toward stronger environmental protection and government response to ecological concerns, a hallmark of the era's rising environmentalism. That broader trend isn't about deregulation, which would push in the opposite direction, nor about reducing consumer protections or focusing on urban sprawl. The move to establish the EPA signals the increasing priority given to protecting air, water, and natural resources.

**9. Which term describes the postwar era of intense fear of communism and broad accusations, associated with Senator McCarthy?**

- A. Red Scare**
- B. Detente**
- C. Truman Doctrine**
- D. McCarthyism**

McCarthyism describes the postwar climate of intense fear of communism and the broad, often unproven accusations directed at individuals in government, the entertainment industry, and other sectors. It grew from Senator Joseph McCarthy's aggressive investigations and the actions of bodies like the Senate committees, leading to loyalty oaths and blacklisting. While the Red Scare refers to the wider fear of communism that occurred at different times, it isn't tied specifically to McCarthy's methods. Detente is about easing tensions with the Soviet Union, and the Truman Doctrine was a policy to contain communism. McCarthyism is the term that links McCarthy's name to this tactic-filled era.

**10. What term describes the close relationship between the military, defense industry, and government that grew in the 1950s?**

- A. Military-Industrial Complex**
- B. Domestic Welfare State**
- C. Truman Doctrine**
- D. Deterrence Theory**

In the 1950s a powerful link formed among the military, defense contractors, and the government—the military-industrial complex. This phrase captures how defense spending, weapons development, and political decision-making fed into one another: military needs drove contracts, industry contributed to policy and influence, and government ensured ongoing funding to sustain a strong defense posture during the Cold War. The idea isn't just about military might; it describes a network where industry profits, political support, and strategic planning reinforce each other, shaping security policy and budgets. This concept is a fit because it names the specific relationship among those three pillars, unlike the other options. The Domestic Welfare State refers to social programs for citizens, the Truman Doctrine was about containing communism through overseas commitments, and Deterrence Theory is a strategic idea about preventing attack through the threat of retaliation—not a description of a concrete alliance between military, industry, and government.

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

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

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