

Eastern Hemisphere History and Geography 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. The Sykes-Picot Agreement is historically linked to the redrawing of boundaries in which region after World War I?**
 - A. Eastern Europe**
 - B. North Africa**
 - C. Southwest Asia**
 - D. Central Asia**

- 2. In what year did Christopher Columbus land in the New World?**
 - A. 1442**
 - B. 1490**
 - C. 1492**
 - D. 1504**

- 3. In Mesopotamia, political organization was best described as which structure?**
 - A. City-states with irrigation-based governance and less centralized authority**
 - B. A centralized empire ruled by a single king**
 - C. A loose federation with central senate**
 - D. Nomadic confederation with no cities**

- 4. Who began the first successful expedition to circumnavigate the Earth?**
 - A. Christopher Columbus**
 - B. Ferdinand Magellan**
 - C. James Cook**
 - D. Vasco da Gama**

- 5. Madagascar is an island nation located off the coast of which continent?**
 - A. Africa**
 - B. Asia**
 - C. Europe**
 - D. Australia**

- 6. The Khmer Empire's hydraulic networks, including barays, were primarily built to support which activity?**
- A. Irrigation and flood control to support agriculture.**
 - B. Defense fortifications along rivers.**
 - C. Religious ceremonies only.**
 - D. Transportation routes.**
- 7. Which empire established a vast road network across Eurasia that facilitated Silk Road commerce and cultural exchange?**
- A. Roman Empire**
 - B. Mongol Empire**
 - C. Ottoman Empire**
 - D. Maurya Empire**
- 8. Which continent is home to Egypt and Libya?**
- A. Africa**
 - B. Asia**
 - C. Europe**
 - D. Australia**
- 9. Name three centers of learning in the Islamic Golden Age and one contribution from each.**
- A. Damascus — astronomy; Cairo — poetry; Timbuktu — literature.**
 - B. Baghdad — House of Wisdom; translations and advances in mathematics and science; Cordoba — centers of scholarship and medicine; Timbuktu — learning and scholarship in Africa.**
 - C. Cairo — architecture; Cordoba — agriculture; Timbuktu — cuisine.**
 - D. Mecca — religious law; Jerusalem — mathematics; Fez — architecture.**
- 10. Botswana is a country in which part of Africa?**
- A. North Africa**
 - B. West Africa**
 - C. Southern Africa**
 - D. East Africa**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The Sykes-Picot Agreement is historically linked to the redrawing of boundaries in which region after World War I?

- A. Eastern Europe**
- B. North Africa**
- C. Southwest Asia**
- D. Central Asia**

The main idea here is how postwar plans carved up the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East. The Sykes-Picot Agreement was a secret 1916 agreement between Britain and France that laid out how they would divide Ottoman lands after World War I, creating zones of influence and control in areas that are part of today's Southwest Asia. This agreement directly shaped the borders and political boundaries of the Middle East, influencing modern states like Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. It's distinctly about Southwest Asia, not Eastern Europe, North Africa, or Central Asia, which were governed by different deals and dynamics.

2. In what year did Christopher Columbus land in the New World?

- A. 1442**
- B. 1490**
- C. 1492**
- D. 1504**

The year Columbus landed in the New World is 1492. This marks the moment his westward voyage, sponsored by Spain, reached lands unknown to Europeans at the time. After departing in 1492, his fleet landed in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, an event that opened sustained European exploration of the American continents. The other dates don't fit because one is before his life began, and the others are either before the voyage or after the initial landing.

3. In Mesopotamia, political organization was best described as which structure?

- A. City-states with irrigation-based governance and less centralized authority**
- B. A centralized empire ruled by a single king**
- C. A loose federation with central senate**
- D. Nomadic confederation with no cities**

In Mesopotamia, the typical political pattern is rooted in city-states: independent urban centers like Ur, Uruk, and Lagash ruling their own surrounding farmland. The region's rich irrigation networks required tightly organized local management, often led by rulers tied to temple and city administration. Because each city controlled its canals, fields, and labor, authority was relatively decentralized rather than centralized under one king over a vast realm. While larger empires did emerge at times, the everyday political arrangement is best described as city-states with irrigation-based governance. The other structures—a single centralized empire, a federation governed by a central senate, or nomadic confederations with no cities—don't fit the settled, urban, locally governed character that defined Mesopotamian politics.

4. Who began the first successful expedition to circumnavigate the Earth?

- A. Christopher Columbus**
- B. Ferdinand Magellan**
- C. James Cook**
- D. Vasco da Gama**

The idea being tested is who launched the first voyage that successfully circumnavigated the globe. Ferdinand Magellan organized and led the expedition that set out from Spain in 1519 with several ships, aiming to reach the Spice Islands by sailing west. Although Magellan did not survive the journey, his fleet continued under Juan Sebastián Elcano and completed the circumnavigation, returning to Spain in 1522. This makes Magellan the one who began the first successful circumnavigation. Columbus opened transatlantic routes but never circumnavigated the world. James Cook conducted major Pacific exploration, but the first complete circumnavigation was already achieved during Magellan's expedition. Vasco da Gama found a sea route to India by sail around Africa and did not circle the globe.

5. Madagascar is an island nation located off the coast of which continent?

- A. Africa**
- B. Asia**
- C. Europe**
- D. Australia**

Madagascar sits in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa, with the Mozambique Channel separating it from the African mainland. This proximity places it geographically with Africa, not Asia, Europe, or Australia. So the continent it is off the coast of is Africa.

6. The Khmer Empire's hydraulic networks, including barays, were primarily built to support which activity?

- A. Irrigation and flood control to support agriculture.**
- B. Defense fortifications along rivers.**
- C. Religious ceremonies only.**
- D. Transportation routes.**

Water management for farming is what the Khmer hydraulic networks were designed to do. Barays were massive artificial reservoirs that captured monsoon rains and fed a vast system of canals to the rice fields, allowing irrigation during dry periods and storage during floods. This irrigation and flood control made it possible to grow large amounts of rice and support a substantial population around Angkor. While canals could serve other roles, the primary purpose was sustaining agriculture through reliable water supply, not defense, religious ceremonies, or transportation.

7. Which empire established a vast road network across Eurasia that facilitated Silk Road commerce and cultural exchange?

- A. Roman Empire**
- B. Mongol Empire**
- C. Ottoman Empire**
- D. Maurya Empire**

A vast relay road system across Eurasia established by the Mongol Empire enabled secure, rapid travel and communication, which in turn hugely boosted Silk Road trade and cultural exchange. The network, with stations for fresh horses and rest along routes called yams, allowed messengers and merchants to move great distances efficiently. Under Mongol rule, the Pax Mongolica provided safety for caravans and standardized long-distance travel, making it feasible for ideas, technologies, and goods to flow between East and West on a massive scale. This combination of infrastructure and security is why the Silk Road thrived and cultural interactions flourished across such a huge area. Other empires had roads, but none created this extraordinary trans-Eurasian system that linked East and West so comprehensively.

8. Which continent is home to Egypt and Libya?

- A. Africa**
- B. Asia**
- C. Europe**
- D. Australia**

Understanding where countries sit on the map helps answer this. Egypt and Libya are located in the region known as North Africa, which is part of the African continent. Although a small part of Egypt—the Sinai Peninsula—is located in Asia, the country is generally classified as African, and Libya lies entirely in Africa along the Mediterranean coast. So the continent they share is Africa. The other options don't fit because Asia, Europe, and Australia do not contain both of these countries.

9. Name three centers of learning in the Islamic Golden Age and one contribution from each.

A. Damascus – astronomy; Cairo – poetry; Timbuktu – literature.

B. Baghdad – House of Wisdom; translations and advances in mathematics and science; Cordoba – centers of scholarship and medicine; Timbuktu – learning and scholarship in Africa.

C. Cairo – architecture; Cordoba – agriculture; Timbuktu – cuisine.

D. Mecca – religious law; Jerusalem – mathematics; Fez – architecture.

During the Islamic Golden Age, learning flourished in diverse centers that connected cultures and disciplines. Baghdad's House of Wisdom stands as a prime example: it was a major library, translation hub, and research center where Greek, Persian, and Indian works were studied and expanded, fueling advances in mathematics, astronomy, and the sciences. Córdoba in Al-Andalus became a renowned seat of scholarship and medicine, with libraries and medical networks that advanced medical knowledge and other sciences while translating and synthesizing earlier texts. Timbuktu in West Africa developed into a celebrated center of learning with institutions like Sankoré, where scholars gathered to study and copy manuscripts on astronomy, mathematics, law, and religious studies, helping preserve knowledge across the region. This combination captures three prominent learning hubs and a concrete contribution from each.

10. Botswana is a country in which part of Africa?

A. North Africa

B. West Africa

C. Southern Africa

D. East Africa

Botswana sits in Southern Africa, in the southern part of the continent. It is bordered by Namibia to the west and north, South Africa to the south and southeast, and Zimbabwe and a corner touching Zambia to the northeast. This placement places it firmly in Southern Africa, not North, West, or East Africa. North Africa is up near the Sahara, West Africa runs along the Atlantic coast farther to the west, and East Africa lies farther to the east near the Horn and the Great Lakes region. So the southern location best describes Botswana's position on the map.

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://easterhemispherehistorygeo.examzify.com>

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

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