

Elizabethan England Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

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

- 1. What is the rigid hoop underskirt used to shape gowns called?**
 - A. Farthingale**
 - B. Lead makeup**
 - C. Blackened teeth**
 - D. Ruff**
- 2. The term 'Poor rate' describes what?**
 - A. An English tax that funds the poor distributed by parish officials to the poor.**
 - B. English tax. All people had to pay into it. Distributed by parish officials to poor people.**
 - C. A fee charged to merchants for harbor access.**
 - D. A tax on landowners only.**
- 3. Who comprised the Elizabethan gentry?**
 - A. A new social class of well-born families with acquired wealth, including merchants and lawyers, but without titles.**
 - B. Nobility with hereditary titles.**
 - C. Common laborers.**
 - D. Clergy only.**
- 4. Which region was the poorest in Elizabethan England?**
 - A. North-west**
 - B. South-east**
 - C. Midlands**
 - D. South-west**
- 5. How many men were waiting in the Netherlands with the Duke of Parma?**
 - A. 20,000**
 - B. 40,000**
 - C. 50,000**
 - D. 30,000**

- 6. Which statement describes Mary Grey?**
- A. Sister of Jane Grey; potential heir; died under house arrest after marrying without permission.**
 - B. She became queen in 1600.**
 - C. She married James VI.**
 - D. She died in battle.**
- 7. Which theatre opened in 1599?**
- A. The Curtain**
 - B. The Globe**
 - C. The Rose**
 - D. The Swan**
- 8. The Swan theatre opened in London in which year?**
- A. 1577**
 - B. 1587**
 - C. 1596**
 - D. 1599**
- 9. Who was Eric of Sweden in relation to Elizabeth I?**
- A. King of Sweden who opposed Elizabeth.**
 - B. Ambassador who advised Elizabeth.**
 - C. King of Sweden who proposed marriage to Elizabeth; negotiations lasted for years but ended; Protestant.**
 - D. A fictional character.**
- 10. What were the birth and death years of Eric of Sweden?**
- A. 1530-1575**
 - B. 1533-1577**
 - C. 1540-1600**
 - D. 1527-1598**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. What is the rigid hoop underskirt used to shape gowns called?

- A. Farthingale**
- B. Lead makeup**
- C. Blackened teeth**
- D. Ruff**

The idea being tested is how Elizabethan gowns were given their distinctive silhouette through understructure. The rigid hoop underskirt used to shape gowns is called a farthingale. It's a framework of hoops worn under the dress to push the fabric outward, creating the wide, structured skirt that defines the era's look. The hoops—often made of cane, wood, or thin metal—are covered with fabric, so the outer gown hangs smoothly over a dramatic shape. This is about shaping the skirt, not the face or neck: lead makeup and blackened teeth refer to cosmetics, while a ruff is a high collar, not a support for the skirt.

2. The term 'Poor rate' describes what?

- A. An English tax that funds the poor distributed by parish officials to the poor.**
- B. English tax. All people had to pay into it. Distributed by parish officials to poor people.**
- C. A fee charged to merchants for harbor access.**
- D. A tax on landowners only.**

The term describes a local levy raised to fund relief for the poor, collected from the community and managed by parish officials who distribute aid to those in need. This system was part of the Elizabethan Poor Laws, with parish overseers assessing and collecting the rate and then providing assistance to the needy. It emphasizes that everyone in the parish contributed to a common fund, rather than it being a harbor fee or a tax aimed at only one group.

3. Who comprised the Elizabethan gentry?

- A. A new social class of well-born families with acquired wealth, including merchants and lawyers, but without titles.**
- B. Nobility with hereditary titles.**
- C. Common laborers.**
- D. Clergy only.**

The key idea is that the Elizabethan gentry were a landed, socially prominent group who built wealth through means other than hereditary titles. They were well-born or of respectable status and could include merchants and lawyers who acquired land and status, yet they did not hold noble peerages with hereditary titles. This combination—good origins plus wealth and local influence, without a hereditary noble title—defines the gentry. In practice, these were the men and families who owned substantial property, served in local government or justice of the peace roles, and could raise influence in their counties, even though they weren't part of the titled nobility. That fits the description of merchants and lawyers who gained wealth and status but did not possess noble titles. The other groups don't fit as the gentry: common laborers lack land and social status; the clergy belong to a separate estate within the social order; and the nobility hold hereditary titles and peerage, which places them outside the gentry.

4. Which region was the poorest in Elizabethan England?

A. North-west

B. South-east

C. Midlands

D. South-west

In Elizabethan England, money and opportunity were concentrated in a few regions that had access to trade, ports, and thriving industries. The south and east benefited from London's market pull, coastal ports, and the cloth trade, which brought wealth to towns and countryside alike. The north-west, however, sits away from these economic hubs. Its upland landscapes, poorer soils, and fewer large towns meant limited opportunities for prosperous farming, manufacturing, or long-distance trade, so incomes were lower and living standards lagged behind. That geographic and economic context explains why the north-west is remembered as the region with the least wealth, compared with the more prosperous south-east and other regions that tapped into trade and market networks.

5. How many men were waiting in the Netherlands with the Duke of Parma?

A. 20,000

B. 40,000

C. 50,000

D. 30,000

This item tests your knowledge of the size of Parma's force in the Netherlands during the Armada period. The historical consensus places Parma's army there at about thirty thousand men, waiting to cooperate with the Spanish fleet in an invasion of England. That figure shows the scale of the operation—how many troops would be landed or supported once the Armada sailed—and is the standard estimate used in many Elizabethan England study sources. A smaller number, like twenty thousand, would understate the force actually available, while larger figures such as forty or fifty thousand exceed the common scholarly estimates for Parma's contingent in that context.

6. Which statement describes Mary Grey?

A. Sister of Jane Grey; potential heir; died under house arrest after marrying without permission.

B. She became queen in 1600.

C. She married James VI.

D. She died in battle.

Mary Grey was Jane Grey's sister, which is why she was seen as a potential heir to the throne after Edward VI's death. In the scramble over succession, Jane was briefly proclaimed queen, so her siblings were considered by some factions as possible successors. But Elizabeth I then took the throne, so Mary's position as a potential heir did not come to pass. Later, Mary Grey married without the queen's permission, an act that Elizabeth punished by placing her under house arrest for life. This combination of being Jane Grey's sister and the fate of marriage without royal consent is exactly what the statement describes. The other options don't fit because she was never queen, never married James VI, and she did not die in battle.

7. Which theatre opened in 1599?

- A. The Curtain
- B. The Globe**
- C. The Rose
- D. The Swan

Think about the timeline of Elizabethan playhouses. The year 1599 marks the opening of the Globe, the famous theatre built by Shakespeare's company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, on Bankside near London. It used timber from the earlier Theatre and became the main venue for Shakespeare's plays. The Curtain, Rose, and Swan were all established earlier—The Curtain in the late 1570s, The Rose in 1587, and The Swan in the mid-1590s—so they did not open in 1599. Therefore, the theatre that opened in 1599 is the Globe.

8. The Swan theatre opened in London in which year?

- A. 1577
- B. 1587
- C. 1596**
- D. 1599

Think about the sequence of London playhouses on Bankside in the late Elizabethan period. After earlier venues like The Theatre and The Rose, a second Bankside theatre, The Swan, was brought into use as demand for public drama grew in the 1590s. The best-supported opening date for The Swan is 1596, which fits neatly between The Rose's debut (1587) and The Globe's opening (1599). This timing aligns with records of performances by the same acting companies of the era, explaining why 1596 is the correct year.

9. Who was Eric of Sweden in relation to Elizabeth I?

- A. King of Sweden who opposed Elizabeth.
- B. Ambassador who advised Elizabeth.
- C. King of Sweden who proposed marriage to Elizabeth; negotiations lasted for years but ended; Protestant.**
- D. A fictional character.

Eric XIV of Sweden was the reigning king who courted Elizabeth I with a marriage proposal in the 1560s. He hoped to forge a Protestant alliance between Sweden and England, and the negotiations dragged on for several years. Ultimately, Elizabeth did not marry him, and political changes—along with his later deposition—prevented the match from ever taking place. He was a real monarch and a Protestant ruler, not an ambassador or a fictional character.

10. What were the birth and death years of Eric of Sweden?

A. 1530-1575

B. 1533-1577

C. 1540-1600

D. 1527-1598

Birth and death years anchor Eric XIV of Sweden in the mid-16th century. He was born in 1533, the son of Gustav I, and later became king from 1560 to 1568 before being deposed. He died in 1577 while imprisoned, which fits the documented fate after his deposition. Other date pairs contradict well-established timelines—for example, a birth year like 1530 would not align with his documented age when he became king, and a death year like 1575 or 1598 would conflict with the historical record of his death in 1577. Therefore, the pair 1533-1577 best matches the historical evidence.

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://elizabethanengland.examzify.com>

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