

# Enlightenment and Revolutions 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. Isaac Newton's belief that truth could be found through**
  - A. the study of philosophy**
  - B. the application of reason**
  - C. strict obedience to authority**
  - D. the study of religious doctrines**
  
- 2. Which thinker argued that governmental authority should be limited by law to protect individual rights?**
  - A. Montesquieu**
  - B. Louis XIV**
  - C. Voltaire**
  - D. Thomas Hobbes**
  
- 3. Which statement best summarizes the 'social contract' concept?**
  - A. People are subjects of a divine ruler.**
  - B. People agree to be governed in exchange for protection of rights.**
  - C. Government exists to preserve the interests of the aristocracy.**
  - D. Rights are granted only by the church.**
  
- 4. A social gathering for exchanging ideas among educated people in the 18th century is called a**
  - A. salon**
  - B. forum**
  - C. academy**
  - D. café scientifique**
  
- 5. The American Revolution was motivated by the Enlightened idea that**
  - A. That all men are created equal**
  - B. Of a distinct class system**
  - C. Of the rightful rule of a monarch**
  - D. That government needs central authority**

- 6. The Russian empress considered an Enlightened Despot**
- A. Catherine the Great**
  - B. Mary Wollstonecraft**
  - C. Voltaire**
  - D. Queen Elizabeth I**
- 7. In Latin American society, which class was the most important and had the most rights?**
- A. Creoles**
  - B. Mestizos**
  - C. Mulattos**
  - D. Peninsulares**
- 8. The statement about the king being sacred and an attack on God is attributed to which figure?**
- A. Voltaire**
  - B. Montesquieu**
  - C. Bishop Jacques Bossuet**
  - D. Rousseau**
- 9. Which term describes the model where Earth is at the center of the universe?**
- A. Geocentric theory**
  - B. Heliocentric theory**
  - C. Scientific Method**
  - D. Scientific Revolution**
- 10. Women's contributions to the Enlightenment included all of the following EXCEPT**
- A. Urging women to enter male-dominated fields**
  - B. Holding salons for influential people**
  - C. Running for office**
  - D. Writing about the inequalities between men and women**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Isaac Newton's belief that truth could be found through**

- A. the study of philosophy**
- B. the application of reason**
- C. strict obedience to authority**
- D. the study of religious doctrines**

Reason and empirical inquiry drive Newton's view of truth. He believed the laws of nature are uncovered by applying clear reasoning to what we observe and by testing ideas with experiments and mathematics. This method lets us derive universal principles, like gravity and motion, from evidence rather than simply accepting what authorities or religious doctrines say. So, while philosophy or doctrine can offer perspectives, they don't provide the reliable method Newton relies on for discovering how the physical world actually works.

**2. Which thinker argued that governmental authority should be limited by law to protect individual rights?**

- A. Montesquieu**
- B. Louis XIV**
- C. Voltaire**
- D. Thomas Hobbes**

Thinkers who argue that governmental power should be limited by law to protect individual rights are favoring constitutionalism and checks on authority. Montesquieu is the best fit because he argues that liberty is preserved when political power is divided into separate branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—that can check and balance one another. By binding rulers and institutions to law, and preventing any one group from monopolizing power, individuals' rights are safeguarded from arbitrary rule. This idea is central to his Spirit of the Laws, where the distribution of power and the rule of law are designed to prevent tyranny. Louis XIV embodies the opposite approach, centralized and absolute rule where the king's will was law. Voltaire championed civil liberties and criticized abuses of power, but did not formulate a concrete constitutional framework that binds government by law to protect rights in the same systematic way. Thomas Hobbes argued for a strong sovereign to avoid chaos, potentially granting extensive authority to the ruler rather than limiting it with law to protect individual rights. In this context, Montesquieu's emphasis on separation of powers and legal constraints makes him the correct choice.

**3. Which statement best summarizes the 'social contract' concept?**

**A. People are subjects of a divine ruler.**

**B. People agree to be governed in exchange for protection of rights.**

**C. Government exists to preserve the interests of the aristocracy.**

**D. Rights are granted only by the church.**

The social contract idea is that people consent to be governed in exchange for protection of their rights. This view, central to Enlightenment thought, holds that political authority rests on an agreement among individuals to form a society and grant the ruler enough power to maintain order while safeguarding natural rights like life, liberty, and property. When government fulfills that protection, its authority is legitimate; when it violates those rights, people have justification to withdraw consent or change the government. That's why the statement describing people agreeing to be governed in exchange for protection of rights is the best fit. The other statements point to divine-right rule, aristocratic self-interest, or rights granted by the church, which do not capture the consent-based, rights-protecting basis of the social contract.

**4. A social gathering for exchanging ideas among educated people in the 18th century is called a**

**A. salon**

**B. forum**

**C. academy**

**D. café scientifique**

A salon is a social gathering where educated people come together to exchange ideas in a lively, informal setting. In the 18th century, especially in Paris, hostesses would open their drawing rooms to philosophers, writers, and scientists, turning the event into a hub for Enlightenment discussion. It wasn't a formal lecture or a public forum, but a conversational space that connected minds, debated new ideas about politics, science, and society, and helped spread reformist thinking beyond universities. By contrast, a forum is a general or public discussion space, an academy is a formal institution for study and instruction, and a café scientifique is a modern term for informal science talks. The social, intimate, idea-exchange atmosphere of the salon makes it the best fit for this description.

**5. The American Revolution was motivated by the Enlightened idea that**

- A. That all men are created equal**
- B. Of a distinct class system**
- C. Of the rightful rule of a monarch**
- D. That government needs central authority**

Enlightenment ideas about natural rights and government by consent underpin the American Revolution. Think of philosophers like Locke arguing that people have inherent rights to life, liberty, and property, and that governments gain legitimate authority only to protect those rights and with the consent of the governed. The statement that “all men are created equal” embodies this belief in equal moral status and equal rights before the law, which inspired colonists to challenge rule by a distant monarch and to demand representative government and limited authority. The other options lean away from that Enlightenment trajectory: endorsing a fixed class system preserves inequality; supporting the rightful rule of a monarch justifies absolute authority; and calling for centralized government authority suggests power concentrated rather than constrained. In this light, the idea of equal rights and government by consent best explains the motive behind the Revolution.

**6. The Russian empress considered an Enlightened Despot**

- A. Catherine the Great**
- B. Mary Wollstonecraft**
- C. Voltaire**
- D. Queen Elizabeth I**

Enlightened despotism is when an absolute ruler uses centralized power to pursue reforms inspired by Enlightenment ideas—promoting education, rational legal changes, and tolerance, while keeping firm control of the state. Catherine the Great of Russia fits this description. She welcomed Western ideas, corresponded with Voltaire and Diderot, and pushed for legal reform and modernization through efforts like the Nakaz and the Legislative Commission, as well as promoting education and cultural development. She also issued a Charter to the Nobility to codify privileges and tighten governance, all while maintaining autocratic authority. Yet she did not end serfdom, illustrating how Enlightened Despots often balanced reform with preserved autocracy. The other figures aren't rulers who attempted such reforms: Mary Wollstonecraft was a writer advocating women's rights, Voltaire was an influential philosopher, and Queen Elizabeth I predates the Enlightenment and was not an Enlightened Despot.

**7. In Latin American society, which class was the most important and had the most rights?**

- A. Creoles**
- B. Mestizos**
- C. Mulattos**
- D. Peninsulares**

Colonial Latin American society organized people by birthplace and race, shaping who held power. Peninsulares, born in Spain and sent to govern the colonies, occupied the highest political and church offices and enjoyed the most privileges. That dominance gave them the most power and the broadest rights within the colonial system. Creoles, though wealthy and educated, were barred from the top offices and often had less political influence. Mestizos and mulattos faced legal and social restrictions that limited their opportunities. Because Peninsulares controlled the key positions and legal privileges, they were considered the most important group in the hierarchy.

**8. The statement about the king being sacred and an attack on God is attributed to which figure?**

- A. Voltaire**
- B. Montesquieu**
- C. Bishop Jacques Bossuet**
- D. Rousseau**

This question tests the idea of the divine right of kings—the belief that monarchs rule by God's will and are sacred representatives on earth. Bishop Jacques Bossuet was a leading defender of this view, arguing that the king is God's representative and that attacking the king is effectively an attack on God. This framing helped legitimize absolute monarchy in France during Louis XIV's era and discouraged opposition by linking political authority to sacred authority. The other figures—Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Rousseau—were critical of absolute monarchy and offered ideas like religious tolerance, separation of powers, and popular sovereignty, rather than upholding the king's sacred status.

**9. Which term describes the model where Earth is at the center of the universe?**

- A. Geocentric theory**
- B. Heliocentric theory**
- C. Scientific Method**
- D. Scientific Revolution**

The term describes a model in which Earth sits at the center of the universe, with the Sun, Moon, planets, and stars orbiting around it. This geocentric view was the dominant explanation for how the heavens appeared to move, and it was reinforced by the observed daily motion of the Sun and stars and by the attempt to account for the complex planetary paths using deferents and epicycles. In this framework, Earth is fixed in place, and celestial motions are built around that central point. A different idea places the Sun at the center (the heliocentric theory), which eventually explained planetary motions more simply and accounted for retrograde motion as an observational effect from moving planets around the Sun. The scientific method refers to a way of investigating phenomena and testing ideas, not a model of the cosmos. The Scientific Revolution refers to the historical shift in thinking that brought about new methods and understandings in science, not a specific cosmological arrangement.

**10. Women's contributions to the Enlightenment included all of the following EXCEPT**

- A. Urging women to enter male-dominated fields**
- B. Holding salons for influential people**
- C. Running for office**
- D. Writing about the inequalities between men and women**

During the Enlightenment, women contributed by shaping the exchange of ideas and pushing for greater access to education and public life. Salons run by women became hubs where philosophers, scientists, and writers shared ideas, debated questions, and spread new ways of thinking. Women also wrote about the inequalities between men and women, helping to articulate arguments for education, reform, and broader participation in public life. Those efforts show how women extended Enlightenment thinking into social and intellectual realms. Running for political office, however, did not fit the typical contributions of women in this period. Political life was largely closed to them, with few—if any—formal avenues to hold office. The other activities—hosting salons, writing about gender inequalities, and advocating for women's education and opportunities—were actual avenues through which women influenced Enlightenment culture and thought.

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

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

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