

# Enlightenment and Revolutions 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>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>17</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. Which Enlightenment thinker argued for separation of powers to prevent tyranny?**
  - A. John Locke**
  - B. Rousseau**
  - C. Voltaire**
  - D. Montesquieu**
  
- 2. Mary Wollstonecraft is best known for advocating?**
  - A. women's rights**
  - B. economic reform**
  - C. scientific method**
  - D. free-market capitalism**
  
- 3. Which concept describes the social contract?**
  - A. The Scientific Method**
  - B. The Divine Right**
  - C. The Free Market**
  - D. The Social Contract**
  
- 4. John Wesley founded this form of religion during the Enlightenment.**
  - A. Catholicism**
  - B. Methodism**
  - C. Christianity**
  - D. Buddhism**
  
- 5. According to the Enlightenment social contract idea, what did French citizens claim during the 1789 Revolution?**
  - A. The king granted women the right to vote**
  - B. French citizens claimed their natural rights**
  - C. The king raised taxes to pay off public debt**
  - D. French citizens supported the king against the nobles**

- 6. Which of the following identifies one of the ways Enlightenment ideas influenced colonial leaders in Latin America?**
- A. They strengthened the power of the Catholic Church**
  - B. They shared their wealth with the lower classes**
  - C. They demanded self-government from Spain and Portugal**
  - D. They abolished slavery throughout Latin America**
- 7. Which Enlightenment idea is the primary basis for Paine's Common Sense?**
- A. Human society is disorganized and chaotic, and for that reason, governments are required to maintain order.**
  - B. People have the natural right to rule themselves because they are capable of using their powers of reason to understand their world.**
  - C. Government should operate in separate branches: one to write the laws, one to carry them out, and one to interpret them.**
  - D. The scientific method can unlock the mysteries in the natural world.**
- 8. He believed that every person was born with a tabula rasa, or blank slate. Which philosopher was this?**
- A. Voltaire**
  - B. Montesquieu**
  - C. Frederick the Great**
  - D. Locke**
- 9. The Russian empress considered an Enlightened Despot**
- A. Catherine the Great**
  - B. Mary Wollstonecraft**
  - C. Voltaire**
  - D. Queen Elizabeth I**

**10. 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**

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## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which Enlightenment thinker argued for separation of powers to prevent tyranny?**

- A. John Locke**
- B. Rousseau**
- C. Voltaire**
- D. Montesquieu**

Separating the powers of government to prevent tyranny is the key idea here. Montesquieu, in *The Spirit of the Laws*, argued that government functions should be divided into branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—with each branch having distinct powers and the ability to check the others. This division keeps any one group from gaining unchecked control and protects liberty by creating accountability and balancing interests across the state. His clear articulation of how institutional structure can curb absolute power became a foundational principle for modern constitutional design and influenced many democratic systems. By contrast, John Locke emphasized natural rights and government by consent, focusing on limiting authority to protect life, liberty, and property rather than outlining a formal three-branch structure. Rousseau centered on popular sovereignty and the general will, exploring how legitimacy arises from the collective will rather than institutional division. Voltaire championed civil liberties and tolerance and criticized abuses of power, but he did not develop a formal separation-of-powers framework.

**2. Mary Wollstonecraft is best known for advocating?**

- A. women's rights**
- B. economic reform**
- C. scientific method**
- D. free-market capitalism**

At the heart of Wollstonecraft's thought is the belief that women deserve equal rights and opportunities, especially in education. She argued that women are rational beings and should have the same capacity to develop their minds and participate in public life as men. In *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, she shows that so-called female inferiority comes from limited education and social conditioning, not nature, and she calls for women to be educated to become virtuous, independent, and active citizens. This emphasis on equal rights and education for women is why she is best known for advocating women's rights. The other topics—economic reform, scientific method, or free-market capitalism—were not the focus of her enduring work.

### 3. Which concept describes the social contract?

- A. The Scientific Method
- B. The Divine Right
- C. The Free Market
- D. The Social Contract**

The social contract is a political theory about how government gets its authority from an implicit agreement among people to form a society and accept certain rules in exchange for protection of their rights and social order. It says that rulers derive legitimacy not from divine mandate or sheer force, but from the consent of the governed and their collective decision to live under shared laws. Think of it as a bargain: individuals give up some freedoms in return for security, justice, and a stable community, with the government promising to safeguard natural rights. This idea, developed by thinkers like Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau in the Enlightenment, underpins modern notions of popular sovereignty and constitutional government. The other options describe different domains—The Scientific Method refers to how we study the natural world, Divine Right is the claim that rulers' authority comes from God, and the Free Market is about economic exchange and price mechanisms—so they don't capture the idea of political legitimacy arising from an agreement among people.

### 4. John Wesley founded this form of religion during the Enlightenment.

- A. Catholicism
- B. Methodism**
- C. Christianity
- D. Buddhism

The main idea here is identifying the religious movement started by John Wesley. During the Enlightenment in Britain, Wesley helped launch a revival within the Church of England that stressed personal faith, practical holiness, and social reform. He organized disciplined methods of practice—such as class meetings and itinerant preaching—to reach ordinary people and encourage sustained prayer, study, and ethical living. This careful, organized approach produced what became known as Methodism. It fits best because it points to a specific movement begun by Wesley, rather than a broader or unrelated tradition. Catholicism is an older Christian tradition not initiated by Wesley; Christianity is too broad to pinpoint a single movement; Buddhism is unrelated to Wesley and to the British Enlightenment context.

5. According to the Enlightenment social contract idea, what did French citizens claim during the 1789 Revolution?

A. The king granted women the right to vote

**B. French citizens claimed their natural rights**

C. The king raised taxes to pay off public debt

D. French citizens supported the king against the nobles

The social contract idea centers on rights that people inherently hold and on government existing to protect those rights, not to grant them. In 1789, French citizens argued that their natural rights—liberty, equality, and property—belonged to them by nature and should be safeguarded by a government formed with the people’s consent. This is exactly what the Revolution and documents like the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen expressed: a claim to inherent rights and a demand for political structures based on consent. The other options miss the core point: the push wasn’t about the king granting voting rights to women, about taxes as the main claim, or about backing the king against the nobles.

6. Which of the following identifies one of the ways Enlightenment ideas influenced colonial leaders in Latin America?

A. They strengthened the power of the Catholic Church

B. They shared their wealth with the lower classes

C. They demanded self-government from Spain and Portugal

**D. They abolished slavery throughout Latin America**

Enlightenment ideas stress natural rights, equality, and the questioning of inherited privilege. When colonial leaders in Latin America embraced these principles, they aimed to redefine political and social order in ways that extended rights beyond the old elite. Abolition of slavery fits this line of thinking directly because it puts universal human rights into practice, challenging a long-standing institution that denied freedom to a large segment of the population. In the independence era, some reform-minded leaders and constitutions began to move toward emancipation or restrictions on slavery as part of liberal reforms, signaling that liberty and equality were not just about political independence but also about reshaping society. It’s a clear example of how Enlightenment ideals could translate into concrete social change. While other reforms like expanding self-government were also linked to Enlightenment thought, abolition represents a tangible application of the rights-based language that many leaders drew on during this period.

**7. Which Enlightenment idea is the primary basis for Paine's Common Sense?**

- A. Human society is disorganized and chaotic, and for that reason, governments are required to maintain order.**
- B. People have the natural right to rule themselves because they are capable of using their powers of reason to understand their world.**
- C. Government should operate in separate branches: one to write the laws, one to carry them out, and one to interpret them.**
- D. The scientific method can unlock the mysteries in the natural world.**

The central idea Paine relies on in Common Sense is that people have the capacity to govern themselves and that legitimate government rests on the consent of the governed, grounded in reason. Paine argues that monarchic rule and distant empire are unjust and impractical for a people who can reason about their own interests and form a government that represents them. In this light, the notion that individuals possess natural rights and can self-govern through rational choice is the core basis he uses to advocate independence and the creation of a self-rule that comes from the people themselves. An Enlightenment idea like separation of powers is important in other contexts and influenced later constitutional design, but Common Sense foregrounds self-government and independence rather than detailing a specific three-branch structure. Paine's appeal is to natural rights and popular sovereignty—trusting reason to determine that self-rule under a new, representative system is better than remaining under Britain.

**8. He believed that every person was born with a tabula rasa, or blank slate. Which philosopher was this?**

- A. Voltaire**
- B. Montesquieu**
- C. Frederick the Great**
- D. Locke**

The idea that the mind is a blank slate at birth and that knowledge comes from experience is John Locke's signature claim. He argued there are no innate ideas; the mind is shaped by sensory experience and reflection as we interact with the world. This empiricist view helped fuel Enlightenment thinking that valued learning, education, and environment as the sources of human knowledge and virtue. The other figures are known for different contributions: Voltaire for religious tolerance and civil liberties, Montesquieu for the separation of powers, and Frederick the Great for enlightened absolutism in Prussia. So the philosopher who articulated tabula rasa is John Locke.

## 9. 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.

## 10. 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.

## 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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