

GACE History Practice Exam (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. Which movement is characterized by the fight against racial injustice in America during the 1960s?**
 - A. The Great Society**
 - B. The Civil Rights Movement**
 - C. The Labor Movement**
 - D. The Progressive Movement**

- 2. What was a crucial role played by the Byzantine Empire in relation to Western civilization?**
 - A. Leading trade routes**
 - B. Defending against Eastern attacks**
 - C. Fostering scientific innovations**
 - D. Colonizing new territories**

- 3. Who is known for his work 'Gargantua and Pantagruel' during the Renaissance?**
 - A. Molière**
 - B. Francois Rabelais**
 - C. Victor Hugo**
 - D. Émile Zola**

- 4. Which key figure was an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Georgia?**
 - A. Ralph Abernathy**
 - B. Andrew Young**
 - C. Jesse Jackson**
 - D. John Lewis**

- 5. What was a significant effect of the Dred Scott decision?**
 - A. It confirmed the legality of women's rights**
 - B. It allowed slavery in all territories**
 - C. It upheld the rights of free blacks**
 - D. It consolidated the abolitionist movement**

- 6. What was one significant effect of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?**
- A. It strengthened Germany's economy**
 - B. It reset Germany's borders**
 - C. It caused widespread resentment and economic hardship**
 - D. It established a strong military presence**
- 7. Which scholar is often known for his theory that the planets revolve around the sun?**
- A. Ptolemy**
 - B. Copernicus**
 - C. Kepler**
 - D. Newton**
- 8. Which English explorer is credited for giving England its claim to North America?**
- A. John Cabot**
 - B. Francis Drake**
 - C. Henry Hudson**
 - D. James Cook**
- 9. What was a prominent effect of 19th-century imperialism in the context of nationalism?**
- A. An increase in colonial subservience**
 - B. Demands for self-government surfaced**
 - C. Decreased living standards**
 - D. Elimination of all local cultures**
- 10. What was the last imperial dynasty of China?**
- A. Qing**
 - B. Han**
 - C. Manchu**
 - D. Song**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which movement is characterized by the fight against racial injustice in America during the 1960s?

- A. The Great Society
- B. The Civil Rights Movement**
- C. The Labor Movement
- D. The Progressive Movement

The Civil Rights Movement is characterized by the vigorous struggle for racial equality and justice in the United States during the 1960s. This movement aimed to end racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans, promoting civil rights through various means, including protests, legal challenges, and grassroots organizing. Key events, such as the March on Washington, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and the Freedom Rides, along with influential leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X, were pivotal in advancing the cause of civil rights during this decade. In contrast, while the Great Society was a series of domestic programs initiated by President Lyndon B. Johnson aimed at eliminating poverty and racial injustice, it was not itself a movement but rather a policy initiative that arose partly from the Civil Rights Movement. The Labor Movement primarily focused on issues related to workers' rights and the conditions of labor, rather than specifically addressing racial injustice. The Progressive Movement, which occurred earlier in the 20th century, dealt with various social reform issues, such as government corruption and women's suffrage, but did not center on the civil rights struggles faced by African Americans in the 1960s. This context highlights the distinct focus of the Civil Rights Movement on racial equality during that transformative period

2. What was a crucial role played by the Byzantine Empire in relation to Western civilization?

- A. Leading trade routes
- B. Defending against Eastern attacks**
- C. Fostering scientific innovations
- D. Colonizing new territories

The Byzantine Empire played a significant role in defending Western civilization from various eastern threats, particularly during the early Middle Ages. By controlling the strategic regions surrounding the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the Byzantines acted as a barrier against invasions from groups such as the Sassanid Persians and later the Arab conquests. Their strong military and fortifications in cities like Constantinople helped preserve not only their own culture and political structures but also provided crucial time for Western Europe to develop and strengthen during a period that might otherwise have faced immediate existential threats from the east. While the other options reflect aspects of the Byzantine Empire's influence or action, they do not capture the pivotal defensive role that was essential for the survival and continuation of what would grow into modern Western civilization. The empire's geographic and strategic positioning allowed it to serve as a bulwark, enabling Western Europe to emerge from its own fragmentation and eventually reclaim territories and establish stability.

3. Who is known for his work 'Gargantua and Pantagruel' during the Renaissance?

A. Molière

B. Francois Rabelais

C. Victor Hugo

D. Émile Zola

The work 'Gargantua and Pantagruel' is attributed to Francois Rabelais, a prominent French Renaissance writer. Rabelais is celebrated for his satirical and humorous approach, exploring themes of humanism, education, and the nature of humanity through the adventures of the giant characters Gargantua and his son Pantagruel. These novels not only reflect the cultural shift of the Renaissance, emphasizing individualism and intellectual pursuit, but also critique social norms and institutions of the time. Rabelais' unique style combines elements of comedy, folklore, and classic literature, making his work significant in the evolution of the novel as a literary form. His contribution to literature is underscored by the depth of thought and richness of language that characterizes his writing, which has influenced countless writers and thinkers throughout history. The comedic and philosophical aspects of his narratives engage readers on multiple levels, which remains relevant and studied in literary circles today.

4. Which key figure was an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Georgia?

A. Ralph Abernathy

B. Andrew Young

C. Jesse Jackson

D. John Lewis

Andrew Young was indeed a prominent figure who served as an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and had significant ties to Georgia. He played a crucial role in the civil rights movement and was a close confidant of King. Young's contributions included organizing nonviolent protests and working on initiatives aimed at ending racial segregation and promoting voting rights. His background in Georgia, where he was involved in activism during the civil rights movement, further solidifies his identity as a key figure from the state associated with King's mission. Additionally, Young's later accomplishments, including his roles as a U.S. Congressman and as the United Nations Ambassador, reflect the substantial impact he had both during and after his time working with Dr. King. This combination of direct involvement in the civil rights movement and his geographic roots in Georgia makes him the correct answer to this question.

5. What was a significant effect of the Dred Scott decision?

- A. It confirmed the legality of women's rights**
- B. It allowed slavery in all territories**
- C. It upheld the rights of free blacks**
- D. It consolidated the abolitionist movement**

The Dred Scott decision, issued by the Supreme Court in 1857, had monumental implications for the legal status of slavery in the United States. The ruling declared that African Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be considered citizens and therefore had no standing to sue in federal court. Most notably, the Court stated that Congress lacked the authority to prohibit slavery in the territories, effectively allowing slavery to be established in all territories of the United States. This decision invalidated the Missouri Compromise, which had sought to limit the spread of slavery in the western territories. This ruling intensified the sectional conflict between the North and South, as it was seen as a significant victory for pro-slavery forces and undermined efforts to limit the expansion of slavery. By affirming that slavery could legally spread into territories where it had previously been banned, the Dred Scott decision contributed to the growing tensions that would eventually lead to the Civil War. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect the consequences of the ruling. The Dred Scott decision did not address women's rights, nor did it affirm the rights of free blacks or consolidate the abolitionist movement directly. Instead, it served as a catalyst for abolitionist sentiments by highlighting the injustices of slavery

6. What was one significant effect of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?

- A. It strengthened Germany's economy**
- B. It reset Germany's borders**
- C. It caused widespread resentment and economic hardship**
- D. It established a strong military presence**

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, had a profound impact on Germany, particularly fostering resentment and economic hardship. The treaty imposed severe reparations on Germany, which crippled its economy and led to hyperinflation in the early 1920s. Additionally, the treaty included territorial losses, military restrictions, and the infamous "war guilt" clause, which held Germany responsible for the war. These measures contributed to a national feeling of humiliation and anger, ultimately destabilizing the Weimar Republic and setting the stage for political extremism. The combined effects of economic turmoil and societal discontent significantly influenced Germany's trajectory in the subsequent years, leading to the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party.

7. Which scholar is often known for his theory that the planets revolve around the sun?

- A. Ptolemy
- B. Copernicus**
- C. Kepler
- D. Newton

The scholar most famously associated with the theory that the planets revolve around the sun is Copernicus. His heliocentric model fundamentally changed the understanding of the universe during the Renaissance. Prior to Copernicus, the prevailing belief was the geocentric model, which positioned the Earth at the center of the universe, with the stars and planets revolving around it. In his work "De revolutionibus orbium coelestium," published in 1543, Copernicus proposed that the sun is at the center of the universe, and the Earth, along with other planets, orbits around it. This idea laid the groundwork for future astronomers, including Kepler, who would further refine the understanding of planetary motion, and Newton, whose laws of gravitation helped explain why these movements occur. Copernicus's theory marked the beginning of a major shift in astronomical thought, known as the Copernican Revolution, leading to the eventual acceptance of the heliocentric model in the scientific community.

8. Which English explorer is credited for giving England its claim to North America?

- A. John Cabot**
- B. Francis Drake
- C. Henry Hudson
- D. James Cook

The English explorer credited for giving England its claim to North America is John Cabot. In 1497, Cabot undertook a voyage under the commission of King Henry VII, which led him to the coast of what is now Newfoundland, Canada. His exploration is significant because it marked the first European expedition to North America since the Vikings, and he is often considered the first to land on the continent in modern times under the English flag. Cabot's voyage is viewed as a catalyst for future English claims in North America, paving the way for subsequent explorations and settlements. His work established the foundation for England's later territorial claims, setting the stage for the Age of Exploration and colonization. The other figures, while important in the history of exploration, did not play the same foundational role in establishing English claims in North America as Cabot did. Francis Drake is known for his circumnavigation of the globe and raids against Spanish settlements, while Henry Hudson explored parts of present-day Canada and New York but did so under the Dutch flag. James Cook is recognized for his explorations in the Pacific, which were important in their own right but occurred much later than Cabot's explorations.

9. What was a prominent effect of 19th-century imperialism in the context of nationalism?

- A. An increase in colonial subservience
- B. Demands for self-government surfaced**
- C. Decreased living standards
- D. Elimination of all local cultures

The prominence of demands for self-government as a result of 19th-century imperialism can be understood within the broader context of rising nationalism. As European powers expanded their empires, they imposed colonial rule over various regions, often disregarding the existing political structures and cultural identities of the local populations. This foreign domination and exploitation often led to a growing sense of consciousness among colonized peoples about their rights and identity. As a reaction to imperialism, many individuals and groups began advocating for self-determination and autonomy. This nationalist sentiment was fueled by the desire to reclaim control over their own governance and to address grievances caused by colonial rule. Leaders and movements emerged in various regions, from India to Africa and parts of Southeast Asia, where nationalistic aspirations challenged imperial authority and called for self-governing political entities. This push for self-government also laid the groundwork for future independence movements, as colonized nations sought not just autonomy, but also recognition of their distinct cultural identities and political legitimacy. In this sense, the rise of nationalism during this period can be viewed as a significant counterforce to the prevailing influences of imperialism, as colonized populations began to unite in their demand for rights and self-determination.

10. What was the last imperial dynasty of China?

- A. Qing
- B. Han
- C. Manchu**
- D. Song

The last imperial dynasty of China was the Qing dynasty. It ruled from 1644 until 1912, when the last emperor, Puyi, abdicated, leading to the establishment of the Republic of China. The Qing dynasty was notable for its significant expansion of Chinese territory and cultural advancements. This period encompassed various historical events, including interactions with Western powers, internal rebellions, and reforms, which ultimately contributed to the dynasty's decline and the end of imperial rule in China. While the Manchu people were the ruling class of the Qing, referring to the dynasty as the "Manchu" does not accurately capture its official designation as the last imperial dynasty. The Qing was a time of both prosperity and turmoil, with lasting impacts on the history and modern identity of China.

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://gacehistory.examzify.com>

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

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