

General Educational Development (GED) Social Studies 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

- 1. What is the central bank established in 1913 that may alter interest rates to stimulate the economy?**
 - A. The Federal Reserve**
 - B. Bank of America**
 - C. International Monetary Fund**
 - D. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**
- 2. Who was sworn into office in 1963 after the assassination of President Kennedy?**
 - A. Lyndon B. Johnson**
 - B. Richard Nixon**
 - C. Gerald Ford**
 - D. Harry S. Truman**
- 3. Which group was displaced from Palestine in the year 1948?**
 - A. Jewish People**
 - B. Arab Muslims**
 - C. Christian Palestinians**
 - D. Bedouins**
- 4. What is the main role of the executive branch of the U.S. government?**
 - A. To interpret laws**
 - B. To create laws**
 - C. To enforce and carry out laws**
 - D. To advise on legal matters**
- 5. What policy was established to grant equal trading rights in China?**
 - A. Open Door Policy**
 - B. Fair Trade Agreement**
 - C. Equal Opportunity Policy**
 - D. Global Market Policy**

- 6. What term refers to the acquisition of control over a territory or country?**
- A. Colonization**
 - B. Annexation**
 - C. Imperialism**
 - D. Occupation**
- 7. What do we call the assistance in the form of money, goods, or services provided to other nations?**
- A. Foreign Aid**
 - B. Diplomatic Support**
 - C. Trade Agreements**
 - D. Humanitarian Assistance**
- 8. What does the term isolationism refer to in the context of foreign policy?**
- A. Active military involvement in conflicts**
 - B. A policy of trade restrictions**
 - C. A policy of avoiding international involvement**
 - D. An alliance with foreign nations**
- 9. What document introduced the concept of "checks and balances"?**
- A. Bill of Rights**
 - B. Federalist Papers**
 - C. U.S. Constitution**
 - D. Declaration of Independence**
- 10. What term refers to the minimum income that a family of four needs to live?**
- A. Poverty Line**
 - B. Living Wage**
 - C. Income Threshold**
 - D. Financial Minimum**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the central bank established in 1913 that may alter interest rates to stimulate the economy?

- A. The Federal Reserve**
- B. Bank of America**
- C. International Monetary Fund**
- D. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**

The Federal Reserve, established in 1913, serves as the central banking system of the United States. Its primary role is to manage the nation's monetary policy, which includes the ability to alter interest rates to help stimulate economic growth or control inflation. By adjusting the federal funds rate, the Federal Reserve can influence the rates at which banks lend to each other, which subsequently impacts interest rates for consumers and businesses. This tool is crucial for economic management, allowing the Federal Reserve to react to changing economic conditions by making borrowing more or less expensive, thus encouraging or discouraging spending and investment. The other options listed do not serve the same central bank functions. Bank of America is a commercial bank and does not have the authority to adjust monetary policy. The International Monetary Fund focuses on international monetary cooperation and financial stability among countries, while the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation provides deposit insurance to maintain public confidence in the U.S. financial system. Therefore, understanding the uniqueness of the Federal Reserve's role in shaping monetary policy and economic stability is essential in the context of this question.

2. Who was sworn into office in 1963 after the assassination of President Kennedy?

- A. Lyndon B. Johnson**
- B. Richard Nixon**
- C. Gerald Ford**
- D. Harry S. Truman**

Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn into office in 1963 following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This transition occurred on November 22, 1963, the same day as Kennedy's assassination, when Johnson was the Vice President. The swearing-in took place on Air Force One as it was on the runway in Dallas, Texas. Johnson's ascension to the presidency marked a significant turning point in American politics as he would later implement key pieces of legislation associated with the Great Society and civil rights reforms. The other individuals listed were not involved in this specific succession. Richard Nixon had already been in office as Vice President much earlier but did not assume the presidency until 1969. Gerald Ford became president much later, in 1974, after Nixon's resignation. Harry S. Truman served as president from 1945 to 1953, long before Kennedy's assassination. This context highlights why Lyndon B. Johnson is the correct answer, as he directly succeeded Kennedy under the circumstances of that historic event.

3. Which group was displaced from Palestine in the year 1948?

- A. Jewish People**
- B. Arab Muslims**
- C. Christian Palestinians**
- D. Bedouins**

The correct answer is that the Arab Muslims, along with other Palestinian Arabs, were the group that experienced significant displacement in Palestine in 1948. This year is known as the year of the Nakba, or "catastrophe," for Palestinians, marking the beginning of a large-scale exodus of Arab Palestinians from their homes and lands, coinciding with the establishment of the State of Israel. During this period, the conflict between Jewish and Arab populations escalated, leading to violence and the eventual declaration of the State of Israel. Many Arab Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes due to the war and the creation of new borders. This resulted in a significant refugee crisis, with many Palestinians becoming displaced and living in refugee camps in neighboring countries. While Jewish people also experienced the establishment of Israel in 1948, it was the Arab Muslim and other Palestinian populations who faced the immediate impact of displacement. Christian Palestinians and Bedouins also share aspects of this complex narrative, but the broader historical context of 1948 centers on the displacement of the Arab Palestinian population.

4. What is the main role of the executive branch of the U.S. government?

- A. To interpret laws**
- B. To create laws**
- C. To enforce and carry out laws**
- D. To advise on legal matters**

The main role of the executive branch of the U.S. government is to enforce and carry out laws. This branch is headed by the President and includes various agencies and departments that implement the laws passed by the legislative branch. The president, as the chief executive, has the authority to ensure that the rules and regulations of the laws are executed effectively, overseeing the federal administration and various government functions. Additionally, the executive branch plays a critical role in policymaking and the administration of government operations. It has the power to issue executive orders, which are directives that manage the operations of the federal government. By doing so, this branch ensures that the laws enacted by Congress are not only enforced but also interpreted and administered in a manner consistent with the intent of those laws. The other roles, such as interpreting laws, are primarily held by the judicial branch, while the legislative branch is responsible for creating laws. Advising on legal matters can fall into various departments but is not the primary function of the executive branch. Therefore, the emphasis on enforcement and execution of laws clearly delineates the central function of the executive branch.

5. What policy was established to grant equal trading rights in China?

- A. Open Door Policy**
- B. Fair Trade Agreement**
- C. Equal Opportunity Policy**
- D. Global Market Policy**

The Open Door Policy was established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to ensure that all countries had equal trading rights in China, preventing any single nation from monopolizing trade concessions in that region. This policy was articulated mainly by the United States and aimed to promote fairness in China's markets among various foreign powers. It was a response to the increasing influence of European powers in China and was intended to create a level playing field where all nations could engage in trade without facing unfair restrictions or quotas. By proposing the Open Door Policy, the United States sought to protect its commercial interests while also maintaining China's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This policy not only facilitated international trade but also served as a diplomatic approach to managing relations with other powers interested in China's resources and markets. Importantly, it reflects a period when the concept of free trade began to gain traction, as various nations recognized the benefits of open markets for their economies.

6. What term refers to the acquisition of control over a territory or country?

- A. Colonization**
- B. Annexation**
- C. Imperialism**
- D. Occupation**

The term that refers to the acquisition of control over a territory or country is typically "colonization." This process involves establishing a colony in a foreign land, often with the intention of settling and exploiting resources. It historically includes the establishment of governance and societal systems by the colonizing power, frequently displacing the indigenous populations. While "annexation" refers specifically to the formal act of adding territory to one's own territory, it usually requires recognition or approval and does not necessarily encompass the broader aspects of establishing settlement and governance that characterize colonization. "Imperialism" is the overarching policy or ideology through which empires expand their influence, control, and governance over foreign territories, but does not solely refer to the direct acquisition of land. "Occupation" typically describes the control of a territory by military forces without a formal claim to sovereignty, often in times of conflict, rather than the establishment of permanent control or rule that colonization implies. Thus, the best term for the comprehensive act of acquiring control, often involving settlement, exploitation, and governance, is colonization.

7. What do we call the assistance in the form of money, goods, or services provided to other nations?

A. Foreign Aid

B. Diplomatic Support

C. Trade Agreements

D. Humanitarian Assistance

The term for assistance provided to other nations in the form of money, goods, or services is called foreign aid. Foreign aid typically encompasses a wide range of support, including financial donations, food supplies, medical care, and infrastructure development, aimed at helping nations address various challenges such as poverty, disaster recovery, or economic instability. This kind of assistance is often facilitated by governments and international organizations to promote development, enhance stability, or support humanitarian efforts. While diplomatic support refers to actions taken to foster positive relationships between countries, and trade agreements involve formal arrangements to facilitate commerce, these do not specifically encompass the act of providing monetary or material assistance. Humanitarian assistance is indeed a subset of foreign aid focused on responding to crises and the immediate needs of affected populations, but it does not encompass the broader scope of foreign aid, which includes longer-term developmental assistance as well.

8. What does the term isolationism refer to in the context of foreign policy?

A. Active military involvement in conflicts

B. A policy of trade restrictions

C. A policy of avoiding international involvement

D. An alliance with foreign nations

Isolationism in the context of foreign policy refers to a strategy where a country intentionally avoids participation in international political or military engagements. This approach often emphasizes self-reliance and prioritizes domestic concerns over global issues. Historically, countries that adopt an isolationist stance seek to limit their involvement in foreign disputes, alliances, and conflicts, reflecting a desire to maintain sovereignty and avoid the complications and risks associated with international affairs. The other options describe different foreign policy approaches. Active military involvement in conflicts signifies an engagement strategy, while a policy of trade restrictions pertains to economic interactions rather than political isolation. Forming alliances with foreign nations contrasts sharply with isolationism, as it entails active participation and collaboration with other countries. Overall, the key characteristic of isolationism is its emphasis on non-involvement in the affairs of other nations.

9. What document introduced the concept of "checks and balances"?

- A. Bill of Rights**
- B. Federalist Papers**
- C. U.S. Constitution**
- D. Declaration of Independence**

The concept of "checks and balances" was introduced in the U.S. Constitution, which established the framework for the federal government of the United States. This system is designed to ensure that no single branch of government—executive, legislative, or judicial—becomes too powerful by granting each branch the authority to limit the powers of the others. By incorporating checks and balances, the framers of the Constitution aimed to prevent tyranny and promote a stable and fair governance system. This principle is fundamental to the functioning of American democracy, ensuring cooperation and oversight among the branches. The other documents mentioned do not specifically focus on the system of checks and balances. The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, primarily addressing individual rights and freedoms rather than the structure of government. The Federalist Papers are a collection of essays that support the ratification of the Constitution and discuss its principles, but they are not a governing document themselves. The Declaration of Independence articulates the colonies' reasons for seeking independence from Britain and emphasizes natural rights but does not lay out the framework of government or the concept of checks and balances.

10. What term refers to the minimum income that a family of four needs to live?

- A. Poverty Line**
- B. Living Wage**
- C. Income Threshold**
- D. Financial Minimum**

The term that refers to the minimum income that a family of four needs to live is known as the poverty line. This concept is a specific income level established by governments to quantify what it means to be living in poverty. It serves as a benchmark to identify the number of people living below that threshold and is critical for the allocation of resources and assistance to ensure that families can meet their basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare. The poverty line is often adjusted for inflation and takes into account family size and composition. It is utilized by social programs and policy-making to target aid effectively. Understanding the poverty line helps in comprehending broader issues around economic equality, social justice, and fiscal policy aimed at addressing poverty within society.

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://gedsocialstudies.examzify.com>

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