

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) SOCIAL STUDIES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. What term describes the period of significant economic growth that occurred before the Great Depression?**
 - A. New Deal
 - B. Roaring Twenties
 - C. Great Awakening
 - D. Industrial Era
- 2. Which movement aimed at ending racial discrimination and promoting civil rights in the United States during the 1960s?**
 - A. The Civil Rights Movement
 - B. The Suffrage Movement
 - C. The Labor Movement
 - D. The Environmental Movement
- 3. What is a primary function of the Legislative branch of government?**
 - A. To interpret laws
 - B. To create laws
 - C. To enforce laws
 - D. To review judicial decisions
- 4. Imaginary lines that run north to south but measure distance east to west are called what?**
 - A. Latitude lines
 - B. Longitude lines
 - C. Equator lines
 - D. Prime Meridian lines
- 5. What is the system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units?**
 - A. Democracy
 - B. Federalism
 - C. Monarchy
 - D. Socialism

- 6. What event catalyzed the United States' entry into World War I?**
- A. The attack on Pearl Harbor
 - B. The bombing of Hiroshima
 - C. The sinking of the Lusitania
 - D. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles
- 7. Which term defines the human creativity that leads to new products or services?**
- A. Innovation
 - B. Entrepreneurship
 - C. Marketing
 - D. Investment
- 8. Which of the following amendments granted women the right to vote in the United States?**
- A. 19th Amendment
 - B. 15th Amendment
 - C. 26th Amendment
 - D. 24th Amendment
- 9. Which President is known for the New Frontier program?**
- A. Lyndon B. Johnson
 - B. Richard Nixon
 - C. John F. Kennedy
 - D. Ronald Reagan
- 10. What is the main purpose of a constitution in a government?**
- A. To create laws
 - B. To outline government structure
 - C. To limit government power
 - D. To describe citizens' rights

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What term describes the period of significant economic growth that occurred before the Great Depression?

- A. New Deal
- B. Roaring Twenties**
- C. Great Awakening
- D. Industrial Era

The period referred to as the Roaring Twenties was characterized by significant economic growth, technological advancements, and cultural dynamism in the United States, following the end of World War I. This decade saw a rise in consumerism, with people enjoying luxuries made possible by increased manufacturing and the proliferation of new technologies such as automobiles and radios. Stock market speculation was rampant, and many Americans experienced a rise in their standard of living during this time, leading to the perception of prosperity and optimism. In contrast to the Roaring Twenties, the New Deal pertains to the series of programs and reforms initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the Great Depression, targeting economic recovery and social reform. The Great Awakening is a term used to describe a series of religious revivals in the American colonies that occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries, not linked to economic growth. The Industrial Era refers more broadly to the period beginning in the late 18th century with the advent of industrialization and encompasses a much wider timeframe than just the 1920s. Thus, the Roaring Twenties accurately captures the essence of this specific period of economic growth and cultural change leading up to the challenges that occurred with the onset of the Great Depression

2. Which movement aimed at ending racial discrimination and promoting civil rights in the United States during the 1960s?

- A. The Civil Rights Movement**
- B. The Suffrage Movement
- C. The Labor Movement
- D. The Environmental Movement

The Civil Rights Movement was a pivotal social movement in the United States during the 1960s that sought to eliminate racial discrimination and secure equal rights for African Americans. This movement emerged as a response to systemic racism and segregation that marginalized Black citizens and denied them basic civil rights. Key figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and numerous grassroots organizations worked tirelessly to challenge segregation laws, promote voting rights, and advocate for equality in education, employment, and public accommodations. The strategies employed by the Civil Rights Movement included peaceful protests, legal challenges, and the mobilization of communities to raise awareness and push for legislative changes. Landmark events like the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, where King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, highlighted the goals of the movement and galvanized national support for civil rights legislation. While other movements listed, such as the Suffrage Movement, focused on voting rights primarily for women, or the Labor Movement, which centered on workers' rights, the Civil Rights Movement specifically addressed issues of racial injustice and aimed to dismantle the barriers imposed by Jim Crow laws, making it the correct choice for this question.

3. What is a primary function of the Legislative branch of government?

- A. To interpret laws
- B. To create laws**
- C. To enforce laws
- D. To review judicial decisions

The primary function of the Legislative branch of government is to create laws. This branch is responsible for proposing, debating, and voting on legislation that governs the country. It consists of elected representatives who represent the interests of their constituents, and through the legislative process, they create statutes that dictate how various aspects of society operate, from healthcare to education to public safety. The Legislative branch holds the essential power to make laws, which directly influences citizens' lives and the functioning of government. This process often involves multiple stages, including drafting bills, committee reviews, and extensive discussions in both houses of the legislature, culminating in votes. If a bill is passed by the legislature, it is then sent to the executive branch for approval or veto. This function is critical in ensuring that the government reflects the will of the people and adapts laws as society changes over time. The Legislative branch plays a foundational role in shaping the law and policy of a nation.

4. Imaginary lines that run north to south but measure distance east to west are called what?

- A. Latitude lines
- B. Longitude lines**
- C. Equator lines
- D. Prime Meridian lines

Longitude lines are the imaginary lines that run north to south on the Earth's surface while measuring the distance east to west from the Prime Meridian. The Prime Meridian is designated as 0 degrees longitude, and as you move east or west from this line, the degrees of longitude increase up to 180 degrees in each direction. This system of lines helps in identifying specific locations on Earth, allowing for accurate navigation and mapping. Latitude lines, in contrast, run east to west and measure the distance north and south of the Equator, which is designated as 0 degrees latitude. Therefore, the understanding of the distinction between the two types of lines is key to grasping the geography-related concepts in social studies.

5. What is the system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units?

- A. Democracy
- B. Federalism**
- C. Monarchy
- D. Socialism

The system of government where power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units is known as federalism. This structure allows multiple levels of government to exist, each with its own responsibilities and powers. In a federal system, the central government handles issues that affect the entire country, such as defense and foreign affairs, while the constituent units (like states or provinces) manage local matters, such as education and transportation. Federalism allows for a balance of power, ensuring that no single entity holds all authority. This division can help accommodate diverse populations with varying needs and interests across different regions. Prominent examples of federal systems include the United States and Germany, where both the national and state governments have the power to legislate on different issues. In contrast, the other options refer to different governmental structures. A democracy can exist within a federal system or as a unitary system; monarchy refers to a form of government where a single person rules, usually for life and by hereditary right; and socialism is an economic and political system where the means of production are owned and regulated by the community as a whole, which does not specifically address the division of powers between levels of government.

6. What event catalyzed the United States' entry into World War I?

- A. The attack on Pearl Harbor
- B. The bombing of Hiroshima
- C. The sinking of the Lusitania**
- D. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles

The sinking of the Lusitania played a pivotal role in catalyzing the United States' entry into World War I due to its impact on public opinion and governmental policy. When the German U-boat sank the British passenger ship Lusitania in May 1915, it resulted in the deaths of 1,198 passengers, including 128 Americans. This event heightened tensions between Germany and the United States, as many Americans were outraged by the attack on a ship, believed to be carrying civilians and refugees. The incident galvanized anti-German sentiment in the U.S. and fueled calls for intervention in the war. While the U.S. government initially maintained a stance of neutrality, the sinking of the Lusitania and subsequent attacks on American merchant ships contributed to a shift in public and political attitudes. Ultimately, these incidents, coupled with other factors like unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany, led to the U.S. declaring war on Germany in April 1917. In contrast, the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred during World War II, the bombing of Hiroshima was one of the concluding events of World War II, and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles took place after World War I had ended, making these options unrelated to the specific event that pushed the

7. Which term defines the human creativity that leads to new products or services?

- A. Innovation
- B. Entrepreneurship**
- C. Marketing
- D. Investment

The concept that best defines the human creativity that leads to new products or services is innovation. Innovation refers to the process of developing new ideas, processes, or technologies that bring about significant improvements or create something entirely novel. It encompasses the imaginative thinking that results in advancements and new offerings in the marketplace. While entrepreneurship involves the act of starting and managing a business, it is closely linked to innovation, as entrepreneurs often rely on innovative ideas to create and establish their enterprises. However, innovation specifically highlights the creative aspect of generating new products or services. Marketing, on the other hand, is the process of promoting and selling products or services, which comes after the innovation phase. Investment pertains to the allocation of resources, typically financial, towards products or services or the startup itself, but it does not directly reflect the act of creativity that leads to those new offerings. Thus, innovation is the term that accurately captures the essence of human creativity in developing new products and services.

8. Which of the following amendments granted women the right to vote in the United States?

- A. 19th Amendment**
- B. 15th Amendment
- C. 26th Amendment
- D. 24th Amendment

The 19th Amendment is the correct answer because it explicitly granted women in the United States the right to vote. Ratified in 1920, this amendment states that the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged on the basis of sex. This was a monumental achievement in the women's suffrage movement and marked a significant milestone in advancing gender equality in the political sphere. In contrast, the 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, addresses voting rights regardless of race but does not mention gender. The 26th Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the voting age to 18 but also does not relate to gender rights. Lastly, the 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964, prohibits poll taxes in federal elections, which also does not pertain specifically to women's voting rights. Each of these amendments plays an important role in the broader context of voting rights, but only the 19th directly pertains to granting women the right to vote.

9. Which President is known for the New Frontier program?

- A. Lyndon B. Johnson
- B. Richard Nixon
- C. John F. Kennedy
- D. Ronald Reagan

The New Frontier program is most closely associated with John F. Kennedy, who introduced this initiative during his presidency in the early 1960s. The New Frontier aimed to address various social and economic challenges facing the United States, including civil rights, education reform, and advancements in space exploration. Kennedy's vision sought to stimulate the economy, improve living standards, and expand opportunities for all Americans, particularly in areas such as healthcare, education, and housing. This initiative was a response to the changing dynamics of the era, as the nation faced significant issues like poverty and civil rights inequalities. Kennedy's proposals laid the groundwork for many programs that would later evolve under subsequent administrations. The New Frontier represents Kennedy's hope for progress and innovation, making it a defining aspect of his presidency.

10. What is the main purpose of a constitution in a government?

- A. To create laws
- B. To outline government structure
- C. To limit government power
- D. To describe citizens' rights

The main purpose of a constitution in a government is to outline the structure of that government. A constitution serves as the foundational legal framework, establishing the roles and responsibilities of different branches of government, how they relate to one another, and the procedures through which they operate. By defining the organization of government—such as legislative, executive, and judicial branches—a constitution is essential for ensuring that power is distributed and checks and balances are maintained. In addition to outlining government structure, a constitution may also serve other functions, such as establishing laws, limiting government power, and enumerating citizens' rights. However, the primary function is to create a clear blueprint for governance that helps maintain order and establish accountability within the governmental framework. This foundational role is what distinguishes a constitution from other legal documents or laws.

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:

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

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