

# GMAS US History EOC 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. Which Supreme Court decisions prominently shaped civil rights and liberties in the 20th century?**
  - A. Brown v. Board of Education (1954), Miranda v. Arizona (1966), Roe v. Wade (1973), Loving v. Virginia (1967)**
  - B. Plessy v. Ferguson**
  - C. Dred Scott v. Sandford**
  - D. Gideon v. Wainwright**
  
- 2. Time period from 1945-1961 with a large increase in population is known as what?**
  - A. Great Migration**
  - B. Baby Boom**
  - C. Roaring Twenties**
  - D. Gilded Age**
  
- 3. The Three-Fifths Compromise affected the counting of enslaved people for representation; what did it do?**
  - A. Counted enslaved people as three-fifths of a person for representation.**
  - B. Counted enslaved people as full persons for representation.**
  - C. Excluded enslaved people from representation entirely.**
  - D. Gave enslaved people equal rights.**
  
- 4. What were the two key provisions addressing slavery in the original Constitution?**
  - A. Abolition of slavery in all states and universal manumission.**
  - B. Three-Fifths Compromise for counting enslaved people and the Fugitive Slave Clause requiring escaped slaves to be returned.**
  - C. Slavery would be legal in the North but not in the South.**
  - D. Slavery was banned in the territories but allowed in states.**
  
- 5. The event that increased U.S. emphasis on space exploration after the Soviet launch of a satellite?**
  - A. Launch of Sputnik**
  - B. Interstate Highway Act**
  - C. Korean War**
  - D. Domino Theory**

- 6. Which war was fought between North Korea and South Korea and involved major Cold War powers?**
- A. Korean War**
  - B. Domino Theory**
  - C. Marshall Plan**
  - D. Launch of Sputnik**
- 7. Which policy is associated with Progressive Era consumer protection?**
- A. Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act.**
  - B. Prohibition via 18th Amendment.**
  - C. Constitutional amendments to promote universal suffrage.**
  - D. Open immigration policies.**
- 8. What were the major causes of the Civil War and its most significant outcomes?**
- A. Conflicts over tariffs and industry; outcomes: economic reunification.**
  - B. Ideological differences over governance with no slavery issues.**
  - C. Conflicts over expansion to the Pacific.**
  - D. Conflicts over slavery and states' rights; outcomes: preservation of the Union, abolition of slavery, and Reconstruction.**
- 9. How did geography influence regional economies in the United States?**
- A. Northeast: fishing; Midwest: agriculture; West: mining**
  - B. West: mining; Midwest: agriculture; Northeast: fishing**
  - C. Northeast: agriculture; Midwest: mining; West: fishing**
  - D. Northeast: fishing; Midwest: mining; West: agriculture**
- 10. Which program aided the rebuilding of Europe after World War II?**
- A. Interstate Highway Act**
  - B. Marshall Plan**
  - C. Launch of Sputnik**
  - D. Bay of Pigs**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which Supreme Court decisions prominently shaped civil rights and liberties in the 20th century?**

**A. Brown v. Board of Education (1954), Miranda v. Arizona (1966), Roe v. Wade (1973), Loving v. Virginia (1967)**

**B. Plessy v. Ferguson**

**C. Dred Scott v. Sandford**

**D. Gideon v. Wainwright**

The main idea here is how key Supreme Court rulings expanded civil rights and personal liberties by interpreting the Constitution to protect individuals from government actions and discrimination. *Brown v. Board of Education* halted racial segregation in public schools by rejecting the idea that separate facilities can be equal, overturning the long-standing precedent set by earlier cases and signaling that state actions must treat students equally regardless of race. *Miranda v. Arizona* established that people must be informed of their rights before police questioning, safeguarding due process and protecting against self-incrimination. *Roe v. Wade* recognized a constitutional right to privacy that includes a woman's choice to terminate a pregnancy, illustrating how personal autonomy can be protected under the Due Process Clause. *Loving v. Virginia* struck down anti-miscegenation laws, affirming that marriage is a liberty that cannot be denied on the basis of race. Together, these decisions span education, criminal procedure, privacy, and marriage, showing a broad push to extend civil rights and liberties in the 20th century. Other options point to important but narrower or earlier cases: *Plessy v. Ferguson* upheld segregation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, *Dred Scott* is a pre-Civil War decision that denied African Americans' rights, and *Gideon v. Wainwright* focuses on the right to counsel in criminal cases but doesn't cover the same wide range of civil liberties as the quartet above.

**2. Time period from 1945-1961 with a large increase in population is known as what?**

**A. Great Migration**

**B. Baby Boom**

**C. Roaring Twenties**

**D. Gilded Age**

Postwar population surge after World War II occurred as returning soldiers married and started families during a time of economic growth and new government support. Birth rates climbed rapidly, creating a large generation known as the Baby Boom. The time frame from 1945 to 1961 fits this early and pronounced rise in births, though the boom extended a bit further into the 1960s. Other options describe different historical periods: the Great Migration was earlier, the Roaring Twenties were in the 1920s, and the Gilded Age was a late 19th-century era.

**3. The Three-Fifths Compromise affected the counting of enslaved people for representation; what did it do?**

**A. Counted enslaved people as three-fifths of a person for representation.**

**B. Counted enslaved people as full persons for representation.**

**C. Excluded enslaved people from representation entirely.**

**D. Gave enslaved people equal rights.**

The main idea is how population counts used to determine representation in Congress were decided. The Three-Fifths Compromise established that enslaved people would be counted as three-fifths of a person for purposes of representation (and for taxes). This arrangement came from a bargaining between states: Northern states favored counting only free persons, while Southern states wanted enslaved people counted to boost their political power. Counting enslaved people as three-fifths of a person gave the Southern states more influence in the House than counting only free people would, but less than counting enslaved people as full persons. It's important to note this did not grant rights to enslaved people; it was about representation and taxation, not citizenship or voting rights, and the practice remained until it was superseded by later constitutional amendments.

**4. What were the two key provisions addressing slavery in the original Constitution?**

**A. Abolition of slavery in all states and universal manumission.**

**B. Three-Fifths Compromise for counting enslaved people and the Fugitive Slave Clause requiring escaped slaves to be returned.**

**C. Slavery would be legal in the North but not in the South.**

**D. Slavery was banned in the territories but allowed in states.**

The main idea here is how the Constitution addressed slavery without ending it. Two provisions stand out because they shaped political power and how slavery was enforced across states. First, the Three-Fifths Compromise counted enslaved people as three-fifths of a person for purposes of representation and taxation. This gave Southern states more influence in the House than if enslaved people had not been counted at all, while also balancing concerns from Northern states about population-based representation. It recognizes enslaved people as part of the political framework without granting them personhood in representation. Second, the Fugitive Slave Clause required escaped enslaved people to be returned to their owners, even if they reached free states. This clause protected slaveholding interests across the new nation and ensured that slavery could be maintained across political boundaries. Together, these provisions show how the original Constitution integrated slavery into the framework of national government. Abolition or universal manumission, or regional bans on slavery, are not part of the original text, which is why those other options don't fit.

**5. The event that increased U.S. emphasis on space exploration after the Soviet launch of a satellite?**

- A. Launch of Sputnik**
- B. Interstate Highway Act**
- C. Korean War**
- D. Domino Theory**

When a nation feels its competitive edge is at risk, it often speeds up investment in related technologies. The launch of Sputnik showed the Soviet Union could reach space, which made the United States worry that it was falling behind in science, technology, and military capabilities. In response, the U.S. stepped up its space program, leading to the creation of NASA in 1958 and a broad push to fund science and engineering education and research. This set the stage for intense efforts in the Space Race. The other events don't fit this direct link to space exploration: the Interstate Highway Act was about domestic infrastructure, the Korean War was an earlier conflict, and the Domino Theory describes Cold War containment ideas rather than space priorities.

**6. Which war was fought between North Korea and South Korea and involved major Cold War powers?**

- A. Korean War**
- B. Domino Theory**
- C. Marshall Plan**
- D. Launch of Sputnik**

This question is testing understanding of Cold War-era conflicts that pitted North and South Korea against each other with the backing of major powers. The war that fits this description occurred from 1950 to 1953, when North Korea invaded the South to try to unify the peninsula. The fighting drew in the major Cold War players: the United States and other United Nations forces supported South Korea, while the Soviet Union supported the North, and China intervened to assist North Korea. This situation embodies a classic proxy conflict of the era, where global powers fought indirectly through smaller nations. An armistice in 1953 halted active fighting, but no formal peace treaty was signed, leaving the Koreas technically still at war and establishing the Demilitarized Zone near the 38th parallel. The other options aren't wars between Koreas. The idea described by the Domino Theory is a geopolitical concept about how communism might spread from one country to neighbors, not a specific conflict. The Marshall Plan was a program of economic aid to rebuild Western Europe after World War II. The launch of Sputnik was the Soviet Union's first satellite, a milestone in the space race, not a military conflict.

**7. Which policy is associated with Progressive Era consumer protection?**

- A. Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act.**
- B. Prohibition via 18th Amendment.**
- C. Constitutional amendments to promote universal suffrage.**
- D. Open immigration policies.**

Protecting consumers through federal regulation of foods and medicines is a hallmark of Progressive Era reform. The Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act, both enacted in 1906, established federal oversight to ensure that foods and medicines were safe, accurately labeled, and produced under sanitary conditions. This shift came in response to public health concerns and muckraking journalism that highlighted dangerous practices in industry, showing a belief that the government should intervene to protect everyday people from harmful products. The other options reflect different reform goals of the era—prohibition aimed at banning alcohol, constitutional amendments expanded voting rights, and immigration policy dealt with movement and labor—not consumer protection.

**8. What were the major causes of the Civil War and its most significant outcomes?**

- A. Conflicts over tariffs and industry; outcomes: economic reunification.**
- B. Ideological differences over governance with no slavery issues.**
- C. Conflicts over expansion to the Pacific.**
- D. Conflicts over slavery and states' rights; outcomes: preservation of the Union, abolition of slavery, and Reconstruction.**

At the heart of this topic is the clash over slavery and its expansion into new territories and states, and how much political power the federal government versus individual states should have to regulate or protect that institution. That dispute over slavery and political power is what escalated into secession and war, making it the defining cause. The best answer highlights that conflict over slavery and states' rights, and it rightly points to the major outcomes: the preservation of the Union, the abolition of slavery, and the Reconstruction era that followed to rebuild the South and redefine citizenship and rights for freed people. The war ended with the United States staying united, slavery legally ended nationwide (via emancipation and the constitutional amendments and laws that followed), and a long, transformative period aimed at rebuilding and redefining Southern society. Other options miss the central issue. Conflicts over tariffs and industrial growth, while part of sectional tension, did not by themselves drive the war. Focusing on expansion to the Pacific ignores the central role of slavery in the fight over new states and territories. And suggesting governance with no slavery issues overlooks the driving force that made the conflict so pivotal in American history.

**9. How did geography influence regional economies in the United States?**

- A. Northeast: fishing; Midwest: agriculture; West: mining**
- B. West: mining; Midwest: agriculture; Northeast: fishing**
- C. Northeast: agriculture; Midwest: mining; West: fishing**
- D. Northeast: fishing; Midwest: mining; West: agriculture**

Geography shapes regional economies by the resources and environments that are most available in each area. In the West, abundant mineral resources and energy supplies push mining to the forefront, with gold, silver, copper, and other minerals driving growth. The Midwest benefits from its vast plains and fertile soil, making large-scale agriculture—crops like corn and wheat and substantial livestock production—a central economic activity. The Northeast, with its long Atlantic coastline, supports a strong fishing industry tied to accessible marine resources and related maritime commerce. So, mapping West to mining, Midwest to agriculture, and Northeast to fishing reflects how where a region is located and what resources it has shapes what its economy focuses on.

**10. Which program aided the rebuilding of Europe after World War II?**

- A. Interstate Highway Act**
- B. Marshall Plan**
- C. Launch of Sputnik**
- D. Bay of Pigs**

This question tests knowledge of postwar European recovery and which program provided U.S. aid to rebuild after World War II. The Marshall Plan, officially the European Recovery Program, was launched in 1948 to help Western Europe reconstruct its economies, rebuild infrastructure and industry, stabilize currencies, and restore trade. It offered substantial grants and loans and encouraged reforms to promote growth and prevent economic collapse that could lead to political instability. Its aim extended beyond rebuilding to strengthening Western Europe as a bulwark against communism, helping set the stage for long-term prosperity and eventual European integration. The other options don't fit because they involve U.S. domestic projects, a space-race milestone, or an unrelated event in Cuba.

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

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

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