

ILTS Social Science (163) 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. What was the primary belief of those who supported manifest destiny?**
 - A. Expansion was essential for U.S. economy**
 - B. Divine support justified territorial acquisition**
 - C. Military strength was needed to defend borders**
 - D. All lands should be equally governed**

- 2. Who is the author of "The Wealth of Nations"?**
 - A. John Maynard Keynes**
 - B. Milton Friedman**
 - C. Adam Smith**
 - D. David Ricardo**

- 3. Which civilization is credited with being the first to establish a government?**
 - A. Rome**
 - B. Egypt**
 - C. Greece**
 - D. Mesopotamia**

- 4. Which of the following factors is not included in biological and ecological concerns?**
 - A. Deforestation**
 - B. Disease**
 - C. Industrial pollution**
 - D. Earthquakes**

- 5. What is a key feature of a parliamentary system?**
 - A. A single ruler with absolute power**
 - B. Division of government into three branches**
 - C. The head of government is chosen by the legislature**
 - D. A monarchy that is hereditary**

- 6. What is meant by "naturalization"?**
- A. The process of legal voting in a new country**
 - B. The process of acquiring property in another nation**
 - C. The legal process by which a foreign citizen becomes a citizen**
 - D. The act of changing one's nationality**
- 7. Which phase of the Industrial Revolution is characterized by mechanization and improvements in mining?**
- A. First Phase**
 - B. Second Phase**
 - C. Third Phase**
 - D. Technological Phase**
- 8. Which branch of government is responsible for ensuring laws are applied fairly?**
- A. Legislative Branch**
 - B. Executive Branch**
 - C. Judicial Branch**
 - D. Administrative Branch**
- 9. Which principle ensures that each branch of government has the authority to monitor and limit the powers of the others?**
- A. Separation of Powers**
 - B. Checks and Balances**
 - C. Federalism**
 - D. Judicial Review**
- 10. Which aspect was not a direct result of the Industrial Revolution related to politics?**
- A. Increased governmental complexity**
 - B. Extension of the middle class**
 - C. Expansion of agricultural practices**
 - D. Growth of cheap newspaper publications**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the primary belief of those who supported manifest destiny?

- A. Expansion was essential for U.S. economy**
- B. Divine support justified territorial acquisition**
- C. Military strength was needed to defend borders**
- D. All lands should be equally governed**

The belief that divine support justified territorial acquisition is central to the concept of manifest destiny. Proponents of manifest destiny held that it was not only their right but also their God-given duty to expand the United States across the North American continent. This view was often intertwined with a sense of American exceptionalism, suggesting that the U.S. had a unique role in spreading democracy and civilization. The idea that expansion was divinely sanctioned helped to rally support for various territorial acquisitions, including the annexation of Texas and the Oregon Territory. While economic motivations and military considerations were also factors in the expansionist agenda, they were often framed within the context of this divine justification. Supporters cited a moral imperative to spread what they considered to be the benefits of American society, reflecting a deeply held belief that their expansion was part of a larger, predetermined plan. This belief system significantly influenced U.S. policy and actions during the 19th century, leading to both domestic and international conflicts over territory and governance.

2. Who is the author of "The Wealth of Nations"?

- A. John Maynard Keynes**
- B. Milton Friedman**
- C. Adam Smith**
- D. David Ricardo**

"The Wealth of Nations," published in 1776, is a foundational text in classical economics and is authored by Adam Smith. In this work, Smith outlines key concepts such as the division of labor, the role of self-interest in economic transactions, and the importance of free markets in promoting economic growth and efficiency. His ideas laid the groundwork for modern economic theory and have had a profound influence on both economic thought and public policy. The other individuals mentioned have made significant contributions to economic thought as well, but none authored "The Wealth of Nations." John Maynard Keynes is known for his work in the 20th century, particularly his theory of macroeconomics and the idea of government intervention to stabilize economic cycles. Milton Friedman is celebrated for his advocacy of free-market economics and monetarism in the 20th century. David Ricardo is known for his contributions to the theory of comparative advantage and international trade. While their works are essential in their own right, Adam Smith's contributions and the specific content of "The Wealth of Nations" distinctly set him apart as the author and a pivotal figure in economic literature.

3. Which civilization is credited with being the first to establish a government?

- A. Rome
- B. Egypt
- C. Greece
- D. Mesopotamia

The correct answer is Mesopotamia. This region, often referred to as the "cradle of civilization," is where some of the first complex societies and governments emerged around 3500-3000 BCE. Mesopotamia consisted of various city-states, such as Uruk and Sumer, which developed structured forms of governance, laws, and administrative systems that laid the groundwork for future civilizations. In Mesopotamia, rulers were often seen as representatives of the gods, integrating religion with governance. This connection influenced the establishment of codified laws, like the Code of Hammurabi, which is one of the earliest sets of laws in recorded history. The governance developed here is significant because it included political, economic, and social structures that directly influenced the evolution of civilizations. Rome, Egypt, and Greece also had significant government systems. However, they arose after the initial establishment of urban governance in Mesopotamia, where the fundamental principles of organized government were first practiced. Each of these later civilizations built upon or adapted the structures initiated in ancient Mesopotamia, illustrating its crucial role in the development of human society and governance.

4. Which of the following factors is not included in biological and ecological concerns?

- A. Deforestation
- B. Disease
- C. Industrial pollution
- D. Earthquakes

The correct answer centers on the distinction between factors that can be attributed to biological and ecological systems versus those that are predominantly human-induced or natural phenomena. Biological and ecological concerns typically address aspects that have a direct impact on living organisms and ecosystems. Deforestation, disease, and even earthquakes can all be linked to biological and ecological impacts. For instance, deforestation directly affects biodiversity, wildlife habitats, and ecological balances. Disease is a biological concern as it pertains to the health of populations and ecosystems, influencing species survival and inter-species relationships. Earthquakes, while natural phenomena, can lead to significant ecological changes by disrupting habitats. Industrial pollution, on the other hand, represents human activity that adversely affects ecosystems through the introduction of harmful substances. It is focused on the negative consequences of industrial practices, which lead to ecological degradation and affect both environmental health and living organisms. While it does relate to ecological issues, it is fundamentally a product of human industry rather than a natural ecological concern. Thus, industrial pollution is not categorized within the same framework as biological concerns, which primarily focus on life, health, and natural ecological interactions. Therefore, industrial pollution is rightly identified as the outlier among the options provided.

5. What is a key feature of a parliamentary system?

- A. A single ruler with absolute power
- B. Division of government into three branches
- C. The head of government is chosen by the legislature**
- D. A monarchy that is hereditary

In a parliamentary system, a defining characteristic is that the head of government, often referred to as the prime minister, is selected by the legislature or parliament. This process typically involves the majority party or coalition determining its leader, which emphasizes the connection between the legislative and executive branches in this system. As a result, the prime minister is accountable to the parliament, and can be removed through a vote of no confidence, highlighting the dynamic relationship between government officials and the elected legislature. Other options represent different governance structures. A single ruler with absolute power suggests an autocratic regime, where power is centralized and not subject to legislative election or accountability. The division of government into three branches characterizes a system like that of the United States, which follows a presidential model rather than a parliamentary one. Lastly, a hereditary monarchy indicates a system where leadership is inherited rather than elected, which does not align with the democratic principles inherent in parliamentary systems where leaders are accountable to elected lawmakers.

6. What is meant by "naturalization"?

- A. The process of legal voting in a new country
- B. The process of acquiring property in another nation
- C. The legal process by which a foreign citizen becomes a citizen**
- D. The act of changing one's nationality

Naturalization refers specifically to the legal process through which a foreign citizen acquires citizenship in a country that is not their original homeland. This process typically involves meeting certain eligibility criteria, such as residency requirements, demonstrating knowledge of the country's language and civics, and taking an oath of allegiance. By becoming a naturalized citizen, an individual gains the rights and responsibilities associated with citizenship, such as the right to vote and the ability to hold public office, which enhances their participation in the civic life of their new country. The other options describe different concepts that do not capture the essence of naturalization. For instance, legal voting pertains to the rights conferred after citizenship is obtained, while acquiring property involves legal ownership issues rather than citizenship status. Changing one's nationality could involve processes that are not formalized or legally recognized as naturalization, which specifically refers to the legal transition from foreign national to citizen.

7. Which phase of the Industrial Revolution is characterized by mechanization and improvements in mining?

- A. First Phase**
- B. Second Phase**
- C. Third Phase**
- D. Technological Phase**

The first phase of the Industrial Revolution, which occurred from the late 18th century to the early 19th century, is indeed characterized by significant mechanization and advancements in mining techniques. During this period, innovations such as the steam engine and various machinery were developed, which greatly enhanced production efficiency. In mining, improvements like the use of steam power for pumping water from mines made it possible to extract minerals more effectively, which was crucial for supplying raw materials for emerging industries. This phase laid the groundwork for subsequent industrial growth by transforming traditional manual labor into mechanized processes and making energy sources more efficient. The shift from agrarian economies to industrialized ones during this time highlighted the importance of both mechanization in factories and advancements in mining, leading to a significant increase in productivity and economic expansion.

8. Which branch of government is responsible for ensuring laws are applied fairly?

- A. Legislative Branch**
- B. Executive Branch**
- C. Judicial Branch**
- D. Administrative Branch**

The Judicial Branch is responsible for ensuring that laws are applied fairly. Its primary function is to interpret the law, assess its constitutionality, and adjudicate disputes that arise under it. This branch includes various levels of courts, with judges who apply legal principles to specific cases. The impartiality of judges and the court system is essential in maintaining the rule of law and protecting individual rights, ensuring that all parties receive fair treatment under the law. The Legislative Branch creates laws, and the Executive Branch enforces them, but the responsibility for interpreting these laws and ensuring their fair application lies with the Judicial Branch. The Administrative Branch is not traditionally identified as a distinct branch of government in the same way and typically falls under the Executive Branch, focusing on the implementation and administration of laws rather than their interpretation.

9. Which principle ensures that each branch of government has the authority to monitor and limit the powers of the others?

- A. Separation of Powers**
- B. Checks and Balances**
- C. Federalism**
- D. Judicial Review**

The principle that ensures each branch of government has the authority to monitor and limit the powers of the others is Checks and Balances. This system is fundamental to the structure of the United States government as outlined in the Constitution. It is designed to prevent any one branch—executive, legislative, or judicial—from becoming too powerful, thus safeguarding against tyranny and abuse of power. Checks and Balances operate through various mechanisms whereby each branch can respond to and regulate the actions of the others. For instance, while the executive branch can veto legislation, the legislative branch can override that veto with a supermajority vote. Additionally, the judicial branch has the power to rule laws or executive actions unconstitutional, providing a check on both the legislative and executive branches. Although the Separation of Powers also plays an important role by delineating distinct functions and responsibilities for each branch, it is the Checks and Balances that specifically focus on the oversight and limitation of powers among the branches. Federalism refers to the division of power between national and state governments, and Judicial Review is the ability of the courts to evaluate the constitutionality of legislative acts and executive actions, but neither embodies the comprehensive monitoring function that Checks and Balances does.

10. Which aspect was not a direct result of the Industrial Revolution related to politics?

- A. Increased governmental complexity**
- B. Extension of the middle class**
- C. Expansion of agricultural practices**
- D. Growth of cheap newspaper publications**

The Industrial Revolution significantly transformed political structures and social dynamics, but the expansion of agricultural practices is not considered a direct result of this period. Instead, the Industrial Revolution primarily focused on the growth of industries and urban centers, which drew labor from agrarian economies. It led to a movement away from traditional agricultural practices toward industrialization and urbanization. The increased complexity of government arose as a response to the rapidly changing economic landscape, necessitating new regulations and structures to manage the growing urban populations and economic activities. The extension of the middle class was significantly influenced by the economic opportunities created by industrialization, as many people moved from agrarian lifestyles to urban jobs, thereby altering social dynamics. Lastly, the growth of cheap newspaper publications was a direct outcome of increased literacy rates and the demand for information in urban settings, fueled by the better printing technologies that emerged during this period. Thus, while agricultural practices evolved due to various factors, they were not a direct political result of the Industrial Revolution, distinguishing them from the other options that denote political and social transformations resulting from industrial changes.

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://iltssocialscience163.examzify.com>

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

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