

# ILTS Social Science History (246) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>17</b>

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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. A transit system user would most likely use the map to determine what?**
  - A. Order of stations.**
  - B. Distance between stations.**
  - C. Direction of routes.**
  - D. Location of major landmarks.**
- 2. Which topics would a social science researcher most likely connect with algorithms and heuristics?**
  - A. Human development and learning**
  - B. Personality and identity**
  - C. Cognition and decision-making**
  - D. Motivation and behavior**
- 3. Which of the following statements related to the inhabitants of Cahokia in the period from approximately 950 to 1250 CE is best supported by archaeological evidence?**
  - A. They developed a highly organized matriarchal society.**
  - B. They waged wars of conquest with inhabitants of the Ohio Valley.**
  - C. They created a sophisticated system of record keeping and writing.**
  - D. They engaged in elaborate networks of trade via river systems.**
- 4. Which issue contributed most to international conflict in North Africa and Southwest Asia during the twentieth century?**
  - A. Emergence of democracy competing with traditional monarchies**
  - B. Increased occurrence of drought and competition for water sources**
  - C. Spread of Christianity competing with Islam**
  - D. Presence of petroleum and competition for access to it**

**5. Who famously said, "Give me liberty, or give me death"?**

- A. Samuel Adams**
- B. Thomas Paine**
- C. Patrick Henry**
- D. George Washington**

**6. What was the primary aim of the Progressive Era?**

- A. To expand the American frontier.**
- B. To address social issues and reform government corruption and inefficiency.**
- C. To promote isolationism in foreign policy.**
- D. To establish a new economic system.**

**7. What does the Gilded Age refer to in American history?**

- A. A period of economic turmoil and hardship**
- B. A phase of significant political reform**
- C. A period of economic growth and ostentatious wealth**
- D. A time of industrial decline**

**8. In the late nineteenth century, how did the philosophy of Social Darwinism affect society?**

- A. it justified the political and economic dominance of wealthy industrialists**
- B. it emphasized the necessity of labor organization for the survival of workers**
- C. it supported the reshaping of the natural landscape to suit economic growth**
- D. it encouraged the establishment of state welfare programs and relief organizations**

**9. Which development was a direct result of the ideas expressed in James K. Polk's 1845 Inaugural Address?**

- A. passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act**
- B. creation of a system of national parks**
- C. prohibition against the expansion of slavery**
- D. annexation of Texas and Oregon**

**10. An important cause of the conquest and annexation of the Philippine Islands by the United States was the desire to:**

- A. Develop naval bases to oppose the expansion of Japanese power.**
- B. Extract natural resources for the development of industry in the Pacific.**
- C. Demonstrate support for rebellion against French rule in Vietnam.**
- D. Secure access to Chinese markets for U.S. manufactured goods.**

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## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. A transit system user would most likely use the map to determine what?**

- A. Order of stations.**
- B. Distance between stations.**
- C. Direction of routes.**
- D. Location of major landmarks.**

The correct answer is that a transit system user would most likely use the map to determine the order of stations. Transit maps typically illustrate the sequence in which stations appear along a route, allowing riders to see how stations are connected and where they fall relative to one another. This is essential for planning trips, as passengers need to understand which stations they will travel through from their point of departure to their destination. Maps often do not provide accurate distance information; that detail may be more effectively conveyed via signage in the stations or with additional resources like mobile apps. While the direction of routes is a useful feature, it is often secondary to the fundamental task of identifying the order of stations along a line. Additionally, major landmarks may be indicated on some transit maps, but the primary focus of a transit map is to list the stations and their order, which is crucial for navigation within the transit system. Thus, the emphasis on the order of stations makes this the most relevant choice for a user trying to navigate their journey.

**2. Which topics would a social science researcher most likely connect with algorithms and heuristics?**

- A. Human development and learning**
- B. Personality and identity**
- C. Cognition and decision-making**
- D. Motivation and behavior**

The connection between algorithms and heuristics is most closely related to cognition and decision-making. Algorithms are step-by-step procedures or formulas for solving problems, while heuristics are mental shortcuts that ease the cognitive load of making decisions. In social science research, understanding how people think, process information, and make choices directly links to the study of cognition and decision-making. Cognitive psychology examines the mechanisms of thought and the strategies individuals use to navigate complex decisions, thus delving deeply into how algorithms and heuristics influence behavior. For example, researchers might explore how people apply heuristic rules to simplify decision-making in uncertain situations, indicating a strong relationship between cognitive processes and the use of these strategies. While other topics like human development, personality, and motivation may intersect with decision-making, the specific focus on algorithms and heuristics—the frameworks for analyzing how decisions are structured and processed—aligns directly with cognitive processes in the decision-making domain. This emphasizes the importance of understanding cognitive strategies in the context of social science research.

**3. Which of the following statements related to the inhabitants of Cahokia in the period from approximately 950 to 1250 CE is best supported by archaeological evidence?**

- A. They developed a highly organized matriarchal society.**
- B. They waged wars of conquest with inhabitants of the Ohio Valley.**
- C. They created a sophisticated system of record keeping and writing.**
- D. They engaged in elaborate networks of trade via river systems.**

The correct choice highlights the significance of trade networks that were vital to the inhabitants of Cahokia from approximately 950 to 1250 CE. Archaeological findings support this statement through evidence of extensive trade routes that facilitated the exchange of goods, materials, and cultural practices. Cahokia was strategically located near major river systems that not only allowed for transportation but also contributed to its economic and social development. Artifacts such as manufactured goods, pottery, and tools from various regions have been discovered at Cahokia, indicating that the people engaged in commerce with distant communities. This exchange of goods points to a well-developed economic system, reflecting the complexity of their society and their ability to connect with other groups. The other options, while they may touch upon aspects of Cahokian culture, lack the strong archaeological backing that trade networks possess. For instance, the notion of a matriarchal society, while interesting, is not firmly supported by the available evidence. Similarly, while conflicts may have occurred, there is limited archaeological proof of organized wars of conquest, especially involving far-off regions like the Ohio Valley. Lastly, the absence of a sophisticated writing system indicates that the inhabitants of Cahokia did not develop record-keeping methods akin to those used in literate societies. Thus,

**4. Which issue contributed most to international conflict in North Africa and Southwest Asia during the twentieth century?**

- A. Emergence of democracy competing with traditional monarchies**
- B. Increased occurrence of drought and competition for water sources**
- C. Spread of Christianity competing with Islam**
- D. Presence of petroleum and competition for access to it**

The issue that contributed most to international conflict in North Africa and Southwest Asia during the twentieth century is the presence of petroleum and competition for access to it. This resource became increasingly vital in global trade and politics, especially after World War II when technological advancements and increased dependency on fossil fuels fueled economic development. Countries rich in oil, such as those in the Persian Gulf, have often found themselves at the center of geopolitical tensions, as major powers sought to secure their energy needs. The control over oil reserves has led to conflicts, both between states in the region and involving foreign nations. For instance, conflicts like the Gulf War were significantly influenced by interests in oil access and control. Furthermore, the wealth generated from petroleum has had profound effects on the political landscape of the region, often leading to instability and rivalries, thus exacerbating existing tensions and contributing to both local and international conflicts. The strategic importance of oil has consistently made it a focal point of competition and conflict throughout the twentieth century.

## 5. Who famously said, "Give me liberty, or give me death"?

- A. Samuel Adams
- B. Thomas Paine
- C. Patrick Henry**
- D. George Washington

The statement "Give me liberty, or give me death" was famously declared by Patrick Henry during a speech he delivered at the Second Virginia Convention in 1775. This phrase has become emblematic of the American struggle for independence and is often cited as a passionate appeal for freedom and resistance against British rule. Henry's speech was instrumental in persuading the convention to deliver Virginian troops for the upcoming war against Britain, exemplifying his role as a leader in the fight for American independence. His eloquence on the necessity of liberty over life itself resonated deeply with his contemporaries and continues to be a rallying cry for freedom. In contrast, while Samuel Adams and Thomas Paine were also prominent figures in the revolutionary movement, they are associated with different contexts and works that addressed the need for independence and governance but did not deliver this particular phrase. George Washington, as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, played a critical role in the revolutionary war as well, but he is not known for this specific quote.

## 6. What was the primary aim of the Progressive Era?

- A. To expand the American frontier.
- B. To address social issues and reform government corruption and inefficiency.**
- C. To promote isolationism in foreign policy.
- D. To establish a new economic system.

The primary aim of the Progressive Era was to address social issues and reform government corruption and inefficiency. This period, which roughly spanned from the 1890s to the 1920s, was characterized by a widespread push for social justice and reform. Reformers aimed to tackle a variety of issues stemming from industrialization and urbanization, including child labor, women's suffrage, workers' rights, and public health. Progressives sought to eliminate the corruption that plagued government, often associated with political machines, and they advocated for more direct participation in politics through measures like the direct election of senators and initiatives and referendums. This movement was influential in enacting significant legislation aimed at improving public welfare, regulating businesses, and increasing government accountability. The other options reflect broader or unrelated concepts. The idea of expanding the American frontier pertains to earlier periods of American history and does not capture the essence of the Progressive movement focused on reforming existing societal structures. Promoting isolationism relates more to foreign policy stances that developed later, particularly after World War I, rather than internal social reforms. Lastly, establishing a new economic system does not align with the Progressive objectives, as the movement primarily aimed to improve the existing capitalist system rather than overhaul it entirely.

## 7. What does the Gilded Age refer to in American history?

- A. A period of economic turmoil and hardship
- B. A phase of significant political reform
- C. A period of economic growth and ostentatious wealth**
- D. A time of industrial decline

The Gilded Age refers to a significant period in American history, typically considered to span from the 1870s to about 1900. This era was characterized by rapid economic growth, particularly in the industrial sector, which led to the rise of impressive wealth among a select few individuals and families. It was marked by the expansion of industries such as steel, railroads, and textiles, which propelled the United States into a new era of economic power. The term "Gilded" itself suggests that while the period appeared prosperous and glittering on the surface, it often masked deeper issues, such as income inequality, poor working conditions, and political corruption. The wealth accumulated by industrialists and financiers created a stark contrast to the struggles faced by factory workers and farmers at the time. Therefore, the correct answer accurately encapsulates the essence of the Gilded Age as a time of remarkable economic growth and ostentatious displays of wealth, which defined the social landscape of the United States during that era.

## 8. In the late nineteenth century, how did the philosophy of Social Darwinism affect society?

- A. it justified the political and economic dominance of wealthy industrialists**
- B. it emphasized the necessity of labor organization for the survival of workers
- C. it supported the reshaping of the natural landscape to suit economic growth
- D. it encouraged the establishment of state welfare programs and relief organizations

The philosophy of Social Darwinism, which emerged in the late nineteenth century, applied the principles of natural selection and "survival of the fittest" to human societies, particularly in the context of economics and social behavior. This ideology was often invoked to justify the power dynamics that favored the wealthy and powerful, suggesting that their success was a natural result of superiority in ability and worth. By promoting the idea that the socio-economic landscape reflected a natural hierarchy, Social Darwinism provided a framework that rationalized the exploitation and marginalization of the poor and working classes. Wealthy industrialists were viewed as those who had "survived" the competitive socio-economic environment, legitimizing their dominance over labor and resources. This philosophy contributed to a societal context where the successes of the rich were celebrated as justified and ordained, while the struggles of the lower classes were often dismissed as evidence of their inferiority. In contrast, the other options present different themes that do not accurately reflect the core impact of Social Darwinism. The idea of promoting labor organization for workers emphasizes collective action contrary to the individualistic viewpoint of Social Darwinism. Similarly, reshaping the natural landscape for economic growth and establishing welfare programs are not directly tied to the tenets of Social Darwinism, which

**9. Which development was a direct result of the ideas expressed in James K. Polk's 1845 Inaugural Address?**

- A. passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act**
- B. creation of a system of national parks**
- C. prohibition against the expansion of slavery**
- D. annexation of Texas and Oregon**

James K. Polk's 1845 Inaugural Address emphasized the importance of territorial expansion and Manifest Destiny, which was the belief that the United States was destined to expand across the North American continent. This idea was a driving factor behind the annexation of Texas and the push for Oregon, as Polk advocated for the acquisition of these territories to fulfill America's perceived providential right to expand. During his presidency, Polk actively pursued the annexation of Texas, which was officially achieved shortly after he took office, and he also sought to resolve the Oregon boundary dispute with Britain, ultimately leading to the U.S. gaining Oregon Territory. The developments in these areas were directly influenced by the themes of expansion and national growth articulated in his inaugural address, making the annexation of Texas and Oregon a direct outcome of his ideas and policies.

**10. An important cause of the conquest and annexation of the Philippine Islands by the United States was the desire to:**

- A. Develop naval bases to oppose the expansion of Japanese power.**
- B. Extract natural resources for the development of industry in the Pacific.**
- C. Demonstrate support for rebellion against French rule in Vietnam.**
- D. Secure access to Chinese markets for U.S. manufactured goods.**

The desire to secure access to Chinese markets for U.S. manufactured goods was a significant factor motivating the United States during the period of the conquest and annexation of the Philippine Islands. Following the Spanish-American War in 1898, the U.S. aimed to expand its economic reach and firmly establish itself as a global power. The Philippines, strategically located in Southeast Asia, served as a critical gateway to China, a vast market that held immense economic potential due to its large population and increasing demand for goods. By controlling the Philippines, the U.S. could facilitate trade with China, ensuring that American manufacturers could export their products more efficiently. This approach was consistent with the broader foreign policy of the time, which sought to promote American interests overseas, particularly in burgeoning markets. This goal was especially relevant given the context of the Open Door Policy, which advocated for equal trading rights in China and aimed to prevent any single power from monopolizing trade in the region. Thus, controlling the Philippines was seen as a strategic move to solidify U.S. influence in Asia and secure economic opportunities in one of the world's most significant markets.

# 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://iltssocialscihist246.examzify.com>**

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

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