

Introduction to Medieval Studies (MDVS 200) 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. What is chivalry, and how did it relate to knighthood and feudal obligations?**
 - A. Chivalry is a code of conduct guiding knights toward loyalty, courage, protection of the weak, and courtly behavior, reinforcing feudal loyalties.**
 - B. Chivalry is a legal code for peasants' taxes.**
 - C. Chivalry is a religious rite performed by bishops.**
 - D. Chivalry is a guild regulation on apprenticeship.**

- 2. How did chivalry function as a social code in feudal society?**
 - A. It provided a code linking knights to lords and vassals, reinforcing loyalty and protection.**
 - B. It abolished all military service.**
 - C. It was a purely religious doctrine with no social function.**
 - D. It referred to a guild's quality standards.**

- 3. What collective name is given to the power that rose among certain Mayors of the Castle/Palace?**
 - A. Frankish Authority**
 - B. Merovingian Privilege**
 - C. Carolingian Restoration**
 - D. Pippinid Power**

- 4. The Third Crusade was fought between Saladin and the forces of which leaders?**
 - A. Charlemagne**
 - B. The Third Crusade was fought between Saladin and the forces of Richard the Lionheart, Philip II, and Frederick Barbarossa**
 - C. A crusade that never happened**
 - D. The First Crusade**

- 5. The Historia regum Britanniae is attributed to Geoffrey of Monmouth.**
 - A. False**
 - B. Not known**
 - C. Possibly by a different author**
 - D. Geoffrey of Monmouth**

- 6. According to the material, the claim that many barbarian tribes adopted Monophysism is true or false?**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not stated**
 - D. Cannot be determined**
- 7. St. Foy is the saint whose intercession Gerbert attributed his healing to.**
- A. St. Michael**
 - B. St. Foy**
 - C. St. Peter**
 - D. St. Augustine**
- 8. How did Viking activity influence medieval Europe beyond raids?**
- A. Vikings raided but never contributed to settlement or trade.**
 - B. Vikings left no impact on English or Ireland.**
 - C. Vikings influenced Europe only through myth and legend.**
 - D. Vikings contributed to trade, settlement, shipbuilding innovations, cultural interactions, and political changes in places like England, Normandy, and Ireland.**
- 9. The term 'Twelfth-Century Renaissance' is attributed to which author?**
- A. Charles Homer Haskins**
 - B. Peter Brown**
 - C. R. W. Chambers**
 - D. Jacob Burckhardt**
- 10. Which work is associated with Thomas Aquinas as a synthesis of faith and reason?**
- A. Proslogion**
 - B. Summa Theologiae**
 - C. Confessions**
 - D. The City of God**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is chivalry, and how did it relate to knighthood and feudal obligations?

A. Chivalry is a code of conduct guiding knights toward loyalty, courage, protection of the weak, and courtly behavior, reinforcing feudal loyalties.

B. Chivalry is a legal code for peasants' taxes.

C. Chivalry is a religious rite performed by bishops.

D. Chivalry is a guild regulation on apprenticeship.

Chivalry is a code of conduct that guides a knight's behavior, combining ideas of loyalty, courage, protection of the weak, and courteous, honorable conduct at court. This framework matters for knighthood and feudal obligations because a knight was a vassal bound to a lord: in return for land, protection, and status, the knight owed military service, loyalty, and a certain standard of behavior. Chivalry translated those obligations into moral duties—fighting bravely for the lord, defending dependents and the vulnerable within the lord's realm, and upholding honor in action and word. It also extended to how a knight should conduct himself toward other nobles and in social settings, shaping relationships within the feudal hierarchy and the broader knightly culture. The concept combines martial responsibility with social manners and religious or ethical ideals in a way that reinforces the feudal order. It's not a legal code about taxes, a religious rite, or a guild regulation, which is why the other descriptions don't fit.

2. How did chivalry function as a social code in feudal society?

A. It provided a code linking knights to lords and vassals, reinforcing loyalty and protection.

B. It abolished all military service.

C. It was a purely religious doctrine with no social function.

D. It referred to a guild's quality standards.

Chivalry functioned as a social code that bound knights to their lords and vassals, creating a framework of loyalty, protection, and mutual obligation within feudal society. It shaped how war was fought and how nobles interacted at court, demanding virtues like honor, bravery, courtesy, piety, generosity, and defense of the weak. In practice, lords granted land and protection in return for military service and sworn loyalty, while knights were expected to defend their lord's rights, maintain social order, and uphold the lord's honor. The code also extended into everyday conduct—how knights treated women, guests, the clergy, and the poor—helping to stabilize relationships and hierarchies in a fractious world. While it drew on Christian ethics, chivalry was not purely religious; it functioned as a political and social mechanism that organized feudal society. The idea that it abolished military service is misleading, and it is not about guild quality standards, which belong to urban craft worlds rather than noble conduct.

3. What collective name is given to the power that rose among certain Mayors of the Castle/Palace?

- A. Frankish Authority**
- B. Merovingian Privilege**
- C. Carolingian Restoration**
- D. Pippinid Power**

The main idea here is that real political power in the Frankish realm eventually rested with the mayor of the palace, and a specific noble lineage—the Pippinids—gradually consolidated that influence. Over time the Pippinids built control over the palace administration, military leadership, and court networks, so their family effectively ruled from behind the throne even while Merovingian kings remained nominal rulers. This lasting consolidation of authority within that office is what historians refer to as Pippinid Power. It captures both the personal strength of the family and the institutional shift in where power resided, which is different from a generic label like Frankish Authority, or from later notions such as the Merovingian Privilege, the Carolingian Restoration, or any broader period term.

4. The Third Crusade was fought between Saladin and the forces of which leaders?

- A. Charlemagne**
- B. The Third Crusade was fought between Saladin and the forces of Richard the Lionheart, Philip II, and Frederick Barbarossa**
- C. A crusade that never happened**
- D. The First Crusade**

This question tests your knowledge of who led the major Western force in the Third Crusade against Saladin. The Third Crusade, fought from 1189 to 1192, brought together the kings Richard the Lionheart of England, Philip II of France, and Frederick Barbarossa, the Holy Roman Emperor, to challenge Saladin's control of the Holy Land. Although Frederick Barbarossa did not survive the journey and Jerusalem remained under Muslim rule, the campaign is defined by this trio of monarchs leading the Crusade against Saladin. Charlemagne lived in the 8th-9th centuries, long before the Crusades. The statement that a Crusade never happened contradicts historical record. The First Crusade was a separate expedition in the late 11th century with different leaders and goals.

5. The *Historia regum Britanniae* is attributed to Geoffrey of Monmouth.

- A. False
- B. Not known
- C. Possibly by a different author
- D. Geoffrey of Monmouth**

The key idea here is who wrote *Historia regum Britanniae*. In medieval scholarship, this Latin chronicle is traditionally attributed to Geoffrey of Monmouth, a cleric active in the 12th century. The attribution comes from the longstanding manuscript tradition and later medieval references that name Geoffrey as the author, making him the standard identification for this work. Although some modern scholars discuss questions of authorship, the conventional and widely accepted answer remains Geoffrey of Monmouth, which is why that attribution is chosen.

6. According to the material, the claim that many barbarian tribes adopted Monophysism is true or false?

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Not stated
- D. Cannot be determined

Monophysitism is the view that Christ has a single divine nature. After the major doctrinal splits of late antiquity, the groups that many barbarian tribes joined tended to align with either Arianism or Nicene (Chalcedonian) Christianity, rather than Monophysitism. Monophysite communities were strongest in the East—Egypt, Syria, and parts of the Levant—while the Germanic and other barbarian groups that entered Western Europe largely adopted Arian Christianity or later shifted to Catholic (Chalcedonian) orthodoxy. Because the material shows that Monophysitism did not become the widespread faith among these barbarian peoples, the claim is not supported.

7. St. Foy is the saint whose intercession Gerbert attributed his healing to.

- A. St. Michael
- B. St. Foy**
- C. St. Peter
- D. St. Augustine

Healing in medieval belief often depended on a saint's intercession, a bridge between the petitioner and the divine. Saint Faith, known as St. Foy, had a famous reputation for healing miracles at Conques, where many pilgrims sought her intercession and reported cures. The tale that Gerbert's recovery came through St. Foy's intercession fits this pattern, making her the best match for the story. The other figures—St. Michael the archangel, St. Peter, and St. Augustine—are important in their own right, but they're not the saint most closely linked to this particular healing narrative in Gerbert's tradition.

8. How did Viking activity influence medieval Europe beyond raids?

- A. Vikings raided but never contributed to settlement or trade.**
- B. Vikings left no impact on English or Ireland.**
- C. Vikings influenced Europe only through myth and legend.**
- D. Vikings contributed to trade, settlement, shipbuilding innovations, cultural interactions, and political changes in places like England, Normandy, and Ireland.**

Viking activity shaped medieval Europe well beyond raids by creating settlements, trade networks, and political and cultural change that linked peoples across regions. In England, Norse settlers established the Danelaw, blending with Anglo-Saxon society, introducing new towns, legal practices, and aristocratic lineages that reshaped governance and culture. In Ireland, Norse communities founded important trading towns such as Dublin, Limerick, and Waterford, turning coastal routes into bustling commercial hubs and fostering sustained intercultural exchange. In Normandy, Norse settlers under leaders who became rulers fused with Frankish authorities to build a durable duchy whose ruling family would later dominate Western Europe, including the 1066 conquest of England. Across the broader north Atlantic and European trade circuits, Viking networks connected the Baltic, Rus, Iceland, Greenland, and western Europe, spreading technologies, shipbuilding innovations, and navigational knowledge. The cultural impact shows up in language borrowings, religious shifts toward Christianity, and new forms of interaction between peoples. So the Vikings' influence was comprehensive: they helped shape economies, politics, and cultures far beyond simple raiding.

9. The term 'Twelfth-Century Renaissance' is attributed to which author?

- A. Charles Homer Haskins**
- B. Peter Brown**
- C. R. W. Chambers**
- D. Jacob Burckhardt**

The idea behind this term comes from Charles Homer Haskins, who popularized the phrase by arguing that the twelfth century in Europe saw a genuine revival of learning and culture. In his influential work *The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century*, he points to the growth of universities, the rise of scholastic philosophy, and extensive translations of ancient (and Arabic) texts as signs of a real intellectual renewal rather than a slow, unnoticed continuity. This framing helped historians see the high Middle Ages as a distinct period of cultural transformation, not just a bridge between antiquity and later medieval developments. The other scholars mentioned contributed important historical perspectives, but they did not coin or widely promote this specific label for the 12th-century revival. Jacob Burckhardt, for example, is famous for *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*, which discusses a later Italian Renaissance; Peter Brown focuses on late antiquity; and R. W. Chambers is known for work on medieval drama and society.

10. Which work is associated with Thomas Aquinas as a synthesis of faith and reason?

A. Proslogion

B. Summa Theologiae

C. Confessions

D. The City of God

The idea being tested is how medieval thinkers connected faith with reason. Thomas Aquinas is best known for showing that faith and reason can inform and support one another rather than contradict. The work that embodies this synthesis is the *Summa Theologiae*. It is a comprehensive, systematically organized guide to Christian theology that uses careful argument and philosophical methods—from Aristotle and natural philosophy—alongside revealed doctrine. Aquinas frames questions, presents objections, and then offers thorough answers, demonstrating how rational inquiry can illuminate truths of faith and how faith can direct and elevate reason. The other works listed come from different authors: the *Proslogion* is Anselm's work focused on proving God's existence via the ontological argument; the *Confessions* and *The City of God* are Augustine's, exploring personal faith and Christian philosophy, not Aquinas's synthesis.

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://mdvs200.examzify.com>

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

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