

Ohio American Institutes for Research (AIR) US History Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. Which term describes a hands-off approach to government intervention in business?**
 - A. Free market**
 - B. Interventionism**
 - C. Regulation**
 - D. Laissez-faire**

- 2. What political system emphasizes collective ownership and no private property?**
 - A. Capitalism**
 - B. Monarchy**
 - C. Communism**
 - D. Democracy**

- 3. Which term refers to fair treatment through the judicial system, including the right to a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury?**
 - A. Habeas Corpus**
 - B. Equal Protection**
 - C. Double Jeopardy**
 - D. Due Process**

- 4. Which organization fought for African American civil rights?**
 - A. NRA**
 - B. AAA**
 - C. ACLU**
 - D. NAACP**

- 5. What term describes the fear of communism in the United States during the 1920s and again in the 1950s?**
 - A. Bolshevism**
 - B. Red Scare**
 - C. McCarthyism**
 - D. Isolationism**

- 6. British passenger ship sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915; 128 Americans died; helped move toward entering the war**
- A. Titanic**
 - B. Mayflower**
 - C. Queen Mary**
 - D. Lusitania**
- 7. Which term refers to goods coming into a country from abroad?**
- A. Export**
 - B. Tariff**
 - C. Embargo**
 - D. Import**
- 8. Which term describes slums; extreme poor living conditions caused by rapid urbanization?**
- A. Slums**
 - B. Tenements**
 - C. Ghettos**
 - D. Shanties**
- 9. Moving out of a country to settle in another is called what?**
- A. Immigration**
 - B. Emigration**
 - C. Relocation**
 - D. Expatriation**
- 10. Which term describes a group of investigative reporters who exposed abuses of big business and urban politics, including Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, and Upton Sinclair?**
- A. Muckraker**
 - B. Investigative Journalists**
 - C. Reformers**
 - D. Journalists**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which term describes a hands-off approach to government intervention in business?

- A. Free market**
- B. Interventionism**
- C. Regulation**
- D. Laissez-faire**

Think about a government's role in the economy as how much it steps in. A hands-off approach means the government stays out of business decisions and lets market forces set prices and allocate resources. That stance is called laissez-faire. It emphasizes minimal government involvement, with little regulation or direct intervention in business activities. By contrast, interventionism involves active government action to shape the economy, regulation refers to specific rules on how businesses operate, and a free market describes the broader system where price and production are determined mainly by supply and demand. Laissez-faire best captures the idea of leaving business largely to the market.

2. What political system emphasizes collective ownership and no private property?

- A. Capitalism**
- B. Monarchy**
- C. Communism**
- D. Democracy**

Communism centers on collective ownership of the means of production and aims to abolish private property. In this system, factories, farms, and other resources are owned by the community (often through the state), and wealth is distributed based on need rather than market forces or personal wealth. This contrasts with capitalism, which rests on private property rights and market competition. A monarchy is about who holds political authority, not how property is owned, and democracy is about citizen participation in government, not a specific economic arrangement. So the description describes communism.

3. Which term refers to fair treatment through the judicial system, including the right to a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury?

- A. Habeas Corpus**
- B. Equal Protection**
- C. Double Jeopardy**
- D. Due Process**

Due process is the guarantee of fair treatment through the normal judicial system, protecting your rights as the government handles legal matters. It means proceedings must be fair, with proper notice, the opportunity to be heard, and unbiased procedures from arrest through trial and punishment. The right to a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury is a key aspect of this fairness, preventing unnecessary delays and ensuring the jury can judge the facts without bias. This protection is anchored in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, which require the government to respect fair procedures before depriving someone of life, liberty, or property. Habeas corpus is a remedy to challenge unlawful detention, which supports due process but isn't the overall guarantee itself. Equal protection deals with treating people equally under the law, not the procedural safeguards of a trial. Double jeopardy protects against being tried twice for the same offense. So the term that matches the description of fair treatment through the judicial system, including a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury, is due process.

4. Which organization fought for African American civil rights?

- A. NRA**
- B. AAA**
- C. ACLU**
- D. NAACP**

Fighting for African American civil rights through legal challenges and organized advocacy is the hallmark of the NAACP. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founded in 1909, focused on ending segregation and discrimination by challenging unjust laws in court and pushing for federal and state reforms. Its legal work, including the fight that led to *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, helped establish a constitutional basis for desegregation and paved the way for the broader civil rights movement. While other groups you might recognize serve different purposes, the NAACP specifically spearheaded organized efforts to secure equal rights for African Americans through legal means and policy change.

5. What term describes the fear of communism in the United States during the 1920s and again in the 1950s?

- A. Bolshevism
- B. Red Scare**
- C. McCarthyism
- D. Isolationism

The term describes a period-wide fear of communism in the United States, seen in two waves: after World War I and again in the 1950s. In the 1920s, fear of Communist influence spurred raids, deportations, and suspicions toward radicals and immigrants—part of a broader climate known as the Red Scare. In the 1950s, Cold War anxieties about Soviet influence led to investigations, loyalty programs, and public accusations, often linked to McCarthyism. The Red Scare best captures both eras' mood and government response to perceived communist threats, whereas Bolshevism is the ideology itself, McCarthyism describes the tactics in the 1950s, and isolationism is about staying out of foreign affairs.

6. British passenger ship sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915; 128 Americans died; helped move toward entering the war

- A. Titanic
- B. Mayflower
- C. Queen Mary
- D. Lusitania**

The sinking of a British passenger liner by a German U-boat in 1915, with American casualties, illustrates how civilian targets in wartime can push a country toward entering the conflict. The Lusitania was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland in May 1915, and the loss of 1,198 lives, including 128 Americans, sparked widespread outrage in the United States. This event underscored the real human costs of unrestricted submarine warfare and shifted public opinion toward opposing Germany, contributing to the push for U.S. involvement in World War I, even though the United States did not enter the war until 1917. The other ships listed either were not sunk in 1915 or are from entirely different historical contexts, so they don't fit this specific scenario.

7. Which term refers to goods coming into a country from abroad?

- A. Export
- B. Tariff
- C. Embargo
- D. Import**

Movement of goods across borders is a basic trade idea. An import is goods brought into a country from abroad, used to meet domestic demand or supply local industries. For example, importing electronics from abroad or coffee from another country. This contrasts with export, which is sending domestically produced goods out to other countries. Related terms include a tariff, which is a tax on goods crossing borders (often on imports), and an embargo, which is a government ban on trade with a particular country.

8. Which term describes slums; extreme poor living conditions caused by rapid urbanization?

A. Slums

B. Tenements

C. Ghettos

D. Shanties

When cities grow rapidly, housing and services often can't keep up, leading to neighborhoods with extreme poverty, overcrowding, and inadequate sanitation. That situation is described by the term slums. Slums focus on the overall conditions of a neighborhood—the dense, poor housing and lack of infrastructure that arise from quick urban expansion. Tenements refer more to the specific buildings people live in—crowded, multi-family dwellings—rather than the surrounding area as a whole. Ghettos denote segregated communities, often by ethnicity or social exclusion, not necessarily defined by housing quality from urban growth. Shanties are makeshift shelters or informal shelters, usually crude structures, but they describe individual dwellings rather than the broader, impoverished urban district. So the best fit for the scenario is slums because it captures both the extreme conditions and their urban-proliferation context.

9. Moving out of a country to settle in another is called what?

A. Immigration

B. Emigration

C. Relocation

D. Expatriation

Moving out of a country to settle in another is about leaving your homeland to live elsewhere. The term emigration captures that outward movement from the country of origin. In contrast, immigration is about entering a new country. Relocation is a broader term for moving, not necessarily across borders, and expatriation refers to living abroad (often for work) without specifying which direction the move took. So when someone leaves their country to settle in another, they are an emigrant from their homeland and an immigrant in the destination country.

10. Which term describes a group of investigative reporters who exposed abuses of big business and urban politics, including Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, and Upton Sinclair?

A. Muckraker

B. Investigative Journalists

C. Reformers

D. Journalists

Muckraker is the term that best captures this group of investigative reporters. They earned this label in the Progressive Era for digging into and exposing abuses by big business and corrupt urban politics, aiming to push for reform. Ida Tarbell investigated Standard Oil's monopolistic practices; Lincoln Steffens wrote about corrupt political machines in cities; Upton Sinclair revealed unsafe conditions in the meatpacking industry in *The Jungle*. Their work highlighted social ills and helped spur reforms and new regulations. While they were journalists and engaged in investigative work, muckraker specifically names this cooperative, reform-minded tradition. Reformers describe a broader aim to change society, and journalists is too general to pin down this famous historical movement.

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://ohairushistory.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE