

Ohio American Institutes for Research (AIR) US History 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 is the name for a workers' organization that seeks to improve conditions and wages?**
 - A. Cooperative**
 - B. Guild**
 - C. Trade Association**
 - D. Labor Union**

- 2. What term describes a system where the state owns the means of production and distributes resources?**
 - A. Oligarchy**
 - B. Capitalism**
 - C. Democracy**
 - D. Communism**

- 3. Which group opposed ratification of the Constitution due to fears of centralized power and lack of protection for individual rights?**
 - A. Federalists**
 - B. Anti-Federalists**
 - C. Patriots**
 - D. Loyalists**

- 4. What term describes bribes or illegal money given to politicians?**
 - A. Graft**
 - B. Kickback**
 - C. Bribery**
 - D. Corruption**

- 5. Which peacekeeping organization was created after World War I, which the United States never joined and failed to prevent World War II?**
 - A. League of Nations**
 - B. United Nations**
 - C. NATO**
 - D. Warsaw Pact**

- 6. Which alliance fought against the Allies in World War II?**
- A. Non-Aggression Pact**
 - B. Allies**
 - C. Central Powers**
 - D. Axis Powers**
- 7. Which period in U.S. history was marked by widespread unemployment, bank failures, and the emergence of Hoovervilles, leading to the New Deal?**
- A. Great Depression**
 - B. Gilded Age**
 - C. Roaring Twenties**
 - D. Progressive Era**
- 8. What political system emphasizes collective ownership and no private property?**
- A. Capitalism**
 - B. Monarchy**
 - C. Communism**
 - D. Democracy**
- 9. Which amendment granted African American men the right to vote?**
- A. Amendment 13**
 - B. Amendment 14**
 - C. Amendment 15**
 - D. Amendment 19**
- 10. The idea that the world is becoming increasingly interconnected is called**
- A. Localization**
 - B. Globalization**
 - C. Isolationism**
 - D. Nationalism**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the name for a workers' organization that seeks to improve conditions and wages?

- A. Cooperative**
- B. Guild**
- C. Trade Association**
- D. Labor Union**

A labor union is a workers' organization formed to improve wages and working conditions by bargaining collectively with the employer. When workers join together, they gain more leverage to negotiate contracts that cover pay, benefits, hours, safety, and other job conditions. If negotiations stall, unions may organize work actions to pressure the employer to compromise. Other options describe different kinds of groups. A cooperative is owned and run by its members to meet their mutual economic needs, not primarily to negotiate with an employer. A guild is a historic association of craftspeople focused on training, standards, and regulating practice. A trade association is an organization of businesses within the same industry, representing industry interests rather than workers.

2. What term describes a system where the state owns the means of production and distributes resources?

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

Communism describes a system in which the state owns the means of production and distributes resources to meet people's needs. The idea is to replace private ownership with collective ownership and planning, so production and output are directed by the state rather than by markets. This stands in contrast to capitalism, where private individuals or firms own productive assets and markets guide distribution; democracy is about how leaders are chosen and laws are made, not specifically how the economy is owned; and oligarchy refers to rule by a small, privileged group. So the term that fits the description is communism.

3. Which group opposed ratification of the Constitution due to fears of centralized power and lack of protection for individual rights?

- A. Federalists
- B. Anti-Federalists**
- C. Patriots
- D. Loyalists

The group opposing ratification because of fears of a strong central government and a lack of guaranteed rights is the Anti-Federalists. They worried that the new Constitution would concentrate too much power in a national authority, potentially eroding states' sovereignty and individual liberties. They argued that without a Bill of Rights to explicitly protect basic freedoms—such as speech, religion, and due process—the people could be at risk of government overreach. Their pressure helped lead to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights as amendments to reassure critics and secure broader support for ratification. In contrast, Federalists supported ratification, arguing that a stronger central government was necessary and that protections for rights could be added through future amendments. Patriots were those who supported independence from Britain, and Loyalists remained loyal to the Crown; neither group centers on the constitutional ratification debate in the way the Anti-Federalists did.

4. What term describes bribes or illegal money given to politicians?

- A. Graft**
- B. Kickback
- C. Bribery
- D. Corruption

Graft is the term that best fits because it specifically describes illicit money or benefits gained by a public official through dishonest or illegal means, often as part of a corrupt scheme like taking bribes or kickbacks. Bribery refers to the act of offering or receiving something of value to influence a decision, but graft is the broader idea of gaining money or advantages through misuse of office. A kickback is a particular type of bribe, usually a portion of money returned to someone for helping secure a deal, so it's narrower than graft. Corruption is the umbrella term for abusing power for private gain, which includes graft but is less precise for describing "bribes or illegal money given to politicians."

5. Which peacekeeping organization was created after World War I, which the United States never joined and failed to prevent World War II?

A. League of Nations

B. United Nations

C. NATO

D. Warsaw Pact

The main idea here is recognizing the League of Nations as the international body created after World War I to keep the peace through collective security and dispute resolution. It was established in the aftermath of the war, largely championed by Woodrow Wilson, but the United States never joined because the Senate refused to ratify the treaty and commit to its obligations. Without U.S. participation, the League lacked the power and credibility to deter aggression. As the 1930s saw Japan, Italy, and Germany violate terms and pursue expansion, the League was unable to prevent another global conflict. By contrast, the United Nations formed after World War II with broader participation and stronger mechanisms for enforcement; NATO and the Warsaw Pact arose later during the Cold War, not in the post-World War I period, so they don't fit the description of the question.

6. Which alliance fought against the Allies in World War II?

A. Non-Aggression Pact

B. Allies

C. Central Powers

D. Axis Powers

In World War II, the group that fought against the Allies was the Axis Powers. This alliance included Germany, Italy, and Japan, united by aims of territorial expansion and coordinated military action across Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Central Powers belong to World War I, not WWII, so they don't fit this question. A Non-Aggression Pact is a type of treaty, not a bloc of nations in combat. The opposing side to the Axis was the Allies, so that's not the alliance described by the prompt. The Axis Powers is the correct label for the alliance that fought against the Allies.

7. Which period in U.S. history was marked by widespread unemployment, bank failures, and the emergence of Hoovervilles, leading to the New Deal?

A. Great Depression

B. Gilded Age

C. Roaring Twenties

D. Progressive Era

Massive job loss, a wave of bank failures, and the appearance of Hoovervilles capture a period of extreme economic collapse and social distress that spurred federal intervention. This era began after the stock market crash of 1929, when banks failed and many people lost their savings, leading to widespread unemployment and poverty. Hoovervilles—shantytowns named for President Hoover—became a stark symbol of those hardships. The depth and duration of this crisis directly set the stage for the New Deal, a series of programs and reforms aimed at relief, recovery, and reform under Franklin D. Roosevelt. Other periods don't fit all these features: the Gilded Age was late 19th-century industrial growth and corruption, the Roaring Twenties were a time of prosperity before the crash, and the Progressive Era focused on reform in the early 20th century.

8. 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.

9. Which amendment granted African American men the right to vote?

- A. Amendment 13**
- B. Amendment 14**
- C. Amendment 15**
- D. Amendment 19**

The main idea here is which constitutional change specifically protects the right of African American men to vote. The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, declares that the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. This was a direct step to secure Black male suffrage after the Civil War, building on the abolition of slavery (Thirteenth Amendment) and the protection of citizenship and equal protection (Fourteenth Amendment). The Nineteenth Amendment later extended voting rights to women, not to Black men. While the Fifteenth Amendment set the legal guarantee, Jim Crow laws and other barriers still complicated access to the ballot for many decades.

10. The idea that the world is becoming increasingly interconnected is called

- A. Localization**
- B. Globalization**
- C. Isolationism**
- D. Nationalism**

Globalization describes the process by which the world becomes more connected through trade, communication, technology, and culture. Advances in transportation and digital networks make it easier for goods, services, information, and people to move across borders, creating interdependent economies and shared cultural exchanges. This networked world means actions in one country can have quick effects elsewhere, from global supply chains to international travel and cross-border media. Localization focuses on local communities and self-sufficiency, not global links. Isolationism is a policy of avoiding foreign involvement, and nationalism emphasizes loyalty to and interests of one's own country rather than global integration. Those terms describe more inward-oriented or distinct approaches, whereas globalization captures the growing worldwide interconnectedness.

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!

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