

Praxis II Elementary Education Social Studies (5904) 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 are the main religions in Nepal?**
 - A. Islam and Hinduism**
 - B. Hinduism and Buddhism**
 - C. Christianity and Buddhism**
 - D. Sikhism and Hinduism**

- 2. Which of the following is a shared power between state and federal governments?**
 - A. Print money**
 - B. Raise and levy taxes**
 - C. Conduct elections**
 - D. Declaring war**

- 3. The United States entered World War I largely due to which factor?**
 - A. Zimmerman Telegram**
 - B. Use of submarine warfare in the Atlantic**
 - C. Sinking of the Lusitania**
 - D. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand**

- 4. Which amendment is primarily associated with citizenship and equal protection under the law?**
 - A. First Amendment**
 - B. Fifth Amendment**
 - C. Fourteenth Amendment**
 - D. Sixteenth Amendment**

- 5. What public behavior by the American public during the Cold War reflected fear of nuclear attack?**
 - A. The construction of private bomb shelters**
 - B. The building of fallout shelters only in rural areas**
 - C. Widespread public haircuts**
 - D. Increased school holidays**

- 6. The Hutu and Tutsi conflict occurred in which country?**
- A. Rwanda**
 - B. Burundi**
 - C. Uganda**
 - D. Tanzania**
- 7. Cultural modification of people adapting or borrowing traits from another culture is called?**
- A. Diffusion**
 - B. Acculturation**
 - C. Assimilation**
 - D. Globalization**
- 8. In the history of the United States, political parties first played a role in elections in which year?**
- A. 1796**
 - B. 1800**
 - C. 1776**
 - D. 1865**
- 9. What artifact, found in Egypt, included inscriptions in three scripts that allowed scholars to translate hieroglyphs?**
- A. Rosetta Stone**
 - B. Code of Hammurabi**
 - C. Dead Sea Scrolls**
 - D. Mask of Tutankhamun**
- 10. Which term describes a state with no government?**
- A. Oligarchy**
 - B. Monarchy**
 - C. Anarchy**
 - D. Democracy**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are the main religions in Nepal?

- A. Islam and Hinduism
- B. Hinduism and Buddhism**
- C. Christianity and Buddhism
- D. Sikhism and Hinduism

In Nepal, Hinduism is the largest religion, shaping everyday life, festivals, and many social practices for a large part of the population. Buddhism also holds a major place in the country's religious landscape, with deep historical roots in the region, a strong presence in the Kathmandu Valley, and iconic sites like Boudhanath and Swayambhunath. The birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini further reinforces Buddhism's significance in Nepalese culture. Together, these two traditions are the most prominent in the country, even though smaller communities practicing Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, and others are also present.

2. Which of the following is a shared power between state and federal governments?

- A. Print money
- B. Raise and levy taxes**
- C. Conduct elections
- D. Declaring war

Concurrent powers allow both state and federal governments to raise money through taxes to fund public services. Taxation is shared because the federal government can levy taxes under its constitutional powers, and states have their own taxing authority to support state programs. This shared ability helps fund things like roads, schools, and public safety across different levels of government. Printing money is reserved for the federal government, not states. Declaring war is an exclusive federal power. Conducting elections is primarily a state responsibility, though there is some federal involvement in standards and oversight.

3. The United States entered World War I largely due to which factor?

- A. Zimmerman Telegram
- B. Use of submarine warfare in the Atlantic**
- C. Sinking of the Lusitania
- D. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany directly threatened American lives and the right to ships' safe passage on the Atlantic. When German U-boats began sinking merchant ships, including those carrying American passengers or goods, the United States faced a clear, immediate danger to its citizens and its economy. That made neutrality untenable and provided a concrete justification for asking Congress to declare war, because defending freedom of the seas and protecting neutrality required taking a stand against German aggression. The Lusitania sinking and the Zimmermann Telegram did influence public opinion and added urgency, but the decisive, defining factor driving entry was the submarine campaign that put American lives at risk and challenged the United States' ability to remain neutral.

4. Which amendment is primarily associated with citizenship and equal protection under the law?

- A. First Amendment**
- B. Fifth Amendment**
- C. Fourteenth Amendment**
- D. Sixteenth Amendment**

The main idea here is how the Constitution protects who is a citizen and guarantees everyone equal protection under the law. The Fourteenth Amendment does exactly that. It contains the Citizenship Clause, which defines who is a citizen—born or naturalized in the United States—and the Equal Protection Clause, which requires states to treat people similarly under the law. This combination ties citizenship status to legal protections and pushes state governments to uphold those protections for all people. After the Civil War, this amendment was added to ensure newly established rights wouldn't be limited by state laws, and over time its due process and equal protection provisions have been used to apply many protections from the Bill of Rights to the states as well (through incorporation). That focus on citizenship and preventing unequal treatment is what makes it the best fit for this question. The other amendments protect different issues: the First Amendment covers freedoms like speech and religion; the Fifth Amendment protects due process and other rights primarily at the federal level; the Sixteenth Amendment allows Congress to tax income.

5. What public behavior by the American public during the Cold War reflected fear of nuclear attack?

- A. The construction of private bomb shelters**
- B. The building of fallout shelters only in rural areas**
- C. Widespread public haircuts**
- D. Increased school holidays**

Fear of a nuclear attack during the Cold War led people to take concrete, personal steps to protect themselves. Building private bomb shelters was the clearest way Americans translated that fear into action, creating dedicated safe spaces in homes or yards and often stocking them with supplies. This shows an active, everyday preparation for a possible disaster, not just worry. Other options don't fit as well. Haircuts aren't related to national security concerns, and while school drills did occur, increased school holidays aren't a direct, widespread response to the fear of nuclear attack. Fallout shelters were not limited to rural areas; they appeared in urban and suburban settings as part of broader civil defense efforts.

6. The Hutu and Tutsi conflict occurred in which country?

- A. Rwanda**
- B. Burundi**
- C. Uganda**
- D. Tanzania**

Think about where the most infamous Hutu-Tutsi conflict unfolded in recent history. Rwanda is that country. Colonial powers in Rwanda reinforced ethnic identities and counting Hutus and Tutsis, and after independence the power struggle intensified, culminating in the 1994 genocide in which many Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. This tragic event is central to why the Hutu-Tutsi conflict is closely tied to Rwanda. While Burundi also has Hutu and Tutsi groups and its own tensions, the well-known modern conflict most people refer to is in Rwanda. So the country is Rwanda.

7. Cultural modification of people adapting or borrowing traits from another culture is called?

- A. Diffusion**
- B. Acculturation**
- C. Assimilation**
- D. Globalization**

The idea being tested is how people change when they come into contact with another culture and borrow traits from it. Acculturation describes this cultural modification: individuals or groups adopt new customs, language, foods, or practices from another culture while still maintaining aspects of their own original identity. It's different from diffusion, which is about ideas or cultural elements spreading between cultures, not necessarily involving the adopters' personal changes. It also differs from assimilation, where the original culture is absorbed so completely that distinct differences fade away, whereas acculturation involves blending while still keeping some of the original culture. Globalization is a broader, global process of interconnectedness that includes cultural exchanges but isn't about the specific modification of people through sustained cultural contact. For example, immigrants might learn a new language and adopt new customs and foods, yet continue to celebrate their homeland traditions.

8. In the history of the United States, political parties first played a role in elections in which year?

- A. 1796**
- B. 1800**
- C. 1776**
- D. 1865**

Organized political parties began to shape U.S. elections in the 1790s, and the first clear party competition occurred in 1796. By that election, two organized factions—the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans—fielded tickets and campaigned against each other. John Adams, a Federalist, won the presidency, while Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, came in second and served as Vice President under the electoral rules at the time. Earlier elections under Washington were more about individual leaders than formal party groups, so they don't reflect party involvement in the way 1796 does. The other years listed aren't the first instance of party competition: 1776 is the Declaration of Independence era, and 1865 is during the Civil War era, well after party organization had begun.

9. What artifact, found in Egypt, included inscriptions in three scripts that allowed scholars to translate hieroglyphs?

- A. Rosetta Stone**
- B. Code of Hammurabi**
- C. Dead Sea Scrolls**
- D. Mask of Tutankhamun**

The key idea here is how a single artifact provided the missing link to read ancient Egyptian writing. The Rosetta Stone, found in Egypt and dating from the Ptolemaic period, bears inscriptions in three scripts: Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphic. Because the Greek text could be read, scholars could work out how the symbols in the other two scripts corresponded to sounds and words. This breakthrough let Jean-François Champollion unlock hieroglyphs in the early 19th century, opening up vast knowledge about ancient Egyptian language, history, religion, and daily life. The other items listed don't fit this specific function: the Code of Hammurabi is a Babylonian law code inscribed in cuneiform, not a translation key for Egyptian hieroglyphs; the Dead Sea Scrolls are Jewish texts primarily in Hebrew and Aramaic; the Mask of Tutankhamun is an Egyptian tomb artifact with hieroglyphs but not a three-script translation tool.

10. Which term describes a state with no government?

- A. Oligarchy**
- B. Monarchy**
- C. Anarchy**
- D. Democracy**

Anarchy refers to a state where there is no government or centralized authority. In political terms, it means no ruler or formal system of law and order is guiding the society, at least temporarily or in a theoretical sense. The other options describe places where some form of rule exists: oligarchy is rule by a small, elite group; monarchy is rule by a single king or queen; democracy is rule by the people, either directly or through representatives. So when the question asks for the term for a state with no government, anarchy is the best fit.

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://praxis5904.examzify.com>

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

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