

PRAXIS II ELEMENTARY EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES (5904) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Which program proposed by F.D.R. aimed to fund several works projects to provide jobs for the unemployed?**
 - A. New Deal
 - B. Fair Deal
 - C. New Frontier
 - D. Great Society

- 2. Islam is a _____ religion.**
 - A. Polytheistic
 - B. Monotheistic
 - C. Atheistic
 - D. Pantheistic

- 3. The Gulf Stream effect on climate results in which of the following?**
 - A. The climate of Western Europe is significantly cooler and harsher than it otherwise would be
 - B. It has no significant effect on climate
 - C. The climate of Western Europe is significantly warmer and milder than it otherwise would be
 - D. It makes Western Europe drier

- 4. Which ancient civilization is often cited as serving as a model for modern government?**
 - A. Roman
 - B. Greek
 - C. Egyptian
 - D. Mongol

- 5. Which event led to the Spanish-American War?**
 - A. Destruction of the USS Maine
 - B. Treaty of Paris
 - C. Battle of Manila Bay
 - D. Bombing of Pearl Harbor

- 6. Which event led to Russia withdrawing from World War I?**
- A. The Bolshevik Revolution started
 - B. The United States entered the war
 - C. The Allied invasion of Russia
 - D. The Treaty of Versailles was signed
- 7. What is an environmental impact of strip-mining an area for minerals?**
- A. Removes large sections of land from an area
 - B. Creates new forest areas
 - C. Builds mountains
 - D. Floods valleys
- 8. Which signer is famous for the largest signature on the Declaration of Independence?**
- A. Thomas Jefferson
 - B. George Washington
 - C. John Hancock
 - D. Benjamin Franklin
- 9. Which event contributed to the Mexican-American War?**
- A. Annexation of Texas
 - B. Gadsden Purchase
 - C. Louisiana Purchase
 - D. Civil War
- 10. Which form of government is defined as rule by the people and their elected representatives, with a president rather than a monarch?**
- A. Monarchy
 - B. Democracy
 - C. Republic
 - D. Theocracy

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which program proposed by F.D.R. aimed to fund several works projects to provide jobs for the unemployed?

A. New Deal

B. Fair Deal

C. New Frontier

D. Great Society

The program described is the New Deal. In the 1930s, Franklin D. Roosevelt launched a broad set of federal initiatives to pull the country out of the Great Depression. A hallmark of the New Deal was funding numerous public works projects to create jobs for the unemployed—buildings, roads, bridges, schools, parks, and other infrastructure—often carried out through agencies like the Works Progress Administration. This approach aimed to put money into workers' hands, stimulate demand, and revive the economy. The other named programs come from later eras: a postwar domestic agenda under Truman, Kennedy's space-and-civil-rights era proposals, and Johnson's comprehensive reforms, none of which match the New Deal's signature focus on widespread public-works employment funded by the federal government.

2. Islam is a _____ religion.

A. Polytheistic

B. Monotheistic

C. Atheistic

D. Pantheistic

The main idea being tested is how Islam conceptualizes belief about God. Islam is monotheistic, meaning it centers on the belief in a single, indivisible God, Allah. This oneness is a foundational principle in Islam, captured in the declaration that there is no deity but Allah. The concept of tawhid—the unity of God—shapes how Muslims worship and understand all aspects of faith. This emphasis on one God is what sets Islam apart from polytheistic traditions (which worship multiple gods), atheistic views (which deny any god), and pantheistic views (which identify God with the universe or nature). Therefore, Islam is described as monotheistic.

3. The Gulf Stream effect on climate results in which of the following?

A. The climate of Western Europe is significantly cooler and harsher than it otherwise would be

B. It has no significant effect on climate

C. The climate of Western Europe is significantly warmer and milder than it otherwise would be

D. It makes Western Europe drier

Heat transported by ocean currents shapes regional climate. The Gulf Stream carries warm tropical waters northward across the Atlantic and releases that heat into the air as it moves. That heat makes Western Europe's winters much milder and the overall climate warmer than it would be at that latitude, helping to keep temperatures above what inland regions at similar latitudes would experience. It's not primarily about drying the region; precipitation patterns are influenced by many factors, but the dominant effect of this current is warming, not cooling or drying.

4. Which ancient civilization is often cited as serving as a model for modern government?

- A. Roman
- B. Greek
- C. Egyptian
- D. Mongol

The main idea is recognizing how ancient Rome contributed a structure many modern governments imitate: a republic with power split and bound by law. Rome organized governance with elected magistrates, a Senate that guided policy, and popular assemblies representing citizens, creating a balance between different branches and the people. Central to this was codified law—the Twelve Tables—so rules applied to everyone, including those in power. This combination of representative elements, shared rule, and a system of written laws became a lasting blueprint for later constitutional governments and legal traditions. Greek ideas about citizen participation influenced thinking, but the Roman model of a constitutional framework and codified law most directly shaped modern government concepts. Egypt and the Mongol Empire relied on different systems—divine or centralized authority without a comparable, enduring constitutional structure—so they're less often cited as templates for modern governance.

5. Which event led to the Spanish-American War?

- A. Destruction of the USS Maine
- B. Treaty of Paris
- C. Battle of Manila Bay
- D. Bombing of Pearl Harbor

A dramatic incident that inflames public opinion and pushes leaders toward action often becomes the spark that starts a war. In this case, the explosion of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in 1898 served as that spark for the Spanish-American War. American newspapers widely blamed Spain and urged intervention, helping to rally public support even as investigations debated the exact cause. The event is remembered as the catalyst that moved the United States from rising tensions to declaring war and engaging Spanish forces. The other options relate to the war in different ways but not to its outbreak. The Treaty of Paris ended the war, not began it. The Battle of Manila Bay was a major wartime engagement that followed the decision to go to war. The bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred decades later and involved a different conflict.

6. Which event led to Russia withdrawing from World War I?

- A. The Bolshevik Revolution started
- B. The United States entered the war
- C. The Allied invasion of Russia
- D. The Treaty of Versailles was signed

The event being tested is the Bolshevik Revolution, when the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917 and shifted Russia's goals toward internal consolidation rather than continuing the war. With a new government in place that wanted peace, Russia negotiated an exit from World War I, which culminated in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1918. That treaty officially ended Russia's participation and allowed the country to withdraw from the conflict. The other options don't explain Russia's withdrawal. The United States entering the war affected the Allies' position but did not cause Russia to leave. There wasn't an Allied invasion of Russia that forced an exit. The Treaty of Versailles ended the war but came after Russia had already withdrawn, not the reason for the withdrawal itself.

7. What is an environmental impact of strip-mining an area for minerals?

A. Removes large sections of land from an area

B. Creates new forest areas

C. Builds mountains

D. Floods valleys

Strip mining involves removing the topsoil and rock overburden to reach mineral seams, which disturbs and often removes large sections of land. That land is left exposed, vegetation is destroyed, and ecosystems are disrupted, making removal of big areas the most accurate environmental impact. It doesn't create forests, isn't used to build mountains, and while it can alter drainage and erosion, it isn't simply described as flooding valleys.

8. Which signer is famous for the largest signature on the Declaration of Independence?

A. Thomas Jefferson

B. George Washington

C. John Hancock

D. Benjamin Franklin

A signature can carry more meaning than simply to attest a document. John Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence is famous for its size and boldness, making it instantly recognizable. He signed as president of the Continental Congress, and his large, clear handwriting was meant to be legible and stand out. Over time, Hancock's oversized signature came to symbolize bold action and the push for American independence. Other signers like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin played crucial roles in creating and supporting the document, but none are remembered for having a notably large signature.

9. Which event contributed to the Mexican-American War?

A. Annexation of Texas

B. Gadsden Purchase

C. Louisiana Purchase

D. Civil War

The event behind this question is about how territorial expansion and disputed borders can lead to war. When Texas, which had been an independent republic after its revolution from Mexico, was annexed by the United States in 1845, Mexico still claimed Texas as its territory. This move intensified tensions because Mexico viewed the annexation as a direct challenge to its sovereignty and an act of American expansionism. A key issue became the boundary between the two nations. Mexico said the border was the Nueces River; the United States claimed the Rio Grande as the boundary. Clashes in the disputed border area followed, and war broke out in 1846 as fighting escalated between Mexican forces and U.S. troops. Other options don't fit as the primary trigger: the Gadsden Purchase occurred later and was about acquiring land for a railroad route; the Louisiana Purchase happened much earlier and involved land not at the Texas-Mexico border; the Civil War occurred decades later and involved different conflicts.

10. Which form of government is defined as rule by the people and their elected representatives, with a president rather than a monarch?

- A. Monarchy
- B. Democracy
- C. Republic**
- D. Theocracy

A government in which the people elect representatives to govern and there is a president rather than a monarch is a republic. The defining idea here is governance through elected representatives within a framework of laws, with a nonmonarchical head of state. Monarchy would have a king or queen as head of state, theocracy is rule by religious leaders, and democracy emphasizes rule by the people—often through elected representatives, but the description given highlights the representative structure and a presidential head of state, which best fits a republic.

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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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