

Social Studies Praxis Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. Who was the first president of the United States?**
 - A. Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. George Washington**
 - C. Abraham Lincoln**
 - D. Theodore Roosevelt**

- 2. What was a significant result of the Cold War in Europe?**
 - A. A. The establishment of the European Union**
 - B. B. The expansion of NATO**
 - C. C. The division of Germany**
 - D. D. The dissolution of the Soviet Union**

- 3. Which novel significantly influenced the abolitionist movement?**
 - A. Native Son**
 - B. Uncle Tom's Cabin**
 - C. Huckleberry Finn**
 - D. Gone with the Wind**

- 4. Which of the following is NOT likely to be given as a justification for establishing protective tariffs on imports?**
 - A. Allowing infant industries time to develop within their own countries.**
 - B. Providing the widest possible variety of goods and services within the home country.**
 - C. Guaranteeing that sufficient supplies of essential materials are available in times of crisis.**
 - D. Preserving high-paying jobs within the home country.**

- 5. What is the significance of the Gilded Age in American history?**
 - A. It was a time of war and conflict in America**
 - B. It was a time of rapid economic growth characterized by industrialization, urbanization, and significant social change**
 - C. It marked the end of slavery in the US**
 - D. It saw the rise of the abolitionist movement**

- 6. What was a primary cause of the Spanish-American War?**
- A. American imperialist interests in Spanish territories**
 - B. The desire to promote democracy in Spain**
 - C. Colonial rivalry between Spain and France**
 - D. The need to protect American shipping routes**
- 7. What significant power did the Supreme Court establish in the early 19th century?**
- A. Veto power over state laws**
 - B. Judicial review**
 - C. Authority to legislate**
 - D. Power to appoint judges**
- 8. All of the following are aspects of disagreement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict EXCEPT**
- A. A. territorial borders**
 - B. B. water rights**
 - C. C. religious claims to land**
 - D. D. state control of the economy**
- 9. How is globalization best defined?**
- A. The rise of nationalism in politics**
 - B. The process of businesses operating internationally**
 - C. The development of local markets**
 - D. The increase in local traditions**
- 10. During World War II, what role did women primarily take on?**
- A. Political leadership positions**
 - B. Jobs traditionally held by men**
 - C. Volunteers in Red Cross services**
 - D. Combat roles in the military**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who was the first president of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. George Washington**
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. Theodore Roosevelt

George Washington was the first president of the United States, taking office in 1789 after the ratification of the Constitution. He is often referred to as the "Father of His Country" for his pivotal role in the founding of the nation and in establishing the presidency as an institution. Washington set many precedents for the office, including the tradition of serving only two terms and the establishment of a cabinet. His leadership during the American Revolutionary War and his influence during the Constitutional Convention helped shape the values and structures of the new government. The other figures listed—Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt—each served as president, but in later years, with Jefferson taking office in 1801, Lincoln in 1861, and Roosevelt in 1901, highlighting their significant yet distinct contributions to American history at different points.

2. What was a significant result of the Cold War in Europe?

- A. A. The establishment of the European Union
- B. B. The expansion of NATO
- C. C. The division of Germany**
- D. D. The dissolution of the Soviet Union

The division of Germany is a significant result of the Cold War in Europe because it symbolized the ideological battle between the Eastern bloc, led by the Soviet Union, and the Western nations, primarily the United States and its NATO allies. After World War II, Germany was split into East and West in 1949, with East Germany becoming a communist state under Soviet influence and West Germany aligning with capitalist Western Europe. This division not only reflected the broader geopolitical tensions of the Cold War but also had lasting cultural, economic, and political impacts on Germany and Europe as a whole. The Berlin Wall, erected in 1961, became a powerful symbol of this division and the broader conflict between democracy and totalitarianism during the Cold War era. The reunification of Germany in 1990 marked a significant turning point in Europe, demonstrating the decline of communist influence and the beginning of a new era in European history.

3. Which novel significantly influenced the abolitionist movement?

- A. Native Son
- B. Uncle Tom's Cabin**
- C. Huckleberry Finn
- D. Gone with the Wind

"Uncle Tom's Cabin," written by Harriet Beecher Stowe and published in 1852, played a crucial role in influencing the abolitionist movement in the United States. The novel brought the brutal realities of slavery into the public consciousness, highlighting the moral and ethical dilemmas associated with the institution. It presented sympathetic characters and emotionally charged narratives that appealed to readers' sentiments, inspiring many to join anti-slavery causes or to view the institution of slavery as fundamentally wrong. Stowe's work was not only a bestseller but also used as a tool for advocacy, mobilizing public opinion against slavery and contributing to the growing abolitionist sentiment in the years leading up to the Civil War. The impact of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was felt widely; it sparked conversations, debates, and even action among its contemporaries, serving as a rallying point for abolitionists by illustrating the human cost of slavery. The novel's legacy continues to be analyzed for its historical significance and emotional power.

4. Which of the following is NOT likely to be given as a justification for establishing protective tariffs on imports?

- A. Allowing infant industries time to develop within their own countries.
- B. Providing the widest possible variety of goods and services within the home country.**
- C. Guaranteeing that sufficient supplies of essential materials are available in times of crisis.
- D. Preserving high-paying jobs within the home country.

The justification for establishing protective tariffs is often centered around supporting domestic industries and jobs. Allowing infant industries to develop, ensuring essential materials are available during crises, and preserving high-paying jobs are all aligned with the goals of protective tariffs, as these policies aim to shield local economies from foreign competition and promote self-sufficiency. In contrast, providing the widest possible variety of goods and services within the home country is typically not a persuasive argument for protective tariffs. This is because tariffs can restrict imports, potentially leading to a narrower selection of available goods. While tariffs aim to protect domestic producers, they can inadvertently limit consumer choices by making it more difficult for foreign products, which often enhance variety, to enter the market. Thus, this reason aligns less effectively with the intent and traditional justifications for implementing protective tariffs compared to the other options listed.

5. What is the significance of the Gilded Age in American history?

- A. It was a time of war and conflict in America**
- B. It was a time of rapid economic growth characterized by industrialization, urbanization, and significant social change**
- C. It marked the end of slavery in the US**
- D. It saw the rise of the abolitionist movement**

The Gilded Age is significant in American history primarily because it was a period of transformative economic growth and profound social change. This era, roughly spanning from the 1870s to the early 1900s, was marked by rapid industrialization, which fundamentally altered the American economy. Factories and railroads proliferated, leading to increased production and job opportunities, which in turn spurred urbanization as people moved from rural areas to cities in search of work. The Gilded Age also saw significant technological advancements, including innovations in transportation and communication, which contributed to a booming economy. However, this growth was accompanied by a range of social issues, such as labor rights disputes, economic inequality, and shifts in demographics due to immigration. The era highlighted a stark contrast between the wealthy elite and the working class, prompting movements advocating for social reforms and changes in labor laws. Overall, the Gilded Age was a pivotal time that laid the groundwork for the social and economic landscape of modern America, setting the stage for future reforms and changes in American society.

6. What was a primary cause of the Spanish-American War?

- A. American imperialist interests in Spanish territories**
- B. The desire to promote democracy in Spain**
- C. Colonial rivalry between Spain and France**
- D. The need to protect American shipping routes**

The primary cause of the Spanish-American War can be attributed to American imperialist interests in Spanish territories. In the late 19th century, the United States was driven by a desire to expand its influence and control beyond its borders, particularly in regions like the Caribbean and the Pacific. The explosion of the USS Maine in Havana harbor and sensationalist journalism, often referred to as "yellow journalism," fueled public outcry and desired intervention. The U.S. government and many citizens saw an opportunity to assert American power by supporting Cuban independence from Spain, which aligned with broader imperialist ambitions. The conflict ultimately resulted in the U.S. gaining control over former Spanish colonies such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, marking a significant expansion of American territory and influence. This desire for territorial acquisition and the establishment of the United States as a global power were the central motives behind entering the war.

7. What significant power did the Supreme Court establish in the early 19th century?

A. Veto power over state laws

B. Judicial review

C. Authority to legislate

D. Power to appoint judges

The Supreme Court established judicial review in the early 19th century, which is the power of the Court to examine laws and government actions and determine whether they are constitutional. This principle was solidified in the landmark case of *Marbury v. Madison* in 1803, where Chief Justice John Marshall asserted the role of the Supreme Court in reviewing and potentially invalidating acts of Congress that conflicted with the Constitution. This power is significant as it provides a vital check on the legislative and executive branches of government, ensuring that all actions comply with the foundational legal framework of the nation. Judicial review has since become a cornerstone of the American legal system, shaping the relationship between state and federal laws and safeguarding individual rights against government overreach.

8. All of the following are aspects of disagreement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict EXCEPT

A. A. territorial borders

B. B. water rights

C. C. religious claims to land

D. D. state control of the economy

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the primary areas of disagreement include territorial borders, water rights, and religious claims to land. These issues have historical and cultural significance and are deeply interwoven with national identity and the right to self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians. Territorial borders remain one of the most contentious aspects, as both parties have competing claims over land. Water rights are equally important, particularly given the region's arid climate and scarcity of resources, leading to disputes over access and control of vital water sources. Religious claims to land further complicate the situation, as significant religious sites are found within the contested territories and are central to the identities of both groups. In contrast, state control of the economy is not a primary aspect of the dispute in the same way. Although economic issues do play a role in the broader context of the conflict, they are less about direct territorial or religious claims and more about the implications of the conflict on economic conditions. Therefore, state control of the economy does not encapsulate a core area of disagreement like the other options do.

9. How is globalization best defined?

- A. The rise of nationalism in politics
- B. The process of businesses operating internationally**
- C. The development of local markets
- D. The increase in local traditions

The essence of globalization lies in the process of businesses operating internationally. This phenomenon encompasses the growth of economic, cultural, technological, and political interactions that transcend national boundaries. As businesses expand their operations beyond their home countries, they engage in the global market, which leads to a complex web of trade, investment, and collaboration across various regions. This interaction fosters economic interdependence among countries, impacting not just the economies but also the cultures and societies involved. The other options reflect aspects that can be influenced by globalization but do not encapsulate its defining characteristics. For example, while the rise of nationalism in politics can occur in response to globalization, it is not a defining aspect of the process itself. Similarly, the development of local markets and the increase in local traditions represent responses or adaptations to globalization rather than the concept itself. Thus, the correct choice effectively captures the core idea of globalization as an international business phenomenon.

10. During World War II, what role did women primarily take on?

- A. Political leadership positions
- B. Jobs traditionally held by men**
- C. Volunteers in Red Cross services
- D. Combat roles in the military

During World War II, women primarily took on jobs traditionally held by men as a significant response to the manpower shortages resulting from the war. With large numbers of men serving in the military, women filled critical roles in factories, shipyards, and other industries vital to the war effort. This included positions such as welders, riveters, and mechanics, which had typically been male-dominated. The shift was not just about filling jobs; it represented a fundamental change in societal norms regarding women's capabilities and employment. Women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers, and many embraced roles that showcased their skills and resilience, contributing significantly to the economy and the war effort. This period also saw the iconic cultural imagery of "Rosie the Riveter," which symbolized women's empowerment and contribution during the war. While some women did participate in volunteer activities, such as the Red Cross, and a limited number took on combat roles, these were not the primary roles assumed by women during this period. Political leadership positions were also marginally occupied by women, but they did not play a major role in the overall workforce dynamics of wartime activities. Thus, the significant transition to jobs traditionally held by men underscores the crucial impact women had during World War II.

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://praxis-socialstudies.examzify.com>

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