

Texas A&M University (TAMU) HIST105 History of the United States Exam 2 Practice (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. Who was a key figure known for advocating internal improvements during the Election of 1824?**
 - A. William Crawford**
 - B. John Quincy Adams**
 - C. Andrew Jackson**
 - D. Henry Clay**
- 2. What personal characteristics were associated with Andrew Jackson?**
 - A. Wealth and aristocracy**
 - B. Rugged individualism and a battle scar**
 - C. Intellectual prowess and diplomacy**
 - D. Reluctance to engage in controversy**
- 3. What change did the Naturalization Acts bring about regarding citizenship?**
 - A. Increased the citizenship requirement from 5 to 14 years**
 - B. Decreased the citizenship requirement from 14 to 5 years**
 - C. Required citizenship tests for immigrants**
 - D. Allowed immediate citizenship for all new arrivals**
- 4. Which article discusses the powers of Congress?**
 - A. Article 3**
 - B. Article 2**
 - C. Article 1**
 - D. Article 4**
- 5. Which founding father believed that involving the wealthy in government was essential for its success?**
 - A. Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. George Washington**
 - C. Alexander Hamilton**
 - D. Benjamin Franklin**

6. Which branch of government is primarily responsible for making laws?

- A. Judicial Branch**
- B. Executive Branch**
- C. Legislative Branch**
- D. State Powers**

7. What was a major economic concern for the U.S. in 1790?

- A. Surplus of agricultural products**
- B. National debt and state debts**
- C. Low population growth**
- D. Lack of foreign trade**

8. Who was the Secretary of State under George Washington?

- A. Alexander Hamilton**
- B. Thomas Jefferson**
- C. James Madison**
- D. John Jay**

9. What was a significant fear of Thomas Jefferson regarding government?

- A. Fear of mob rule**
- B. Fear of monarchy**
- C. Fear of foreign intervention**
- D. Fear of economic collapse**

10. According to the Virginia Plan, how were members of the House of Representatives to be elected?

- A. By state legislatures**
- B. By popular vote of white male citizens**
- C. By appointment of the executive**
- D. By an electoral college**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who was a key figure known for advocating internal improvements during the Election of 1824?

- A. William Crawford**
- B. John Quincy Adams**
- C. Andrew Jackson**
- D. Henry Clay**

The key figure known for advocating internal improvements during the Election of 1824 was John Quincy Adams. Adams was a strong proponent of federal investment in infrastructure, which included roads, canals, and other public works aimed at enhancing the nation's transportation system and supporting economic growth. His vision prioritized economic development through modernization of infrastructure, which was essential for integrating the growing American economy and facilitating trade. Adams's commitment to internal improvements was part of a larger national development strategy that appealed to many who recognized the need for a more connected and efficient economic system across the expanding United States. This focus positioned him favorably among supporters of progressivism and modernization, distinguishing his election campaign from those of his contemporaries, who may have had different priorities or approaches to governance. In this context, while other candidates like Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay had their own significant platforms and support bases, it was Adams's specific advocacy for internal improvements that stood out and made a lasting impact on American policy and infrastructure in the years that followed.

2. What personal characteristics were associated with Andrew Jackson?

- A. Wealth and aristocracy**
- B. Rugged individualism and a battle scar**
- C. Intellectual prowess and diplomacy**
- D. Reluctance to engage in controversy**

Andrew Jackson is primarily associated with "rugged individualism and a battle scar," as these traits deeply reflect his public persona and personal narrative. Jackson was known for his fierce independence and self-reliant character, which resonated with the American spirit of the time. His rise from humble beginnings, including a difficult childhood and subsequent journey to prominence, illustrated the ideals of the "self-made man." Additionally, Jackson's military background, particularly his leadership during the War of 1812 and his famous victory at the Battle of New Orleans, underscored his reputation as a rugged individualist. The "battle scar" references his physical scars from these conflicts, which he proudly bore as testament to his determination and bravery. Together, these attributes embodied the image of a strong, assertive leader who appealed to a more egalitarian vision of American identity, contrasting sharply with the established wealth and elitism that characterized many of his predecessors. This combination of rugged individualism and military acclaim positioned Jackson as a populist figure, embodying the aspirations and values of many ordinary Americans in the early 19th century.

3. What change did the Naturalization Acts bring about regarding citizenship?

- A. Increased the citizenship requirement from 5 to 14 years**
- B. Decreased the citizenship requirement from 14 to 5 years**
- C. Required citizenship tests for immigrants**
- D. Allowed immediate citizenship for all new arrivals**

The Naturalization Acts of 1790 and 1795 introduced significant changes to the process of obtaining U.S. citizenship. The correct answer indicates that these acts increased the residency requirement for immigrants seeking citizenship from five years to fourteen years. This change aimed to reduce the number of people who could quickly become citizens, reflecting the era's concerns about immigration and the integration of newcomers into American society. By extending the waiting period, the laws allowed for a more thorough evaluation of immigrants' character and loyalty to the United States, which was particularly important in the context of the young nation grappling with issues of identity and democratic ideals. As a result, potential citizens were required to demonstrate a longer commitment to the country before they were granted the rights and privileges that came with citizenship. In summary, this adjustment to the naturalization process signified a more stringent approach to immigration and citizenship in the early years of the republic, which was influenced by social and political factors of the time.

4. Which article discusses the powers of Congress?

- A. Article 3**
- B. Article 2**
- C. Article 1**
- D. Article 4**

C is the correct answer because Article 1 of the United States Constitution specifically outlines the legislative powers of Congress. This article establishes a bicameral legislature, consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and details the responsibilities, powers, and functions of Congress, including the authority to make laws, levy taxes, regulate commerce, and declare war, among other duties. By establishing the framework for legislative action, Article 1 plays a central role in the governance of the United States, delineating how Congress operates and what it is authorized to do. The other articles in the Constitution focus on different branches of government and their powers: Article 2 addresses the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Branch, while Article 3 pertains to the Judicial Branch. Article 4 discusses the relationships between states and the federal government, as well as among the states themselves. Therefore, Article 1 is uniquely designated to discuss the powers of Congress.

5. Which founding father believed that involving the wealthy in government was essential for its success?

- A. Thomas Jefferson**
- B. George Washington**
- C. Alexander Hamilton**
- D. Benjamin Franklin**

Alexander Hamilton is recognized for his belief that the participation of wealthy and elite individuals in government was crucial for its stability and effectiveness. He argued that the affluent had a vested interest in the nation's financial health, which would lead to more responsible governance. Hamilton saw the wealthy as key players in supporting a strong central government, as their economic interests would encourage them to contribute positively to the nation's progress. In contrast, Thomas Jefferson held a more populist view, advocating for greater involvement of the common citizen and agrarian interests rather than an elite ruling class. George Washington, while valuing the input of educated and affluent citizens, was more concerned with unity and independence rather than strictly aligning governance with wealthy interests. Benjamin Franklin, although an influential statesman, focused more on diplomatic and social aspects than a specific economic class's involvement in governance. Hamilton's vision led to important financial policies and the establishment of institutions such as the Bank of the United States, reinforcing his thesis that the wealthy play a fundamental role in ensuring the longevity and strength of government.

6. Which branch of government is primarily responsible for making laws?

- A. Judicial Branch**
- B. Executive Branch**
- C. Legislative Branch**
- D. State Powers**

The Legislative Branch is primarily responsible for making laws, which is a fundamental aspect of its function within the U.S. government. This branch consists of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, which together form Congress. The process of lawmaking involves introducing, debating, amending, and voting on proposed legislation. Once both houses approve a law, it is sent to the President for approval or veto. This structure was established by the U.S. Constitution to ensure that the power to create laws is held by elected representatives of the people, thereby promoting democracy. The design also allows for checks and balances, as the President can veto legislation, but Congress can override that veto with a sufficient majority. In contrast, the Judicial Branch interprets laws and ensures they are applied fairly and justly, while the Executive Branch, led by the President, is responsible for enforcing the laws. State Powers refer to the responsibilities and rights reserved to individual states under the Constitution, which may include enacting their own laws, but they do not pertain specifically to the federal legislative process.

7. What was a major economic concern for the U.S. in 1790?

- A. Surplus of agricultural products
- B. National debt and state debts**
- C. Low population growth
- D. Lack of foreign trade

A major economic concern for the United States in 1790 was the national debt and state debts. After the Revolutionary War, the new nation faced significant financial challenges, including the need to manage both the debts incurred by the federal government and those owed by individual states. The total amount of money owed was substantial, and ensuring the stability and credit of the nation was paramount. This concern was significant as it influenced fiscal policies and efforts to create a cohesive economic structure, which ultimately led to the establishment of a national bank and other financial institutions aimed at addressing these debts. Understanding this context highlights how the focus on consolidating debt was seen as essential for establishing financial credibility and stability in the fledgling country. The elements of national debt and state debts were pivotal in shaping early American economic policy and the relationship between the federal government and the states, making it the central concern of the time.

8. Who was the Secretary of State under George Washington?

- A. Alexander Hamilton
- B. Thomas Jefferson**
- C. James Madison
- D. John Jay

Thomas Jefferson served as the Secretary of State under George Washington. This position was crucial in the early years of the United States as Jefferson was responsible for managing international relations and diplomatic affairs. His vision of America was heavily influenced by his belief in agrarian democracy and his commitment to individual liberty, which helped shape the foreign policy of the nascent republic. During his tenure, Jefferson worked to navigate the complex relationships with European powers, including Britain and France, as well as addressing concerns regarding American expansion and territorial integrity. His approach often emphasized diplomacy over military engagement, which reflected his overall philosophy about government and society. In contrast, key figures like Alexander Hamilton and John Jay played significant roles in different capacities; Hamilton was the Secretary of the Treasury, focusing on economic matters, and Jay served as the first Chief Justice of the United States. James Madison, although an important founding father and later known for his presidency, was not part of Washington's initial cabinet.

9. What was a significant fear of Thomas Jefferson regarding government?

- A. Fear of mob rule**
- B. Fear of monarchy**
- C. Fear of foreign intervention**
- D. Fear of economic collapse**

Thomas Jefferson's significant fear regarding government centered around the potential for monarchy. He was deeply concerned about the concentration of power in the hands of a single ruler, reflecting his experiences with British rule and the lack of representation under a monarchy. Jefferson valued republicanism and democracy, advocating for a system of government that empowered the people rather than a monarch. His writings and political actions emphasized the importance of checks and balances to prevent any individual or group from gaining too much power, which he equated with tyranny. This fear was further rooted in Enlightenment ideals, which highlighted the dangers of authoritarianism and the importance of individual rights and liberties. Jefferson's distrust of centralized authority influenced his policies and led him to support the expansion of democratic principles throughout the new nation.

10. According to the Virginia Plan, how were members of the House of Representatives to be elected?

- A. By state legislatures**
- B. By popular vote of white male citizens**
- C. By appointment of the executive**
- D. By an electoral college**

The Virginia Plan proposed a new framework for the government of the United States that included a bicameral legislature. Within this proposal, it was stipulated that members of the House of Representatives would be elected by the people, specifically through a popular vote. This approach was significant because it aimed to increase the power of the legislature by enabling direct representation of the citizens. The intention was to create a system where representatives were directly accountable to the electorate, which was a departure from previous models that often involved indirect elections or appointments through state legislatures. The concept of electing representatives directly by popular vote underscored the Virginia Plan's emphasis on the importance of democratic principles and the need for representatives to reflect the will of the people. This was in alignment with the belief held by many at the time that governance should be more representative of the populace rather than chosen by elite or appointed leaders, marking a crucial evolution in political thought in the lead-up to the formation of the United States government.

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://tamu-hist105exam2.examzify.com>

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

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