

Texas A&M University (TAMU) HIST105 History of the United States 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 was one effect of the Columbian Exchange on agriculture?**
 - A. Decreased demand for crop diversity**
 - B. Introduction of new farming techniques**
 - C. Construction of tobacco fields**
 - D. Elimination of slave labor**

- 2. What was the belief system that Charles I of England adhered to, which influenced his rule?**
 - A. Democratic governance**
 - B. Divine right of Kings**
 - C. Social contract theory**
 - D. Federalism**

- 3. Who was the son of Mary Stuart and succeeded Elizabeth I as the King of England?**
 - A. Henry VIII**
 - B. Charles I**
 - C. James I**
 - D. George I**

- 4. Who founded the colony of Connecticut based on the principle that voting should not be tied to church membership?**
 - A. Thomas Hooker**
 - B. Roger Williams**
 - C. William Penn**
 - D. John Winthrop**

- 5. What limitations did tobacco farming face according to historical context?**
 - A. Labor shortages**
 - B. Excessive soil fertility**
 - C. Too much rainfall**
 - D. Lack of land to cultivate**

6. What year did World War II begin?

- A. 1936**
- B. 1939**
- C. 1941**
- D. 1945**

7. Who led the New Model Army during the English Civil War and executed Charles I?

- A. Oliver Cromwell**
- B. Richard Cromwell**
- C. Thomas Cromwell**
- D. George Monck**

8. What was the significance of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, which he posted in 1517?

- A. It led to the establishment of the Catholic Church in America**
- B. It initiated the Protestant Reformation and challenged the Catholic Church's practices**
- C. It created a new form of government in Germany**
- D. It was a call for the exploration of new lands**

9. What was a major consequence of the 2008 financial crisis?

- A. It led to significant economic growth**
- B. It resulted in widespread unemployment and recession**
- C. It increased the stock market's value**
- D. It eliminated the need for financial regulations**

10. Which political concept was being challenged during the Zenger trial?

- A. Monarchical authority**
- B. Colonial autonomy**
- C. Free press**
- D. Judicial independence**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was one effect of the Columbian Exchange on agriculture?

- A. Decreased demand for crop diversity**
- B. Introduction of new farming techniques**
- C. Construction of tobacco fields**
- D. Elimination of slave labor**

The Columbian Exchange had a profound effect on agriculture, particularly through the introduction of new cash crops. One of the most significant developments was the cultivation of tobacco, which became a highly sought-after export in Europe. This new market for tobacco spurred the establishment of tobacco plantations in the Americas, particularly in regions like Virginia and Maryland. These plantations required considerable labor, which in many cases led to the increased importation of enslaved Africans to provide the workforce necessary for large-scale tobacco farming. The success of tobacco as a cash crop fundamentally altered agricultural practices and economies in the colonies. The introduction of this new crop not only transformed agricultural landscapes but also influenced socioeconomic systems, migration patterns, and the very foundation of agricultural economies in the New World. This reality signals the lasting impact of the Columbian Exchange on agricultural practices, particularly in the establishment of industries centered around crops like tobacco.

2. What was the belief system that Charles I of England adhered to, which influenced his rule?

- A. Democratic governance**
- B. Divine right of Kings**
- C. Social contract theory**
- D. Federalism**

Charles I of England adhered to the belief system known as the divine right of kings. This doctrine posits that a monarch is subject to no earthly authority and derives the right to rule directly from the will of God. According to this belief, the king's decisions and actions were seen as divinely sanctioned, which justified his absolute power and authority over the kingdom. Charles I's commitment to the divine right of kings significantly influenced his governance, leading to tensions with Parliament and ultimately contributing to the English Civil War. His unwavering belief in his divine authority often put him at odds with those who advocated for more parliamentary power and greater representation, reflecting the struggles between monarchy and emerging democratic ideas during his reign. This clash over the nature of authority and governance defined a crucial period in English history, shaping the future of the monarchy and political structure in the country.

3. Who was the son of Mary Stuart and succeeded Elizabeth I as the King of England?

- A. Henry VIII**
- B. Charles I**
- C. James I**
- D. George I**

The son of Mary Stuart, also known as Mary, Queen of Scots, who succeeded Elizabeth I as the King of England was James I. Mary Stuart's marriage to Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, produced James, who became King of Scotland as James VI. With Elizabeth I's death in 1603 and the end of the Tudor line, James succeeded her as the first monarch of both England and Scotland, initiating the Stuart dynasty in England. His reign marked the beginning of a new era, and he is well-known for commissioning the King James Version of the Bible, which has had a lasting impact on English literature and Christianity. The other choices are notable figures in British history but do not fit the criteria specified in the question. Henry VIII was the father of Elizabeth I and renowned for his six marriages and the English Reformation. Charles I was the son of James I and became king after him, but he was not the direct successor of Elizabeth I. George I was a later monarch, coming to the throne in the early 18th century, much after both Elizabeth I and James I. Hence, James I is the correct answer as he directly followed Elizabeth and was the son of Mary Stuart.

4. Who founded the colony of Connecticut based on the principle that voting should not be tied to church membership?

- A. Thomas Hooker**
- B. Roger Williams**
- C. William Penn**
- D. John Winthrop**

The founding of the colony of Connecticut is primarily attributed to Thomas Hooker, a Puritan minister who advocated for broader voting rights that were not dependent on church membership. In the 1630s, Hooker led a group of followers from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the Connecticut River Valley with the vision of establishing a community based on democratic principles. His belief in a government based on the consent of the governed challenged the prevailing notion at the time, which typically linked political rights closely with church affiliation. Hooker's ideas were instrumental in shaping the Fundamental Orders of 1638-1639, which laid the groundwork for a representative government in Connecticut and established a framework that allowed for greater inclusivity in the political process. This marked a significant shift towards a more democratic society in the New World, distinguishing Connecticut from other colonies where voting was often restricted to church members. While other figures, such as Roger Williams, also championed religious freedom and the separation of church and state, his efforts were primarily focused in Rhode Island, and he was not directly involved in the founding of Connecticut. William Penn is associated with Pennsylvania and his Quaker principles, and John Winthrop is primarily recognized for his leadership in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In this context, Thomas Hooker

5. What limitations did tobacco farming face according to historical context?

- A. Labor shortages**
- B. Excessive soil fertility**
- C. Too much rainfall**
- D. Lack of land to cultivate**

Tobacco farming faced significant labor shortages, especially during its peak in the colonial period of America. The cultivation of tobacco is labor-intensive, requiring a considerable workforce for planting, tending, and harvesting the crop. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the demand for labor grew alongside tobacco production, which led to reliance on indentured servants and enslaved Africans to fill this gap. As the tobacco economy expanded, the influx of labor was often insufficient to meet the increasing demands of the industry, leading to challenges in maintaining production levels and profitability. While factors like soil fertility, rainfall, and land availability can influence farming practices, the primary limitation for tobacco farming historically stemmed from the availability of labor, making it a critical issue for those involved in cultivation. This reliance on labor dynamics significantly shaped socio-economic structures in the colonies and had lasting implications for American history.

6. What year did World War II begin?

- A. 1936**
- B. 1939**
- C. 1941**
- D. 1945**

World War II began in 1939, specifically on September 1, when Germany invaded Poland. This invasion is widely recognized as the event that triggered the war in Europe, leading Britain and France to declare war on Germany shortly thereafter. The conflict quickly escalated and involved many nations around the globe, eventually forming two main alliances: the Allies and the Axis powers. While 1941 is significant because it marks the entry of the United States into the war following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the actual onset of the global conflict is firmly established as beginning in 1939. The years 1936 and 1945 do not represent the starting point of the war, with 1945 being the year marking its conclusion in Europe, following Germany's surrender in May, and in the Pacific, following Japan's surrender in September. Thus, 1939 is the correct answer reflecting the commencement of World War II.

7. Who led the New Model Army during the English Civil War and executed Charles I?

- A. Oliver Cromwell**
- B. Richard Cromwell**
- C. Thomas Cromwell**
- D. George Monck**

The New Model Army was a revolutionary military force established by Parliament during the English Civil War, and it was Oliver Cromwell who played a pivotal role in its leadership. Cromwell emerged as a skilled military commander and a key figure within the Parliamentarian cause, known for his innovative tactics and ability to inspire his troops. His leadership was critical in securing numerous victories for the Parliamentarians, contributing significantly to the eventual defeat of the Royalist forces. The climax of this conflict came with the trial and execution of King Charles I in 1649, a decision that Cromwell supported and helped facilitate, marking a turning point in English history toward republicanism and the establishment of the Commonwealth of England. Other individuals mentioned, such as Richard Cromwell, his son, and Thomas Cromwell, who was a major figure in the Tudor era, followed different legacies. George Monck, on the other hand, later played a role in the Restoration of Charles II but was not directly involved in leading the New Model Army during the Civil War or in the execution of Charles I. Thus, Oliver Cromwell is the figure most accurately associated with both the leadership of the New Model Army and the execution of the king.

8. What was the significance of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, which he posted in 1517?

- A. It led to the establishment of the Catholic Church in America**
- B. It initiated the Protestant Reformation and challenged the Catholic Church's practices**
- C. It created a new form of government in Germany**
- D. It was a call for the exploration of new lands**

The significance of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, which he posted in 1517, lies in its role as a catalyst for the Protestant Reformation. Luther's theses challenged the practices of the Catholic Church, particularly the sale of indulgences, which he viewed as corrupt and contrary to the teachings of Christianity. By articulating these grievances, Luther not only questioned the authority of the Church but also encouraged a broader theological debate that led to the splintering of Western Christianity into various Protestant denominations. This pivotal moment marked a shift in religious power from the Catholic Church to individual interpretation of the Scriptures. It also sparked various social, political, and cultural changes across Europe and eventually influenced movements in the Americas. Luther's actions mobilized a significant portion of the population to seek reforms and ultimately contributed to the establishment of a variety of new religious practices outside of the Catholic Church. Thus, the 95 Theses are seen as a foundational document of the Reformation, illustrating their profound impact on Christianity and Western society as a whole.

9. What was a major consequence of the 2008 financial crisis?

- A. It led to significant economic growth
- B. It resulted in widespread unemployment and recession**
- C. It increased the stock market's value
- D. It eliminated the need for financial regulations

The choice that identifies a major consequence of the 2008 financial crisis accurately highlights the severe economic impact that followed. The financial crisis, triggered primarily by the collapse of the housing market and the banks' exposure to high-risk mortgage-backed securities, led to a significant recession in the economy. This resulted in widespread unemployment, with millions losing their jobs as businesses failed and consumer spending drastically declined. The aftermath of the crisis saw a contraction in the economy, with gross domestic product (GDP) decreasing and many industries, particularly in manufacturing and construction, suffering substantial losses. Additionally, the impact on consumer confidence led to a major downturn in economic activity, which further exacerbated unemployment rates. The other choices do not capture the true nature of the aftermath as accurately as this one. While the crisis itself did not lead to economic growth, it created a significant need for reform and regulation in the financial sector, focusing more on safeguarding the economy against similar future shocks.

10. Which political concept was being challenged during the Zenger trial?

- A. Monarchical authority
- B. Colonial autonomy
- C. Free press**
- D. Judicial independence

The Zenger trial, which took place in 1735, significantly challenged the concept of free press in the American colonies. John Peter Zenger, the publisher of the New-York Weekly Journal, was charged with libel for publishing articles that criticized the colonial governor, William Cosby. The trial raised fundamental questions about the role of the press in a society and its ability to criticize government officials without fear of punishment. Zenger's defense argued that the truth of the statements made in his publication should be a valid defense against libel charges, thereby advocating for a free press as essential to holding government accountable. The jury's eventual verdict of not guilty set a precedent that supported the idea of press freedom, contributing to the broader understanding of individual rights that would later be enshrined in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Thus, the Zenger trial was pivotal in establishing the principle that a free and open press is crucial to a democratic society, marking a key moment in American legal and political history regarding the protection of free speech and expression.

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-hist105.examzify.com>

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

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