

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) HIST105 HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES PRACTICE EXAM (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. What aspect of Puritan theology was emphasized by their belief in 'visible saints'?**
 - A. All people are equal
 - B. Election by popular vote
 - C. Predestination and moral conduct
 - D. Rejection of religious practices
- 2. What was De Onate known for during his exploration of New Mexico and Texas in 1598?**
 - A. His peaceful interactions with the Pueblo Indians
 - B. His efforts to establish trade routes with Native Americans
 - C. His cruelty towards the Pueblo Indians
 - D. His exploration of the Gulf of Mexico
- 3. What was the main issue that led to the Civil War?**
 - A. Economic disparities between the North and South
 - B. Slavery and states' rights
 - C. Disputes over land territories
 - D. Foreign intervention in American politics
- 4. Who made history as the first African American President of the United States?**
 - A. George W. Bush
 - B. Bill Clinton
 - C. Barack Obama
 - D. Jimmy Carter
- 5. Who became queen of Great Britain through the Act of Succession?**
 - A. Queen Elizabeth I
 - B. Queen Mary II
 - C. Queen Anne
 - D. Queen Victoria

- 6. What significant event occurred on the La Salle Expedition related to supply vessels?**
- A. They were lost in a storm
 - B. All were successful
 - C. Two supply vessels sank
 - D. They reached Canada
- 7. Which colony was established as a refuge for Catholics by Lord Baltimore?**
- A. Virginia
 - B. Georgia
 - C. Maryland
 - D. South Carolina
- 8. Who was the president during the Civil War?**
- A. Ulysses S. Grant
 - B. Abraham Lincoln
 - C. Andrew Johnson
 - D. Warren G. Harding
- 9. What benefits did the G.I. Bill provide to World War II veterans?**
- A. Job training and health insurance
 - B. Education and housing assistance
 - C. Pension and retirement funds
 - D. Travel allowances and bonuses
- 10. What did the Berlin Wall symbolize during the Cold War?**
- A. The prosperity of Western democracies
 - B. The division between communism and democracy
 - C. The unity of European nations
 - D. The decline of military power

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What aspect of Puritan theology was emphasized by their belief in 'visible saints'?

- A. All people are equal
- B. Election by popular vote
- C. Predestination and moral conduct**
- D. Rejection of religious practices

The belief in 'visible saints' is a significant aspect of Puritan theology that underscores the concepts of predestination and moral conduct. Puritans held that only a select few were chosen by God for salvation, a notion central to the doctrine of predestination. The 'visible saints' were those individuals whose behavior demonstrated evidence of divine grace, such as living a moral and pious life, thereby making their election evident to the community. This emphasis meant that moral conduct was not just a personal endeavor but also a public manifestation of one's status as one of the 'elect.' The Puritans believed that a godly life, characterized by strict adherence to values and community standards, would serve as a reflection of one's chosen status. In this context, the idea of 'visible saints' merged theological belief with communal expectations, further reinforcing the importance of moral behavior within their society.

2. What was De Onate known for during his exploration of New Mexico and Texas in 1598?

- A. His peaceful interactions with the Pueblo Indians
- B. His efforts to establish trade routes with Native Americans
- C. His cruelty towards the Pueblo Indians**
- D. His exploration of the Gulf of Mexico

De Onate is primarily known for his exploration and colonization efforts in the region that is now New Mexico and Texas in 1598. His expeditions were marked by acts of extreme brutality towards Native Americans, particularly the Pueblo Indians. This included violent confrontations, forced labor, and the harsh treatment of indigenous populations who resisted Spanish authority. The violence culminated in significant massacres of Pueblo people, leading to a legacy that is widely viewed as one of cruelty and oppression. While there may have been aspects of his activities that involved interactions with indigenous groups, the predominant narrative of De Onate's expedition highlights his aggressive tactics and the conquest mentality of Spanish colonization. His actions led to a deep resentment among the Pueblo peoples and contributed to a long-standing conflict between the Spanish colonizers and Native American tribes. Therefore, acknowledging his actions as those marked by cruelty provides a critical insight into the darker sides of European exploration and colonization in the Americas.

3. What was the main issue that led to the Civil War?

- A. Economic disparities between the North and South
- B. Slavery and states' rights**
- C. Disputes over land territories
- D. Foreign intervention in American politics

The main issue that led to the Civil War was indeed slavery and states' rights. While economic differences and territorial disputes played significant roles in the tensions between the North and South, the fundamental conflict centered around slavery. The Southern states' economy was heavily dependent on slavery, which was integral to their agricultural system, particularly in cotton production. As the abolitionist movement gained momentum in the North, the Southern states felt increasingly threatened by the possibility of losing their "right" to maintain the institution of slavery. This tension was compounded by the notion of states' rights—Southern leaders argued that individual states should be sovereign and have the authority to make decisions regarding their own laws, including those related to slavery. Ultimately, the question of whether new territories acquired by the United States would allow slavery further polarized the nation. The failure of compromises, which sought to balance the interests of slave and free states, and the rise of sectionalism solidified the divide. It was these intertwined issues of slavery and the assertion of states' rights that culminated in secession and the outbreak of the Civil War. Thus, this choice reflects a deeper understanding of the historical context and motivations that fueled the conflict.

4. Who made history as the first African American President of the United States?

- A. George W. Bush
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. Barack Obama**
- D. Jimmy Carter

The first African American President of the United States is indeed Barack Obama. His historic election in 2008 marked a significant milestone in American history, as it represented a breakthrough in racial barriers in the highest office of the country. Obama's presidency was notable not only for his racial background but also for his policies and reforms, such as the Affordable Care Act, which aimed to expand healthcare access to millions of Americans. His leadership style, oratory skills, and message of hope and change resonated with a diverse electorate, leading to his re-election in 2012. This achievement was embedded in a longer history of civil rights struggles, culminating in increased visibility and representation for African Americans in political roles.

5. Who became queen of Great Britain through the Act of Succession?

- A. Queen Elizabeth I
- B. Queen Mary II
- C. Queen Anne**
- D. Queen Victoria

The correct answer is Queen Anne. She became queen of Great Britain as a result of the Act of Succession, which was part of the broader legislative changes following the Glorious Revolution of 1688. This Act determined the line of succession to the throne and effectively barred Catholics from inheriting the crown, favoring Protestant heirs. Queen Anne, who was the daughter of James II, ascended to the throne in 1702 and reigned until 1714. Her reign was significant as it marked the union of England and Scotland into Great Britain in 1707. The Act of Succession was an important political maneuver that reflected the tensions between different religious and political factions at the time, establishing a Protestant monarchy to secure the rule of the Church of England. This historical context is vital to understanding the significance of Queen Anne's accession and the resulting stability she brought to the monarchy during her reign.

6. What significant event occurred on the La Salle Expedition related to supply vessels?

- A. They were lost in a storm
- B. All were successful
- C. Two supply vessels sank**
- D. They reached Canada

The La Salle Expedition, which aimed to establish a French presence in the Mississippi River basin in the late 17th century, experienced several challenges, one of which involved the supply vessels. The correct answer highlights that two supply vessels sank during the expedition. This incident significantly impacted the mission's success, as the loss of supplies hindered the expedition's ability to sustain itself, ultimately contributing to its struggles and eventual failure. The expedition, launched by Robert Cavelier de La Salle in 1684, intended to create a French colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. However, the loss of these vessels meant a shortage of food, equipment, and other essential resources. The challenges faced, including the sinking of the vessels, played a critical role in the difficulties that La Salle and his men encountered in establishing their colony. Understanding this event is crucial, as it reflects the broader themes of European exploration and colonization, where logistical issues often complicated ventures into the New World.

7. Which colony was established as a refuge for Catholics by Lord Baltimore?

- A. Virginia
- B. Georgia
- C. Maryland**
- D. South Carolina

Maryland was established as a refuge for Catholics by Lord Baltimore, primarily as a response to the discrimination and persecution that Catholics faced during that period in England. In 1632, Lord Baltimore, whose real name was Cecilius Calvert, received a charter from King Charles I to create a colony where Catholics could settle and practice their faith freely. This was particularly significant as it offered a sanctuary in an era when Protestantism was dominant and Catholics often faced hostility and exclusion. Maryland's founding principles included religious tolerance, which was codified in the Maryland Toleration Act of 1649, one of the first laws granting religious freedom in the colonies. This act allowed all Christians, regardless of denomination, to practice their religion without fear of persecution, although it did not extend full rights to non-Christians. The other options do not fit this context: Virginia was primarily established for economic opportunities and profit through tobacco; Georgia was founded later as a buffer colony and a place for debtors and the poor; and South Carolina was founded as a colony primarily for economic reasons with an emphasis on rice and indigo cultivation, rather than as a refuge for a specific religious group.

8. Who was the president during the Civil War?

- A. Ulysses S. Grant
- B. Abraham Lincoln**
- C. Andrew Johnson
- D. Warren G. Harding

Abraham Lincoln served as the president of the United States during the Civil War, which lasted from 1861 to 1865. His leadership during this tumultuous period was foundational in shaping the nation's destiny. Lincoln's primary objective was to preserve the Union in the face of secession by Southern states and he played a crucial role in advancing the policies that ultimately led to the abolition of slavery through the Emancipation Proclamation. His commitment to the Union and his efforts to maintain the integrity of the United States make him a central figure of the Civil War era. While Ulysses S. Grant was indeed a significant military leader during the war, he did not become president until after Lincoln's assassination. Andrew Johnson succeeded Lincoln after his assassination, but he did not lead the country during the Civil War. Warren G. Harding served as president long after the Civil War was over. Understanding the timeline and the contributions of Lincoln helps clarify his pivotal role in American history during this critical juncture.

9. What benefits did the G.I. Bill provide to World War II veterans?

- A. Job training and health insurance
- B. Education and housing assistance**
- C. Pension and retirement funds
- D. Travel allowances and bonuses

The G.I. Bill, officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was a significant piece of legislation that offered a range of benefits specifically designed to assist World War II veterans in reintegrating into civilian life. One of its most notable features was the provision of education and housing assistance. Under the G.I. Bill, veterans were able to access financial support for college tuition, vocational training, and certain educational costs including books and supplies. This made higher education accessible to millions of veterans who might not have been able to afford it otherwise, ultimately leading to a more educated workforce and contributing to the post-war economic boom in the United States. Additionally, the G.I. Bill included provisions for housing assistance, which helped veterans secure affordable housing. This aspect helped to stimulate the housing market and contributed to the growth of suburbs, as veterans returned home and started families in newly built communities. The other options mentioned do not encompass the main benefits provided by the G.I. Bill to the post-war generation of veterans. While job training and health insurance were important considerations for veterans, the specific and foundational elements of education and housing assistance were the hallmark benefits that changed the landscape for returning soldiers and, by extension, American society.

10. What did the Berlin Wall symbolize during the Cold War?

- A. The prosperity of Western democracies
- B. The division between communism and democracy**
- C. The unity of European nations
- D. The decline of military power

The Berlin Wall served as a significant symbol of the division between the ideologies of communism and democracy during the Cold War. Erected in 1961, it physically separated East Berlin, which was under communist control, from West Berlin, a democratic enclave supported by Western nations. This stark division represented not only a geographical boundary but also the broader ideological conflict between the East and West. The wall became a powerful representation of the struggle between two opposing political systems: the repressive nature of communism in the East and the freedoms associated with democracy in the West. The historical context surrounding the Berlin Wall illustrates its significance further. The wall not only divided a city but was also emblematic of the Iron Curtain that separated the Communist Eastern Bloc from the capitalist Western nations. It played a pivotal role in the narratives of the Cold War, serving as a constant reminder of the geopolitical tensions that defined the era. As a result, the wall's ultimate fall in 1989 symbolized not only the collapse of the physical barrier but also the decline of communist influence in Europe and the triumph of democratic values.

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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