

Texas A&M University (TAMU) HIST106 History of the United States Exam 3 Practice (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

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- 1. Which presidential election was noted for being the closest since 1888?**
 - A. The election of 1964**
 - B. The election of 1960**
 - C. The election of 1968**
 - D. The election of 1956**
- 2. What was George Kennan's perspective on U.S. policy towards the Soviet Union?**
 - A. Advocated for aggressive military action**
 - B. Promoted diplomatic relations and trade**
 - C. Supported firm and vigilant containment of Soviet expansion**
 - D. Called for immediate disarmament of nuclear weapons**
- 3. What was a significant limitation imposed by the Immigration and National Securities Act?**
 - A. No more than 20,000 people can enter the US from any single country**
 - B. All immigration is banned until further notice**
 - C. Only refugees are allowed entry**
 - D. Families of US citizens are prioritized**
- 4. What was one of the primary goals of the National Security Act?**
 - A. To increase military budget spending**
 - B. To eliminate the need for military advisors**
 - C. To establish a coordinated military leadership structure**
 - D. To disband the military's intelligence functions**
- 5. Which of the following movements reflects the struggle for justice and equality in the U.S.?**
 - A. The Anti-Federalist movement**
 - B. The Civil Rights Movement**
 - C. The Prohibition movement**
 - D. The Suffrage Movement**

6. What was one key result of the Potsdam Conference?

- A. Agreed to a two-state solution for Germany**
- B. Decided on the unconditional surrender of Japan**
- C. Agreed to treat German zones as self-contained units**
- D. Created a timeline for the withdrawal of Allied troops**

7. What did the loyalty order by Truman require?

- A. A background investigation of federal employees**
- B. Mandatory loyalty oaths for all citizens**
- C. Public hearings for government officials**
- D. Complete transparency in government contracts**

8. What does Escobedo v. Illinois signify in legal terms?

- A. Defendants must be informed of their sentencing before trial**
- B. Accused persons must be allowed to consult a lawyer before questioning**
- C. All suspects must have legal representation during trial**
- D. Jurors must be chosen without bias**

9. In what context did the Supreme Court case Citizens United v. FEC arise?

- A. Voting rights**
- B. Corporate funding in political campaigns**
- C. Affirmative action**
- D. Healthcare access**

10. What was a key event during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- A. The US launched an attack on Cuba**
- B. Vietnam declared independence**
- C. The US implemented a quarantine of Soviet ships**
- D. The Soviet Union agreed to deploy troops in Cuba**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which presidential election was noted for being the closest since 1888?

- A. The election of 1964**
- B. The election of 1960**
- C. The election of 1968**
- D. The election of 1956**

The election of 1960 is historically recognized as one of the closest presidential elections since 1888. This election featured John F. Kennedy, the Democratic candidate, and Richard Nixon, the Republican candidate. The contest was marked by a very narrow margin in both the popular and electoral votes. Kennedy won the popular vote by a mere 0.1 percentage point, which translates to just about 113,000 votes nationwide, while in the Electoral College, he secured 303 votes compared to Nixon's 219. This election was significant not just for its tight outcome, but also for the political context of the time, with issues such as the Cold War, civil rights, and economic challenges at the forefront of the national debate. The intense competition, combined with high voter turnout, led to one of the most scrutinized contests in American history. In contrast, the other elections mentioned either had more considerable leads in both electoral and popular votes or did not have the same level of historical significance regarding their closeness in a numerical sense. Therefore, the 1960 election stands out as an important moment in U.S. electoral history for being extremely competitive and pivotal.

2. What was George Kennan's perspective on U.S. policy towards the Soviet Union?

- A. Advocated for aggressive military action**
- B. Promoted diplomatic relations and trade**
- C. Supported firm and vigilant containment of Soviet expansion**
- D. Called for immediate disarmament of nuclear weapons**

George Kennan's perspective on U.S. policy towards the Soviet Union centered on the concept of containment, which he articulated in his famous "Long Telegram" and later in his writings. Kennan believed that the Soviet Union was inherently expansionist, driven by a desire to spread its communist ideology globally. He argued that rather than confronting the Soviets aggressively or inviting a direct conflict, the best approach was to adopt a strategy of firm and vigilant containment. This meant that the U.S. should work to prevent the spread of communism beyond where it had already taken root, thereby limiting Soviet influence without provoking war. This approach shaped U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War, guiding actions such as the Marshall Plan and the establishment of NATO, aimed at reinforcing democratic nations against possible Soviet aggression. The other options suggest alternative policies that diverge from Kennan's views. Aggressive military action might provoke a direct confrontation, which Kennan sought to avoid. Promoting diplomatic relations and trade could imply a willingness to accept Soviet expansion, contradicting the containment strategy. Immediate disarmament of nuclear weapons does not align with Kennan's thoughts on how to manage the Soviet threat, as he deemed the military balance crucial in the context of their expansionist agenda.

3. What was a significant limitation imposed by the Immigration and National Securities Act?

- A. No more than 20,000 people can enter the US from any single country**
- B. All immigration is banned until further notice**
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The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, also known as the McCarran-Walter Act, introduced significant restrictions on immigration, particularly through its national origins quota system. One of the notable limitations imposed by this act was the cap on the number of immigrants allowed to enter the United States from any single country, restricting the number to no more than 20,000 individuals. This was part of a broader effort to regulate immigration based on national origins, which favored immigrants from Western European countries while limiting those from other regions. This limit was significant as it reflected the U.S. government's prioritization of certain nationalities in its immigration policy during the mid-20th century, creating challenges for individuals from countries with larger populations or from non-Western or developing nations who sought to immigrate to the United States. The act contributed to a more restrictive immigration environment that persisted until reforms were enacted in the 1960s, which aimed to eliminate such quotas. In contrast, the other options do not accurately represent the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. The act did not impose an outright ban on all immigration, it did not restrict entry exclusively to refugees, nor did it prioritize families of US citizens in a way that

4. What was one of the primary goals of the National Security Act?

- A. To increase military budget spending**
- B. To eliminate the need for military advisors**
- C. To establish a coordinated military leadership structure**
- D. To disband the military's intelligence functions**

The primary goal of the National Security Act, passed in 1947, was indeed to establish a coordinated military leadership structure. This legislation was a significant reform in the organization of the U.S. military and intelligence services. It created the Department of Defense, which unified the Army, Navy, and Air Force under a single executive. This consolidation aimed to improve efficiency and coordination among the branches of the military, allowing for better strategic planning and response to national security threats during the Cold War era. Furthermore, the act also established the National Security Council (NSC) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), reinforcing the importance of coordinated national security policies and intelligence operations. This effort reflected the need for a more streamlined command structure to effectively address the complexities of post-World War II geopolitics. Other choices, while they touch on aspects related to military operations, do not accurately reflect the main aim of the National Security Act, which was focused on organizational structure rather than specific funding or disbanding functions.

5. Which of the following movements reflects the struggle for justice and equality in the U.S.?

- A. The Anti-Federalist movement**
- B. The Civil Rights Movement**
- C. The Prohibition movement**
- D. The Suffrage Movement**

The Civil Rights Movement is the most prominent reflection of the struggle for justice and equality in the U.S. during the 20th century. This movement, which gained significant momentum in the 1950s and 1960s, aimed to end racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans and to secure equal rights under the law. It involved a variety of strategies, including nonviolent protests, legal challenges, and grassroots organizing, and it brought national attention to issues of racial injustice. Key figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks became symbols of the fight for civil rights, advocating for equality in education, employment, and voting. Landmark legislation, like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, emerged from this movement, demonstrating its effectiveness in addressing systemic inequalities. Comparatively, the other movements listed, while also significant, do not focus specifically on racial justice and equality in the same way. The Anti-Federalist movement was more about the balance of power between the federal government and states and did not primarily address issues of justice for a marginalized group. The Prohibition movement sought to ban the consumption of alcohol, reflecting social and moral concerns rather than broad civil rights issues. The Suff

6. What was one key result of the Potsdam Conference?

- A. Agreed to a two-state solution for Germany**
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- C. Agreed to treat German zones as self-contained units**
- D. Created a timeline for the withdrawal of Allied troops**

The correct answer highlights a significant outcome of the Potsdam Conference, where the Allies determined the post-war administration of Germany. One of the key results was the decision to divide Germany into occupation zones controlled by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and the Soviet Union. While the intention was to make these zones self-sufficient and manageable, this decision ultimately also laid the groundwork for future tensions, as the countries had differing ideologies and goals for post-war Germany. The agreement to treat the German zones as self-contained units reflected a practical approach to rebuilding and governing the war-torn nation, allowing for distinct policies to be implemented based on the occupying country's approach. This arrangement helped manage the immediate post-war challenges but also contributed to the division of Germany that would eventually lead to the creation of East and West Germany during the Cold War. Understanding this context is crucial, as it shows how the decisions made at Potsdam were formative in shaping the political landscape of Europe in the latter half of the 20th century.

7. What did the loyalty order by Truman require?

- A. A background investigation of federal employees**
- B. Mandatory loyalty oaths for all citizens**
- C. Public hearings for government officials**
- D. Complete transparency in government contracts**

The loyalty order issued by President Truman, known as Executive Order 9835, mandated a thorough background investigation of federal employees to ensure their loyalty to the United States. This order was aimed at addressing fears of communist infiltration following World War II and during the early Cold War period. The investigations were intended to determine if any employees had ties to organizations deemed subversive or disloyal. This was part of a broader effort by the federal government to safeguard national security and maintain public confidence in government workers amid growing Cold War tensions. The other options do not accurately reflect the specific requirements of the loyalty order. For instance, while there were discussions about loyalty oaths in other contexts, the order itself did not require mandatory oaths for all citizens. Similarly, public hearings for government officials and transparency in government contracts do not align with the primary focus of the loyalty investigations mandated by Truman's order. Rather, the emphasis was mainly on assessing and ensuring the loyalty of those already in federal positions.

8. What does Escobedo v. Illinois signify in legal terms?

- A. Defendants must be informed of their sentencing before trial**
- B. Accused persons must be allowed to consult a lawyer before questioning**
- C. All suspects must have legal representation during trial**
- D. Jurors must be chosen without bias**

Escobedo v. Illinois is a landmark Supreme Court case that emphasizes the rights of individuals in the criminal justice process, particularly concerning their right to counsel. The ruling established that an accused person has the right to consult with an attorney during police interrogation. This case stemmed from a situation where Ernesto Escobedo was denied access to his lawyer while being questioned about a murder. The Court determined that this denial violated his Sixth Amendment rights, which ensure the right to legal counsel. This ruling is significant because it reinforces the principle that individuals must have the opportunity to seek legal representation before and during police questioning to ensure fair treatment and protection against self-incrimination. Thus, the decision set a precedent for protecting the rights of suspects and establishing guidelines for law enforcement during interrogations.

9. In what context did the Supreme Court case *Citizens United v. FEC* arise?

- A. Voting rights**
- B. Corporate funding in political campaigns**
- C. Affirmative action**
- D. Healthcare access**

The Supreme Court case *Citizens United v. FEC* arose in the context of corporate funding in political campaigns, specifically examining how laws regulating campaign finance interacted with free speech rights under the First Amendment. The case centered on whether the government could limit independent expenditures by corporations and unions for political communication. In its ruling, the Court determined that corporations and unions have the same free speech rights as individuals, affirming that spending money to influence elections is a form of protected speech. This landmark decision allowed corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money on independent political expenditures, significantly impacting the landscape of campaign finance in the United States and leading to the rise of Super PACs and increased corporate influence in politics. The ruling emphasized the importance of free speech and highlighted ongoing debates about the role of money in politics.

10. What was a key event during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- A. The US launched an attack on Cuba**
- B. Vietnam declared independence**
- C. The US implemented a quarantine of Soviet ships**
- D. The Soviet Union agreed to deploy troops in Cuba**

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, one of the most significant events was the implementation of a quarantine of Soviet ships by the United States. This action, described as a "quarantine" rather than a blockade to avoid the implications of an act of war, was a crucial step taken by President John F. Kennedy in response to the discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba. By establishing the quarantine, the U.S. sought to prevent further Soviet shipments of military equipment to Cuba, while also signaling to the Soviet Union the seriousness of the situation. The quarantine effectively intensified the standoff between the two superpowers, as it created a moment of high tension where any miscalculation could have led to military conflict. This strategic decision was accompanied by diplomatic negotiations, ultimately leading to an agreement that eased the crisis without escalating into a full-blown war. The U.S. not only aimed to protect its national security but also sought to showcase its resolve in the face of Soviet aggression. This event is critical in understanding the Cold War dynamics and how the U.S. engaged in measures to contain the spread of communism while managing nuclear threats.

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-hist106exam3.examzify.com>

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

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