

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

- 1. What event exemplified the tensions of the Cold War in the Americas?**
 - A. The Geneva Accords**
 - B. The establishment of the United Nations**
 - C. The Cuban Missile Crisis**
 - D. The Korean War**
- 2. What was the significance of the 15th Amendment?**
 - A. It granted women the right to vote**
 - B. It abolished slavery throughout the United States**
 - C. It granted African American men the right to vote**
 - D. It established the income tax**
- 3. What effect did the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944 have on society?**
 - A. Limited job opportunities for veterans**
 - B. Contributed to college enrollment and job training**
 - C. Increased military recruitment**
 - D. Facilitated large government projects**
- 4. The Cold War is primarily characterized as a conflict between which two countries?**
 - A. United States and China**
 - B. United States and Soviet Union**
 - C. United States and Germany**
 - D. United Kingdom and France**
- 5. What did the National Defense Education Act provide?**
 - A. Grants for public education reform**
 - B. Grants for fields of math, science, and modern language**
 - C. Scholarships for vocational training**
 - D. Funds for athletic programs**

- 6. What was a key feature of the Truman presidency regarding civil rights?**
- A. Promotion of segregation in the military**
 - B. Established a Fair Employment Practices Commission**
 - C. Desegregated the military for the first time**
 - D. Ignored civil rights issues completely**
- 7. What historical event prompted the formation of the United Nations?**
- A. The Cold War**
 - B. World War I**
 - C. World War II**
 - D. The Great Depression**
- 8. What was one outcome of the Civil War?**
- A. The expansion of slavery into new territories**
 - B. The emergence of the Civil Rights Movement**
 - C. The establishment of a more powerful federal government**
 - D. The end of all racial tensions**
- 9. Which issue was notably discussed during the Kennedy vs. Nixon debates?**
- A. Immigration policies**
 - B. Foreign aid**
 - C. Civil rights**
 - D. Economic reform**
- 10. How did the March on Washington influence President Kennedy?**
- A. It pressured him to pass new tax reforms**
 - B. It forced him to support a civil rights bill**
 - C. It prompted a military response in the South**
 - D. It led to his resignation**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. What event exemplified the tensions of the Cold War in the Americas?

- A. The Geneva Accords**
- B. The establishment of the United Nations**
- C. The Cuban Missile Crisis**
- D. The Korean War**

The Cuban Missile Crisis is a pivotal event that exemplified the tensions of the Cold War in the Americas due to its direct confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union over the presence of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba, just 90 miles off the coast of Florida. This crisis occurred in October 1962 and is significant for several reasons. First, it brought the two superpowers to the brink of nuclear war, highlighting the deep-seated animosity and distrust that characterized the Cold War. The U.S. response involved a naval blockade, which was a significant act of military aggression, and it showcased the high stakes involved in the geopolitical struggle at that time. Additionally, the crisis illustrated the regional implications of the Cold War, as Latin America became a battleground for Cold War ideology, with the U.S. keen to prevent the spread of communism in proximity to its borders. The resolution of the crisis through diplomatic negotiations also marked a turning point in the Cold War, leading to subsequent arms control agreements, such as the Limited Test Ban Treaty. In contrast, while the Geneva Accords and the establishment of the United Nations had important global implications, they did not focus specifically on the tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the Americas.

2. What was the significance of the 15th Amendment?

- A. It granted women the right to vote**
- B. It abolished slavery throughout the United States**
- C. It granted African American men the right to vote**
- D. It established the income tax**

The significance of the 15th Amendment lies in its role in expanding democratic rights in the United States, specifically through the granting of suffrage to African American men. Ratified in 1870, the amendment prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." This was a critical step in the Reconstruction Era, aimed at ensuring that formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants could enjoy the same voting rights as white citizens. The amendment marked a pivotal moment in American history, as it sought to rectify the injustices of slavery and promote civil rights for African Americans, laying the groundwork for future civil rights movements. In contrast to the other options, which do not align with the purpose of the 15th Amendment, the grant of women's suffrage occurred later with the 19th Amendment, the abolition of slavery was addressed by the 13th Amendment, and the establishment of an income tax was carried out by the 16th Amendment. Hence, the focus of the 15th Amendment is specifically on voting rights for African American men, establishing it as a landmark achievement in the struggle for civil rights.

3. What effect did the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944 have on society?

- A. Limited job opportunities for veterans**
- B. Contributed to college enrollment and job training**
- C. Increased military recruitment**
- D. Facilitated large government projects**

The Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill, had a profound effect on society by significantly contributing to college enrollment and job training for returning World War II veterans. This landmark legislation provided veterans with financial assistance for education, which included funding for tuition, books, and housing, making higher education accessible to millions of people who otherwise might not have been able to afford it. The influx of veterans into colleges and universities transformed the educational landscape in the United States, resulting in increased enrollment numbers and the expansion of institutions to accommodate this growth. Additionally, the act facilitated vocational training programs, which helped many veterans transition into the civilian workforce by equipping them with the necessary skills for various trades and professions. By empowering veterans through education and job training, the Serviceman's Readjustment Act not only aided in their reintegration into society but also contributed to a more educated workforce, stimulating economic growth and the expansion of the middle class in post-war America. This legislation set a precedent for future educational benefits for service members and had lasting impacts on American society and the economy as a whole.

4. The Cold War is primarily characterized as a conflict between which two countries?

- A. United States and China**
- B. United States and Soviet Union**
- C. United States and Germany**
- D. United Kingdom and France**

The Cold War is primarily characterized as a conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union due to their opposing ideologies and global ambitions. After World War II, these two superpowers emerged as the leading forces, with the U.S. advocating for capitalism and democracy, while the Soviet Union promoted communism and authoritarian governance. This ideological clash led to a series of geopolitical tensions, military buildups, and proxy wars across the globe, as both nations sought to expand their influence. Throughout the Cold War period, the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in extensive espionage, supported rival factions in various nations, and competed in significant events such as the Space Race. The establishment of military alliances—such as NATO for the U.S. and the Warsaw Pact for the Soviet Union—further highlighted the divide. Other options focus on countries that, while involved in various conflicts throughout the 20th century, did not serve as the primary adversaries in the Cold War context. For instance, the United States had significant tensions with China, particularly after the Communist Revolution, but the overarching narrative of the Cold War remains centered on U.S.-Soviet relations. Similarly, while Germany was divisive during the Cold War and served as a frontline in

5. What did the National Defense Education Act provide?

- A. Grants for public education reform**
- B. Grants for fields of math, science, and modern language**
- C. Scholarships for vocational training**
- D. Funds for athletic programs**

The National Defense Education Act, enacted in 1958, was a response to the perceived educational shortfalls in the United States during the Cold War, particularly after the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik. This act specifically aimed to enhance the nation's ability to compete in the areas crucial for national security, which were largely seen as math, science, and modern languages. The emphasis on these fields reflects the urgent need at that time to improve educational outcomes in areas that would contribute to defense capabilities and technological advancement. As a result, the act provided funding for educational institutions to develop and improve curricula, hire qualified teachers, and help students pursue studies in these vital fields. The rationale behind this focus was to ensure that the United States could produce a workforce that was not only highly educated but also capable of meeting the challenges posed by international competition, especially in scientific and technological innovation.

6. What was a key feature of the Truman presidency regarding civil rights?

- A. Promotion of segregation in the military**
- B. Established a Fair Employment Practices Commission**
- C. Desegregated the military for the first time**
- D. Ignored civil rights issues completely**

The correct answer is that a key feature of the Truman presidency was his decision to desegregate the military for the first time. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which stated that there should be equality of treatment and opportunity for all individuals in the armed services, regardless of race. This marked a significant turning point in U.S. history, as it was one of the earliest major federal actions toward civil rights during a time when racial segregation was prevalent across many aspects of American life. Truman's commitment to civil rights also reflected growing awareness and activism regarding racial injustice in the United States. His decision to integrate the military not only changed the dynamics within the armed forces but also symbolized a broader shift in the civil rights movement, encouraging other sectors to reconsider discriminatory practices. In contrast, the other options do not align with the significant civil rights actions taken by Truman. Promoting segregation in the military and ignoring civil rights completely would contradict his actions, while establishing a Fair Employment Practices Commission was not directly part of his presidency—it was created earlier during the Roosevelt administration. Thus, the choice of desegregating the military represents the most accurate and pivotal moment of Truman's legacy regarding civil rights.

7. What historical event prompted the formation of the United Nations?

- A. The Cold War**
- B. World War I**
- C. World War II**
- D. The Great Depression**

The formation of the United Nations was primarily prompted by the devastation and global upheaval caused by World War II. As nations recognized the catastrophic consequences of the war, there was a strong desire to establish a new international order that could help prevent such a conflict from occurring again. The United Nations was created in 1945 with the aim of fostering international cooperation, promoting peace and security, and facilitating dialogue among countries. The failure of the League of Nations, which had been established after World War I but couldn't prevent the outbreak of World War II, further underscored the need for a more effective global organization. Thus, the experiences and lessons learned from World War II were vital in shaping the UN's structure and purpose, addressing issues related to international security and human rights, and promoting development.

8. What was one outcome of the Civil War?

- A. The expansion of slavery into new territories**
- B. The emergence of the Civil Rights Movement**
- C. The establishment of a more powerful federal government**
- D. The end of all racial tensions**

One significant outcome of the Civil War was the establishment of a more powerful federal government. The conflict between the North and South highlighted the limitations of federal authority, particularly regarding issues like slavery, states' rights, and national unity. The war resulted in a clearer delineation of federal power, as the federal government emerged with increased authority to regulate individual states and enforce laws that were previously challenged or ignored at the state level. The necessity to reunify the country and ensure lasting peace also led to increased federal intervention in matters that were considered the domain of the states. Key amendments, such as the 13th, 14th, and 15th, were passed during the Reconstruction era, dramatically reshaping the relationship between the federal government and the states, alongside expanding civil rights for formerly enslaved individuals. This shift laid the groundwork for future federal policies and programs that aimed to assert federal authority over state issues, which marked a significant transformation in the structure of American governance post-Civil War.

9. Which issue was notably discussed during the Kennedy vs. Nixon debates?

- A. Immigration policies**
- B. Foreign aid**
- C. Civil rights**
- D. Economic reform**

The Kennedy vs. Nixon debates, which took place during the 1960 presidential campaign, prominently featured the issue of civil rights. At this time, the United States was experiencing significant civil rights movements aimed at ending racial discrimination and promoting equal rights for African Americans. John F. Kennedy's approach to civil rights was notably more progressive compared to Richard Nixon's. Kennedy campaigned on a platform that sought to advance civil rights legislation and positioned himself in a favorable light with respect to the African American community. His administration would later push for landmark civil rights legislation, demonstrating his commitment to addressing racial injustices. Nixon, while somewhat supportive of civil rights, took a more cautious stance. His campaign did not emphasize civil rights to the same extent as Kennedy's, which was significant given the context of the ongoing struggle for civil rights during this period. Therefore, the discussions surrounding civil rights during these debates highlighted the contrast in vision and policy between the two candidates, making it a pivotal issue in the campaign and a defining moment in American political history.

10. How did the March on Washington influence President Kennedy?

- A. It pressured him to pass new tax reforms**
- B. It forced him to support a civil rights bill**
- C. It prompted a military response in the South**
- D. It led to his resignation**

The March on Washington in August 1963 had a significant impact on President John F. Kennedy and his civil rights agenda. The event drew a massive crowd of over 250,000 people, representing a broad coalition of civil rights organizations advocating for racial equality and economic justice. The visibility and unity of the participants, combined with powerful speeches—most notably Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream"—captured national attention and highlighted the urgency of the civil rights movement. In the wake of the March, President Kennedy recognized the growing momentum and critical public sentiment surrounding civil rights issues. The event served as a catalyst that encouraged him to actively support comprehensive civil rights legislation. Consequently, in the months that followed, he proposed significant civil rights legislation aimed at ending segregation and discrimination, which ultimately laid the groundwork for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This context underscores why the correct answer reflects the influence of the March on Washington on Kennedy's administration and his decision-making regarding civil rights reforms.

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!