

Texas A&M University (TAMU) HIST106 History of the United States Practice Exam 2 (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 is referred to as the "German Miracle"?**
 - A. The unification of East and West Germany**
 - B. The rapid economic success post-World War II**
 - C. The establishment of a communist government**
 - D. The cultural revival in Germany**

- 2. Which of the following best describes FDR's "fireside chats"?**
 - A. Formal addresses to Congress**
 - B. Weekly radio broadcasts to the public**
 - C. Public speeches at rallies**
 - D. Letters sent to citizens**

- 3. How many deaths were reported during WWI?**
 - A. 8 million**
 - B. 10 million**
 - C. 16.5 million**
 - D. 20 million**

- 4. Who was the American General in charge of the Pacific Theatre during World War II, known for encouraging amphibious landings?**
 - A. Dwight D. Eisenhower**
 - B. George S. Patton**
 - C. Douglas MacArthur**
 - D. Omar Bradley**

- 5. What did Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points primarily advocate for?**
 - A. Private business interests**
 - B. National military strategies**
 - C. International peace and cooperation**
 - D. Expansion of empires**

6. What was one outcome of the Allies' decisions in 1945 regarding the UN?

- A. To promote global disarmament**
- B. To facilitate war reparations**
- C. To maintain world peace after the war**
- D. To establish a collective military alliance**

7. In the context of the Cold War, what was the primary goal of the United States in its foreign policy strategy?

- A. Expand democratic ideals worldwide**
- B. Contain Soviet influence and expansion**
- C. Engage in open warfare with communist countries**
- D. Support military dictatorships**

8. Which author's work was noted for gathering and reconstructing African American vernacular?

- A. Zora Neale Hurston**
- B. Langston Hughes**
- C. Claude McKay**
- D. Alain Locke**

9. Who won the presidential election of 1912?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt**
- B. William Howard Taft**
- C. Woodrow Wilson**
- D. Warren G. Harding**

10. What major event prompted the U.S. to reconsider its stance on World War I?

- A. The sinking of the Lusitania**
- B. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand**
- C. The Bolshevik Revolution**
- D. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is referred to as the "German Miracle"?

- A. The unification of East and West Germany
- B. The rapid economic success post-World War II**
- C. The establishment of a communist government
- D. The cultural revival in Germany

The term "German Miracle" specifically refers to the remarkable economic recovery and rapid industrial growth in Germany after World War II, particularly in the 1950s and 1960s. This economic revival was characterized by significant increases in production, employment, and living standards, largely facilitated by the implementation of the Marshall Plan and the introduction of the social market economy, which combined free-market capitalism with social policies aimed at ensuring fair competition and protecting social welfare. The success of the German Miracle can be attributed to various factors, including the commitment to rebuilding infrastructure, the establishment of a skilled workforce, and the favorable political climate that encouraged investment and reintegration into the international community. This period saw West Germany emerge as one of the leading economies in Europe. The unification of East and West Germany, while significant, occurred later in 1990 and is not directly linked to the economic recovery described by the "German Miracle." Similarly, a communist government describes the political system of East Germany prior to unification rather than an economic phenomenon. The cultural revival, while important in the post-war context, does not encapsulate the primary focus of the "German Miracle," which is chiefly about economic achievements.

2. Which of the following best describes FDR's "fireside chats"?

- A. Formal addresses to Congress
- B. Weekly radio broadcasts to the public**
- C. Public speeches at rallies
- D. Letters sent to citizens

FDR's "fireside chats" were weekly radio broadcasts that aimed to directly engage and reassure the American public during challenging times, especially during the Great Depression and World War II. These informal, conversational broadcasts allowed Franklin D. Roosevelt to communicate his policies, explain government initiatives, and foster a sense of connection and trust with citizens. The relaxed format of these chats made it feel as if the President was speaking directly to individual families in their homes, which was a novel approach at the time and contributed significantly to Roosevelt's popularity. Other options do not capture the essence of these chats; they were not formal addresses to Congress, public speeches at rallies, or letters sent to citizens. Instead, they utilized the emerging medium of radio to establish a more personal rapport with the American people, demonstrating Roosevelt's understanding of the power of communication in shaping public sentiment.

3. How many deaths were reported during WWI?

- A. 8 million
- B. 10 million
- C. 16.5 million**
- D. 20 million

The number of deaths reported during World War I is estimated to be around 16.5 million. This total includes both military personnel and civilians who lost their lives as a direct or indirect result of the war. The military death toll is often reported to be approximately 9.7 million, while civilian casualties are estimated to be around 7 million, primarily due to war-related famine and disease, in addition to direct violence.

Understanding the scale of mortality during World War I is crucial, as it highlights the enormous human cost of the conflict, which spurred significant political and social changes worldwide. Factors contributing to these figures include trench warfare, widespread use of new military technologies, and the devastating impact of pandemics like the Spanish flu, which predominated during the latter part of the war. While other figures, such as 8 million or 10 million, reflect significant loss, they do not encompass the full scope of casualties associated with the war, particularly the substantial civilian impact. The higher estimates of 20 million also tend to include more conjectural data or are based on broader definitions of war-related deaths. Thus, 16.5 million serves as the most widely accepted figure, representing a comprehensive understanding of the vast loss experienced during World War I.

4. Who was the American General in charge of the Pacific Theatre during World War II, known for encouraging amphibious landings?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. George S. Patton
- C. Douglas MacArthur**
- D. Omar Bradley

Douglas MacArthur was the American General in charge of the Pacific Theatre during World War II, and he played a crucial role in the strategy and execution of operations throughout that region. His leadership was marked by a series of significant amphibious landings, most notably the successful invasion of the Philippines in 1944, which was pivotal in the Allied campaign against Japan. MacArthur was known for his innovative and effective military strategies that utilized a combination of naval power and ground forces, which greatly contributed to the eventual success in the Pacific. Furthermore, MacArthur's famous promise to return to the Philippines after being forced to evacuate in 1942 became a rallying point for American forces and symbolized determination and resilience in the face of adversity. His understanding of the unique challenges of the Pacific Theatre, including island hopping and dealing with difficult terrain, reinforced his capability as a military leader during this critical time in history.

5. What did Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points primarily advocate for?

- A. Private business interests**
- B. National military strategies**
- C. International peace and cooperation**
- D. Expansion of empires**

Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points primarily advocated for international peace and cooperation following World War I. This comprehensive proposal aimed to address the causes of the conflict and establish a framework for lasting peace. Wilson's vision included principles such as self-determination for nations, open diplomacy, free trade, and the establishment of an international organization to promote cooperation among countries, ultimately leading to a more stable and peaceful international environment. The points were a response to the widespread devastation and disillusionment caused by the war, intending to foster an era of collaboration rather than conflict. By promoting these ideas, Wilson sought to prevent future wars and encourage nations to work together to resolve their disputes through dialogue rather than military means.

6. What was one outcome of the Allies' decisions in 1945 regarding the UN?

- A. To promote global disarmament**
- B. To facilitate war reparations**
- C. To maintain world peace after the war**
- D. To establish a collective military alliance**

One outcome of the Allies' decisions in 1945 regarding the United Nations was the emphasis on maintaining world peace after the war. The UN was established with the primary goal of preventing future conflicts that could lead to another global war, similar to the devastation seen during World War II. This focus on peacekeeping was reflected in the UN Charter, which outlined principles aimed at fostering international cooperation, security, and diplomatic resolution of disputes. The founding members believed that a collaborative international organization was essential to address the complexities of global politics and to promote dialogue among nations. Therefore, the UN was structured not only as a forum for discussion but also included mechanisms for conflict resolution, peacekeeping missions, and the establishment of international laws aimed at maintaining security. While promoting global disarmament and facilitating war reparations were also concerns after the war, the UN's primary role highlighted in 1945 was aimed at preserving peace and preventing the escalation of conflicts that might lead to future wars. Establishing a collective military alliance, such as what existed with NATO later, was not a foundational aspect of the UN's creation; instead, it focused on broader international cooperation and diplomatic relations.

7. In the context of the Cold War, what was the primary goal of the United States in its foreign policy strategy?

- A. Expand democratic ideals worldwide**
- B. Contain Soviet influence and expansion**
- C. Engage in open warfare with communist countries**
- D. Support military dictatorships**

The primary goal of the United States in its foreign policy strategy during the Cold War was to contain Soviet influence and expansion. This strategy arose from the belief that the spread of communism posed a significant threat to democratic nations and capitalist economies. Containment sought to prevent the Soviet Union from expanding its influence into new regions and countries, and it was a response to the aggressive posturing of the USSR in various parts of the world. The containment policy was reflected in various initiatives, such as the Truman Doctrine, which provided support to countries resisting communist insurgencies; the Marshall Plan, which aimed to rebuild war-torn Europe and reduce the allure of communism; and the establishment of NATO to create a military alliance against possible Soviet aggression. These actions collectively emphasized the goal of limiting Soviet power rather than engaging in direct military conflict or spreading American democratic ideals through warfare. In contrast, while promoting democratic ideals worldwide was a significant aspect of U.S. rhetoric, it was often secondary to the primary focus on containment. Engaging in open warfare with communist countries was generally avoided to prevent escalating tensions into full-blown conflict, particularly as both superpowers possessed nuclear arsenals. Finally, while the U.S. did sometimes support military dictatorships as a means of stabilizing regions

8. Which author's work was noted for gathering and reconstructing African American vernacular?

- A. Zora Neale Hurston**
- B. Langston Hughes**
- C. Claude McKay**
- D. Alain Locke**

The work of Zora Neale Hurston is particularly noted for gathering and reconstructing African American vernacular, primarily through her anthropological approach and her focus on the culture and experiences of African Americans in the early 20th century. Hurston's most famous work, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," incorporates rich, authentic dialect and storytelling techniques that reflect the voice and experiences of Black communities, especially in the South. Her background in anthropology informed her understanding and portrayal of African American culture, leading her to conduct fieldwork that captured the richness of folk traditions, oral histories, and vernacular speech. This emphasis on vernacular not only highlighted the beauty and complexity of African American language but also contributed significantly to the Harlem Renaissance and the broader recognition of African American literary contributions. While other authors like Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and Alain Locke also contributed to the African American literary scene during the Harlem Renaissance, their works focused more on themes of identity, race, and social justice rather than the gathering and recording of vernacular language as a primary focus. Thus, Hurston stands out for her pioneering efforts in documenting and reconstructing the voices of African Americans.

9. Who won the presidential election of 1912?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt**
- B. William Howard Taft**
- C. Woodrow Wilson**
- D. Warren G. Harding**

The presidential election of 1912 was a significant political event marked by a split in the Republican Party and the emergence of third-party candidate Theodore Roosevelt. However, the election was ultimately won by Woodrow Wilson, who represented the Democratic Party. Wilson's campaign focused on progressive reforms and appealed to voters with his New Freedom platform, which aimed to promote economic opportunity and reduce governmental interference in the economy. His victory was facilitated by the division of the Republican vote between Taft and Roosevelt, allowing Wilson to secure the presidency with a significant electoral margin. This election is notable because it reshaped the political landscape of the United States and underscored the importance of progressive ideas in early 20th-century American politics. The other candidates, while influential in their own right, did not achieve the same level of success in this particular election.

10. What major event prompted the U.S. to reconsider its stance on World War I?

- A. The sinking of the Lusitania**
- B. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand**
- C. The Bolshevik Revolution**
- D. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles**

The sinking of the Lusitania was a significant event that swayed American public opinion and government policy towards involvement in World War I. The Lusitania, a British ocean liner, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in May 1915, resulting in the loss of 1,198 lives, including 128 Americans. This attack highlighted the dangers of unrestricted submarine warfare that Germany was employing and raised concerns about the safety of American citizens and commercial interests at sea. The incident generated outrage in the United States and intensified anti-German sentiment. It was pivotal in shifting the U.S. stance from strict neutrality toward a more interventionist approach, as the administration began to consider the implications of defending American lives and the economic interests tied to the Allied powers. The sinking contributed to a series of diplomatic tensions between the U.S. and Germany, ultimately leading to the U.S. joining the war in 1917. Unlike other options, such as the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, which primarily triggered the war in Europe, or the Bolshevik Revolution, which influenced U.S. perceptions later in the conflict, the sinking of the Lusitania directly impacted U.S. public sentiment and government policy at a crucial moment in the war.

The Treaty

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-hist106-exam2.examzify.com>

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

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