

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN ENGLAND – MODERN HUMANITIES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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. Which English poet's works include essays on criticism and a focus on taste and decorum?**
 - A. Alexander Pope
 - B. John Dryden
 - C. Samuel Johnson
 - D. John Milton

- 2. Which Defoe work follows the life of a conwoman in 18th-century London?**
 - A. A Journal of the Plague Year
 - B. Roxana
 - C. Robinson Crusoe
 - D. Moll Flanders

- 3. Which English philosopher argued that ideas originate in experience?**
 - A. John Locke
 - B. Thomas Hobbes
 - C. David Hume
 - D. Isaac Newton

- 4. What is the central tension in David Hume's philosophy regarding knowledge and belief?**
 - A. The nature of space and time
 - B. Skepticism about causation and miracles
 - C. Certainty about the external world
 - D. The existence of God

- 5. Which evaluation best captures the thesis about Foley artists?**
 - A. The thesis is effective because it covers a broad topic while maintaining an objective viewpoint.
 - B. The thesis is ineffective because it lacks clear transitions between the thoughts of the writer.
 - C. The thesis is effective because it contains a topic that is focused and a viewpoint that is clear.
 - D. The thesis is ineffective because it lacks proper citations and does not grab the reader's attention.

6. In Sancho's letters, which description best captures his view of Uncle Toby?
- A. Uncle Toby is a remarkable creation.
 - B. Uncle Toby has freed millions of enslaved people.
 - C. Uncle Toby has taught him how to read.
 - D. Uncle Toby is a very talented writer.
7. The public sphere in 18th-century England was fostered by which combination of media and spaces?
- A. Official royal decrees and church services
 - B. Rural fairs and guild halls
 - C. The periodical press and coffeehouse culture
 - D. Courtly masques and operas
8. Which document discusses the necessity of declaring the causes for separation to the world?
- A. The Declaration of Independence
 - B. The Declaration of Sentiments
 - C. Thoughts and Sentiments
 - D. A Dictionary of the English Language
9. Which statement best describes why Stanton's Declaration mirrors the language of the Declaration of Independence?
- A. Stanton wants to encourage women to appreciate the freedoms that they enjoy in American society.
 - B. Stanton wants to acknowledge the efforts of American forefathers and the cooperation that prompted independence from Britain.
 - C. Stanton wants to promote an understanding of the American political system that allows men to vote for a representative government.
 - D. Stanton wants to emphasize the historical significance of the women's movement and its potential for revolutionary change.
10. The best definition of the underlined word 'hapless' in the Johnson preface sentence is:
- A. unlucky or unfortunate; pitiable
 - B. unknown or unfamiliar; mysterious
 - C. without intelligence; foolish
 - D. without tenderness; harsh

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which English poet's works include essays on criticism and a focus on taste and decorum?

- A. Alexander Pope**
- B. John Dryden
- C. Samuel Johnson
- D. John Milton

*The question tests understanding of which poet is best associated with essays on criticism that center around taste and decorum. Alexander Pope is the best fit because his *An Essay on Criticism* (1709) directly addresses how poetry should be judged and what makes poetry good. He argues that true criticism comes from good sense and a clear sense of nature, and it insists on decorum—writing that fits the subject, style, and epoch. The work treats taste as the crucial faculty by which readers discern quality, and it emphasizes that poetry should adhere to established rules and the sense of the ancient poets while remaining true to English language and sensibility. This combination—explicit discussions of criticism, taste, and decorum—defines Pope's response to 18th century debates about poetic judgment, making him the most fitting choice. Dryden also wrote about criticism and decorum, but Pope's essay is the quintessential, widely taught statement linking criticism with taste and decorum.*

2. Which Defoe work follows the life of a conwoman in 18th-century London?

- A. *A Journal of the Plague Year*
- B. *Roxana*
- C. *Robinson Crusoe*
- D. *Moll Flanders***

*The narrative centers on a woman who makes her living through deception and crime in urban London, told in a first-person voice that tracks her life of schemes and cons. *Moll Flanders* follows this conwoman from childhood through adulthood as she navigates the crowded streets of London and its surroundings, turning to disguises, theft, and other tricks to survive and prosper. This focus on a female criminal's life in 18th-century London is exactly what the question highlights. *A Journal of the Plague Year* is a historical account of a plague outbreak, not a biography of a criminal woman; *Robinson Crusoe* is about a man's solitary survival; *Roxana* concerns a woman's experiences of relationships and social ascent but does not center on a London-based conwoman in the way *Moll Flanders* does.*

3. Which English philosopher argued that ideas originate in experience?

- A. John Locke**
- B. Thomas Hobbes
- C. David Hume
- D. Isaac Newton

Empiricism—the idea that ideas come from experience rather than being innate in the mind—is what this question tests. John Locke argued this most clearly. He claimed the mind at birth is a blank slate, with no built in ideas, and that all knowledge and ideas arise from experience. This happens in two main ways: sensation, which delivers simple ideas from the external world through our senses; and reflection, which provides ideas from the mind's own operations as we think and reflect. From these simple ideas, the mind combines and abstracts to form more complex ideas. Locke's view rejects innate notions and helps explain how learning, education, and evidence shape understanding. Hobbes shares an emphasis on experience in understanding mind and matter, but the standout English philosopher who articulates ideas as originating in experience, especially with the blank slate image, is Locke. David Hume, while also an empiricist, is Scottish, and Isaac Newton is a scientist whose work is not about the origin of ideas in the same philosophical sense.

4. What is the central tension in David Hume's philosophy regarding knowledge and belief?

- A. The nature of space and time
- B. Skepticism about causation and miracles**
- C. Certainty about the external world
- D. The existence of God

The main idea here is how we justify our beliefs about cause and effect, and what that does to our confidence in knowing the world. David Hume argues that our understanding of causation comes from habit and experience, not from any logical necessity. We observe that certain events tend to follow others, so we come to expect a connection. But this expectation isn't a result of rational proof that a necessary link must exist; it's a psychological pattern we develop from repeated experience. That leaves a tension: our beliefs about how things cause one another feel firm, yet they aren't backed by solid deductive justification. Hume pushes this further with miracles, arguing that extraordinary reports contradict the uniform experience we rely on to judge natural law. Since the weight of evidence for regular patterns in nature far exceeds the testimony for rare, miraculous events, trusting such miracles undermines the very basis of what we claim to know from experience. In short, knowledge about the world rests on causal inferences that lack rational certainty, and miracles highlight how fragile that foundation can be. The other options miss this core issue. The discussion isn't primarily about space and time, nor is it about asserting absolute certainty about an external world as a settled fact, and while God's existence enters Hume's critiques, the central epistemic tension he foregrounds is how we justify causal beliefs and handle miraculous testimony.

5. Which evaluation best captures the thesis about Foley artists?

- A. The thesis is effective because it covers a broad topic while maintaining an objective viewpoint.
- B. The thesis is ineffective because it lacks clear transitions between the thoughts of the writer.
- C. The thesis is effective because it contains a topic that is focused and a viewpoint that is clear.**
- D. The thesis is ineffective because it lacks proper citations and does not grab the reader's attention.

A strong thesis clearly states a focused topic and a clear stance. For a statement about Foley artists, this means naming Foley artists as the specific subject and taking a definite position about their role or impact. When the thesis makes a precise claim that can be argued with evidence—such as asserting that Foley artists are essential for creating the realism of film sound—you have a claim you can support with examples and analysis. That combination of a narrow focus and a clear viewpoint is what makes the thesis effective. The other options fail because they either describe the topic too broadly, imply a concern with writing mechanics rather than a debatable claim, or focus on appeal or citations rather than presenting a testable argument. A broad topic with an objective (non-arguable) viewpoint doesn't invite evidence-based support. Emphasizing transitions or organizational issues isn't about the strength of the thesis itself. And mentioning citations or reader grab—but not making a specific, defensible claim about Foley artists—undercuts the purpose of a thesis.

6. In Sancho's letters, which description best captures his view of Uncle Toby?

- A. Uncle Toby is a remarkable creation.
- B. Uncle Toby has freed millions of enslaved people.
- C. Uncle Toby has taught him how to read.
- D. Uncle Toby is a very talented writer.

The main idea here is how a character is brought to life through the voice and perspective of the narrator, so Sancho's view of Uncle Toby emphasizes Toby as a vividly crafted, memorable figure. Describing Uncle Toby as a remarkable creation signals that Toby stands out because of the way he's imagined and depicted—his distinctive blend of earnestness, simplicity, and genuine humanity—more than because of any grand action or achievement. This kind of portrayal shows Sterne's technique of making a character feel specifically designed and memorable by the narrator's tone and the detail given to his idiosyncrasies. The other options don't fit because Toby isn't depicted as a liberator of enslaved people, a teacher of reading, or a writer; instead, the emphasis is on him as a uniquely drawn, well-realized character.

7. The public sphere in 18th-century England was fostered by which combination of media and spaces?

- A. Official royal decrees and church services
- B. Rural fairs and guild halls
- C. The periodical press and coffeehouse culture
- D. Courtly masques and operas

The public sphere in 18th-century England grew where people could both access information and gather to discuss it. The periodical press made ideas, news, and critique affordable and widely available, turning reading into a shared activity that could reach a broad audience. Coffeehouse culture provided the social spaces where that information could be debated in person— merchants, lawyers, writers, and others mixed, read the latest sheets, and circulated opinions. The combination meant that public debate was not confined to courts or churches or elite salons; it was distributed through print and reinforced in casual, democratic spaces, helping to form a coordinated public opinion that could engage with and sometimes challenge authority. Official decrees and church services are about conveying authority rather than fostering open discussion. Rural fairs and guild halls are local and commerce-focused rather than national and print-driven. Courtly masques and operas cater to elite entertainment rather than broad public deliberation.

8. Which document discusses the necessity of declaring the causes for separation to the world?

- A. The Declaration of Independence**
- B. The Declaration of Sentiments
- C. Thoughts and Sentiments
- D. A Dictionary of the English Language

The main idea being tested is identifying which document publicly explains why a group chooses to break away and declares those reasons to the world. The Declaration of Independence is the one that does this: it explicitly says that it has become necessary for the colonies to dissolve their political connection with Britain and then presents "the causes which impel them to the separation" to an international audience. It's this direct, outward justification to the world that sets it apart from the other options. Context helps: this document was crafted in 1776 to justify independence not just to the colonists, but to foreign powers and readers abroad, by detailing grievances and the rights that justify breaking away. The other writings listed do not serve that purpose: the Declaration of Sentiments argues for women's rights; Thoughts and Sentiments is a literary work; and A Dictionary of the English Language is a reference work.

9. Which statement best describes why Stanton's Declaration mirrors the language of the Declaration of Independence?

- A. Stanton wants to encourage women to appreciate the freedoms that they enjoy in American society.
- B. Stanton wants to acknowledge the efforts of American forefathers and the cooperation that prompted independence from Britain.
- C. Stanton wants to promote an understanding of the American political system that allows men to vote for a representative government.
- D. Stanton wants to emphasize the historical significance of the women's movement and its potential for revolutionary change.**

The question tests how rhetoric from a foundational American document is repurposed to legitimize a social movement. Stanton intentionally borrows the Declaration of Independence's formal stance—listing grievances, asserting universal rights, and calling for substantive change—to present the women's rights cause as a historical turning point. By framing the movement as a necessary, revolutionary shift rather than a minor reform, she signals that women's equality should be treated with the same seriousness and urgency as independence. That's why the statement about emphasizing the movement's historical significance and its potential for revolutionary change is the best fit. It captures the idea that Stanton is not just asking for more rights, but arguing that women's rights constitute a foundational, transformative moment in American history, mirroring the revolutionary language of the original declaration. The other ideas don't align with this rhetorical tactic. They miss the point that Stanton is using the Declaration's cadence to frame women's rights as a radical, historical turning point, rather than merely encouraging appreciation of freedoms, praising forefathers, or focusing on a specific voting system.

10. The best definition of the underlined word 'hapless' in the Johnson preface sentence is:

- A. unlucky or unfortunate; pitiable
- B. unknown or unfamiliar; mysterious
- C. without intelligence; foolish
- D. without tenderness; harsh

The key idea is to know how hapless expresses misfortune. Hap means luck or fortune, and adding -less makes something lacking that quality. So hapless literally means lacking luck—unlucky or unfortunate, often with a sense of pitiable circumstance. In Johnson's preface, using hapless would describe someone or something that is unfortunate yet sympathetic, not mysterious or stupid or cruel. The other options push the sense in the wrong direction: unknown or unfamiliar would describe something obscure, not something deprived of luck; without intelligence points to foolishness; and without tenderness suggests harshness. So the best fit is the idea of being unlucky or pitiable.

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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:

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

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