

# TX PACT Social Studies: Grades 4-8 (718) Practice Test (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. What was the primary function of Beringia?**
  - A. A route for sea travel.**
  - B. A land bridge for early human migration.**
  - C. A mountain range.**
  - D. A type of agricultural land.**
- 2. What important realization did Amerigo Vespucci come to during his explorations?**
  - A. He discovered the Pacific Ocean.**
  - B. He found evidence of dinosaurs.**
  - C. He understood the lands were not part of Asia.**
  - D. He believed it was an extension of Africa.**
- 3. What came out of the Renaissance period?**
  - A. Decline in overseas exploration**
  - B. A period of growing knowledge and innovations in technology**
  - C. Increased isolationism in Europe**
  - D. Greater adherence to medieval traditions**
- 4. What are caravels?**
  - A. Large cargo ships used for trade**
  - B. Speedy and maneuverable boats with sails**
  - C. Heavy warships from the Mediterranean**
  - D. Sailing vessels used exclusively by the Vikings**
- 5. What are "pit houses"?**
  - A. Dwellings dug partly into the ground by Anasazi people**
  - B. Homes made of straw and mud**
  - C. Large multi-story buildings made from stone**
  - D. Temporary shelters set up for seasonal use**
- 6. What is the definition of Culture?**
  - A. The geographic distribution of people**
  - B. The way a society behaves and its system of beliefs**
  - C. The economic systems in various societies**
  - D. The political structures of ancient civilizations**

**7. What was the primary objective of the Marshall Plan?**

- A. To establish military bases in Europe**
- B. To rebuild European economies after World War II**
- C. To promote democracy in Eastern Europe**
- D. To create a unified European Union**

**8. Who were the first settlers in America?**

- A. Nomadic tribes who settled permanently**
- B. Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower**
- C. Spanish explorers seeking gold**
- D. Indigenous tribes migrating from Asia**

**9. What was one effect of implementing slave codes on the broader society?**

- A. Increased cooperation among different communities**
- B. Heightened tension and division within society**
- C. Strengthened the economy through diverse labor**
- D. Promotion of abolitionist movements**

**10. What caused the Nomadic Hunter-Gatherers to come to America?**

- A. Searching for farming land**
- B. Following herds of animals**
- C. Seeking new resources**
- D. Escaping conflicts in Asia**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What was the primary function of Beringia?**

- A. A route for sea travel.
- B. A land bridge for early human migration.**
- C. A mountain range.
- D. A type of agricultural land.

Beringia served as a crucial land bridge that connected Asia and North America during the last Ice Age, allowing early humans and various animal species to migrate between the two continents. This bridge emerged due to lower sea levels, which created a pathway across the Bering Strait, facilitating the movement of people and wildlife. The ability to migrate through Beringia was essential for the early populations as it enabled them to find new resources, environments, and opportunities for survival. The significance of Beringia in human migration highlights its role in shaping early human history and the eventual settlement of the Americas.

**2. What important realization did Amerigo Vespucci come to during his explorations?**

- A. He discovered the Pacific Ocean.
- B. He found evidence of dinosaurs.
- C. He understood the lands were not part of Asia.**
- D. He believed it was an extension of Africa.

Amerigo Vespucci's explorations led him to the significant realization that the lands he encountered were not part of Asia, as many had believed prior to his voyages. This understanding was pivotal in distinguishing the newly discovered territories of the Americas from the known world, particularly Asia, which was the dominant view following Christopher Columbus's journey. Vespucci's detailed observations and writings illustrated that these lands had distinct geographical and cultural features, which diverged from previously established notions of the known continents. His conclusion played a crucial role in redefining maps and the understanding of world geography, ultimately leading to the recognition of the Americas as separate continents. Thus, his insights contributed to the broader European understanding of global geography during the Age of Exploration.

### 3. What came out of the Renaissance period?

- A. Decline in overseas exploration
- B. A period of growing knowledge and innovations in technology**
- C. Increased isolationism in Europe
- D. Greater adherence to medieval traditions

The Renaissance period, which spanned roughly from the 14th to the 17th century, was characterized by a significant revival in art, science, culture, and intellectual pursuits following the Middle Ages. This era brought about a dramatic transformation in various fields, marking a shift towards a more human-centric worldview and fostering a spirit of inquiry. One of the most notable outcomes of the Renaissance was the expansion of knowledge and innovations in technology. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg, for example, revolutionized the way information was disseminated, making literature more accessible and encouraging literacy among the populace. Additionally, advancements in areas such as navigation, engineering, and the sciences enabled exploration and discovery, leading to significant developments in geography and understanding of the natural world. The arts flourished, with notable figures like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo pushing the boundaries of artistic expression. These innovations not only reflected the changing attitudes of the time but also laid the groundwork for future advancements in various disciplines. In contrast, the other choices represent concepts that do not align with the essence of the Renaissance. Rather than declining, overseas exploration was actively promoted during this time; people's perspectives on the world expanded dramatically. The period was marked by increased engagement and exchange rather than isolationism.

### 4. What are caravels?

- A. Large cargo ships used for trade
- B. Speedy and maneuverable boats with sails**
- C. Heavy warships from the Mediterranean
- D. Sailing vessels used exclusively by the Vikings

Caravels are indeed best described as speedy and maneuverable boats with sails. Developed in the 15th century by the Portuguese, these ships were designed for exploration. Their unique triangular sails, known as lateen sails, allowed for greater maneuverability, enabling them to sail effectively against the wind. This design was crucial during the Age of Exploration when European powers sought new trade routes and discovered new lands. The versatility and agility of caravels made them ideal for long voyages over open seas and for navigating coastal waters. This increased maneuverability significantly contributed to their use in exploratory missions, particularly along the African coast and later across the Atlantic Ocean.

## 5. What are "pit houses"?

- A. Dwellings dug partly into the ground by Anasazi people**
- B. Homes made of straw and mud**
- C. Large multi-story buildings made from stone**
- D. Temporary shelters set up for seasonal use**

Pit houses are dwellings that were constructed by the Anasazi, an ancient Native American culture that thrived in what is now the Southwestern United States. These homes were unique in that they were dug partly into the ground, which helped to provide insulation from harsh weather conditions, making them warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The design typically included a roof made from wood and other materials, allowing for a space that was secure and efficient for the families that lived in them. The other options describe different types of dwellings that do not align with the characteristics of pit houses. Homes made of straw and mud might refer to adobe structures or other types of building techniques but do not match the specific design attributed to pit houses. Large multi-story buildings made from stone are more representative of later architectural developments, such as those seen in cliff dwellings or pueblos, rather than the simpler and more practical pit house design. Temporary shelters set up for seasonal use would not provide the same level of permanence and insulation that pit houses offered, as these were intended for longer-term habitation, not just seasonal shelter.

## 6. What is the definition of Culture?

- A. The geographic distribution of people**
- B. The way a society behaves and its system of beliefs**
- C. The economic systems in various societies**
- D. The political structures of ancient civilizations**

Culture encompasses the shared beliefs, behaviors, customs, and values of a society or group. It reflects how societies function and interact, shaping their identity and way of life. Understanding culture involves recognizing various elements such as language, religion, traditions, and social norms that define a community. In contrast, the other options focus on specific aspects of societies rather than the broader concept of culture. Geographic distribution pertains to where people live and is not inherently tied to their behaviors or beliefs. Economic systems analyze how societies produce and distribute goods but do not encompass the full range of cultural practices. Political structures refer to governance systems and historical frameworks, which are important for understanding power dynamics but do not capture the essence of culture as a composite of societal behaviors and beliefs.

## 7. What was the primary objective of the Marshall Plan?

- A. To establish military bases in Europe
- B. To rebuild European economies after World War II**
- C. To promote democracy in Eastern Europe
- D. To create a unified European Union

The primary objective of the Marshall Plan was to rebuild European economies after World War II. After the devastation caused by the war, many European countries faced severe economic challenges, including widespread poverty, destroyed infrastructure, and political instability. The United States, recognizing that a stable and economically prosperous Europe would be vital for peace and security, initiated the Marshall Plan in 1948. This program provided financial aid and resources to European countries to help them recover and rebuild their economies, ultimately aiming to prevent the spread of communism by fostering political stability through economic growth. This approach not only assisted in reconstruction efforts but also encouraged cooperation among European nations, laying the groundwork for future integration efforts. The success of the Marshall Plan is often credited with helping to revive European economies quickly and effectively, which reinforced the idea that economic stability could lead to lasting peace.

## 8. Who were the first settlers in America?

- A. Nomadic tribes who settled permanently**
- B. Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower
- C. Spanish explorers seeking gold
- D. Indigenous tribes migrating from Asia

The first settlers in America were Indigenous tribes migrating from Asia. This migration is believed to have occurred over thousands of years ago when small groups of people crossed the Bering Land Bridge, a land connection between Asia and North America that existed during the last Ice Age. These Indigenous tribes adapted to various environments across the continent, developing distinct cultures and societies. Their deep-rooted presence in the Americas predates any other groups, including European explorers and settlers who arrived much later. While nomadic tribes did exist and may have become more permanent in certain areas over time, they emerged later in the historical timeline compared to the original Indigenous populations. The Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 were among the first European settlers in America, but they were not the first settlers overall. Spanish explorers, seeking gold and other riches, came after the Indigenous tribes were already established in the region. Thus, the correct answer reflects the early migration and settlement of the first peoples in America.

**9. What was one effect of implementing slave codes on the broader society?**

- A. Increased cooperation among different communities**
- B. Heightened tension and division within society**
- C. Strengthened the economy through diverse labor**
- D. Promotion of abolitionist movements**

Implementing slave codes had a significant effect on broader society by heightening tension and division within it. Slave codes were laws designed to define the status of enslaved people and the rights of their owners, establishing a strict hierarchy based on racial differences. These codes not only institutionalized the practice of slavery but also reinforced racial discrimination, which contributed to societal divisions. As these laws were put into place, they created an environment of fear and oppression for enslaved individuals, while simultaneously fostering animosity and distrust between the enslaved population and free citizens, including abolitionists. The clear delineation between free and enslaved people exacerbated existing racial tensions, leading to conflicts and resistance efforts. Consequently, societies became polarized, with pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions often at odds with one another, resulting in significant social unrest and division.

**10. What caused the Nomadic Hunter-Gatherers to come to America?**

- A. Searching for farming land**
- B. Following herds of animals**
- C. Seeking new resources**
- D. Escaping conflicts in Asia**

The correct choice highlights the significant role of animal migration in the lives of Nomadic Hunter-Gatherers. These groups migrated to America primarily to follow herds of animals, which were essential for their food supply. As these animals moved across landscapes in search of food and water, the hunter-gatherers followed, adapting their lifestyle to the seasonal migrations of the herds. This mobility allowed them to utilize the resources offered by different environments and seasons, ensuring a steady supply of the game necessary for their survival. The movement of these populations is linked to the changing climate and land bridge connections, which facilitated the migration process from Asia into North America. While some of the other options present plausible reasons for migration, such as seeking new resources or escaping conflicts, the primary motivation for nomadic hunter-gatherers was closely tied to the availability and movement of animals, making it essential for their subsistence strategies.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://txpact718.examzify.com>**

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

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