

# University of Central Florida (UCF) AMH2020 U.S. History: 1877-Present Practice Exam (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 was a major result of the Spanish-American War in 1898?**
  - A. The U.S. withdrew from foreign conflicts**
  - B. The U.S. gained territories such as Puerto Rico and Guam**
  - C. The U.S. initiated the League of Nations**
  - D. The U.S. focused on domestic reform only**
- 2. What major legislation was passed in response to the events of the Civil Rights Movement?**
  - A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964**
  - B. The Immigration Act of 1965**
  - C. The Social Security Act of 1965**
  - D. The Education Amendments of 1972**
- 3. Who were referred to as the "police of the Indians" during conflicts?**
  - A. Cavalry units**
  - B. Dog soldiers**
  - C. Indian Agents**
  - D. Mountain men**
- 4. Which treaty reduced the land of the Cheyenne and Arapaho in 1861?**
  - A. Treaty of Fort Laramie**
  - B. Treaty of Fort Wise**
  - C. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**
  - D. Treaty of Paris**
- 5. What was the primary focus of the New Deal programs during the Great Depression?**
  - A. Expansion of the military**
  - B. Revitalization of the economy and job creation**
  - C. Promotion of industrial growth through deregulation**
  - D. Establishment of a welfare state**

- 6. Which major U.S. legislation was passed in response to the 9/11 attacks?**
- A. The USA PATRIOT Act**
  - B. The Freedom Act**
  - C. The Defense of Marriage Act**
  - D. The Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act**
- 7. Which radical leader was convicted and hanged due to his involvement in the Haymarket Affair?**
- A. August Spies**
  - B. Albert Parsons**
  - C. Eugene Debs**
  - D. John Peter Altgeld**
- 8. Who was the first female Supreme Court Justice in the United States?**
- A. Sandra Day O'Connor**
  - B. Ruth Bader Ginsburg**
  - C. Elena Kagan**
  - D. Sonya Sotomayor**
- 9. What was the Ghost Dance movement associated with?**
- A. A call for violent uprising against settlers**
  - B. A spiritual revival among Native American tribes**
  - C. An educational reform initiative**
  - D. A treaty negotiation process**
- 10. What was the significance of the 24th Amendment?**
- A. It granted women the right to vote**
  - B. It prohibited poll taxes in federal elections.**
  - C. It ensured voting rights for African Americans**
  - D. It established the Electoral College system**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

**1. What was a major result of the Spanish-American War in 1898?**

- A. The U.S. withdrew from foreign conflicts**
- B. The U.S. gained territories such as Puerto Rico and Guam**
- C. The U.S. initiated the League of Nations**
- D. The U.S. focused on domestic reform only**

The outcome of the Spanish-American War in 1898 had significant implications for the United States, particularly regarding its territorial expansion. One of the major results of the war was that the United States gained several territories from Spain, including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This marked a pivotal moment in American history as it transitioned from a nation primarily focused on its continental boundaries to an imperial power with overseas colonies. The acquisition of these territories illustrated a shift in U.S. foreign policy, which began to emphasize an expansionist agenda. The war was driven by themes of American imperialism and was partly motivated by the desire to assist Cuba in gaining independence from Spain, which coincided with broader interests in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. This territorial gain also played a crucial role in establishing the United States' presence on the global stage and set the foundation for future military and political involvement in international affairs. Thus, the acquisition of Puerto Rico and Guam highlights the significant changes in the United States following the war, marking an expansion of its influence beyond its continental borders.

**2. What major legislation was passed in response to the events of the Civil Rights Movement?**

- A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964**
- B. The Immigration Act of 1965**
- C. The Social Security Act of 1965**
- D. The Education Amendments of 1972**

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 stands out as a landmark piece of legislation that was directly influenced by the events and advocacy efforts of the Civil Rights Movement. This act aimed to eliminate discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, fundamentally reshaping the landscape of American civil rights. The context of the Civil Rights Movement, particularly during the 1950s and early 1960s, is crucial for understanding the significance of this legislation. Activists and leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr., organized protests, marches, and other forms of activism that highlighted the pervasive injustices faced by African Americans and other marginalized groups. Events like the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington exemplified the urgent demand for equality and justice. The passage of the Civil Rights Act marked a pivotal moment in U.S. history, as it prohibited segregation in schools and public places, aimed to end employment discrimination, and enforced voting rights protections. This legislation was a direct response to the movement's calls for systemic change, making it a cornerstone of civil rights advancement in the United States. The other options, while historically significant, pertain to different aspects of social policy or immigration reform and were not direct outcomes of the Civil Rights

**3. Who were referred to as the "police of the Indians" during conflicts?**

- A. Cavalry units
- B. Dog soldiers**
- C. Indian Agents
- D. Mountain men

The term "police of the Indians" refers to the Dog Soldiers, who were a prominent warrior society within the Southern Cheyenne tribe. During conflicts, particularly in the context of the Indian Wars in the late 19th century, Dog Soldiers took on the role of enforcers and protectors of their communities, often engaging in battles against encroaching settlers and military forces. They also undertook policing functions within their own society, maintaining order and discipline among their people. Cavalry units, while involved in conflicts with Native American tribes, were part of the U.S. Army and not specifically tasked with policing indigenous populations in this manner. Indian Agents were government officials responsible for managing relations with Native American tribes but did not serve as enforcers in the same sense as the Dog Soldiers. Mountain men were explorers and fur trappers who operated in the western United States, and while they interacted with Native Americans, they did not fulfill a policing role. Thus, Dog Soldiers are correctly identified as the "police of the Indians" in the context of this question.

**4. Which treaty reduced the land of the Cheyenne and Arapaho in 1861?**

- A. Treaty of Fort Laramie
- B. Treaty of Fort Wise**
- C. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- D. Treaty of Paris

The Treaty of Fort Wise, signed in 1861, was significant in that it reduced the lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes substantially. This treaty was part of a broader pattern of treaties during this period, where the U.S. government aimed to secure land for settlers and miners, often at the expense of Native American territories. The Cheyenne and Arapaho had originally been granted a sizable portion of land in the Treaty of Fort Laramie (1851), but the Treaty of Fort Wise significantly altered this arrangement. Under the terms of the 1861 treaty, the Cheyenne and Arapaho were forced to relinquish much of their territory in exchange for a much smaller reservation in southeastern Colorado. In contrast, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ended the Mexican-American War and involved territories that were primarily in what is now the southwestern United States, making it unrelated to the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Similarly, the Treaty of Paris (1783) concluded the American Revolutionary War, and while the Treaty of Fort Laramie (1851) addressed issues regarding land but wasn't the treaty in question for the reduction of the Cheyenne and Arapaho lands in 1861 specifically. Understanding the

**5. What was the primary focus of the New Deal programs during the Great Depression?**

- A. Expansion of the military**
- B. Revitalization of the economy and job creation**
- C. Promotion of industrial growth through deregulation**
- D. Establishment of a welfare state**

The primary focus of the New Deal programs during the Great Depression was the revitalization of the economy and job creation. Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration recognized the severe economic challenges facing the country, including unprecedented unemployment and widespread poverty. In response, the New Deal aimed to provide immediate relief for the unemployed, stimulate economic recovery, and implement reforms to prevent future economic crises. Programs under the New Deal, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), were specifically designed to create jobs and support those struggling economically. Through public works projects and direct aid, these initiatives sought to jumpstart the economy by increasing consumer spending and providing people with a source of income. This focus on recovery and job creation was crucial in helping to stabilize the nation during one of its most difficult periods. While the New Deal did eventually lead to discussions about and developments towards a welfare state, its immediate goals were centered on economic recovery and job creation, making the chosen answer most aligned with the New Deal's overarching mission.

**6. Which major U.S. legislation was passed in response to the 9/11 attacks?**

- A. The USA PATRIOT Act**
- B. The Freedom Act**
- C. The Defense of Marriage Act**
- D. The Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act**

The USA PATRIOT Act was enacted as a direct response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The primary intention of this legislation was to enhance national security and improve the government's ability to investigate and prevent terrorism. It granted law enforcement agencies expanded surveillance capabilities, including the ability to monitor communications and access personal records without a warrant in certain circumstances. The act was controversial due to concerns over civil liberties, as it expanded the powers of government in ways that some believed infringed on individual rights. Its introduction illustrated the intense focus on counter-terrorism and national security that emerged in American policy after the attacks, reflecting a significant shift in how the government approached domestic security. Other options, such as the Freedom Act, were related but came later, aiming to reform some of the powers granted by the USA PATRIOT Act. The Defense of Marriage Act and the Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act do not relate to responses to the 9/11 events and focus instead on issues concerning marriage and healthcare reform, respectively.

**7. Which radical leader was convicted and hanged due to his involvement in the Haymarket Affair?**

- A. August Spies**
- B. Albert Parsons**
- C. Eugene Debs**
- D. John Peter Altgeld**

The radical leader who was convicted and hanged due to his involvement in the Haymarket Affair is August Spies. Spies was one of eight anarchists accused of conspiracy in the aftermath of the Haymarket Square bombing in Chicago in 1886. This incident began as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour workday but turned violent when a bomb was thrown at the police, resulting in deaths and injuries. August Spies was a prominent figure in the labor movement and had been active in organizing for workers' rights. After the bombing, Spies and several co-defendants were tried in a highly publicized trial that was marked by widespread prejudice against anarchists and labor activists. In 1887, Spies and four others were sentenced to death even though there was no direct evidence linking them to the bombing itself. The trial was widely criticized for its lack of fairness and due process. The significance of the Haymarket Affair and the subsequent trial and execution of Spies and others had a profound impact on the labor movement and public perception of anarchism in the United States, reflecting the tensions between labor rights and law enforcement at the time.

**8. Who was the first female Supreme Court Justice in the United States?**

- A. Sandra Day O'Connor**
- B. Ruth Bader Ginsburg**
- C. Elena Kagan**
- D. Sonia Sotomayor**

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first female Supreme Court Justice in the United States, appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Her appointment marked a significant milestone in U.S. history as it broke the gender barrier in the highest court of the land. O'Connor served on the Supreme Court until her retirement in 2006 and was known for her centrist views and pivotal role in many important decisions, often casting the deciding vote in closely contested cases. The other justices mentioned were influential in their own rights, with Ruth Bader Ginsburg being a prominent voice for gender equality, Elena Kagan known for her work on the court following O'Connor's tenure, and Sonia Sotomayor being the first Hispanic and Latina Justice. However, all of them came after O'Connor, who holds the distinction of being the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

## 9. What was the Ghost Dance movement associated with?

- A. A call for violent uprising against settlers
- B. A spiritual revival among Native American tribes**
- C. An educational reform initiative
- D. A treaty negotiation process

The Ghost Dance movement was primarily a spiritual revival among Native American tribes that emerged in the late 19th century. It was rooted in the belief that through the Ghost Dance, Native Americans could reconnect with their ancestral traditions and bring about a restoration of their way of life. This movement was largely inspired by the visions of a Paiute prophet named Wovoka, who taught that by performing the dance, Native Americans could hasten the arrival of a paradise in which their tribes would be united, dead ancestors resurrected, and the influence of white settlers would be eliminated. The dance held significant cultural and spiritual meaning, representing hope during a time of tremendous upheaval for Native Americans, who were facing loss of land, forced assimilation, and diminishing populations due to disease and conflict. The convergence of spiritual belief and social action made the Ghost Dance a powerful expression of Native American resilience and a response to colonial oppression. In contrast, other options do not capture the essence of the Ghost Dance. The movement was not a call for violent uprising against settlers; rather, it was a nonviolent expression of faith and hope. It was certainly not an educational reform initiative or a treaty negotiation process, as its focus was on spiritual revival rather than structural changes in education or direct negotiations.

## 10. What was the significance of the 24th Amendment?

- A. It granted women the right to vote
- B. It prohibited poll taxes in federal elections.**
- C. It ensured voting rights for African Americans
- D. It established the Electoral College system

The 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964, is significant because it prohibited the use of poll taxes in federal elections. Poll taxes were fees that individuals had to pay in order to vote, which disproportionately affected low-income individuals and minorities who could not afford to pay these taxes. By eliminating poll taxes, the 24th Amendment aimed to remove a financial barrier that was used to disenfranchise voters, particularly African Americans in the South, thereby reinforcing the democratic principle that voting should be accessible to all citizens regardless of their economic status. The importance of the 24th Amendment also lies in its ability to promote equal access to the electoral process and reflects the broader civil rights movement's efforts to secure voting rights for all Americans. By ensuring that economic factors could not impede one's right to vote, the amendment played a key role in the fight against systemic racism and discrimination in voting practices during this era.



## 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://ucf-amh2020.examzify.com>**

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