

US History Legislation and Reforms Practice Test (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 did the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibit, and what broader impact did it have on society?**
 - A. Prohibited discrimination based on race in employment.**
 - B. Prohibited discrimination based on disability in employment, public services, and accommodations; required accessibility.**
 - C. Created Social Security Disability Insurance.**
 - D. Required employers to provide paid leave.**

- 2. Which party in the 1890s advocated public ownership of railroads and a graduated federal income tax?**
 - A. Populist Party (People's Party)**
 - B. Republican Party**
 - C. Democratic Party**
 - D. Socialist Party**

- 3. Which Progressive reform aimed to regulate the age and conditions of child labor, aided by Lewis Hines' photography?**
 - A. Fair Labor Standards Act**
 - B. Labor Welfare Act**
 - C. Child Labor Reform**
 - D. Child Welfare Act**

- 4. Which act made it a crime to convey information with the intent to interfere with the operation or success of the United States armed forces or to promote the enemies?**
 - A. Sedition Act of 1918**
 - B. Patriot Act**
 - C. War Crimes Act**
 - D. Espionage Act of 1917**

- 5. Which legislation introduced prescription drug coverage under Medicare, commonly referred to as Part D?**
 - A. Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003**
 - B. Affordable Care Act**
 - C. Dodd-Frank Act**
 - D. Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**

- 6. Which president issued Executive Order 8802?**
- A. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
 - B. Woodrow Wilson**
 - C. Harry S. Truman**
 - D. Dwight D. Eisenhower**
- 7. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution granted the president authority to use military force without a formal declaration of war. Which option represents that statement?**
- A. Environmental Protection Agency**
 - B. Endangered Species Act**
 - C. Community Reinvestment Act**
 - D. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)**
- 8. Which act provided for an old-age pension and unemployment insurance as part of the New Deal?**
- A. Interstate Commerce Act**
 - B. Securities and Exchange Commission**
 - C. FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)**
 - D. Social Security Act of 1935**
- 9. The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 was designed to address lending practices by encouraging banks to meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate.**
- A. It was designed to encourage banks to meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate.**
 - B. It established national environmental standards.**
 - C. It created a framework for farm subsidies.**
 - D. It regulated interstate banking mergers.**
- 10. Voter registration, secret ballots, and split-ticket voting were designed to reduce corruption from machines and prevent people from voting early and often. What is this reform called?**
- A. Civil Service Reform**
 - B. Election Reform**
 - C. Direct Primary Reform**
 - D. Campaign Finance Reform**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What did the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibit, and what broader impact did it have on society?

A. Prohibited discrimination based on race in employment.

B. Prohibited discrimination based on disability in employment, public services, and accommodations; required accessibility.

C. Created Social Security Disability Insurance.

D. Required employers to provide paid leave.

The main concept tested here is what the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits and why that mattered for society. The act bans discrimination against people with disabilities in three big areas of public life—employment, access to public services, and access to public accommodations—and it requires reasonable accessibility so people with disabilities can participate fully. That’s why the statement emphasizing discrimination based on disability in employment, public services, and accommodations, along with a requirement for accessibility, is the best fit. It’s not about prohibiting race discrimination, creating Social Security Disability Insurance, or mandating paid leave, which fall outside the act’s scope. Beyond the prohibition, the act had a broad societal impact by establishing a civil rights framework for disability rights. It pushed workplaces, government agencies, schools, and businesses to remove barriers and provide accommodations—think ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, captioning, interpreters, and accessible websites. This shift helped normalize inclusion, expand opportunities for people with disabilities, and set the stage for ongoing enforcement and the development of accessibility standards.

2. Which party in the 1890s advocated public ownership of railroads and a graduated federal income tax?

A. Populist Party (People's Party)

B. Republican Party

C. Democratic Party

D. Socialist Party

In the 1890s, the Populist Party (People's Party) led the reform agenda of farmers and laborers who believed big business and railroads had too much power. They argued that railroads were privately owned and rigged to squeeze farmers, so government ownership of the railroads would let the public regulate rates, prevent price gouging, and ensure fair access for everyone. They also saw the tax system as biased in favor of the wealthy and the debt-burden on farmers under the metal standard; a graduated federal income tax would place higher rates on larger incomes, easing the load on common people. These two planks—public ownership of railroads and a graduated income tax—were central to their platform, reflecting a broader aim to democratize economic power and curb the power of monopolies.

- 3. Which Progressive reform aimed to regulate the age and conditions of child labor, aided by Lewis Hines' photography?**
- A. Fair Labor Standards Act**
 - B. Labor Welfare Act**
 - C. Child Labor Reform**
 - D. Child Welfare Act**

The Progressive push to regulate child labor relied on showing the abuses children faced so the public and lawmakers would support reform. Lewis Hines' photographs brought the harsh realities of young workers into clear view, helping to galvanize calls for laws that set minimum ages and limit working conditions for children. The best match among the options is the general label of Child Labor Reform, because it directly refers to these efforts to curb child labor and improve protections, driven by the evidence Hines provided. The other choices involve later or broader legal frameworks and aren't as directly tied to the specific reform moment amplified by Hines' documentary photography.

- 4. Which act made it a crime to convey information with the intent to interfere with the operation or success of the United States armed forces or to promote the enemies?**
- A. Sedition Act of 1918**
 - B. Patriot Act**
 - C. War Crimes Act**
 - D. Espionage Act of 1917**

The main idea here is how wartime laws punish acts that threaten military efforts by sharing information or aiding the enemy. The statute that fits this description is the Espionage Act of 1917. Passed soon after the United States entered World War I, it made it a crime to convey information with the intent to interfere with the operation or success of the armed forces or to aid or promote the enemy. That focus on disrupting military operations and assisting adversaries is exactly what the act targets. The Sedition Act of 1918 extended penalties for disloyal or abusive speech, but the specific criminal act described—sharing information to hinder the military or help the enemy—originates with the Espionage Act. The Patriot Act and the War Crimes Act address different issues (post-9/11 security powers and prosecuting war crimes, respectively), so they don't match this description as closely.

5. Which legislation introduced prescription drug coverage under Medicare, commonly referred to as Part D?

A. Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003

B. Affordable Care Act

C. Dodd-Frank Act

D. Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act

Part D is the Medicare prescription drug benefit. It was created by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, which added a new option for Medicare to provide prescription drug coverage. This law authorized private drug plans to offer coverage and funded the program through beneficiary premiums, plan subsidies, and federal support, with enrollment beginning in 2006. The Affordable Care Act later made reforms to drug coverage and helped close the coverage gap over time, but it did not establish Part D. The other listed laws address financial regulation or pay discrimination, not Medicare drug benefits.

6. Which president issued Executive Order 8802?

A. Franklin D. Roosevelt

B. Woodrow Wilson

C. Harry S. Truman

D. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Executive action used to address racial discrimination in the workplace during wartime is being tested here. Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 in 1941, directing that employment practices in the defense industry and in government procurement be free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, or national origin. It also created the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) to monitor and enforce the order. This move was significant because it was one of the first times the federal government took a concrete stand against workplace discrimination in a major national effort, driven in part by pressure from civil rights leaders and the urgency of mobilizing for World War II. By opening up defense-related jobs to more workers and setting up a mechanism to enforce the policy, the order laid an important groundwork for later civil rights advances, including moves toward desegregation in the armed forces and broader equal employment protections.

7. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution granted the president authority to use military force without a formal declaration of war. Which option represents that statement?

A. Environmental Protection Agency

B. Endangered Species Act

C. Community Reinvestment Act

D. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)

The main idea here is presidential war powers and how Congress can authorize military action without a formal declaration of war. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964) is the instrument that does this: after the incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin, Congress gave the president broad authority to take all necessary measures to defend Southeast Asia, effectively allowing military action without a formal declaration of war. This set the stage for escalating U.S. involvement in Vietnam without a declared war. The other options are domestic laws unrelated to initiating or authorizing military force—environmental regulation, protection of endangered species, and community lending practices. They don't illustrate the concept of Congress authorizing a president to use force without a formal war declaration. So the statement is best represented by the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964).

8. Which act provided for an old-age pension and unemployment insurance as part of the New Deal?

A. Interstate Commerce Act

B. Securities and Exchange Commission

C. FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)

D. Social Security Act of 1935

This question tests recognizing which New Deal measure created an old-age pension and unemployment insurance. The Social Security Act of 1935 established a national social insurance program that provided retirement benefits funded by payroll taxes and unemployment insurance administered through state programs. It was a cornerstone of the New Deal's shift toward protecting workers from economic hardship and laid the groundwork for ongoing social welfare in the United States. Other listed reforms served different purposes: the Interstate Commerce Act focused on regulating railroads, the Securities and Exchange Commission oversees securities markets, and the FDIC insures bank deposits.

9. The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 was designed to address lending practices by encouraging banks to meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate.

A. It was designed to encourage banks to meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate.

B. It established national environmental standards.

C. It created a framework for farm subsidies.

D. It regulated interstate banking mergers.

The main idea here is that a federal regulation was designed to make banks actively serve the credit needs of the neighborhoods where they operate. The Community Reinvestment Act aims to curb discriminatory lending and ensure access to loans and other financial services in communities, especially those that have been underserved, by tying regulators' assessments of banks to how well they meet local credit needs. This is what the statement captures: banks are encouraged to lend where they take deposits and serve the surrounding community. The other options point to very different policy goals—environmental standards, farm subsidies, or regulating interstate banking mergers—which are not what this act covers. So the option describing banks meeting the credit needs of their communities best reflects the act's purpose and use in practice.

10. Voter registration, secret ballots, and split-ticket voting were designed to reduce corruption from machines and prevent people from voting early and often. What is this reform called?

A. Civil Service Reform

B. Election Reform

C. Direct Primary Reform

D. Campaign Finance Reform

Focusing on how elections are run and cleaned up to curb machine control and fraudulent voting is the heart of this question. Introducing voter registration, secret ballots, and split-ticket voting are all measures aimed at making elections fairer and less susceptible to corruption, which fits under Election Reform. Voter registration helps prevent multiple votes and fraud, secret ballots protect voters from intimidation and bribery, and split-ticket voting weakens the power of political machines that relied on voters voting straight down party lines. Together, these elements embody the effort to reform the electoral process itself during the Progressive Era. Other options target different issues: Civil Service Reform is about merit-based hiring for government workers, Direct Primary Reform concerns how candidates are nominated, and Campaign Finance Reform deals with money in politics. They don't capture the broad aim of reforming how elections are conducted.

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://ushistorylegislationreforms.examzify.com>

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

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