

US HISTORY STAAR END-OF-COURSE (EOC) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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	15

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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 amendment abolished slavery?**
 - A. Thirteenth Amendment
 - B. Fourteenth Amendment
 - C. Fifteenth Amendment
 - D. Sixteenth Amendment
- 2. Which organization is known for using legal challenges to advance civil rights, including landmark court cases?**
 - A. SCLC
 - B. NAACP
 - C. Freedom Riders
 - D. March on Washington
- 3. Which court case addressed racial quotas in college admissions and held quotas unconstitutional but could be considered as a factor?**
 - A. Plessy v Ferguson
 - B. UC v Bakke
 - C. Brown v Board of Education
 - D. Roe v Wade
- 4. Which network was used to supply the war by moving supplies from North Vietnam through neighboring countries?**
 - A. War Powers Act
 - B. Vietnamization
 - C. Geneva Accords
 - D. Ho Chi Minh Trail
- 5. Which policy involved defense spending increases and the USSR being labeled an 'evil empire' while negotiations on nuclear missiles occurred?**
 - A. Reagan Doctrine
 - B. Contract with America
 - C. Social Conservatives
 - D. Peace through Strength

- 6. Which amendment grants Congress the power to levy an income tax?**
- A. Sixteenth Amendment
 - B. Fifteenth Amendment
 - C. Seventeenth Amendment
 - D. Eighteen Amendment
- 7. Which figure was a prominent advocate for equality through education and a co-founder of the NAACP?**
- A. Booker T. Washington
 - B. W.E.B. Du Bois
 - C. Ida B. Wells
 - D. Frederick Douglass
- 8. After World War II, which term describes whites moving from cities to suburbs?**
- A. Baby Boom
 - B. Suburbia
 - C. White Flight
 - D. Transportation
- 9. Which political movement advocated free silver and rights for farmers?**
- A. Populists
 - B. Labor Unions
 - C. Great Plains
 - D. Homestead Act
- 10. Who was the lawyer for the NAACP who became the first Black Supreme Court Justice?**
- A. Rosa Parks
 - B. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - C. Thurgood Marshall
 - D. Malcolm X

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which amendment abolished slavery?

A. Thirteenth Amendment

B. Fourteenth Amendment

C. Fifteenth Amendment

D. Sixteenth Amendment

The best answer reflects the constitutional action that ended slavery nationwide. The amendment adopted in 1865 outlaws slavery and involuntary servitude throughout the United States and its territories, with the exception of punishment for a crime after a person has been duly convicted. This change was a cornerstone of the post-Civil War Reconstruction era, redefining freedoms for formerly enslaved people and laying the groundwork for future civil rights strides. The other amendments address different issues: citizenship and equal protection, voting rights for Black men, and federal taxation, rather than abolition itself.

2. Which organization is known for using legal challenges to advance civil rights, including landmark court cases?

A. SCLC

B. NAACP

C. Freedom Riders

D. March on Washington

*The main idea here is recognizing which group built change through court battles and legal rulings. The NAACP, through its Legal Defense and Educational Fund, focused on challenging segregation and discriminatory laws in the courts. This approach produced landmark decisions, most famously *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, which declared that state laws segregating public schools were unconstitutional and helped overturn the "separate but equal" doctrine from *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The NAACP's emphasis on constitutional arguments and precedent created a lasting legal pathway for desegregation. Other groups used different tactics: SCLC organized nonviolent protests and campaigns, Freedom Riders tested desegregation on interstate buses through direct action, and the March on Washington was a major rally highlighting civil rights goals. But when it comes to using legal challenges to advance civil rights and win landmark court cases, the NAACP is the best-known organization for that strategy.*

3. Which court case addressed racial quotas in college admissions and held quotas unconstitutional but could be considered as a factor?

A. *Plessy v. Ferguson*

B. *UC v. Bakke*

C. *Brown v. Board of Education*

D. *Roe v. Wade*

*When a court case tests how race can be used in college admissions, the key idea is that rigid quotas are not allowed, but race can be one factor among many in a holistic review to promote diversity. In *University of California v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court ruled that fixed numerical quotas in the UC medical school admissions process were unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause. At the same time, the Court indicated that race could be considered as part of an applicant's overall qualifications to achieve a diverse student body, not as a guaranteed admission-based outcome. This distinction shows why the decision supported broad diversity efforts while rejecting explicit quotas. The other cases involve different issues—separate facilities and desegregation in *Plessy* and *Brown*, and abortion rights in *Roe*—so they don't address how race may be used in admissions decisions.*

4. Which network was used to supply the war by moving supplies from North Vietnam through neighboring countries?

- A. War Powers Act
- B. Vietnamization
- C. Geneva Accords
- D. Ho Chi Minh Trail**

The Ho Chi Minh Trail was the network used to move supplies from North Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia into South Vietnam, sustaining the war effort despite heavy Allied bombing. It wasn't a single road but a vast, interwoven system of jungle paths, roads, portages, and hidden depots that carried weapons, ammunition, food, medical supplies, and even troops. By threading through neighboring countries, it allowed the North to support the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army on the battlefield in the South, making it a crucial lifeline for their operations. The other options refer to different aspects of the war or its diplomacy: a 1973 law governing when the president can commit forces, a strategy to transfer combat duties to South Vietnamese forces, and a 1954 peace agreement that temporarily divided Vietnam.

5. Which policy involved defense spending increases and the USSR being labeled an 'evil empire' while negotiations on nuclear missiles occurred?

- A. Reagan Doctrine
- B. Contract with America
- C. Social Conservatives
- D. Peace through Strength**

The policy described combines a strong military buildup with diplomacy aimed at reducing nuclear threat. By boosting defense spending, the United States sought to deter the Soviet Union and gain leverage in negotiations over missiles, while the tough rhetoric—calling the USSR an “evil empire”—showed a clear stance against communism. This approach is the essence of Peace through Strength: use military power to secure peace and press for arms-control agreements, such as negotiations that led to missile-reduction treaties. The other options don't fit because they concern different aims—supporting anti-Communist movements abroad, domestic political platforms, or social-issue coalitions, none of which center on defense buildup paired with nuclear-arms negotiations.

6. Which amendment grants Congress the power to levy an income tax?

- A. Sixteenth Amendment**
- B. Fifteenth Amendment
- C. Seventeenth Amendment
- D. Eighteenth Amendment

The amendment that gives Congress the power to levy an income tax is the Sixteenth Amendment, ratified in 1913. It explicitly states that Congress has the authority “to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration.” This removed the previous restriction that taxes had to be divided among states in proportion to population, which had blocked federal income taxes after the earlier court ruling. With this clear wording, the federal government could establish a nationwide income tax system to fund national programs. The other amendments referenced don't address taxation: one protects voting rights regardless of race, another sets how senators are elected, and another prohibits alcohol.

7. Which figure was a prominent advocate for equality through education and a co-founder of the NAACP?

- A. Booker T. Washington
- B. W.E.B. Du Bois**
- C. Ida B. Wells
- D. Frederick Douglass

Focusing on equality through higher education and organized civil rights effort, the figure who fits best is the one who helped launch a national movement for Black advancement and pushed for full access to education as a path to equality. W.E.B. Du Bois co-founded the NAACP in 1909, creating a formal national platform to challenge segregation and discriminatory laws. He argued that Black Americans deserved immediate civil rights and greater access to higher education, not just vocational training, and he promoted activism, legal challenges, and leadership within the Black community to achieve those goals. His work contrasts with other leaders who emphasized different paths: Booker T. Washington prioritized industrial education and gradual, accommodationist progress; Ida B. Wells concentrated on anti-lynching activism and suffrage; Frederick Douglass was a prominent abolitionist and advocate for rights in the 19th century but was not a founder of the NAACP.

8. After World War II, which term describes whites moving from cities to suburbs?

- A. Baby Boom
- B. Suburbia
- C. White Flight**
- D. Transportation

After World War II, a large number of white families left urban centers and moved to newly developing suburbs. This pattern is described as White Flight. It captures not only the movement to more spacious, affordable housing outside cities but also the racial dimension—many white residents sought to avoid desegregation and preserve homogeneous neighborhoods. Federal policies and lending practices during this era made suburban single family homes accessible to white buyers, while urban cores faced disinvestment and growing minority populations. That combination helps explain why this term fits best: it names the specific migration of whites from cities to suburbs, beyond the broader ideas of growth in the suburbs or general population trends. The other terms don't describe this migration pattern—the birth boom refers to population increases, Suburbia denotes the suburban area itself, and Transportation is not about people moving from cities to suburbs.

9. Which political movement advocated free silver and rights for farmers?

- A. Populists**
- B. Labor Unions
- C. Great Plains
- D. Homestead Act

The main idea is a farmer-focused political movement that pushed for monetary reform to help indebted farmers. In the late 1800s, farmers faced falling prices and rising debts under a gold-standard economy that often made money scarce. The call for free silver—adding silver to the money supply to create inflation—was seen as a way to raise crop prices and ease loan burdens. That movement, known for organizing around rural grievances and advocating sweeping reforms, argued not only for free coinage of silver but for broader changes to bring political power to farmers, such as railroad regulation and other reforms. The effort drew many farmers from the Great Plains and the South and is best remembered for its Omaha Platform of 1892, which outlined these goals. The other options don't fit as well: labor unions primarily focused on urban workers' wages and conditions, not a national monetary standard or farmer-specific reforms; the Great Plains is a region rather than a political movement; the Homestead Act was a policy encouraging settlement, not a movement advocating free silver or farmer rights.

10. Who was the lawyer for the NAACP who became the first Black Supreme Court Justice?

- A. Rosa Parks
- B. Martin Luther King Jr.
- C. Thurgood Marshall**
- D. Malcolm X

*The main idea here is identifying the NAACP lawyer who later became the first Black Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Thurgood Marshall fits this role precisely. He was the NAACP's leading attorney, renowned for shaping civil rights litigation and arguing *Brown v. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court, which helped overturn the legal basis for racial segregation in public schools. He was later nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson and confirmed as an Associate Justice in 1967, making him the first Black person to serve on the Supreme Court. The other figures listed were key leaders and activists in the movement, but they were not NAACP lawyers who joined the Court.*

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://ushistorystaareoc.examzify.com>

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

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