

US History Terra Nova 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. How many amendments are in the Bill of Rights?**
 - A. 8**
 - B. 10**
 - C. 12**
 - D. 14**

- 2. The primary benefit of trade between nations is to do what?**
 - A. Share goods**
 - B. Increase tariffs**
 - C. Limit competition**
 - D. Create monopolies**

- 3. The concept of 'Manifest Destiny' justified American westward expansion in the 19th century. What did it claim about America's fate?**
 - A. That it was destined to expand across the North American continent**
 - B. That it would colonize South America**
 - C. That it should isolate itself from Europe**
 - D. That it would form a union with Europe**

- 4. What is an alliance?**
 - A. A partnership.**
 - B. A conflict.**
 - C. A tax policy.**
 - D. A trade restriction.**

- 5. The Social Security Act of 1935 established a safety net targeting which groups?**
 - A. The elderly and the unemployed only**
 - B. Farmers and ranchers**
 - C. Immigrants**
 - D. Retired workers, disabled, unemployed, and dependents**

- 6. What is the primary purpose of a primary source?**
- A. To provide direct evidence**
 - B. To give a modern interpretation**
 - C. To summarize others' work**
 - D. To publish a bibliography**
- 7. What defines a region?**
- A. Shared characteristics**
 - B. Political borders alone**
 - C. Population number only**
 - D. Weather in a single month**
- 8. What is demand?**
- A. Desire to buy goods**
 - B. Quantity supplied**
 - C. Price of goods**
 - D. Availability of goods**
- 9. Which amendment protects freedom of religion?**
- A. First Amendment**
 - B. Second Amendment**
 - C. Fifth Amendment**
 - D. Tenth Amendment**
- 10. Which policy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed to provide relief, recovery, and reforms during the Great Depression, including Social Security and public works programs?**
- A. The New Deal**
 - B. The Great Society**
 - C. The Square Deal**
 - D. The New Frontier**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many amendments are in the Bill of Rights?

- A. 8
- B. 10**
- C. 12
- D. 14

Ten amendments make up the Bill of Rights. They are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1791 to protect basic liberties and to limit the powers of the federal government. They arose from debates during the ratification process, addressing concerns that the new government might threaten individual rights. Although more than ten amendments were proposed, only ten were ratified by the states at that time, so those ten became the Bill of Rights. The other numbers refer to different parts of constitutional history and are not what the Bill of Rights contains.

2. The primary benefit of trade between nations is to do what?

- A. Share goods**
- B. Increase tariffs
- C. Limit competition
- D. Create monopolies

When nations trade, the biggest benefit comes from accessing a wider variety of goods and doing so more efficiently through specialization. Countries tend to be relatively good at producing certain goods and less efficient at others. By focusing on what they can produce most efficiently and trading for the rest, each country can get more overall output and a greater assortment of products than if it tried to produce everything domestically. This idea—specializing and trading to obtain goods at lower cost—drives the gains from trade and explains why sharing goods between nations is so valuable. Tariffs raise costs and limit exchange, reducing the gains from trade. Policies that crush competition or foster monopolies also hinder trade and lessen the benefit by making goods more expensive and less diverse.

3. The concept of 'Manifest Destiny' justified American westward expansion in the 19th century. What did it claim about America's fate?

- A. That it was destined to expand across the North American continent**
- B. That it would colonize South America
- C. That it should isolate itself from Europe
- D. That it would form a union with Europe

Manifest Destiny is the belief that the United States was guided by providence and history to spread its republican government and democratic values across the entire North American continent. The fate it claimed was that the nation would extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, ultimately filling the continent with American institutions and way of life. This idea helped justify westward expansion in the 19th century, including moves like settling and annexing new territories and wars that gained land. It doesn't argue for colonizing South America, isolating from Europe, or forming a union with Europe.

4. What is an alliance?

- A. A partnership.**
- B. A conflict.**
- C. A tax policy.**
- D. A trade restriction.**

An alliance is a partnership between nations or groups that agree to work together toward shared goals, often for security or political advantage. It rests on mutual cooperation and coordinated action, rather than acting alone. That's why the option describing a partnership best fits: it captures the idea of two or more parties pledging to support each other and pursue common interests. The other options describe different kinds of relations—conflict means opposition or war, a tax policy is about collecting revenue, and a trade restriction limits commerce—none of which convey the idea of a formal cooperative agreement. For historical context, alliances have played key roles in shaping diplomacy, such as treaties where countries commit to assist one another in times of need.

5. The Social Security Act of 1935 established a safety net targeting which groups?

- A. The elderly and the unemployed only**
- B. Farmers and ranchers**
- C. Immigrants**
- D. Retired workers, disabled, unemployed, and dependents**

The act is about building a broad federal safety net for people who can't support themselves because of age, disability, unemployment, or family situation. It created social insurance that provides retirement benefits for workers, unemployment compensation during job loss, and aid to dependents within families, funded by payroll taxes. This combination shows why the groups listed—retired workers, the disabled, the unemployed, and dependents—are the ones targeted by the act. It's broader than simply helping the elderly and unemployed, and it isn't aimed specifically at immigrants or farmers.

6. What is the primary purpose of a primary source?

- A. To provide direct evidence**
- B. To give a modern interpretation**
- C. To summarize others' work**
- D. To publish a bibliography**

Primaries are original materials created at or near the time of the event or by someone with direct experience of it. Their main value is that they provide direct evidence—the raw details, voices, and records from the period—without the mediation of later interpretation. This firsthand quality lets historians form an accurate picture of what happened, who was involved, and how people saw things at the time. Other options describe what secondary sources do: offering modern interpretations, or summarizing others' work, or compiling sources in a bibliography. Those are useful scholarly practices, but they are not the primary function of a primary source itself.

7. What defines a region?

- A. Shared characteristics**
- B. Political borders alone**
- C. Population number only**
- D. Weather in a single month**

Regions are defined by shared characteristics that unify an area—things like physical geography, climate, culture, language, or patterns of economic activity. Political borders aren't what makes a region; they're human-made lines that can surround, cut through, or cross regions. A region isn't determined by how many people live there, nor by the weather in just one month—the defining idea is the set of traits that tie the area together over time. In U.S. history, you can think of the Northeast shaping itself through urban development and industry, the South through its plantation economy and cultural patterns, the Midwest through vast farming lands, and the West through frontier settlement and diverse landscapes.

8. What is demand?

- A. Desire to buy goods**
- B. Quantity supplied**
- C. Price of goods**
- D. Availability of goods**

Demand is the willingness and ability of buyers to purchase goods or services at various prices over a given period. The choice that describes desire to buy goods best captures this idea, because demand involves wanting to purchase along with having the means to pay. The other options point to quantity supplied (a supply concept), the price of goods (a condition that influences demand but is not demand itself), and the availability of goods (which affects whether purchases can occur but isn't demand).

9. Which amendment protects freedom of religion?

- A. First Amendment**
- B. Second Amendment**
- C. Fifth Amendment**
- D. Tenth Amendment**

Freedom of religion is protected by the First Amendment. This amendment blocks the government from establishing a national religion and from interfering with individuals' religious practices. The key ideas are the Establishment Clause, which prevents the government from favoring any religion, and the Free Exercise Clause, which protects a person's right to worship or not worship as they choose. Together, they ensure people can follow their beliefs or abstain from religion without government pressure. The other amendments cover different rights: one protects the right to keep and bear arms; another provides due process and protections against self-incrimination and double jeopardy; and another reserves powers to the states or to the people. Those are important, but they do not specifically secure freedom of religion the way the First Amendment does.

10. Which policy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed to provide relief, recovery, and reforms during the Great Depression, including Social Security and public works programs?

A. The New Deal

B. The Great Society

C. The Square Deal

D. The New Frontier

When a country faces severe economic collapse, leaders aim to provide immediate relief, revive the economy, and reform the system to prevent a repeat. Franklin D. Roosevelt's response during the Great Depression was a broad set of programs and reforms known as the New Deal. It targeted all three aims: relief for the unemployed and poor, recovery of industry and agriculture, and reforms to financial and social structures. Social Security created a long-term safety net, while public works programs like the WPA and CCC put people back to work and built much of the nation's infrastructure. The other options come from different eras and goals, not the 1930s crisis: the Great Society is 1960s LBJ, the Square Deal is Theodore Roosevelt's early progressive reforms, and the New Frontier is Kennedy's 1960s agenda. The New Deal best fits the description of a policy aimed at relief, recovery, and reforms with Social Security and public works.

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://ushistoryterranova.examzify.com>

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

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