

Virginia US History SOL Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What was the last major battle during the American Revolutionary War?**
 - A. Saratoga**
 - B. Yorktown**
 - C. Lexington**
 - D. Valley Forge**

- 2. Who was the President known for the phrase "speak softly and carry a big stick" during the era of Imperialism?**
 - A. Theodore Roosevelt**
 - B. William Howard Taft**
 - C. Woodrow Wilson**
 - D. Franklin D. Roosevelt**

- 3. What term describes a multifamily urban dwelling that is typically overcrowded and unsanitary?**
 - A. Apartment complex**
 - B. Brownstone**
 - C. Tenement housing**
 - D. Condominium**

- 4. What was the first gathering of elected representatives from several American colonies to protest against British taxation called?**
 - A. Continental Congress**
 - B. Stamp Act Congress**
 - C. Second Continental Congress**
 - D. First Continental Congress**

- 5. What term refers to the presidential power to reject legislation?**
 - A. Veto**
 - B. Filibuster**
 - C. Nullification**
 - D. Amendment**

- 6. What was the name of the 1919 peace treaty that established new nations, borders, and war reparations after World War I?**
- A. Treaty of Trianon**
 - B. Versailles Treaty**
 - C. Potsdam Agreement**
 - D. Paris Peace Accords**
- 7. What term describes the faction of congressional Republicans who wanted to limit the power of former slaveholders after the Civil War?**
- A. Moderate Republicans**
 - B. Radical Republicans**
 - C. Libertarian Republicans**
 - D. Conservative Republicans**
- 8. Which historical figure is associated with the introduction of the financial institution known as the Bank of the United States?**
- A. Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. James Madison**
 - C. Alexander Hamilton**
 - D. John Adams**
- 9. What was the objective of the delegates at the Stamp Act Congress?**
- A. To create a new government**
 - B. To unite the colonies against British taxation**
 - C. To declare independence**
 - D. To draft the Constitution**
- 10. What term accurately describes a sudden and severe economic downturn in the 19th century?**
- A. Recession**
 - B. Depression**
 - C. Panic**
 - D. Downturn**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What was the last major battle during the American Revolutionary War?

- A. Saratoga**
- B. Yorktown**
- C. Lexington**
- D. Valley Forge**

The last major battle of the American Revolutionary War was the Battle of Yorktown, which took place in 1781. This battle was significant because it marked a decisive victory for the American forces, primarily led by General George Washington and supported by French troops under General Rochambeau. The successful siege at Yorktown effectively trapped British General Cornwallis and his army, forcing their surrender. Yorktown is notable not only for its military outcome but also for its strategic implications, as it ultimately led to the negotiations that resulted in the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which recognized American independence. The battle symbolized the culmination of the colonists' struggle for freedom and showcased the collaboration between American and French forces, reinforcing the importance of international alliances in the conflict. In contrast, the other options relate to earlier phases of the war. The Battle of Saratoga, for instance, was crucial for convincing France to join the war as an ally but occurred several years prior to Yorktown. Lexington was the site of the initial skirmish that marked the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, while Valley Forge served as a winter encampment where the Continental Army endured significant hardships but did not represent a battle.

2. Who was the President known for the phrase "speak softly and carry a big stick" during the era of Imperialism?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt**
- B. William Howard Taft**
- C. Woodrow Wilson**
- D. Franklin D. Roosevelt**

The phrase "speak softly and carry a big stick" is famously attributed to Theodore Roosevelt, who served as President from 1901 to 1909 during a time of significant American imperialism. This phrase encapsulated Roosevelt's approach to foreign policy, emphasizing diplomacy backed by the threat of military power. Roosevelt believed in negotiating peacefully while having a strong military ready to enforce American interests if necessary. This philosophy guided his actions in various international situations, such as the construction of the Panama Canal and the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine in Latin America. The other presidents listed had different policies and approaches during their respective terms, but none are directly associated with the phrase or its implications as intimately as Roosevelt.

3. What term describes a multifamily urban dwelling that is typically overcrowded and unsanitary?

- A. Apartment complex**
- B. Brownstone**
- C. Tenement housing**
- D. Condominium**

The term that describes a multifamily urban dwelling that is typically overcrowded and unsanitary is "tenement housing." Tenements emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as cities expanded and there was a significant demand for affordable living spaces for the working class, especially immigrants. These buildings were often constructed quickly and with minimal oversight, resulting in inadequate living conditions such as poor ventilation, insufficient plumbing, and overcrowded units. Tenements were commonly found in urban areas and became synonymous with the struggles of lower-income families during the industrialization of America. This historical context underlines why "tenement housing" is the correct term, as it directly reflects the social challenges associated with urbanization and housing standards at that time. In contrast, an apartment complex refers to a group of apartments that are generally more organized and maintained than tenements. A brownstone is a specific style of townhouse often associated with more affluent neighborhoods. A condominium is a type of ownership rather than a type of housing structure, typically indicating that individuals own their units within a larger building while sharing common areas.

4. What was the first gathering of elected representatives from several American colonies to protest against British taxation called?

- A. Continental Congress**
- B. Stamp Act Congress**
- C. Second Continental Congress**
- D. First Continental Congress**

The first gathering of elected representatives from several American colonies to protest against British taxation was known as the Stamp Act Congress. This historic meeting took place in 1765 in response to the Stamp Act, a law that imposed a direct tax on various printed materials, which was strongly opposed by the colonists. Delegates from nine colonies convened to address their grievances and assert that only colonial legislatures had the authority to tax them, marking one of the first united actions taken by the colonies against British policies. This Congress laid the groundwork for future collective actions and was significant in fostering a sense of unity among the colonies in their resistance to British rule.

5. What term refers to the presidential power to reject legislation?

- A. Veto**
- B. Filibuster**
- C. Nullification**
- D. Amendment**

The term that refers to the presidential power to reject legislation is "veto." This power is granted to the president by the Constitution, allowing them to refuse to sign a bill into law. When a president vetoes a bill, it is returned to Congress, where lawmakers can attempt to override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. This mechanism acts as a check on legislative power, ensuring that the president can prevent legislation that they believe is not in the best interest of the nation. The other options refer to different concepts: a filibuster is a tactic used in the Senate to delay or block legislative action; nullification is a doctrine that suggests a state can invalidate federal laws it deems unconstitutional, though this principle has been widely discredited; and an amendment is a formal change or addition to the Constitution itself.

6. What was the name of the 1919 peace treaty that established new nations, borders, and war reparations after World War I?

- A. Treaty of Trianon**
- B. Versailles Treaty**
- C. Potsdam Agreement**
- D. Paris Peace Accords**

The 1919 peace treaty that established new nations, borders, and war reparations after World War I is indeed known as the Versailles Treaty. This treaty marked the end of World War I and fundamentally reshaped the political landscape of Europe and beyond. Specifically, the Versailles Treaty imposed significant territorial losses and reparations on Germany, which played a crucial role in reshaping the borders and influence of various nations across the continent. It redrew national boundaries, created new countries such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and aimed to prevent future conflicts through its establishment of the League of Nations, although the effectiveness of this institution would be debated in the years to come. The other treaties mentioned have specific historical contexts and significance; for instance, the Treaty of Trianon focused on Hungary's borders after World War I, while the Potsdam Agreement was related to post-World War II arrangements. The Paris Peace Accords were tied to the conclusion of the Vietnam War in the 1970s. Understanding these distinctions highlights the unique importance of the Versailles Treaty in relation to the aftermath of World War I.

7. What term describes the faction of congressional Republicans who wanted to limit the power of former slaveholders after the Civil War?

- A. Moderate Republicans**
- B. Radical Republicans**
- C. Libertarian Republicans**
- D. Conservative Republicans**

The term that best describes the faction of congressional Republicans who sought to limit the power of former slaveholders after the Civil War is "Radical Republicans." This group emerged in the aftermath of the Civil War and was committed to establishing civil rights for freed slaves and ensuring their full participation in American society. They believed that the federal government should take an active role in reconstructing the South and guaranteeing the rights of African Americans. Radical Republicans pushed for more stringent measures against former Confederate states and were instrumental in passing significant legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Reconstruction Acts. They aimed to transform Southern society and counteract the influence of those who had been involved in the Confederacy, believing that the newly freed slaves should be protected from potential oppression by their former masters. Moderate Republicans, by contrast, advocated for a more lenient approach to Reconstruction and were less focused on dramatically transforming Southern society. Libertarian Republicans and Conservative Republicans did not specifically emerge as significant factions in relation to Reconstruction and the challenges following the Civil War, making them less relevant to the context of limiting the power of former slaveholders.

8. Which historical figure is associated with the introduction of the financial institution known as the Bank of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson**
- B. James Madison**
- C. Alexander Hamilton**
- D. John Adams**

The Bank of the United States was introduced by Alexander Hamilton, who served as the first Secretary of the Treasury under President George Washington. Hamilton proposed the establishment of this financial institution in 1790 to help stabilize and improve the nation's credit, facilitate the collection of taxes, and provide loans to the government as well as business interests. Hamilton believed that a strong central bank was essential for managing the nation's finances, fostering economic growth, and establishing a stable currency. The creation of the Bank was a pivotal moment in the development of the American financial system, as it laid the groundwork for modern banking practices and fiscal policy. This move was controversial and faced opposition from figures like Thomas Jefferson, who feared that it would concentrate too much power in the federal government and give undue influence to wealthy interests, but Hamilton's vision ultimately prevailed at that time.

9. What was the objective of the delegates at the Stamp Act Congress?

- A. To create a new government**
- B. To unite the colonies against British taxation**
- C. To declare independence**
- D. To draft the Constitution**

The delegates at the Stamp Act Congress aimed to unite the colonies against British taxation. This assembly, which took place in 1765 in New York City, was a response to the Stamp Act imposed by Britain, which required colonists to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper used. The congress marked a significant step toward colonial unity and resistance against British authority, as representatives from nine colonies came together to express their grievances. By articulating a collective opposition to the Stamp Act, the delegates were able to strengthen the resolve of the colonies in their fight against perceived injustices, emphasizing the importance of representation and the rights of colonists. Their actions laid the groundwork for future resistance and ultimately contributed to the revolutionary sentiments that would arise in the coming years. This was not about creating a new government, declaring independence, or drafting the Constitution, which were later developments in the American Revolution. The primary focus was on opposing the specific taxation measures that were seen as unfair and exploitative.

10. What term accurately describes a sudden and severe economic downturn in the 19th century?

- A. Recession**
- B. Depression**
- C. Panic**
- D. Downturn**

The term that accurately describes a sudden and severe economic downturn in the 19th century is "Panic." This term specifically refers to financial crises that lead to a rapid decline in economic activity, often characterized by bank failures, stock market crashes, and widespread unemployment. One of the most notable examples is the Panic of 1837, which had devastating effects on the American economy and led to a prolonged period of hardship. In this context, "Panic" effectively conveys the immediacy and intensity of the economic distress experienced during that period, distinguishing it from other more prolonged or gradual economic challenges like a recession or a depression, which tend to describe less abrupt conditions.

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://vaushistorysol.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE