

# Western Governors University (WGU) HUMN1010 C100 Introduction to Humanities 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

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- 1. What does the story of Oedipus Rex primarily focus on?**
  - A. A hero's search for knowledge**
  - B. A man's ignorance of his true parentage and subsequent punishment**
  - C. The life lessons of a wise king**
  - D. The ideals of heroism in battle**
  
- 2. What character type is central to many narratives and is marked by personal flaws?**
  - A. Comic hero**
  - B. Tragic hero**
  - C. Antagonist**
  - D. Supporting character**
  
- 3. What was one prominent effect of Enlightenment ideas on society?**
  - A. Increased superstition**
  - B. Advocacy for blind faith in church doctrines**
  - C. Promotion of scientific inquiry and skepticism**
  - D. Strengthening of autocratic rule**
  
- 4. Which of the following best explains the significance of individualism in the Romantic Period?**
  - A. It emphasizes collective social identity over personal expression**
  - B. It celebrates emotional and personal experiences against societal norms**
  - C. It focuses on scientific facts over subjective feelings**
  - D. It promotes blind adherence to cultural traditions**
  
- 5. What is the central narrative of "The Odyssey"?**
  - A. A tragic love story between mortals and gods**
  - B. A quest that narrates the journey of an ideal Greek hero**
  - C. The life of a philosopher in Ancient Greece**
  - D. The fall of a great city**

- 6. In the context of Greek culture, which virtue is typically associated with an ideal hero?**
- A. Wealth and power**
  - B. Bravery, honor, and wisdom**
  - C. Physical strength alone**
  - D. Fame and glory in battle**
- 7. Which Realist author is most remembered for addressing social inequalities and the struggles of the working class in 19th century England?**
- A. George Eliot**
  - B. Charles Dickens**
  - C. Thomas Hardy**
  - D. Virginia Woolf**
- 8. What does the term 'cultural hegemony' refer to?**
- A. A struggle for cultural dominance.**
  - B. The blending of cultures.**
  - C. The dominance of one culture shaping societal norms.**
  - D. A method of cultural exchange.**
- 9. How does Renaissance art exemplify cultural exchange?**
- A. By incorporating traditional European themes exclusively**
  - B. By featuring influences from diverse cultures**
  - C. Through the use of monochrome palettes**
  - D. By rejecting any foreign ideas**
- 10. Who is known for the phrase "the medium is the message"?**
- A. Marshall McLuhan**
  - B. Noam Chomsky**
  - C. Michel Foucault**
  - D. Herbert Marcuse**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What does the story of Oedipus Rex primarily focus on?**

- A. A hero's search for knowledge
- B. A man's ignorance of his true parentage and subsequent punishment**
- C. The life lessons of a wise king
- D. The ideals of heroism in battle

The story of Oedipus Rex primarily focuses on a man's ignorance of his true parentage and subsequent punishment. The narrative centers around Oedipus, who is unaware that he has unwittingly fulfilled a prophecy that predicts he will kill his father and marry his mother. This ignorance is crucial to the plot, as it leads to tragic consequences not only for Oedipus but also for those around him. The unfolding of the story highlights themes such as fate versus free will and the tragic ramifications of ignorance and self-discovery. As Oedipus seeks the truth about his origins, the audience witnesses his transition from a respected king to a figure of tragedy, ultimately facing the dire repercussions of his actions when he learns the painful truth. This exploration of identity and the often catastrophic nature of uncovering hidden truths is what makes the central focus of Oedipus Rex profoundly compelling within the framework of classical tragedy.

**2. What character type is central to many narratives and is marked by personal flaws?**

- A. Comic hero
- B. Tragic hero**
- C. Antagonist
- D. Supporting character

The character type that is central to many narratives and is characterized by personal flaws is the tragic hero. This type of character typically experiences a downfall due to a combination of personal failings and external circumstances, which not only drives the plot forward but also allows for deeper exploration of human nature and the consequences of one's actions. The tragic hero often elicits sympathy from the audience, as their flaws—such as hubris, greed, or a lack of self-awareness—can lead to devastating consequences, making their journey both compelling and poignant. In contrast, while comic heroes may have flaws, they usually experience growth or learn lessons in a lighthearted context. Antagonists often serve as obstacles to the protagonist and are typically defined more by their opposition rather than personal flaws that lead to their downfall. Supporting characters play roles that enhance the primary narrative but do not usually embody the complexity or tragic elements associated with the tragic hero. Thus, the tragic hero stands out as a key figure in narratives exploring themes of struggle, morality, and the human experience.

**3. What was one prominent effect of Enlightenment ideas on society?**

- A. Increased superstition**
- B. Advocacy for blind faith in church doctrines**
- C. Promotion of scientific inquiry and skepticism**
- D. Strengthening of autocratic rule**

The promotion of scientific inquiry and skepticism is a prominent effect of Enlightenment ideas on society. The Enlightenment, spanning the late 17th to the 18th centuries, emphasized reason, critical thinking, and the scientific method as tools for understanding the world. Thinkers such as Voltaire, Rousseau, and Kant challenged traditional authority and dogmas, advocating for a more questioning approach to knowledge and belief systems. This cultural shift paved the way for significant advancements in various fields such as science, philosophy, and politics. It encouraged individuals to seek evidence and rationale behind claims instead of accepting them based solely on tradition or authority. This awakening of intellectual curiosity played a crucial role in societal progress, influencing the development of modern democratic principles, secular governance, and advancements in technology and scientific understanding that continue to shape contemporary society.

**4. Which of the following best explains the significance of individualism in the Romantic Period?**

- A. It emphasizes collective social identity over personal expression**
- B. It celebrates emotional and personal experiences against societal norms**
- C. It focuses on scientific facts over subjective feelings**
- D. It promotes blind adherence to cultural traditions**

The significance of individualism in the Romantic Period is best captured by the celebration of emotional and personal experiences against societal norms. This era, spanning roughly from the late 18th to the mid-19th century, was marked by a shift away from the Enlightenment's focus on reason and collective rationality towards an appreciation for the unique perspectives and feelings of individuals. Romantic artists and writers emphasized the importance of personal experience, valuing intuition and emotional depth over societal expectations. This movement encouraged individuals to express their innermost thoughts and feelings, often challenging established norms and conventions of society. Works from this period reflect a deep engagement with personal introspection, nature, and the sublime, showcasing a profound connection between individual identity and artistic expression. In contrast, the other choices present ideas that do not embody the essence of individualism during the Romantic era. The focus on collective social identity, scientific facts, or blind adherence to traditions directly opposes the Romantic ethos, which prioritized personal authenticity and emotional exploration as vital components of human experience. The movement fostered a culturally rich environment in which individual voices could emerge and flourish, carving a new path in art and literature that deeply resonated with the human spirit.

**5. What is the central narrative of "The Odyssey"?**

- A. A tragic love story between mortals and gods
- B. A quest that narrates the journey of an ideal Greek hero**
- C. The life of a philosopher in Ancient Greece
- D. The fall of a great city

The central narrative of "The Odyssey" revolves around the epic journey of Odysseus, a Greek hero, as he attempts to return home after the Trojan War. This literary work, attributed to Homer, details not only the physical challenges and adventures Odysseus faces on his journey but also delves into themes of heroism, loyalty, and the struggle against both human and divine obstacles. Odysseus embodies the qualities of an ideal Greek hero, characterized by his intelligence, bravery, and resourcefulness. The narrative showcases his encounters with mythical creatures and divine beings, ultimately emphasizing his determination to reunite with his family in Ithaca. This quest structure is pivotal to the epic's identity, making it a quintessential example of heroic literature in ancient Greek culture. In contrast, the other options do not capture the essence of the story: "The Odyssey" is not a tragic love story or a philosophical treatise, nor does it focus on the downfall of a city. Instead, it is defined by the protagonist's arduous and inspiring journey, underscoring the human experience and the often complex interaction between mortals and the gods.

**6. In the context of Greek culture, which virtue is typically associated with an ideal hero?**

- A. Wealth and power
- B. Bravery, honor, and wisdom**
- C. Physical strength alone
- D. Fame and glory in battle

In the context of Greek culture, the ideal hero is often associated with a combination of bravery, honor, and wisdom. These virtues are critical in the understanding of heroic qualities in ancient Greek literature and philosophy. Bravery reflects the hero's courage in facing challenges and fighting enemies, while honor represents the hero's reputation and moral integrity, which were paramount in Greek society. Wisdom connects to the hero's ability to make sound judgments and decisions, often enabling them to navigate complex situations successfully. This amalgamation of virtues illustrates the Greek ideal of a well-rounded hero, who not only demonstrates physical prowess but also possesses moral and intellectual qualities that elevate them. This view diverges from the other options, which either oversimplify heroism or overly emphasize certain aspects, such as mere physical strength or the pursuit of fame. Therefore, the choice highlighting bravery, honor, and wisdom encompasses the holistic view of what constituted an ideal hero in Greek culture.

**7. Which Realist author is most remembered for addressing social inequalities and the struggles of the working class in 19th century England?**

- A. George Eliot
- B. Charles Dickens**
- C. Thomas Hardy
- D. Virginia Woolf

The author most remembered for addressing social inequalities and the struggles of the working class in 19th century England is Charles Dickens. He is renowned for his vivid portrayal of the lives of the impoverished and disadvantaged, often depicting the harsh realities they faced in a rapidly industrializing society. Dickens's works, such as "Oliver Twist," "Great Expectations," and "David Copperfield," highlight the plight of the poor, exposing the grim conditions of workhouses, child labor, and the legal system. He used his narratives to advocate for social reform and bring attention to the injustices prevalent during his time. Through his memorable characters, Dickens successfully captured the resilience of the human spirit while calling for greater empathy and reform from society at large. The other authors mentioned, while significant in their own right, do not focus as prominently on the direct portrayal of social inequalities and the working class as Dickens does. For instance, George Eliot's works delve into individual moral dilemmas and social interactions, while Thomas Hardy explores themes of fate and nature often through a rural lens, and Virginia Woolf's modernist approach addresses different aspects of human experience, primarily focusing on women's issues and the complexities of consciousness rather than the explicit social injustices faced by the working class of

**8. What does the term 'cultural hegemony' refer to?**

- A. A struggle for cultural dominance.
- B. The blending of cultures.
- C. The dominance of one culture shaping societal norms.**
- D. A method of cultural exchange.

The term 'cultural hegemony' refers specifically to the dominance of one culture shaping societal norms, values, and beliefs, influencing the way other cultures are perceived and interacted with. This concept, developed by political theorist Antonio Gramsci, explains how the ruling class can maintain power not just through coercion, but by establishing a cultural consensus that legitimizes their dominance. In this context, the dominant culture's ideas and practices are normalized and become the accepted standard, often marginalizing alternative perspectives and identities. This process can shape everything from media representation to institutional practices, affecting various aspects of everyday life, such as education, family roles, and societal expectations. Understanding cultural hegemony is essential because it highlights the subtle mechanisms through which power is exercised within society, emphasizing that cultural dominance is not only about overt control but also about the shaping of ideologies and norms that are widely accepted, often without question.

**9. How does Renaissance art exemplify cultural exchange?**

- A. By incorporating traditional European themes exclusively
- B. By featuring influences from diverse cultures**
- C. Through the use of monochrome palettes
- D. By rejecting any foreign ideas

Renaissance art is a remarkable example of cultural exchange, particularly due to its incorporation of influences from diverse cultures. During the Renaissance, which spanned from the 14th to the 17th century, artists were inspired by ancient Greece and Rome as well as by Islamic art and artists from other regions, such as North Africa and the Middle East. This cross-pollination of ideas is evident in the use of perspective, new techniques in painting and sculpture, and themes that draw on a wide range of cultural narratives. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo blended these influences into their work, creating pieces that not only reflected classical ideals but also embraced the rich textures and patterns of other cultures. The Renaissance was characterized by a spirit of inquiry and openness, leading to a flourishing of creativity that brought together different traditions and ideas, making option B the most accurate representation of how cultural exchange manifested in this period of art history.

**10. Who is known for the phrase "the medium is the message"?**

- A. Marshall McLuhan**
- B. Noam Chomsky
- C. Michel Foucault
- D. Herbert Marcuse

The phrase "the medium is the message" is attributed to Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian philosopher and media theorist who explored the effects of media on human communication and society. McLuhan argued that the way information is presented (the medium) significantly shapes how that information is perceived and understood (the message). This concept emphasizes the importance of understanding the characteristics of each medium—such as television, print, or the internet—and how they influence societal patterns and cultural perceptions. In contrast to McLuhan's insights, Noam Chomsky is primarily known for his work in linguistics and political activism. Michel Foucault's contributions revolve around social theory, power dynamics, and historical context, while Herbert Marcuse focused on critical theory and social philosophy. Their works, while influential, do not encapsulate the idea behind "the medium is the message" in the way that McLuhan's does. Hence, McLuhan's focus on the impact of media itself as a vehicle for shaping reality makes him the correct choice.

# 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://wgu-humn1010-c100.examzify.com>**

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

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