

WJEC Eduqas GCSE USA History 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. Which of the following were the three aims of the New Frontier?**
 - A. Civil Rights—Appointed a Black federal judge, threatened legal action against Louisiana for closing schools, sent 23,000 troops to ensure one Black student could go to university.**
 - B. The Economy—Cut taxes, built public works worth \$900 million, increased spending on defence and technology in space.**
 - C. All of the above**
 - D. Social Reform—Increased minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25, started Medicare, Manpower and Training Act 1962, Area Redevelopment Act 1961, Housing Act 1961, Social Security Act 1961.**

- 2. Which statement describes the contribution of black Americans to the war effort?**
 - A. Served in segregated units.**
 - B. Tuskegee airmen won great acclaims as fighter escorts for bombers.**
 - C. Before 1944, not allowed into combat in the Marines.**
 - D. Employed as cook and labourers or to transport supplies.**

- 3. What symbolized Black Power at the Mexico 1968 Olympics?**
 - A. A single glove, a black beret, and a clenched fist.**
 - B. A burning torch.**
 - C. A logo of the Olympic Council.**
 - D. A white glove and a flag.**

- 4. During the March on Washington in 1963, where did Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his 'I Have a Dream' speech?**
 - A. Capitol Building**
 - B. National Mall**
 - C. Lincoln Memorial**
 - D. Washington Monument**

- 5. Which policy is associated with Reagan's approach to drugs?**
- A. Space defense program expansion**
 - B. War on Drugs**
 - C. Civil rights expansion**
 - D. Tax reform**
- 6. Which statement describes what happened to the Kurds after the Gulf War?**
- A. They gained autonomy in the North.**
 - B. Saddam remained in power and suppressed the Kurds in the North.**
 - C. They were expelled to Turkey.**
 - D. They formed an independent Kurdish state.**
- 7. Did Gorbachev's reforms lead to reduced Soviet influence in Eastern Europe?**
- A. Expanded Soviet influence in Eastern Europe**
 - B. Stopped Soviet influence in Eastern Europe**
 - C. Maintained Soviet influence in Eastern Europe**
 - D. Let Eastern Europe be autonomous**
- 8. What happened to the NRA in 1935?**
- A. Abolished in 1930**
 - B. Removed by the Supreme Court in 1935**
 - C. Made permanent**
 - D. Expanded nationwide**
- 9. During the Birmingham campaign of 1963, which action by authorities escalated tensions against protesters?**
- A. Dogs were set on protesters**
 - B. JFK mediated the negotiations**
 - C. The city desegregated parks**
 - D. The NAACP leader in Mississippi was shot**

10. Which treaty, signed in 1987, eliminated intermediate-range nuclear missiles and led to thousands destroyed by 1991?

- A. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)**
- B. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty**
- C. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**
- D. Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following were the three aims of the New Frontier?
- A. Civil Rights—Appointed a Black federal judge, threatened legal action against Louisiana for closing schools, sent 23,000 troops to ensure one Black student could go to university.
 - B. The Economy—Cut taxes, built public works worth \$900 million, increased spending on defence and technology in space.
 - C. All of the above**
 - D. Social Reform—Increased minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25, started Medicare, Manpower and Training Act 1962, Area Redevelopment Act 1961, Housing Act 1961, Social Security Act 1961.

The question tests the three-pronged aims of Kennedy's New Frontier: civil rights, economic growth, and social reform. Civil rights were pursued through federal action to enforce desegregation and protect Black Americans' rights, such as supporting integration efforts and using federal authority when states resisted. The economic aspect focused on boosting growth through tax cuts, large-scale public works, and investments in defense and technology to drive innovation and employment. Social reform targeted a broader welfare and skills agenda, with measures like raising the minimum wage and establishing manpower and training programs, area redevelopment, and housing initiatives. Because the three areas—civil rights, the economy, and social reform—are all represented by the items listed, the answer that encompasses all of them best reflects the New Frontier's aims.

2. Which statement describes the contribution of black Americans to the war effort?
- A. Served in segregated units.
 - B. Tuskegee airmen won great acclaims as fighter escorts for bombers.**
 - C. Before 1944, not allowed into combat in the Marines.
 - D. Employed as cook and labourers or to transport supplies.

The key idea is recognizing a concrete, celebrated impact Black Americans had in WWII. The Tuskegee Airmen were the Black pilots in the 332nd Fighter Group who flew as bomber escorts over Europe. They earned a reputation for skill and bravery, protecting bombers so effectively that they reduced losses and earned praise from commanders. Their success helped challenge racist stereotypes and contributed to momentum toward desegregation of the armed forces after the war. While Black service members also served in segregated units and in noncombat roles, the standout, widely recognized contribution described here is their effectiveness as fighter escorts.

3. What symbolized Black Power at the Mexico 1968 Olympics?

- A. A single glove, a black beret, and a clenched fist.**
- B. A burning torch.**
- C. A logo of the Olympic Council.**
- D. A white glove and a flag.**

The moment being tested is the Black Power gesture seen on the podium in Mexico City in 1968. The powerful image is a raised gloved fist, symbolizing Black pride, solidarity, and a call for racial justice. In that moment, two athletes wore gloves and lifted their fists to send a political message on the world stage. The essential parts of the symbol are the glove and the clenched fist—the gesture that communicated resistance and unity. So this option—which mentions a single glove and a clenched fist—captures the core idea of what was symbolized. The other choices point to things that aren't connected to that protest gesture—the Olympic flame, a standard logo, or a white glove with a flag—so they don't convey the same political message. The addition of a beret isn't part of the historical moment, but the key idea remains the gloved, raised fist as the emblem of Black Power at the Games.

4. During the March on Washington in 1963, where did Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his 'I Have a Dream' speech?

- A. Capitol Building**
- B. National Mall**
- C. Lincoln Memorial**
- D. Washington Monument**

The key thing to know is where MLK delivered his iconic speech during the March on Washington. He spoke from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., a deliberate choice that linked his message to Lincoln's legacy and the Emancipation Proclamation. The Lincoln Memorial sits at the western end of the National Mall, serving as the symbolic backdrop for the speech. The Capitol Building and the Washington Monument are different landmarks nearby, and while the march took place on the National Mall, the address itself was given at the Lincoln Memorial.

5. Which policy is associated with Reagan's approach to drugs?

- A. Space defense program expansion**
- B. War on Drugs**
- C. Civil rights expansion**
- D. Tax reform**

Reagan's drug policy centers on a War on Drugs—a focused effort to curb illegal drug use and trafficking through tough enforcement, heavier penalties, and national campaigns against drugs. This approach treated drug abuse as a crime problem that needed deterrence and policing, backed by laws in the 1980s that increased penalties and broadened enforcement powers. That makes the War on Drugs the best fit for describing Reagan's stance on drugs. The other options point to space defense, civil rights shifts, or tax changes, which aren't the policy area associated with his drug strategy.

6. Which statement describes what happened to the Kurds after the Gulf War?

- A. They gained autonomy in the North.**
- B. Saddam remained in power and suppressed the Kurds in the North.**
- C. They were expelled to Turkey.**
- D. They formed an independent Kurdish state.**

After the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein stayed in power. The Kurdish uprising in 1991 showed they could challenge Iraqi control in the north, but Iraqi forces quickly moved back in and crushed much of the rebellion, reasserting Baghdad's authority over the region. International actions did create space for Kurdish self-rule by establishing safe areas in the north, but this did not remove Saddam or grant full independence. So, the event that best describes what happened to the Kurds is that Saddam remained in power and suppressed the Kurds in the North.

7. Did Gorbachev's reforms lead to reduced Soviet influence in Eastern Europe?

- A. Expanded Soviet influence in Eastern Europe**
- B. Stopped Soviet influence in Eastern Europe**
- C. Maintained Soviet influence in Eastern Europe**
- D. Let Eastern Europe be autonomous**

Gorbachev's reforms changed how the Soviet Union dealt with Eastern Europe by moving away from imposing control through force toward a policy of non-intervention and openness. He embraced ideas like glasnost and perestroika, and crucially signaled that Moscow would no longer enforce loyalty through military or political pressure—the Brezhnev Doctrine was effectively abandoned in favor of allowing countries to determine their own paths (the approach sometimes summarized as the policy of not using force to keep Communist regimes in power). Because the USSR lowered the threat of intervention, Eastern European governments and movements could pursue reforms or even move away from Communist rule without fearing a Soviet-backed crackdown. This led to widespread change across the region in 1989 and beyond, with many states transitioning toward more autonomy or different political systems. In that sense, Soviet influence in Eastern Europe diminished, making the option that describes influence as stopped the most accurate among the choices. The other possibilities don't fit as well because the reforms did not expand Soviet control, nor did they sustain the old level of influence; instead, they opened the door to Eastern Europe's own choices and trajectories.

8. What happened to the NRA in 1935?

- A. Abolished in 1930
- B. Removed by the Supreme Court in 1935**
- C. Made permanent
- D. Expanded nationwide

The main idea here is how the constitutional limits on federal power affected New Deal programs. The National Recovery Administration was created in the early 1930s to promote industrial recovery by having codes of fair practice and setting prices. In 1935, the Supreme Court ruled that these codes were unconstitutional, striking down the National Industrial Recovery Act's authority and effectively ending the NRA as it had operated. The Court held that Congress had overstepped its powers by delegating too much legislative authority to the executive branch and by attempting to regulate intrastate commerce in ways not permitted under the Constitution. This ruling halted the NRA's programs, prompting the search for other approaches to economic reform. It wasn't abolished in 1930, it wasn't made permanent, and it wasn't expanded nationwide—the plan was simply ruled invalid by the highest court.

9. During the Birmingham campaign of 1963, which action by authorities escalated tensions against protesters?

- A. Dogs were set on protesters**
- B. JFK mediated the negotiations
- C. The city desegregated parks
- D. The NAACP leader in Mississippi was shot

The action that most clearly escalated tensions was authorities using police dogs against the protesters. In Birmingham in 1963, nonviolent demonstrators faced aggressive responses from local officials, and images of dogs cornering or attacking marchers—often alongside high-pressure hoses—made the brutality widely visible. This kind of forceful response shifted public perception, drew national sympathy for the civil rights cause, and increased pressure for federal action. The other options don't fit the moment: the campaign did not hinge on JFK mediating negotiations, and desegregating parks or a separate assassination in Mississippi aren't what sparked the escalation in Birmingham.

10. Which treaty, signed in 1987, eliminated intermediate-range nuclear missiles and led to thousands destroyed by 1991?

- A. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)**
- B. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty**
- C. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**
- D. Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty**

The main idea here is recognizing a specific arms-control deal that targeted a whole class of weapons and had a concrete destruction timeline. The treaty signed in 1987 that eliminated intermediate-range nuclear missiles and saw thousands destroyed by 1991 is the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. This agreement specifically banned ground-launched missiles and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, deployed by the United States and the Soviet Union in Europe. It required the destruction of these missiles and their launchers, with on-site inspections to verify compliance. The focus on a clearly defined category of weapons and its rapid dismantling is what makes this the correct choice. Other treaties address different issues or timeframes. For example, START deals with long-range strategic weapons and was signed in 1991; the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty aims to prevent spread of nuclear weapons rather than eliminate a category of missiles; and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty from 1972 focuses on limiting defense systems rather than eliminating missiles.

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://wjeceduqasgcseusahistory.examzify.com>

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

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