

# World Geography Standards of Learning (SOL) 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 is NOT listed as an example of well-developed infrastructure in developed countries?**
  - A. Solar energy farms**
  - B. Hospitals**
  - C. Energy production**
  - D. Waste disposal**
  
- 2. Metals include which of the following?**
  - A. Water**
  - B. Wood**
  - C. Gold**
  - D. Coal**
  
- 3. What does a climograph illustrate?**
  - A. A graph showing the average temperature and precipitation in a place over a year.**
  - B. A diagram of wind patterns at different altitudes.**
  - C. A chart of population density and urban growth.**
  - D. A diagram of tectonic plate boundaries.**
  
- 4. Which statement describes an advantage of economic unions?**
  - A. More efficient industries**
  - B. Increased tariffs on goods**
  - C. Markets become smaller**
  - D. Less cooperation between member states**
  
- 5. Which factor is a classic push factor related to employment?**
  - A. Lack of job opportunities**
  - B. Cultural attractions at home**
  - C. Access to higher education abroad**
  - D. Better climate in the destination**

- 6. Which Southeastern European peninsula has been the site of ethnic conflicts among Serbs, Croats, and Muslims?**
- A. Balkans**
  - B. Caucasus**
  - C. Iberian Peninsula**
  - D. Baltic States**
- 7. In developing countries, how do natural resources influence economic activity?**
- A. They rely exclusively on services for growth.**
  - B. A country gathers raw materials and then exports them because they can't convert them into a finished product to sell.**
  - C. They have no natural resources.**
  - D. They gather raw materials and fully refine them domestically.**
- 8. Which concept helps you measure the distance between two points on a map?**
- A. Orientation**
  - B. Scale**
  - C. Latitude**
  - D. Longitude**
- 9. Which dwelling is described as a Swiss timber dwelling with peaked roofs to shed snow?**
- A. Thatched Roofs**
  - B. Chalets**
  - C. Yurt**
  - D. Castles**
- 10. Which projection maintains overall shapes and relative positions without extreme distortion?**
- A. Mercator Projection**
  - B. Robinson Projection**
  - C. Polar Projection**
  - D. Gnomonic Projection**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which of the following is NOT listed as an example of well-developed infrastructure in developed countries?**

- A. Solar energy farms**
- B. Hospitals**
- C. Energy production**
- D. Waste disposal**

In developed countries, well-developed infrastructure refers to the systems that support daily life and economic activity, like places to receive healthcare, the networks that generate and deliver power, and the facilities that handle waste and sanitation. Hospitals show up in this list because they are essential public services that require reliable utilities and transportation to operate. Energy production is a core part of infrastructure because a steady power supply underpins homes, businesses, and services. Waste disposal is another key infrastructure element, keeping communities clean and safe and connected to municipal services. Solar energy farms are a way to generate electricity, but they're a specific type of energy facility rather than a broad category of infrastructure. In many contexts, the question distinguishes general infrastructure categories (like hospitals, energy production, and waste disposal) from particular technologies, so solar energy farms aren't listed as a general infrastructure example here.

**2. Metals include which of the following?**

- A. Water**
- B. Wood**
- C. Gold**
- D. Coal**

Metals are elements with characteristic properties like good electrical and thermal conductivity, malleability, and a shiny, metallic luster. Among the options, gold is the only one that is a metal—it's a metallic element known for its ability to conduct electricity and heat and for being malleable and highly lustrous. Water is a compound made of hydrogen and oxygen, not an element or metal. Wood is an organic material from trees, not a metal. Coal is a carbon-rich rock-like substance formed from ancient plant material, not a metal. So gold is the correct choice because it is a metal, while the others are not.

### 3. What does a climograph illustrate?

- A. A graph showing the average temperature and precipitation in a place over a year.**
- B. A diagram of wind patterns at different altitudes.**
- C. A chart of population density and urban growth.**
- D. A diagram of tectonic plate boundaries.**

A climograph shows how the climate of a place changes over the months of a year by displaying two key elements together: average temperature and total precipitation. Typically, months are laid out along the horizontal axis, temperature is shown as a line on one vertical scale, and precipitation is shown as bars on another vertical scale. This combination lets you quickly see seasonal patterns, such as hot and wet summers or cool and dry winters, and to compare how different places experience their rainfall and warmth throughout the year. It isn't about wind patterns at different altitudes, nor about population density and urban growth, nor about tectonic plate boundaries. Those topics involve different aspects of geography or geology, while a climograph specifically visualizes the year-long relationship between temperature and precipitation.

### 4. Which statement describes an advantage of economic unions?

- A. More efficient industries**
- B. Increased tariffs on goods**
- C. Markets become smaller**
- D. Less cooperation between member states**

Economic unions create a larger, borderless market among member countries, letting companies reach more customers and reduce costs. With freer movement of goods, services, capital, and often labor, firms can specialize in what they do best and operate at larger scales. This leads to economies of scale, lower average costs, and more competitive production, making industries more efficient overall. The other statements don't fit because tariffs between members are not an advantage of unions; in fact, unions typically reduce or eliminate internal barriers. Markets don't become smaller when countries cooperate; they expand as trade barriers fall. And unions are built on cooperation, not less, so reduced collaboration isn't accurate.

### 5. Which factor is a classic push factor related to employment?

- A. Lack of job opportunities**
- B. Cultural attractions at home**
- C. Access to higher education abroad**
- D. Better climate in the destination**

Push factors are reasons that push people to leave their home country. When it comes to employment, the classic push factor is not having enough job opportunities back home, which drives people to seek work elsewhere where jobs and better wages are available. The other ideas are examples of pull factors—things that attract someone to move to a new place, or positives at home that might discourage leaving. Cultural attractions at home could keep someone from moving; seeking education abroad or moving for a nicer climate are motivations that lure someone to migrate. So, lack of job opportunities best explains a push factor related to employment.

6. Which Southeastern European peninsula has been the site of ethnic conflicts among Serbs, Croats, and Muslims?

- A. Balkans**
- B. Caucasus
- C. Iberian Peninsula
- D. Baltic States

The main idea is recognizing a Southeast European peninsula known for its history of ethnic tensions among Serbs, Croats, and Muslims, especially during the breakup of Yugoslavia. The Balkans is that region, encompassing places like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia, where Bosniaks (Muslims), Serbs (Orthodox), and Croats (Catholic) were drawn into intense conflicts in the 1990s. This is why it's the best fit for a question about these groups clashing. The other regions—the Caucasus, Iberian Peninsula, and Baltic States—are not the locations most associated with these particular dynamics.

7. In developing countries, how do natural resources influence economic activity?

- A. They rely exclusively on services for growth.
- B. A country gathers raw materials and then exports them because they can't convert them into a finished product to sell.**
- C. They have no natural resources.
- D. They gather raw materials and fully refine them domestically.

Natural resources shape a developing country's economy mainly through the extraction and export of raw materials. When a country lacks the capital, technology, and infrastructure to process resources into finished goods, it often sells the unprocessed materials abroad and imports manufactured products. This pattern reflects a focus on primary-sector activities rather than value-added manufacturing, which is common in developing economies. The described approach—gathering raw materials and exporting them because converting them into finished products isn't feasible domestically—best captures how resources influence growth in many developing countries. Relying only on services, denying resources exist, or refining everything at home are less accurate portraits of this dynamic.

**8. Which concept helps you measure the distance between two points on a map?**

- A. Orientation**
- B. Scale**
- C. Latitude**
- D. Longitude**

The key idea here is how distances on a map relate to real distances. That relationship is given by the map's scale. The scale tells you how map measurements convert to actual distances in the real world—for example, 1 centimeter on the map might represent 20 kilometers in reality, or a ratio like 1:100,000. By measuring the distance between the two points on the map with a ruler and then applying the scale, you can find the real-world distance. Orientation is about direction (which way is north), not distance. Latitude and longitude are lines that help you locate where points are on the globe; they're great for finding positions, but they don't directly tell you how far apart two points are without also using the map's scale.

**9. Which dwelling is described as a Swiss timber dwelling with peaked roofs to shed snow?**

- A. Thatched Roofs**
- B. Chalets**
- C. Yurt**
- D. Castles**

Chalets are the Swiss timber dwellings known for their steeply pitched roofs. The sharp slopes are designed to shed heavy snowfall quickly, preventing snow buildup that could weigh down the structure. Traditional chalets are built with wood and feature wide eaves and often balconies, reflecting their Alpine origins and practical adaptation to snowy mountain environments. Thatched roofs belong to rural cottages in various regions and aren't the hallmark Swiss timber alpine style. Yurts are portable, circular homes used by nomads in Central Asia, not mountain timber houses. Castles are large stone fortifications from medieval Europe, not the timber, snow-shedding design of alpine chalets.

**10. Which projection maintains overall shapes and relative positions without extreme distortion?**

**A. Mercator Projection**

**B. Robinson Projection**

**C. Polar Projection**

**D. Gnomonic Projection**

Maps try to translate a round Earth onto a flat surface, and every projection introduces some distortions. The best choice for keeping the overall look of the continents and their locations without dramatic distortion is a compromise projection. The Robinson projection was designed to balance distortions in shape, area, distance, and direction across the whole globe, so landmasses appear with fairly recognizable outlines and their relative positions are preserved without the extreme stretching or squashing you see in other projections. It doesn't perfect any one property, but minimizes noticeable distortions globally, making it a good general-purpose world map. By contrast, a Mercator projection preserves shapes locally but inflates sizes toward the poles; a Gnomonic projection highlights great-circle routes as straight lines but distorts most of the map; and a polar-centered projection focuses distortion around the opposite regions, not giving a balanced view of the entire world.

## 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://worldgeographysol.examzify.com>**

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

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