

World History I 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. What was the effect of the Crusades on interfaith relations?**
 - A. Weaken**
 - B. Strengthen**
 - C. No effect**
 - D. Improved trade relations**

- 2. Which early American civilization had a polytheistic religion based on warfare?**
 - A. Maya**
 - B. Inca**
 - C. Aztec**
 - D. Olmec**

- 3. Which region is the origin of Islam?**
 - A. Arabian Peninsula**
 - B. Anatolia**
 - C. North Africa**
 - D. Central Asia**

- 4. Chichén Itzá is associated with which early American civilization?**
 - A. Aztec**
 - B. Mayan**
 - C. Olmec**
 - D. Incan**

- 5. Which two countries are located close to Japan?**
 - A. Russia and Korea**
 - B. China and Korea**
 - C. China and Vietnam**
 - D. Japan and Korea**

- 6. Which statement best describes calendars, mathematics, and writing achievements of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations?**
- A. All three civilizations produced calendars, mathematics, and writing**
 - B. Only the Maya produced calendars and writing**
 - C. Only the Aztec produced calendars and writing**
 - D. Only the Inca produced calendars and writing**
- 7. During the Middle Ages, education was largely confined to which group?**
- A. Merchants**
 - B. Peasants**
 - C. Clergy**
 - D. Knights**
- 8. The Magyars settled in which country?**
- A. Poland**
 - B. Hungary**
 - C. Slovakia**
 - D. Romania**
- 9. Which name do Muslims use for God in Arabic?**
- A. Allah**
 - B. Elohim**
 - C. Yahweh**
 - D. Adonai**
- 10. The Battle of Tours halted expansion of which group?**
- A. Vikings**
 - B. Byzantines**
 - C. Mongols**
 - D. Muslims**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the effect of the Crusades on interfaith relations?

- A. Weaken**
- B. Strengthen**
- C. No effect**
- D. Improved trade relations**

A strong emphasis on religious identity during the Crusades shaped mutual perceptions in lasting ways. The campaigns framed Christians and Muslims as opposing faith communities, fueling propaganda, stereotypes, and distrust on both sides. Violent episodes, sieges, and persecution reinforced fear and resentment, making cooperation and open dialogue much harder for generations. Although trade and some cultural exchanges did occur, they did not offset the deeper mistrust and hostility that the Crusades helped instill. So the overall effect on interfaith relations was a weakening of trust and goodwill between the groups.

2. Which early American civilization had a polytheistic religion based on warfare?

- A. Maya**
- B. Inca**
- C. Aztec**
- D. Olmec**

The idea being tested is how religion and warfare were connected in early American civilizations. The Aztecs built a polytheistic system with many gods, but their religious life was deeply tied to warfare. Their war deity Huitzilopochtli and the belief that battles and sacrifices sustained the sun and cosmic order made military conquest a central religious duty. Captives taken in war were offered in rituals, linking success in war directly to religious practices and social power. This fusion of multiple gods with a war-centered ritual and sacrifice culture distinguishes the Aztecs as the best match. While the Maya had a rich pantheon and performed warfare, their religion was not defined primarily by warfare, and the Inca centered their beliefs around the sun god and ancestor worship under an imperial state structure rather than a war-focused religious system. The Olmec religion, though foundational to later Mesoamerican belief, is less characterized by a warfare-centered pantheon.

3. Which region is the origin of Islam?

- A. Arabian Peninsula**
- B. Anatolia**
- C. North Africa**
- D. Central Asia**

Islam began in the Arabian Peninsula, specifically in Mecca and Medina, where the Prophet Muhammad received the first revelations around 610 CE and established the early Muslim community. This region is the birthplace of the faith, with its ideas and practices first formed there before spreading outward to neighboring areas. While North Africa, Anatolia, and Central Asia later became centers of Islamic culture, they are places where Islam expanded, not where it originated.

4. Chichén Itzá is associated with which early American civilization?

- A. Aztec
- B. Mayan**
- C. Olmec
- D. Incan

Chichén Itzá showcases the achievements of the Maya civilization in the Yucatán Peninsula. The site reflects Maya architectural styles, astronomical knowledge, and inscriptions that align with Maya culture from roughly 600-900 CE. Although later Toltec influence is visible in some features, the core identity of the site is Maya, distinguishing it from Aztec (central Mexico), Olmec (earlier 'mother culture' in southern Mexico), or Inca (Andes).

5. Which two countries are located close to Japan?

- A. Russia and Korea
- B. China and Korea**
- C. China and Vietnam
- D. Japan and Korea

Geographic proximity to Japan is the focus here. Japan sits off the eastern edge of Asia, with Korea directly to the west across the Korea Strait and China just across the East China Sea to the southwest. Those two are the closest neighboring landmasses. Russia lies to the north, but it's farther away and more dispersed across a large area, while Vietnam is farther still in Southeast Asia. So China and Korea are the two countries closest to Japan.

6. Which statement best describes calendars, mathematics, and writing achievements of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations?

- A. All three civilizations produced calendars, mathematics, and writing**
- B. Only the Maya produced calendars and writing
- C. Only the Aztec produced calendars and writing
- D. Only the Inca produced calendars and writing

The focus here is on how these civilizations contributed to calendars, math, and ways of recording information. The Maya are renowned for a sophisticated writing system using glyphs and for a highly accurate calendar that combines a linear Long Count with cyclical religious calendars; they also developed significant mathematical ideas, including the concept of zero. The Aztec likewise used a complex calendar system and kept records using a system of pictographs and glyphs. The Inca didn't develop a true writing script, but they did maintain extensive numerical and administrative data through quipu, a knot-record system that functioned as a way to store information and manage resources. In the context of this question, quipu is considered a form of writing/record-keeping, so all three civilizations had calendars and mathematics, and they each used a method of writing or data recording. That makes the statement describing all three as having calendars, mathematics, and writing best fit the material students are expected to know.

7. During the Middle Ages, education was largely confined to which group?

- A. Merchants**
- B. Peasants**
- C. Clergy**
- D. Knights**

Education in the Middle Ages was centered in the church because the church held the role of keeper of writing, learning, and religious texts. Monasteries and cathedral schools were the main places where reading, writing, and theology were taught, and Latin—the language of religious and scholarly work—was learned there. This access was tightly controlled by social status and economic means: most peasants and townsfolk worked long hours in fields or crafts and had little time, money, or reason to become literate. The skills taught were primarily for church duties, record-keeping, and religious study, not for broad daily life or career preparation. Noble children might receive some education to manage estates or understand administration, and a few merchants in later centuries learned to read and write for business, but widespread literacy remained the exception rather than the rule. The more formal, institutions of higher learning that did develop—universities—also grew out of these church-based schools, rather than from a broad lay-ed education system. That’s why the group most associated with education during this period is the clergy.

8. The Magyars settled in which country?

- A. Poland**
- B. Hungary**
- C. Slovakia**
- D. Romania**

The question is about where the Magyars established their main homeland after migrating. They moved into the Carpathian Basin in the late 9th and early 10th centuries, and this area became the center of the new Hungarian state. That basin sits where present-day Hungary is located, so the most accurate answer is Hungary. While neighboring regions like Slovakia or parts of Romania would later be influenced or joined to Hungary, the core and enduring settlement of the Magyars is in the land we now call Hungary.

9. Which name do Muslims use for God in Arabic?

- A. Allah**
- B. Elohim**
- C. Yahweh**
- D. Adonai**

The main idea is that Muslims refer to God in Arabic as Allah. This word comes from al-Ilah, meaning “the God,” and is used in the Qur’an and in everyday speech to denote the one, indivisible God of Islam, reflecting the idea of tawhid, or God’s oneness. While the term Allah is Arabic, Muslims join a long tradition of monotheism centered on the belief in a single, supreme creator. Other names listed come from Hebrew. Elohim is a Hebrew word for God found in the Jewish scriptures, Yahweh is the personal name of God revealed in the Hebrew Bible, and Adonai is a title meaning “Lord” used in Jewish prayer. These are not Arabic terms used by Muslims for God.

10. The Battle of Tours halted expansion of which group?

- A. Vikings**
- B. Byzantines**
- C. Mongols**
- D. Muslims**

The Battle of Tours, fought in 732, shows the moment when Muslim forces marching from the Iberian Peninsula into Gaul were checked by Frankish troops. Stopping that northward push is why this battle is seen as halting expansion into Western Europe, helping to preserve a Christian-ruled Europe in that era and shaping the future balance of power in medieval Europe. The other groups listed were not the ones involved in this campaign: Vikings would rise as raiders later, the Byzantines were the eastern empire centered around the Mediterranean, and the Mongols attacked Europe from the east much later.

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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://worldhist1sol.examzify.com>

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

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