

World History II Standards of Learning (SOL) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

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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 political philosophy from the Congress of Vienna favored maintaining the monarchy system as it had previously existed?**
 - A. Liberalism**
 - B. Nationalism**
 - C. Socialism**
 - D. Conservatism**

- 2. A consequence of Henry VIII's break with Rome was the appropriation of what by the crown?**
 - A. The Church of England became unified with Rome**
 - B. The Catholic Church's lands and wealth in England were appropriated by the crown**
 - C. The Pope retained influence in English affairs**
 - D. Monastic orders expanded rapidly**

- 3. Which US captain opened Japan to outside trade?**
 - A. Captain James Cook**
 - B. Admiral George Dewey**
 - C. Commodore Matthew Perry**
 - D. Captain John Smith**

- 4. Which reformer taught predestination and that salvation is revealed by living a righteous life?**
 - A. Erasmus**
 - B. Martin Luther**
 - C. Queen Elizabeth I**
 - D. John Calvin**

- 5. Which economist wrote The Wealth of Nations and argued for free markets?**
 - A. Karl Marx**
 - B. Charles Darwin**
 - C. Adam Smith**
 - D. Thomas Hobbes**

- 6. Which principle did the English Bill of Rights help establish in England?**
- A. Divine Right of Kings**
 - B. Parliament's supremacy**
 - C. Absolutism**
 - D. Military dictatorship**
- 7. Which statement best reflects Voltaire's view on religion and governance?**
- A. Church and state should be united under a single religious authority.**
 - B. Religious intolerance is necessary to maintain order.**
 - C. Religion should be controlled by the state.**
 - D. Religious tolerance should triumph over fanaticism; separation of church and state.**
- 8. Which conquistador led the expedition that defeated the Aztecs and conquered Tenochtitlan?**
- A. Hernando Cortez**
 - B. Jacques Cartier**
 - C. Francisco Pizarro**
 - D. Hernando de Soto**
- 9. What was a key impact of the Scientific Revolution on people's worldview?**
- A. Monarchy's expansion**
 - B. Changes in the way people view the world and their place in it**
 - C. War**
 - D. Feudalism**
- 10. Which invention allowed for the growth of literacy and the printing of the Bible in vernacular languages?**
- A. Telescope**
 - B. Printing Press**
 - C. Steam Engine**
 - D. Compass**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which political philosophy from the Congress of Vienna favored maintaining the monarchy system as it had previously existed?

- A. Liberalism**
- B. Nationalism**
- C. Socialism**
- D. Conservatism**

Conservatism centers on preserving traditional authority, established institutions, and social hierarchies. At the Congress of Vienna, after Napoleon's defeat, leaders aimed to restore stability by reinforcing legitimacy and maintaining the old order. They favored restored monarchies and the existing social and political structures, resisting sweeping liberal or revolutionary changes that could disrupt the balance of power. This emphasis on keeping the monarchy as it had previously existed is the hallmark of conservatism in this period. Liberalism would push for constitutional rights and representative government, sometimes limiting or altering monarchies. Nationalism focuses on self-determined nation-states, which can threaten monarchical rule. Socialism seeks broader economic and social restructuring that challenges traditional elites.

2. A consequence of Henry VIII's break with Rome was the appropriation of what by the crown?

- A. The Church of England became unified with Rome**
- B. The Catholic Church's lands and wealth in England were appropriated by the crown**
- C. The Pope retained influence in English affairs**
- D. Monastic orders expanded rapidly**

The main idea is that breaking with Rome allowed the Crown to seize church wealth and land in England. Once the Church of England was placed under royal authority, its property—monasteries, lands, and treasures—was confiscated and taken into royal possession. This massive transfer funded the crown, expanded royal power, and redistributed wealth to the king's supporters, reshaping English power and finances. The other statements don't fit: the Church did not stay unified with Rome, the Pope's direct influence diminished, and monastic houses were dissolved rather than expanded.

3. Which US captain opened Japan to outside trade?

- A. Captain James Cook
- B. Admiral George Dewey
- C. Commodore Matthew Perry**
- D. Captain John Smith

Opening Japan to outside trade happened when Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Tokyo Bay in the 1850s with modern steam-powered ships and the threat of force, signaling that the United States was ready to trade. His show of naval power helped pressure Japan to negotiate, leading to the Treaty of Kanagawa in 1854, which opened two Japanese ports to American vessels and began the end of Japan's long period of isolation. This event set off rapid modernization in Japan as it faced new economic and political pressures from Western nations. The other figures—James Cook explored and charted the Pacific but did not open Japan to trade; George Dewey is known for defeating Spain in 1898 at Manila Bay; John Smith was an early English colonist in North America and not involved in Japan. The captain who opened Japan to outside trade is Matthew Perry.

4. Which reformer taught predestination and that salvation is revealed by living a righteous life?

- A. Erasmus
- B. Martin Luther
- C. Queen Elizabeth I
- D. John Calvin**

The main idea being tested is the reformer who linked the idea of predestination to a life lived in righteousness as evidence of salvation. John Calvin is the one who is known for teaching predestination—that God sovereignly chooses some people for salvation. At the same time, Calvin argued that those who are saved will live a godly, disciplined life, showing the fruit of grace. This emphasis on God's sovereignty in salvation and the resulting call to holy living is central to Calvinism and sets Calvin apart from the other reformers listed. Erasmus was a humanist reformer who focused on education and moral reform within a largely Catholic framework rather than on predestination. Martin Luther stressed justification by faith alone, emphasizing grace and faith rather than a formal doctrine of predestination. Queen Elizabeth I led religious settlement in England through political and ecclesiastical reforms rather than doctrinal development centered on predestination.

5. Which economist wrote *The Wealth of Nations* and argued for free markets?

- A. Karl Marx**
- B. Charles Darwin**
- C. Adam Smith**
- D. Thomas Hobbes**

The main idea being tested is recognizing who linked *The Wealth of Nations* to free-market thinking. *The wealth of nations* was written by Adam Smith, published in 1776, and he argues that markets function best when they are free from heavy government control. He explains that individuals pursuing their own interests in a competitive environment unintentionally promote the common good because prices and profits guide resources to where they're most needed. This invisible hand, along with the division of labor, boosts productivity and growth. Smith also critiques mercantilist policies that rely on strict regulations and protectionism, advocating instead for free trade and limited government intervention to maintain justice, defense, and public works. The other figures listed are associated with different ideas: Karl Marx is known for critiques of capitalism and advocacy of socialism, Charles Darwin is a naturalist, and Thomas Hobbes is a political philosopher. So the economist who wrote *The Wealth of Nations* and argued for free markets is Adam Smith.

6. Which principle did the English Bill of Rights help establish in England?

- A. Divine Right of Kings**
- B. Parliament's supremacy**
- C. Absolutism**
- D. Military dictatorship**

The key idea here is that the English Bill of Rights shifted power toward Parliament and limited the king's authority. It established that the monarch could not govern without Parliament's consent, most notably in matters like taxation and laws, and it reinforced the idea that rulers are bound by legal limits and cannot override Parliament. This creates a constitutional framework in which Parliament is the authority that legitimizes taxation, laws, and key government actions, rather than the monarch being able to rule by unchecked prerogative. This is why Parliament's supremacy is the best fit. Context helps: the Bill of Rights came after the Glorious Revolution, when William and Mary accepted these constitutional limits as a condition for ruling. The shift toward a constitutional monarchy meant the crown ruled with, not over, Parliament, and it laid groundwork for broader rights and legal constraints on royal power. Divine Right of Kings is not aligned with this; the Bill of Rights rejects the idea that the king rules by divine appointment or can ignore Parliament and laws. Absolutism and a military dictatorship describe systems of centralized or forceful rule that the Bill of Rights explicitly moves away from by promoting legal limits and parliamentary authority.

7. Which statement best reflects Voltaire's view on religion and governance?

- A. Church and state should be united under a single religious authority.**
- B. Religious intolerance is necessary to maintain order.**
- C. Religion should be controlled by the state.**
- D. Religious tolerance should triumph over fanaticism; separation of church and state.**

Voltaire argued that religious fanaticism and intolerance fuel conflict, while good governance protects freedom of thought and conscience. He believed people should be free to believe as they choose, and that laws and government should not be ruled by a single church or religious authority. By keeping religious influence separate from political power, rulers can protect equal rights for all citizens and reduce persecution or coercion in the name of faith. This combination—promoting religious tolerance and separating church from state—best reflects his approach to religion and governance.

8. Which conquistador led the expedition that defeated the Aztecs and conquered Tenochtitlan?

- A. Hernando Cortez**
- B. Jacques Cartier**
- C. Francisco Pizarro**
- D. Hernando de Soto**

The idea here is how a single conquistador used a combination of local alliances, superior military technology, and strategic maneuvering to topple a large empire in the Americas. The leader who defeated the Aztecs and conquered Tenochtitlan was Hernán Cortés. He arrived in 1519, won the support of Indigenous groups like the Tlaxcalans who opposed the Aztecs, and then laid siege to Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital. After a protracted campaign and the devastating impact of diseases brought by Europeans, the city fell in 1521, opening central Mexico to Spanish rule and setting the stage for widespread colonization. The other explorers listed were active in different regions: Jacques Cartier in Canada, Francisco Pizarro in Peru (the Inca), and Hernando de Soto in the southeastern United States.

9. What was a key impact of the Scientific Revolution on people's worldview?

A. Monarchy's expansion

B. Changes in the way people view the world and their place in it

C. War

D. Feudalism

The key idea being tested is that the Scientific Revolution changed how people thought about the world and their place in it. Instead of accepting explanations handed down by authority or tradition, people began to rely on observation, experimentation, and reason to understand nature. This brought a sense that the universe operates by natural laws and that humans can learn and uncover truths about the world. Examples like the heliocentric model, improvements in telescopes and experiments, and Newton's laws helped shift thinking from a purely religious or ceremonial view of existence to a more secular, inquiry-based worldview. Because of this, people started to see themselves as active participants in discovering how the world works, not just subjects within a preordained order. The other options focus on political or social structures rather than a shift in understanding of the world and humanity's role in it.

10. Which invention allowed for the growth of literacy and the printing of the Bible in vernacular languages?

A. Telescope

B. Printing Press

C. Steam Engine

D. Compass

The rapid, mass production of texts made reading more accessible and allowed religious works to be published in everyday languages. The printing press enabled books to be produced quickly and at lower cost, so more people could learn to read and more Bible translations could be printed in vernacular languages instead of only in Latin. This broadened literacy and helped spread local-language Bibles across Europe, contributing to broader education and the spread of new ideas during events like the Reformation. The other inventions—telescope, steam engine, and compass—shaped science, industry, and exploration, but they didn't directly enable widespread literacy or vernacular Bible printing.

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://worldhist2sol.examzify.com>

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

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