AMSCO AP UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAM (APUSH) – PERIOD 2 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. **What was John Peter Zenger best known for in relation to freedom of speech?**

   A. Writing political pamphlets

   B. Being acquitted of treason

   C. Being charged with libel against a governor

   D. Editing a law journal

2. **The concept of "mercantilism" primarily benefited which group?**

   A. Independent merchants in the colonies

   B. The indigenous populations of America

   C. European powers and their colonial economies

   D. Local artisans and craftsmen

3. **What was a significant outcome of the Glorious Revolution in terms of colonial governance?**

   A. More power for colonial assemblies

   B. Stricter control from England

   C. Establishment of new colonies

   D. Increased cooperation with Native Americans

4. **Who is recognized as the leader of the Puritans during their establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony?**

   A. John Winthrop

   B. Roger Williams

   C. Thomas Hooker

   D. William Penn

5. **How did the Great Awakening influence the perception of ministers in society?**

   A. They gained absolute power

   B. They became less relevant

   C. They were universally respected

   D. They were considered cultural leaders

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6. What did the Navigation Acts aim to enforce?

A. Free trade among the colonies

B. Regulation of colonial trade to ensure it benefited France

C. Regulation of colonial trade and ensuring it benefited England

D. Control of shipping routes in the Caribbean

7. Which religious group believed in equality and posed a challenge to authority through nonviolence?

A. Quakers

B. Puritans

C. Catholics

D. Anglicans

8. Which document established a written constitution in Pennsylvania that ensured freedom of worship and unrestricted immigration?

A. Fundamental Orders

B. Charter of Liberties (1701)

C. Magna Carta

D. First Amendment

9. What term describes Pennsylvania's founding as a haven for Quakers and others seeking to promote liberal ideas?

A. Holy Experiment

B. Social Refuge

C. Liberty Foundation

D. Quaker Colony

10. In the context of voting rights, who could participate in elections in colonial America?

A. All adult males

B. All landowning males

C. All residents

D. Only white males

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was John Peter Zenger best known for in relation to freedom of speech?

A. Writing political pamphlets

B. Being acquitted of treason

C. Being charged with libel against a governor

D. Editing a law journal

John Peter Zenger is best known for being charged with libel against a colonial governor, specifically William Cosby of New York. This case, which took place in 1735, became a foundational moment in the history of freedom of speech and the press in America. Zenger published articles in his newspaper that criticized Governor Cosby's administration and corruption. When he was arrested and put on trial for seditious libel, the key issue was whether or not he had committed libel by publishing the statements against a government official. Zenger's attorney argued that truth should be a defense against libel charges, asserting that the allegations made were true and thus protected under the principle of free speech. The jury ultimately acquitted Zenger, a verdict that set a pivotal precedent for the freedom of the press, illustrating that criticism of government officials could be lawfully justified if true. This case laid the groundwork for later interpretations of the First Amendment rights in the United States, highlighting the importance of a free press in holding government accountable.

2. The concept of "mercantilism" primarily benefited which group?

A. Independent merchants in the colonies

B. The indigenous populations of America

C. European powers and their colonial economies

D. Local artisans and craftsmen

The concept of "mercantilism" was an economic theory that dominated European thought from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, emphasizing the importance of accumulating wealth, particularly gold and silver, to enhance national power. Under this system, the primary beneficiaries were the European powers and their colonial economies. Mercantilism led to the establishment of colonies primarily serving the interests of the mother country. Colonies were expected to provide raw materials to Europe and serve as markets for European manufactured goods. This created a cycle where European nations would extract resources from their colonies, process them into finished products, and sell them back to the colonies, thus generating immense profits for European powers. While it might seem that local merchants or artisans in the colonies could gain from trade, the overall structure of mercantilism was designed to strengthen the European powers at the expense of the colonies' economic independence. Consequently, the theory played a critical role in ensuring that the wealth and power remained firmly in the hands of the European nations themselves, making them the primary beneficiaries of the mercantile system.

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3. What was a significant outcome of the Glorious Revolution in terms of colonial governance?

A. More power for colonial assemblies

B. Stricter control from England

C. Establishment of new colonies

D. Increased cooperation with Native Americans

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 in England was a pivotal moment that had significant repercussions not only in England but also across its American colonies. Following the overthrow of King James II and the accession of William and Mary to the throne, the revolution fostered a new perspective on governance that emphasized the importance of parliamentary authority and constitutional limits on royal power. In the colonies, this led to a notable increase in the power and authority of colonial assemblies. Colonists, inspired by the ideals of the revolution, began to assert more control over their local governments. They pushed back against the influence of Royal Governors, who were appointed by the crown, advocating for greater rights, representation, and self-governance. As a result, many colonial legislatures gained substantial power, and the movement towards more democratic forms of government intensified. This transformation marked a shift towards more localized decision-making and laid the groundwork for a growing sense of American identity and governance that would eventually contribute to the push for independence in the late 18th century. Thus, the Glorious Revolution significantly empowered colonial assemblies, allowing them to play a more central role in political life and governance within the colonies.

4. Who is recognized as the leader of the Puritans during their establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony?

A. John Winthrop

B. Roger Williams

C. Thomas Hooker

D. William Penn

John Winthrop is recognized as the leader of the Puritans during their establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony primarily due to his role as the colony's first governor. Winthrop was a key figure in the Puritan migration to New England in the 1630s and envisioned the colony as a "city upon a hill," a beacon of moral and religious purity. His leadership was marked by a focus on community and theocratic governance, aiming to create a society based on Puritan values. Winthrop's writings, including his famous sermon "A Model of Christian Charity," articulated the vision for the colony and emphasized the importance of cooperation and mutual support among settlers. This foundational role helped shape the identity of Massachusetts Bay as a center for Puritanism and influenced the development of American political and social structures.

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5. How did the Great Awakening influence the perception of ministers in society?

A. They gained absolute power

B. They became less relevant

C. They were universally respected

D. They were considered cultural leaders

The Great Awakening, which took place in the American colonies during the 1730s and 1740s, led to significant changes in how ministers were perceived in society. This religious revival emphasized personal faith and emotional connections to religion over established traditions and hierarchical structures within churches. As a result, the authority of traditional ministers diminished because many individuals began to seek their own spiritual journeys and interpretations of faith. This movement encouraged a more democratic approach to religion, wherein laypeople increasingly felt empowered to question or reject established religious leaders. The rise of itinerant preachers and the proliferation of new denominations reflected this shift, as these figures often did not adhere to the established hierarchies of the more traditional churches. By promoting the idea that everyone could have a personal relationship with God, the Great Awakening contributed to the perception that ministers were less central to the spiritual lives of individuals, which aligns with the idea that they became less relevant in this changing religious landscape.

6. What did the Navigation Acts aim to enforce?

A. Free trade among the colonies

B. Regulation of colonial trade to ensure it benefited France

C. Regulation of colonial trade and ensuring it benefited England

D. Control of shipping routes in the Caribbean

The Navigation Acts were a series of laws enacted by the English Parliament in the 17th century aimed at regulating colonial trade. Their primary purpose was to ensure that trade between England and its colonies, as well as trade conducted by the colonies themselves, directly benefited England economically. These acts mandated that certain products produced in the colonies, known as enumerated goods, could only be shipped to England or English colonies. By doing so, the Navigation Acts sought to monopolize trade and enforce the mercantilist policy, which prioritized the economic interests of the mother country. This connection to benefiting England is key. The acts were designed not just to regulate but to create a system where the colonial economy supported the economic strength of England, enhancing its naval capabilities and securing its position in global trade. Thus, the focus was on regulatory measures that ensured profits from colonial trade flowed back to the English economy, aligning perfectly with the objectives set forth in the Navigation Acts.

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7. Which religious group believed in equality and posed a challenge to authority through nonviolence?

A. Quakers

B. Puritans

C. Catholics

D. Anglicans

The Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, believed strongly in the concept of equality for all individuals, regardless of their social status, gender, or race. Their foundational tenets emphasized the idea that everyone has an inner light, or divine presence, which guided them in their beliefs and actions. This belief in equality led Quakers to oppose social hierarchies, advocate for women's rights, and challenge the institution of slavery before it became a mainstream concern. In terms of their challenge to authority, Quakers practiced and preached nonviolence, which sharply contrasted with the more violent conflicts often associated with other religious groups. They sought to resolve issues through peaceful means rather than armed confrontation, advocating for tolerance and understanding in a time when religious and social tensions were rampant. Their nonviolent philosophy put them at odds with colonial authorities and led to significant repercussions, including persecution and imprisonment. In contrast, the Puritans had a hierarchical view of society influenced by their stringent moral codes and community governance. Catholics were often marginalized in Protestant-dominated regions and focused on tradition and sacramental life. Anglicans were tied to the established Church of England and generally conformed to the authority structures within that framework. Thus, the Quakers stood out for both

8. Which document established a written constitution in Pennsylvania that ensured freedom of worship and unrestricted immigration?

A. Fundamental Orders

B. Charter of Liberties (1701)

C. Magna Carta

D. First Amendment

The Charter of Liberties, adopted in 1701, established a written constitution for Pennsylvania that provided significant protections for individual rights, including freedom of worship. This document was significant in promoting the ideals of religious tolerance, which were crucial in attracting various religious groups to the colony. It also allowed for unrestricted immigration, appealing to those seeking a place where they could practice their beliefs freely and live without the constraints present in other areas. The Fundamental Orders, on the other hand, were primarily a framework for governance in Connecticut and did not emphasize religious freedoms in the same way. The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, is an earlier English document that focused on limiting the powers of the monarchy and protecting certain rights of subjects but did not establish a constitution for Pennsylvania. The First Amendment, ratified much later in 1791, focuses on the freedoms of speech, press, religion, assembly, and petition in the context of the federal government, rather than addressing the specifics of Pennsylvania's founding and its constitution.

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9. What term describes Pennsylvania's founding as a haven for Quakers and others seeking to promote liberal ideas?

A. Holy Experiment

B. Social Refuge

C. Liberty Foundation

D. Quaker Colony

The term that describes Pennsylvania's founding as a haven for Quakers and others seeking to promote liberal ideas is "Holy Experiment." This phrase, coined by William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, reflects his vision of establishing a colony where religious freedom and tolerance could flourish. Penn intended to create a community that welcomed diverse beliefs, allowing for a harmonious coexistence among different religious and ethnic groups. The Holy Experiment was not merely about providing refuge for Quakers; it represented an ambitious social and political experiment in democracy and egalitarianism, which was quite progressive for the time. In the context of early American history, the notion of a colony as a "Holy Experiment" underscores Pennsylvania's unique position as a model for religious tolerance and liberal governance, contrasting with the more rigidly sectarian and hierarchical structures found in some of the other colonies. It highlights Pennsylvania's role in shaping ideas about religious freedom and the rights of individuals to express their beliefs in a supportive environment.

10. In the context of voting rights, who could participate in elections in colonial America?

A. All adult males

B. All landowning males

C. All residents

D. Only white males

In colonial America, voting rights were largely restricted to property owners, reflecting the societal norms and economic structures of the time. Therefore, the correct response highlights that only landowning males were eligible to participate in elections. This limitation was based on the belief that ownership of land conferred a stake in the community and governance. By ensuring that only landowners could vote, colonial governments aimed to maintain a form of political stability and to ensure that those who had economic interests in the community also had a voice in how it was governed. The notion of excluding individuals without property stemmed from a distrust of poorer individuals' ability to make informed decisions, as they were often seen as lacking the necessary education or economic stake in society. This practice of limiting voting rights would evolve over time, leading to broader suffrage movements that would eventually include various disenfranchised groups in the United States.

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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://amscoapushperiod2.examzify.com

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

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