AMSCO AP UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAM (APUSH) – PERIOD 3 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. **Which power was NOT granted to Congress under the Articles of Confederation?**

   A. Make treaties

   B. Wage war

   C. Regulate commerce

   D. Collect taxes

2. **What method was employed by the Sons and Daughters of Liberty to oppose British tax collectors?**

   A. Writing petitions

   B. Boycotting British goods

   C. Intimidation and violence

   D. Seeking royal pardon

3. **Which law imposed fines and jail time for individuals or newspapers that criticized the government?**

   A. Alien Act

   B. Sedition Act

   C. Espionage Act

   D. Patriot Act

4. **Which woman famously urged her husband to consider women's rights during the American Revolution?**

   A. Abigail Adams

   B. Molly Pitcher

   C. Phillis Wheatley

   D. Jane Adams

5. **Which conflict marked a shift in the British approach to fighting by starting in the colonies and expanding to Europe?**

   A. War of the Spanish Succession

   B. Seven Years War

   C. American Revolutionary War

   D. French Revolutionary War

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6. What was a consequence of the Sedition Act?

A. Increased immigration

B. Control of press criticism against the government

C. Promotion of civil liberties

D. Support for political campaigns

7. What belief characterizes Deism as a philosophy?

A. Divine intervention is frequent in human affairs.

B. Natural laws governs the universe with minimal divine intervention.

C. Reason is irrelevant to knowledge.

D. Faith is superior to reason.

8. Which principle limits the powers of each governmental branch by providing checks on one another?

A. Separation of Powers

B. Checks and Balances

C. Federalism

D. Popular Sovereignty

9. What was the main objective of the Virginia Plan in the context of representation?

A. It favored smaller states

B. It favored larger states

C. It proposed equal representation for all states

D. It included a unicameral legislature

10. What act declared that the colonies were in rebellion and forbade trade between the colonies and Britain?

A. Intolerable Acts

B. Prohibitory Act

C. Navigation Acts

D. Stamp Act

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which power was NOT granted to Congress under the Articles of Confederation?

A. Make treaties

B. Wage war

C. Regulate commerce

D. Collect taxes

The correct answer is that Congress was not granted the power to regulate commerce under the Articles of Confederation. The Articles established a confederation of states, creating a weak central government where the states retained most of their sovereignty. While Congress had the authority to make treaties and wage war, it lacked the power to regulate interstate commerce and trade effectively. This limitation resulted in economic disarray, as states often imposed tariffs on one another and engaged in trade disputes. The inability to regulate commerce highlighted the weaknesses of the Articles and contributed to calls for a stronger federal government, eventually leading to the Constitutional Convention.

2. What method was employed by the Sons and Daughters of Liberty to oppose British tax collectors?

A. Writing petitions

B. Boycotting British goods

C. Intimidation and violence

D. Seeking royal pardon

The Sons and Daughters of Liberty employed intimidation and violence as a method to oppose British tax collectors, particularly in response to the Stamp Act and other taxes imposed by the British government. This group organized protests, harassed tax collectors, and sometimes resorted to threats and mob violence to prevent the collection of taxes. Their actions were aimed at instilling fear in the tax collectors and deterring them from carrying out their duties, which ultimately contributed to the wider resistance against British taxation and governance. While writing petitions and boycotting British goods were indeed part of the broader colonial response to British policies, it was the more aggressive tactics of intimidation and violence that characterized the direct confrontations initiated by the Sons and Daughters of Liberty. These actions galvanized the colonial population and played a significant role in the growing spirit of resistance leading to the American Revolution. Seeking royal pardon was not a strategy employed by the Sons and Daughters of Liberty, as they were focused on opposing British rule rather than seeking reconciliation.

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3. Which law imposed fines and jail time for individuals or newspapers that criticized the government?

A. Alien Act

B. Sedition Act

C. Espionage Act

D. Patriot Act

The Sedition Act, enacted in 1798, was a significant piece of legislation during a turbulent time in U.S. history, particularly reflecting the tensions surrounding the Federalist and Democratic-Republican parties. This law specifically targeted individuals and journalists who spoke or wrote against the government, imposing penalties such as fines and imprisonment for those found guilty of sedition. Its purpose was to suppress dissent and maintain national security during a period perceived as fraught with the potential for internal rebellion and external threats, notably in the context of conflicts with France. The Sedition Act was controversial as it raised serious questions about free speech and the limits of government power, leading to intensifying political debates that would contribute to the eventual rise of more robust protections for civil liberties. Understanding this act's implications is crucial as it sheds light on the early struggles of the United States in balancing governance and individual rights, a theme that continues to resonate in American political discourse today.

4. Which woman famously urged her husband to consider women's rights during the American Revolution?

A. Abigail Adams

B. Molly Pitcher

C. Phillis Wheatley

D. Jane Adams

Abigail Adams is known for her influential letters to her husband, John Adams, during the American Revolution, in which she poignantly advocated for the rights of women. In her correspondence, she famously implored him to "remember the ladies" when forming the new government and laws of the nation. Her plea highlighted the need for women's voices to be considered in the political landscape of the time, reflecting early sentiments of feminism. This makes her a significant figure in the early advocacy for women's rights in America, especially during a period marked by the fight for independence and the subsequent establishment of the nation. Other figures listed, such as Molly Pitcher and Phillis Wheatley, contributed immensely to their respective causes but did not emphasize women's rights in the same manner as Abigail Adams did in her correspondence with her husband. Jane Addams, while a notable social reformer and women's rights advocate later in history, did not play a role during the American Revolution.

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5. Which conflict marked a shift in the British approach to fighting by starting in the colonies and expanding to Europe?

A. War of the Spanish Succession

B. Seven Years War

C. American Revolutionary War

D. French Revolutionary War

The Seven Years War marked a significant shift in the British approach to conflict as it began in the American colonies and eventually expanded into a global war involving Europe and other territories. This war, which lasted from 1756 to 1763, is often seen as the first true "world war," as it encompassed not just battles fought in North America but also those in Europe, the Caribbean, West Africa, and India. Initially, the conflict was rooted in territorial disputes between British colonists and the French in North America, leading to events like the skirmish at Fort Duquesne. As the war progressed, the scale of the conflict grew, prompting involvement from various European powers and leading to battles on multiple continents. The British government's approach evolved in response to the need for greater military coordination, the mobilization of colonial resources, and alliances with various indigenous groups. The outcomes of the Seven Years War were significant, leading to the Treaty of Paris in 1763, which expanded British territorial claims in North America and contradicted the previously adopted policy of salutary neglect. This war also set the stage for future tensions between Britain and its colonies, as the costs incurred during the conflict brought about new taxation and regulation, ultimately influencing the American Revolutionary War

6. What was a consequence of the Sedition Act?

A. Increased immigration

B. Control of press criticism against the government

C. Promotion of civil liberties

D. Support for political campaigns

The Sedition Act, passed in 1798 during the presidency of John Adams, was primarily aimed at protecting the government from criticism and dissent during a time of perceived national emergency. One of its key consequences was the control of press criticism against the government. The Act made it a crime to publish "false, scandalous, and malicious writing" against the government or its officials, significantly curbing freedom of speech and the press. This effectively silenced opposition voices, particularly from the Democratic-Republicans who were critical of the Federalist Party and the Adams administration. The chilling effect on free expression and political discourse was a direct result of this legislation, highlighting the tension between national security interests and civil liberties at that time. The other options do not reflect the primary impact of the Sedition Act. For instance, while it could be argued that it created backlash that encouraged political activism, it did not directly lead to increased immigration or promote civil liberties. Instead, it served to restrict them, demonstrating how governmental measures can sometimes infringe upon individual rights in the name of security.

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7. What belief characterizes Deism as a philosophy?

A. Divine intervention is frequent in human affairs.

B. Natural laws governs the universe with minimal divine intervention.

C. Reason is irrelevant to knowledge.

D. Faith is superior to reason.

Deism is characterized by the belief that natural laws govern the universe with minimal divine intervention. Deists maintain that while a creator exists, this creator does not interfere in the day-to-day workings of the world after its creation. Instead, they argue that the universe operates according to consistent and discoverable laws, which can be understood through reason and observation. This philosophy emerged notably during the Enlightenment, when there was a strong emphasis on rationality and scientific inquiry. The Deist perspective stands in contrast to more traditional religious views that posit frequent divine intervention in human affairs. Instead, Deists advocate for the use of reason to understand the natural world, suggesting that humans can discern truths about existence without relying on religious dogma or supernatural occurrences. This philosophy places importance on personal experience and rational thought, aligning closely with Enlightenment ideals.

8. Which principle limits the powers of each governmental branch by providing checks on one another?

A. Separation of Powers

B. Checks and Balances

C. Federalism

D. Popular Sovereignty

The principle of Checks and Balances is designed to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful by allowing each branch to exert some measure of control over the others. This system ensures that the legislative, executive, and judicial branches can monitor and restrain one another's actions, fostering a balance of power within the government. For example, while the legislative branch can create laws, the executive branch has the authority to veto those laws, and the judicial branch can declare laws unconstitutional. This interplay encourages accountability and limits potential abuses of power, reflecting the framers' intent to safeguard democracy and individual liberties. In contrast, Separation of Powers refers specifically to dividing the government into distinct branches, focusing on the distinct roles and responsibilities of each rather than their interaction. Federalism is about the division of power between national and state governments. Popular Sovereignty is the concept that the government's authority is derived from the consent of the governed. While all these principles are integral to the functioning of the American government, it is Checks and Balances that specifically addresses the way branches limit each other's powers.

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9. What was the main objective of the Virginia Plan in the context of representation?

A. It favored smaller states

B. It favored larger states

C. It proposed equal representation for all states

D. It included a unicameral legislature

The main objective of the Virginia Plan was to establish a framework for the new government that favored larger states in terms of representation. This plan was drafted by James Madison and presented at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It proposed a bicameral legislature, where representation in both houses would be based on population or financial contributions to the national government. This arrangement meant that states with larger populations, such as Virginia, would have greater influence and more representatives than smaller states. Consequently, the Virginia Plan sought to create a stronger national government with the ability to address issues effectively and represent the interests of the more populous states. This was in contrast to other proposals, such as the New Jersey Plan, which aimed to maintain equal representation for all states regardless of size or population. In summary, the correct answer reflects the Virginia Plan's emphasis on representation that benefitted larger states, marking a pivotal moment in the discussions that led to the creation of the United States Constitution.

10. What act declared that the colonies were in rebellion and forbade trade between the colonies and Britain?

A. Intolerable Acts

B. Prohibitory Act

C. Navigation Acts

D. Stamp Act

The Prohibitory Act is the correct answer because this act, passed in 1775 by the British Parliament, officially declared the American colonies to be in rebellion against British authority. It denied the colonies the right to trade and effectively blockaded them, further severing economic ties with Britain. This act was a response to the growing revolutionary sentiments and actions in the colonies, including the Continental Congress's decision to support military resistance against British forces. The Intolerable Acts were a series of punitive measures taken following the Boston Tea Party, aimed at controlling colonial resistance, but they did not specifically declare the colonies in rebellion nor initiate trade bans. The Navigation Acts were earlier laws focused on regulating colonial trade with the intent of maximizing revenue for Britain, rather than a declaration of rebellion. The Stamp Act, also preceding the Prohibitory Act, imposed taxes on printed materials in the colonies, which was a significant source of tension but did not address the issues of rebellion or trade restrictions in the way the Prohibitory Act did.

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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:

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

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