

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (APHG) EXAM 1 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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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	15

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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 statement about threshold and service viability best describes the impact of a high threshold?**
 - A. It allows for more locations because demand is smaller.
 - B. It has no impact on where services can be located.
 - C. It reduces the number of viable service locations.
 - D. It guarantees all towns can support the service.

- 2. The model that explains urban land use in concentric rings around the central business district is known as what?**
 - A. Concentric Zone Model
 - B. Sector model
 - C. Hoyt model
 - D. Galactic City Model

- 3. What is cultural syncretism, and what is a classic example?**
 - A. Blending of cultural elements from different traditions; example: Latin American Catholic practices incorporating Indigenous beliefs.
 - B. A strict preservation of a single tradition without external influence.
 - C. The separation of religious practices by region with no blending.
 - D. The replacement of one culture's practices entirely by another.

- 4. What term best describes the political entity of the Republic of Ireland?**
 - A. Microstate
 - B. Nation-state
 - C. City-state
 - D. Stateless nation

- 5. Which projection preserves shape but distorts area, especially near the poles?**
 - A. Peters Projection
 - B. Mercator Projection
 - C. Robinson Projection
 - D. Goode's Homolosine Projection

- 6. Where is coffee bean production typically concentrated at the global scale?**
- A. Within tropical latitudes
 - B. In temperate zones
 - C. In arid regions
 - D. Across all latitudes equally
- 7. Which diffusion pattern describes spread from hierarchical centers to smaller places?**
- A. Hierarchical diffusion
 - B. Contagious diffusion
 - C. Stimulus diffusion
 - D. Relocation diffusion
- 8. Which factor most directly increases the working-age share of a population when birth rates are low?**
- A. Immigration of working-age adults
 - B. Emigration of young people
 - C. Increased fertility among seniors
 - D. Reduction in healthcare access
- 9. Which stage of the Demographic Transition Model is characterized by high birth rates and falling death rates?**
- A. Stage 1 (High Stationary)
 - B. Stage 2 (Early Expanding)
 - C. Stage 3 (Late Expanding)
 - D. Stage 4 (Low Stationary)
- 10. In sub-Saharan Africa's rural agricultural economies, which best describes the roles of women?**
- A. Nonwage workers on small, family-run farms
 - B. Agricultural policy analysts in government offices
 - C. Landowners of large commercial estates
 - D. Migrant laborers in urban factories

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement about threshold and service viability best describes the impact of a high threshold?

- A. It allows for more locations because demand is smaller.
- B. It has no impact on where services can be located.
- C. It reduces the number of viable service locations.**
- D. It guarantees all towns can support the service.

Threshold refers to the minimum number of customers or amount of demand a service needs to be financially viable. When that threshold is high, a larger local market is required to cover costs, so many smaller towns can't support the service. That means there are fewer places where the service can realistically operate, shrinking the number of viable locations. In other words, a high threshold makes it harder for a service to be sustained everywhere, concentrating it in areas with enough demand. The other options don't fit because a high threshold does impact where services can be located, it doesn't create more locations, and it doesn't guarantee all towns can support the service.

2. The model that explains urban land use in concentric rings around the central business district is known as what?

- A. Concentric Zone Model**
- B. Sector model
- C. Hoyt model
- D. Galactic City Model

Think of a city growing outward in circles from its center. In this view, the central business district sits at the core, then surrounding rings represent different land uses and social groups: a transition zone with industry and poorer housing, a zone of working-class homes, a zone of better residences, and a commuter belt beyond. This pattern, proposed for Chicago in the 1920s, shows how distance from the center and the type of activity influence where land is used, producing concentric rings around the CBD. Other models describe different patterns—some use wedges radiating from the center, and others describe multiple centers or edge cities—so the circular arrangement is the distinctive feature of this model.

3. What is cultural syncretism, and what is a classic example?

- A. Blending of cultural elements from different traditions; example: Latin American Catholic practices incorporating Indigenous beliefs.
- B. A strict preservation of a single tradition without external influence.
- C. The separation of religious practices by region with no blending.
- D. The replacement of one culture's practices entirely by another.**

Cultural syncretism is the blending of cultural elements from different traditions into new, hybrid practices, beliefs, or expressions. It happens when communities take aspects of another culture and weave them together with their own, creating something that reflects multiple heritages rather than a single, pure tradition. A classic example is Latin American Catholic practices that incorporate Indigenous beliefs, rituals, and symbols into Catholic worship. This fusion shows up in how festivals, saints' veneration, and local customs blend Indigenous elements with Catholic rites, producing celebrations that feel distinctly regional. Syncretism preserves and merges parts of both traditions rather than replacing one entirely, which is what would happen in assimilation or cultural replacement.

4. What term best describes the political entity of the Republic of Ireland?

- A. Microstate
- B. Nation-state**
- C. City-state
- D. Stateless nation

The question tests the idea of a nation-state—when a country's borders largely coincide with a single shared national identity. The Republic of Ireland is a self-governing state with defined borders and a population that identifies as Irish, so the political unit aligns with its national identity. It isn't a microstate, since it isn't extremely small in size or population, nor a city-state, since its territory includes much more than a single city. It isn't a stateless nation, because it has recognized sovereignty and a formal government. Therefore, the best description is a nation-state.

5. Which projection preserves shape but distorts area, especially near the poles?

- A. Peters Projection
- B. Mercator Projection**
- C. Robinson Projection
- D. Goode's Homolosine Projection

Conformal projections preserve local shapes by maintaining angles, which is why directions stay reliable on maps like Mercator. The Mercator projection achieves this angle preservation across the globe, making small shapes look correct and straight-line courses correspond to constant compass bearings. But that benefit comes with a cost: the scale grows with latitude, so distances and areas get increasingly stretched as you move toward the poles. That dramatic stretch near high latitudes makes polar regions appear much larger than they actually are, so area is distorted even though shapes are preserved. This combination—shape fidelity locally with strong area distortion toward the poles—is characteristic of the Mercator projection. Other options trade off these properties differently: Peters preserves area but distorts shapes, Robinson smooths or balances distortions, and Goode's Homolosine emphasizes area with interruptions, rather than preserving shapes.

6. Where is coffee bean production typically concentrated at the global scale?

- A. Within tropical latitudes
- B. In temperate zones
- C. In arid regions
- D. Across all latitudes equally**

Coffee beans grow best in warm, humid climates with distinct wet and dry seasons. That combination occurs most reliably in tropical latitudes, roughly near the equator, where temperatures stay warm year-round and rainfall patterns support the coffee plant's needs. Because of these climate requirements, production clusters around the tropical belt between about 20 degrees north and 20 degrees south of the equator, often in highland areas within those regions that provide cooler temperatures at night and good soil conditions. Temperate zones are typically too cool, arid regions lack sufficient rainfall, and production isn't spread evenly across all latitudes—the global map of coffee follows the tropical belt where the climate is right.

7. Which diffusion pattern describes spread from hierarchical centers to smaller places?

- A. Hierarchical diffusion**
- B. Contagious diffusion
- C. Stimulus diffusion
- D. Relocation diffusion

Hierarchical diffusion describes how an idea or innovation spreads from major, influential places to smaller, less connected areas. Originating in hubs like big cities or capitals, the concept moves outward along networks to smaller towns and rural areas, often skipping intermediate locations that aren't as connected. A common example is a fashion trend or tech idea that starts in a metropolis and gradually appears in smaller cities and towns as people adopt it. In contrast, contagious diffusion spreads through direct contact and proximity, relocation diffusion involves people physically moving and carrying culture with them, and stimulus diffusion spreads the underlying principle even if the exact item isn't adopted. So the pattern described—spread from hierarchical centers to smaller places—fits hierarchical diffusion.

8. Which factor most directly increases the working-age share of a population when birth rates are low?

- A. Immigration of working-age adults**
- B. Emigration of young people
- C. Increased fertility among seniors
- D. Reduction in healthcare access

The main idea here is how age structure shapes the working-age share of a population. The working-age group (roughly ages 15–64) makes up the labor-force portion, and its size relative to dependents determines the country's dependency and economic dynamics. When birth rates are low, fewer young people enter the population, so the overall share of people in the working-age bracket can shrink or stay the same while the number of elderly increases. Bringing in working-age adults through immigration directly adds people who are in that key age range. This increases the proportion of the population that can work and contribute economically, which raises the working-age share even if births remain low. In contrast, having young people leave the country (emigration) would reduce the working-age group, not increase it. Increasing fertility among seniors is not realistically a contributor to the working-age pool, and more births among older adults would mostly add to the younger cohorts, not expand the working-age share. A reduction in healthcare access could affect mortality and age structure in unpredictable ways, but it doesn't directly boost the number of people in the working-age bracket. So, immigration of working-age adults is the most direct way to raise the working-age share when birth rates are low.

9. Which stage of the Demographic Transition Model is characterized by high birth rates and falling death rates?

- A. Stage 1 (High Stationary)
- B. Stage 2 (Early Expanding)
- C. Stage 3 (Late Expanding)**
- D. Stage 4 (Low Stationary)

High birth rates with falling death rates occur during the early expanding stage. In this phase, health improvements, better sanitation, and improved nutrition cause death rates to drop quickly, while birth rates remain high due to cultural norms and limited access to contraception. That combination produces rapid population growth. Later, as societies urbanize and become more educated, birth rates begin to fall, marking the late expanding stage and a slowing population growth. In the final stage, both birth and death rates are low, stabilizing the population. So the described pattern best fits the early expanding stage, not the late expanding stage.

10. In sub-Saharan Africa's rural agricultural economies, which best describes the roles of women?

- A. Nonwage workers on small, family-run farms**
- B. Agricultural policy analysts in government offices
- C. Landowners of large commercial estates
- D. Migrant laborers in urban factories

In rural Sub-Saharan Africa, women are the primary nonwage labor force on small, family-run farms. They carry out the bulk of planting, weeding, harvesting, processing, and selling produce to support the household, often without formal wages. This pattern fits because the region is dominated by smallholder agriculture where family labor drives farming activity, and women consistently contribute essential work on these family plots. The other options describe roles not typical of the rural agricultural economy there—policy analysts, large estate owners, or urban factory migrants—so they don't capture who does the work on these small, family-based farms.

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://aphg1.examzify.com>

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

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