GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) SOCIAL STUDIES 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 classification system determines a person's occupation and social standing?**

   A. Classes

   B. Levels

   C. Castes

   D. Groups

2. **Which form of government is characterized by a single person holding all power?**

   A. Democracy

   B. Monarchy

   C. Dictatorship

   D. Oligarchy

3. **Who was sworn into office in 1963 after the assassination of President Kennedy?**

   A. Lyndon B. Johnson

   B. Richard Nixon

   C. Gerald Ford

   D. Harry S. Truman

4. **Who was the first female Supreme Court Justice?**

   A. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

   B. Sonia Sotomayor

   C. Elena Kagan

   D. Sandra Day O'Connor

5. **Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery?**

   A. 13th Amendment

   B. 14th Amendment

   C. 15th Amendment

   D. 19th Amendment

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6. During what decade did the Great Depression primarily occur?

A. 1920s

B. 1930s

C. 1940s

D. 1950s

7. Which economic system emphasizes government ownership and control of resources and industries?

A. Capitalism

B. Communism

C. Oligopoly

D. Market Economy

8. What is the study of the entire economy of a nation called?

A. Micro-economics

B. Macro-economics

C. Behavioral economics

D. Comparative economics

9. Which constitutional amendment granted women the right to vote?

A. The 15th Amendment

B. The 19th Amendment

C. The 24th Amendment

D. The 26th Amendment

10. What is a primary source?

A. A summary of historical events

B. An interpretation of a document

C. An original document or evidence created at the time of study

D. A secondary analysis of past events

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What classification system determines a person's occupation and social standing?

A. Classes

B. Levels

C. Castes

D. Groups

The classification system that determines a person's occupation and social standing is referred to as castes. This system, particularly associated with certain cultures such as India, creates a social hierarchy based on birth and occupation. In a caste system, individuals are born into specific social groups that dictate not only their job opportunities but also their community interactions and social status. Caste systems often limit social mobility, meaning that individuals find it difficult to change their social standing, as their caste largely determines the roles available to them throughout their lives. This rigidity contrasts with more flexible systems of social classification, where occupational choices and social mobility may vary more widely. Classes and levels typically refer to more modern and fluid categorization of societies where economic status plays a significant role but allows for movement between different strata based on various factors, such as education and wealth accumulation. Groups may refer broadly to collections of individuals within societies but lack the structured hierarchies that castes entail.

2. Which form of government is characterized by a single person holding all power?

A. Democracy

B. Monarchy

C. Dictatorship

D. Oligarchy

The form of government characterized by a single person holding all power is a dictatorship. In a dictatorship, the ruler possesses absolute authority over the state and often governs without the consent of the people or without any constitutional limitations. This concentration of power typically results in a lack of political pluralism and little to no public involvement in decision-making processes. While both monarchies and dictatorships can involve a single leader, a monarchy can also be constitutional, with powers limited by laws or a parliament. In contrast, a dictatorship specifically denotes a situation where one individual exerts control, often through authoritarian means. Democracy, on the other hand, entails governance based on the collective will of the people, usually through elected representatives, while oligarchy involves rule by a small group of individuals rather than a single leader. This distinction highlights why dictatorship is the accurate choice for the question regarding a government led by a single person with total power.

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3. Who was sworn into office in 1963 after the assassination of President Kennedy?

A. Lyndon B. Johnson

B. Richard Nixon

C. Gerald Ford

D. Harry S. Truman

Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn into office in 1963 following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This transition occurred on November 22, 1963, the same day as Kennedy's assassination, when Johnson was the Vice President. The swearing-in took place on Air Force One as it was on the runway in Dallas, Texas. Johnson's ascension to the presidency marked a significant turning point in American politics as he would later implement key pieces of legislation associated with the Great Society and civil rights reforms. The other individuals listed were not involved in this specific succession. Richard Nixon had already been in office as Vice President much earlier but did not assume the presidency until 1969. Gerald Ford became president much later, in 1974, after Nixon's resignation. Harry S. Truman served as president from 1945 to 1953, long before Kennedy's assassination. This context highlights why Lyndon B. Johnson is the correct answer, as he directly succeeded Kennedy under the circumstances of that historic event.

4. Who was the first female Supreme Court Justice?

A. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

B. Sonia Sotomayor

C. Elena Kagan

D. Sandra Day O'Connor

The first female Supreme Court Justice was Sandra Day O'Connor. Appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, she made history as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. O'Connor's appointment marked a significant milestone in the representation of women in the judiciary, paving the way for future female justices. Her influence on the court was notable, as she often served as a swing vote on many important decisions, demonstrating the vital role she played in shaping legal interpretations on issues such as reproductive rights, affirmative action, and government church-state relations. The other justices listed did serve on the Supreme Court, but they did so after O'Connor, making her the pioneering figure in this context.

5. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery?

A. 13th Amendment

B. 14th Amendment

C. 15th Amendment

D. 19th Amendment

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1865 and is significant for its role in abolishing slavery throughout the United States. This amendment states that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, except as a punishment for a crime. This landmark change was pivotal during the Reconstruction era, as it legally freed the enslaved population and marked a crucial step towards civil rights. In contrast, the 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, primarily addresses citizenship rights and equal protection under the law, but does not deal with the issue of slavery directly. The 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, focuses on voting rights and prohibits denying the right to vote based on race, which also does not relate to the abolition of slavery. The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, grants women the right to vote, marking an important development in women's rights but is unrelated to the issue of slavery. Therefore, the 13th Amendment is the correct response, as it directly addresses and abolishes the institution of slavery in America.

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6. During what decade did the Great Depression primarily occur?

A. 1920s

B. 1930s

C. 1940s

D. 1950s

The Great Depression primarily occurred during the 1930s, which is characterized by severe economic downturns, widespread unemployment, and significant declines in industrial production and trade. The stock market crash of 1929 marked the beginning of this period, which had lingering effects throughout the decade. During the 1930s, many individuals and families faced dire economic hardships, and the impacts were felt globally, affecting numerous countries' economies. Governments and societies were forced to respond with various measures to alleviate the suffering and stimulate economic recovery, leading to significant changes in policy and approach to social welfare. Understanding the specific decade in which the Great Depression occurred is critical, as it provides context for subsequent historical developments, such as the New Deal programs implemented in the United States to combat the effects of the economic collapse. This knowledge highlights the importance of the era in shaping modern economic policies and social systems.

7. Which economic system emphasizes government ownership and control of resources and industries?

A. Capitalism

B. Communism

C. Oligopoly

D. Market Economy

The economic system that emphasizes government ownership and control of resources and industries is communism. In a communist system, the government holds the means of production and distribution, with the goal of achieving a classless society where all members of the community have equal access to resources. This contrasts sharply with capitalism, where private ownership and individual entrepreneurship are key features, allowing for competition and profit motives. Communism aims to eliminate private ownership completely, leading to the state's control over all economic activities. This approach is intended to mitigate social inequalities that arise in systems where individuals can accumulate wealth and power independently. As a result, in a communist economy, the government not only regulates economic activity but also seeks to provide for the needs of all citizens. Conversely, oligopoly refers to a market structure where a few firms dominate an industry, and a market economy is one where prices and production are determined by unrestricted competition among privately owned businesses. Neither of these systems prioritizes government control as commuism does.

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8. What is the study of the entire economy of a nation called?

A. Micro-economics

B. Macro-economics

C. Behavioral economics

D. Comparative economics

The study of the entire economy of a nation is referred to as macro-economics. This discipline focuses on understanding the aggregate outcomes, such as national income, overall growth, inflation, unemployment rates, and how these large-scale economic factors interact. Macro-economics analyzes how actions of different sectors of the economy (households, businesses, and governments) affect overall economic performance and trends. In contrast, micro-economics examines individual economic units, like consumers or firms, and their decision-making processes. Behavioral economics merges psychological insights with economic theory but does not focus on entire economies. Comparative economics, on the other hand, involves analyzing different economic systems or countries to understand their differences and similarities, rather than focusing on the holistic view of a single economy. Therefore, macro-economics is the appropriate term that encompasses the study of a national economy comprehensively.

9. Which constitutional amendment granted women the right to vote?

A. The 15th Amendment

B. The 19th Amendment

C. The 24th Amendment

D. The 26th Amendment

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granted women the right to vote, ensuring that voting rights could not be denied on the basis of sex. Ratified in 1920, this amendment marked a significant milestone in the women's suffrage movement, which sought to secure equal voting rights for women across the country. The amendment's passage was the result of decades of activism and advocacy by women who argued for their right to participate fully in the democratic process. It represented a major step towards gender equality in the legal framework of the United States, enabling women to engage in civic duties and influence legislation. The other amendments mentioned do not address women's suffrage. The 15th Amendment, for instance, aimed to protect the voting rights of African American men, while the 24th Amendment eliminated poll taxes in federal elections, and the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18. Each of these amendments played an important role in expanding voting rights but did not specifically grant women the right to vote, which is why the 19th Amendment is the correct answer.

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10. What is a primary source?

A. A summary of historical events

B. An interpretation of a document

C. An original document or evidence created at the time of study

D. A secondary analysis of past events

A primary source is defined as an original document or evidence that was created during the time period being studied. This includes items such as letters, diaries, photographs, official documents, and artifacts that provide firsthand accounts of historical events. Primary sources are valuable because they offer direct insight into the perspectives and experiences of individuals from the era, allowing researchers and historians to analyze the authenticity and context of the information. The significance of primary sources in historical analysis is that they provide a direct connection to the past, enabling a more accurate understanding of events, cultures, and societies. In contrast, summaries, interpretations, and analyses that come from later sources, while informative, do not represent direct evidence from the period in question. These documents serve more as secondary sources, as they interpret or analyze the original materials rather than present them directly. This distinction is crucial for anyone studying history or social studies, as it highlights the importance of utilizing primary sources for a comprehensive understanding of historical contexts.

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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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