

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY (GSU) POLS 2401 GLOBAL ISSUES EXAM 1 PRACTICE (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 US president negotiated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty?**
 - A. John F. Kennedy
 - B. Ronald Reagan
 - C. Richard Nixon
 - D. George H. W. Bush
- 2. Which organization has been responsible for holding territory in both Iraq and Syria and has inspired attacks in the US and Europe?**
 - A. al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
 - B. Boko Haram
 - C. Hezbollah
 - D. Islamic State
- 3. According to the material, which is cited as a reason for animosity toward the United States?**
 - A. Cultural imperialism
 - B. Economic sanctions
 - C. Immigration policies
 - D. Military intervention
- 4. What did the events in Greece and Turkey reveal about the United States' post–World War II role?**
 - A. It showed that the US could resist Soviet expansion only by isolation.
 - B. It showed that the US could rely on other nations to counter the Soviet threat.
 - C. It suggested that the Soviet Union could be contained through European alliances alone.
 - D. It signaled that the US must act as the primary global power to resist Soviet expansion.
- 5. Which of the following statements about CIA 2016 data is accurate?**
 - A. The United States ranked second in military spending and forty-third in life expectancy
 - B. The United States ranked first in military spending and thirty-third in life expectancy
 - C. The United States ranked second in military spending and thirty-third in life expectancy
 - D. The United States ranked first in military spending and forty-third in life expectancy

- 6. Which event is described as the catalyst for a return to a more traditional focus on military security?**
- A. The 1991 Gulf War
 - B. 9/11/2001
 - C. The 2008 Financial Crisis
 - D. The end of the Cold War
- 7. Which statement best describes the difference between NGOs and IGOs?**
- A. NGOs are formed by governments, while IGOs are independent non-governmental organizations
 - B. IGOs are formed by states to pursue shared goals, while NGOs are non-governmental and operate independently
 - C. IGOs exclusively fund humanitarian aid, NGOs do not engage in humanitarian work
 - D. NGOs and IGOs are identical in structure
- 8. Ricin is an example of which type of weapon?**
- A. Nuclear
 - B. Biological
 - C. Chemical
 - D. Radiological
- 9. Which policy was advocated by the post-9/11 Bush administration?**
- A. Move away from nuclear deterrence based on mutually assured destruction in favor of preemption
 - B. Strengthen nuclear deterrence through modernization of subs
 - C. Return to a solely conventional warfare posture
 - D. Expand nuclear sharing with allies
- 10. Which country is the leading arms selling state in the world?**
- A. China
 - B. United States
 - C. Russia
 - D. United Kingdom

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which US president negotiated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty?

- A. John F. Kennedy
- B. Ronald Reagan
- C. Richard Nixon**
- D. George H. W. Bush

The idea being tested is who led the diplomatic effort to create an arms-control agreement that limits ballistic-missile defenses. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty was negotiated during the Nixon administration as part of Cold War détente with the Soviet Union. It was signed in 1972 and capped how many ABM sites each side could deploy, preserving enough vulnerability to keep deterrence intact while reducing the incentive for an arms race in defenses. This made Nixon the president most closely associated with negotiating the treaty. Kennedy didn't negotiate it, Reagan later pressed for broader missile defense that challenged the treaty, and Bush's era involved other arms-control steps rather than this ABM agreement.

2. Which organization has been responsible for holding territory in both Iraq and Syria and has inspired attacks in the US and Europe?

- A. al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
- B. Boko Haram
- C. Hezbollah
- D. Islamic State**

Holding territory in both Iraq and Syria while also fueling attacks abroad is a pattern most closely associated with Islamic State. At its height the group controlled large swaths of territory in both countries, declaring a caliphate and attempting to govern people, resources, and security across those areas. That real-world governance and territorial reach, combined with extensive propaganda and networks that motivated attacks overseas, led to inspired or coordinated assaults in the United States and Europe. The other groups do not fit this combination. The first operates mainly in Yemen and the surrounding region and hasn't held territory across both Iraq and Syria. The second has conducted violence mostly in Nigeria and surrounding areas. The third is domestically rooted in Lebanon with a significant presence in Syria, but it didn't establish territorial control across Iraq and Syria like ISIS did.

3. According to the material, which is cited as a reason for animosity toward the United States?

- A. Cultural imperialism**
- B. Economic sanctions
- C. Immigration policies
- D. Military intervention

Animosity toward the United States is explained by cultural imperialism—the spread and dominance of American culture, media, and consumer norms that others see as encroaching on their own traditions and ways of life. When U.S. movies, music, brands, and language become the globe, people may feel their local identities and autonomy are being eroded, which can fuel resentment and opposition that go beyond specific policy disagreements. Economic sanctions, immigration policies, or military intervention are different kinds of drivers—they relate to actions or policies rather than the broader cultural influence that shapes perceptions and identity. The material highlights the cultural reach of the United States as a fundamental source of hostility, not just specific policy moves.

4. What did the events in Greece and Turkey reveal about the United States' post–World War II role?

- A. It showed that the US could resist Soviet expansion only by isolation.
- B. It showed that the US could rely on other nations to counter the Soviet threat.
- C. It suggested that the Soviet Union could be contained through European alliances alone.
- D. It signaled that the US must act as the primary global power to resist Soviet expansion.**

Postwar events in Greece and Turkey showed that the United States would take on global leadership to halt Soviet expansion. These crises demonstrated that stopping communism could not be left to isolation or to relying on other countries alone; the United States would lead, committing political and military support to defend free peoples. This mindset underpinned policies like the Truman Doctrine, which pledges aid to nations resisting subjugation, and it extended into broader efforts such as the Marshall Plan and the formation of alliances like NATO. In short, these events signaled that the U.S. would act as the primary global power to resist Soviet expansion.

5. Which of the following statements about CIA 2016 data is accurate?

- A. The United States ranked second in military spending and forty-third in life expectancy
- B. The United States ranked first in military spending and thirty-third in life expectancy
- C. The United States ranked second in military spending and thirty-third in life expectancy
- D. The United States ranked first in military spending and forty-third in life expectancy**

The statement is accurate because, in CIA 2016 data, the United States spends more on military defense than any other country, ranking first in military spending. At the same time, its life expectancy around 78–79 years places it in the mid-to-lower portion of rankings, roughly forty-third among countries. So the pairing of first in military spending with forty-third in life expectancy reflects the actual data for that year. (The other options mix up either the military spending rank or the life expectancy rank, which is why they're not correct.)

6. Which event is described as the catalyst for a return to a more traditional focus on military security?

- A. The 1991 Gulf War
- B. 9/11/2001**
- C. The 2008 Financial Crisis
- D. The end of the Cold War

The main idea here is how big events can shift national security priorities back toward traditional military tools and force. The event that best fits as the catalyst for a renewed emphasis on military security is the September 11, 2001 attacks. They exposed a global, transnational threat from terrorism that required robust military and security responses, not just diplomatic or economic measures. In the wake of 9/11, defenses were strengthened, homeland security apparatus expanded, and military operations were broadened to counterterrorism campaigns and to deter or confront allied networks of extremism. This marked a clear turn back toward hard power and conventional security concerns in many national security policies. By contrast, the end of the Cold War reduced the emphasis on large-scale conventional warfare and shifted priorities for a while toward different threat perceptions. The Gulf War showed rapid military success but did not, on its own, redefine long-term security priorities in the way 9/11 did. The 2008 financial crisis redirected attention and resources toward economic stabilization and domestic resilience rather than signaling a renewed push for traditional military security.

7. Which statement best describes the difference between NGOs and IGOs?

- A. NGOs are formed by governments, while IGOs are independent non-governmental organizations
- B. IGOs are formed by states to pursue shared goals, while NGOs are non-governmental and operate independently**
- C. IGOs exclusively fund humanitarian aid, NGOs do not engage in humanitarian work
- D. NGOs and IGOs are identical in structure

The difference rests on who creates and governs the organization. Intergovernmental organizations are formed by states through formal treaties to pursue shared objectives, and their member bodies are governments. Non-governmental organizations are private, civil-society actors that operate independently of governments, even though they may collaborate with states or IGOs and sometimes receive government funding. This distinction explains why a UN-like body is an IGO, while groups like Amnesty International or the Red Cross are NGOs. The other statements don't fit because NGOs aren't created by governments, humanitarian work isn't exclusive to IGOs, and NGOs and IGOs do not have identical governance structures.

8. Ricin is an example of which type of weapon?

- A. Nuclear
- B. Biological**
- C. Chemical
- D. Radiological

Ricin is a toxin produced by a living organism, the castor bean plant. It harms by blocking protein synthesis, making it extremely dangerous even in small amounts. Because it comes from a biological source and is used to incapacitate or kill through a biological mechanism, it fits the category of a biological weapon rather than a nuclear, chemical, or radiological one. Chemical weapons rely on toxic chemicals designed to cause harm through chemical reactions, while ricin's danger comes from a biological toxin produced by a living organism. So, the best answer is that ricin is a biological weapon.

9. Which policy was advocated by the post-9/11 Bush administration?

- A. Move away from nuclear deterrence based on mutually assured destruction in favor of preemption**
- B. Strengthen nuclear deterrence through modernization of subs
- C. Return to a solely conventional warfare posture
- D. Expand nuclear sharing with allies

The main idea being tested is the shift to preemption as a national security approach after 9/11. The Bush administration argued that threats, especially from weapons of mass destruction, could emerge quickly and that relying solely on deterrence through mutual assured destruction was not enough. Instead, they promoted taking action to prevent threats before they could materialize, even if that meant using force first. This idea became central to the Bush Doctrine, emphasizing preventive/preemptive options and a willingness to act unilaterally if necessary. That's why the stated policy of moving away from MAD toward preemption is the best answer: it captures the move from relying primarily on nuclear deterrence to actively neutralizing threats before they can strike. The other options don't reflect this shift as accurately. Strengthening deterrence through nuclear modernization reinforces MAD rather than moving beyond it; returning to a solely conventional posture ignores the emphasis on preventing WMD threats; expanding nuclear sharing with allies isn't the defining post-9/11 approach the question targets.

10. Which country is the leading arms selling state in the world?

- A. China
- B. United States**
- C. Russia
- D. United Kingdom

The question tests understanding of which country dominates the global arms trade—the country with the largest volume of weapons sold to other states. The United States holds that position because it has a massive and highly developed defense industry, a wide array of advanced weapons and technology, and a long-standing system of foreign military sales and direct commercial defense exports. This combination creates a steady, high-volume stream of arms exports to clients around the world, far surpassing other nations. China and Russia are also major exporters and remain influential in global arms markets, but they do not consistently match the United States in total export value and breadth of sales. The United Kingdom, while a notable arms producer, exports far less overall than the United States. So, the United States is the leading arms selling state in the world.

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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