IB HISTORY HIGHER LEVEL (HL) PRACTICE EXAM (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 did countries agree to in the Kellogg Briand Pact of 1928?

A. To promote economic interests first

B. To avoid the threat of war against one another

C. To form military alliances

D. To establish foreign trade agreements

2. What was a defining characteristic of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia?

A. A violent uprising against communism

B. A peaceful transition away from communism

C. An electoral victory by communist parties

D. A foreign invasion by Western powers

3. Which treaty aimed to address the issues faced by Austria after World War I?

A. Treaty of Versailles

B. Treaty of St. Germain

C. Treaty of Rapallo

D. Treaty of Locarno

4. During which years did the Balance of Power shift significantly, leading to Germany becoming less isolated?

A. 1933-1935

B. 1935-1937

C. 1937-1939

D. 1940-1942

5. What significant ruling came from Plessy vs. Ferguson in 1896?

A. It established the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission

B. It ruled that separation in public facilities was unconstitutional

C. It allowed "separate but equal" segregation

D. It abolished racial segregation in schools

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6. What was the main consequence of the London Conference in 1930?

A. The establishment of military alliances

B. The promotion of naval disarmament

C. The initiation of a naval arms race

D. The introduction of unique military technologies

7. What empire was centered in Constantinople before its dissolution after World War I?

A. Byzantine Empire

B. Ottoman Empire

C. Austro-Hungarian Empire

D. Persian Empire

8. What was a significant consequence of the Balkan Wars on the political landscape of Europe?

A. Strengthened the Austro-Hungarian Empire

B. Increased tensions among European powers

C. Triggered the formation of the League of Nations

D. Reduced territorial disputes in the region

9. Which treaty in 1922 marked an important step forward for Germany and Russia?

A. The Young Plan

B. The Kellogg-Briand Pact

C. The Rapallo Treaty

D. The Treaty of Berlin

10. What was the outcome of the French invasion of Vietnam?

A. Vietnam gained independence immediately

B. Communist rebellion ensued

C. Indochina became a French colony permanently

D. Economic sanctions were imposed by the US

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What did countries agree to in the Kellogg Briand Pact of 1928?

A. To promote economic interests first

B. To avoid the threat of war against one another

C. To form military alliances

D. To establish foreign trade agreements

The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 was an international agreement that signified a commitment among signatory countries to renounce war as a tool for resolving disputes and to pursue peaceful means instead. This pact emerged in the aftermath of World War I, reflecting a widespread desire to prevent another catastrophic conflict. By signing this agreement, the countries aimed to create a diplomatic framework that emphasized peace and cooperation over military confrontation. The essence of the pact lies in its ambitious goal of outlawing war, thus shaping the discourse around international relations in the years following its adoption. While it included commitments to resolve conflicts through negotiation and arbitration, it notably lacked enforcement mechanisms, which ultimately limited its effectiveness. However, the significance of the pact is rooted in the idealistic approach to diplomacy and the collective aspiration of nations to prevent war, making the choice that emphasizes avoiding the threat of war the correct answer.

2. What was a defining characteristic of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia?

A. A violent uprising against communism

B. A peaceful transition away from communism

C. An electoral victory by communist parties

D. A foreign invasion by Western powers

The defining characteristic of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia was its peaceful transition away from communism. Occurring in late 1989, this movement marked a significant shift as citizens engaged in largely non-violent protests against the Communist regime, which had been in power since the end of World War II. The revolution was characterized by mass demonstrations, civic activism, and the involvement of various opposition groups that rallied together to demand political reform and greater freedoms. The effectiveness of this peaceful approach was evident as the authorities did not resort to widespread violence to suppress the movement, leading to a successful outcome. By December 1989, this culminated in the resignation of the Communist Party leaders and the establishment of a democratic government, which highlighted the revolution's unique characteristic of utilizing peaceful means for profound political change. In contrast, violent uprisings typically involve armed conflict and significant bloodshed, which was not the case during the Velvet Revolution. Similarly, the electoral victory of communist parties or foreign interventions do not align with the nature of the events that transpired in Czechoslovakia, reinforcing the peaceful aspect of this important historical moment.

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3. Which treaty aimed to address the issues faced by Austria after World War I?

A. Treaty of Versailles

B. Treaty of St. Germain

C. Treaty of Rapallo

D. Treaty of Locarno

The Treaty of St. Germain, signed in 1919, specifically addressed the issues faced by Austria in the aftermath of World War I. This treaty was a peace agreement between the Allied Powers and the newly established Republic of Austria. Following the war, Austria was significantly affected by the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, leading to the loss of substantial territories and a reduction in population. The Treaty of St. Germain aimed to redefine Austria's boundaries and establish its sovereignty while also imposing restrictions on its military capabilities. It resulted in territorial losses to other nations, including Italy, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, thereby reshaping central Europe's political landscape. This treaty also included clauses related to the protection of minority rights within Austria, which was particularly important given the diverse ethnic composition of the region. Thus, it directly addressed the challenges Austria faced as it navigated its new identity and status after the empire's collapse. In contrast, while the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of Rapallo involved other regions and countries, they did not primarily focus on Austria's specific post-war issues. The Treaty of Locarno further dealt with various European borders and security arrangements in the 1920s, reflecting a

4. During which years did the Balance of Power shift significantly, leading to Germany becoming less isolated?

A. 1933-1935

B. 1935-1937

C. 1937-1939

D. 1940-1942

The period from 1935 to 1937 is significant for the shift in the Balance of Power in Europe, particularly concerning Germany's growing alliances and diminishing isolation. During this time, several critical events occurred that marked a turning point in international relations. One major event was the remilitarization of the Rhineland in March 1936, which directly violated the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Treaties. This bold move showcased Germany's willingness to defy previous peace agreements and began shifting perceptions of German strength among European powers. The absence of substantial opposition to this action from France or Britain encouraged Hitler's regime and contributed to a growing belief within Germany that it could pursue a more aggressive foreign policy without facing immediate repercussions. Additionally, the signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact in 1936 between Germany and Japan further solidified Germany's alliances. This agreement, aimed primarily against the Soviet Union, illustrated a strategic partnership that would serve to enhance Germany's standing in the international arena and reduce its isolation. Furthermore, the German–Italian alliance was strengthened during this period as well, especially following Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and Hitler's support for Mussolini, which led to a more unified front against perceived threats from the Western democracies and the Soviet

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5. What significant ruling came from Plessy vs. Ferguson in 1896?

A. It established the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission

B. It ruled that separation in public facilities was unconstitutional

C. It allowed "separate but equal" segregation

D. It abolished racial segregation in schools

The ruling from Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 established the doctrine of "separate but equal," which legitimized the practice of racial segregation in public facilities across the United States. The Supreme Court held that as long as the separate facilities for the races were considered equal, their separation did not violate the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. This ruling provided a legal justification for racial segregation for many decades, reinforcing the social and legal barriers that prevented African Americans from enjoying the same privileges and rights as white Americans. This case is pivotal in understanding the legal context of race relations in the U.S. and set a precedent that would be challenged in later civil rights cases, most notably Brown v. Board of Education in 1954, which ultimately ruled that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. The influence of Plessy v. Ferguson extended well beyond its immediate context, affecting various aspects of American life, and its legacy continued to shape discussions about equality and civil rights over the following century.

6. What was the main consequence of the London Conference in 1930?

A. The establishment of military alliances

B. The promotion of naval disarmament

C. The initiation of a naval arms race

D. The introduction of unique military technologies

The primary outcome of the London Conference in 1930 was the promotion of naval disarmament. This conference, which involved major naval powers, aimed to address concerns about the naval arms race that had escalated during the years following World War I. At the London Conference, the nations involved sought to limit the construction of large warships, namely battleships and aircraft carriers, in order to prevent potential conflicts arising from an imbalance of naval power. The agreement reached during the conference was significant because it established limits on the displacement of ships, effectively reducing the quantities of naval ships each country could build. This attempt at disarmament was part of broader efforts during the interwar period to establish stability and peace in the post-World War I world, reflected in other treaties and agreements aimed at reducing military capabilities. While military alliances and unique military technologies are important aspects of international relations and military strategy, they were not the focal points of the London Conference. Additionally, the conference did not initiate a naval arms race; rather, it was a concerted effort to curb such practices. Therefore, the promotion of naval disarmament stands out as the key consequence of the London Conference in 1930.

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7. What empire was centered in Constantinople before its dissolution after World War I?

A. Byzantine Empire

B. Ottoman Empire

C. Austro-Hungarian Empire

D. Persian Empire

The Ottoman Empire was centered in Constantinople, which played a crucial role as its capital. Following the conquest of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottomans transformed the city into a flourishing center of administration, culture, and commerce, establishing it as one of the most significant cities in the world of that era. The Ottomans expanded their territories across Southeast Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa, becoming one of the longest-lasting empires in history. The empire continued to exist until the end of World War I, when it faced significant territorial losses and ultimately dissolved in the early 20th century. This dissolution led to the establishment of modern-day Turkey and several other nations that emerged from its former territories. In contrast, the Byzantine Empire, which also had its capital at Constantinople, had already fallen to the Ottomans before World War I. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was a separate entity in Central Europe and did not have Constantinople as a center, while the Persian Empire, primarily based in modern-day Iran, had no direct connection to Constantinople. Therefore, the historical significance and timeline clearly identify the Ottoman Empire as the correct answer.

8. What was a significant consequence of the Balkan Wars on the political landscape of Europe?

A. Strengthened the Austro-Hungarian Empire

B. Increased tensions among European powers

C. Triggered the formation of the League of Nations

D. Reduced territorial disputes in the region

The significant consequence of the Balkan Wars on the political landscape of Europe was an increase in tensions among European powers. The Balkan Wars, which occurred in 1912-1913, were driven by nationalist movements and territorial ambitions among the Balkan states. As these nations sought to expand their territory at the expense of the declining Ottoman Empire, the conflicts drew the attention and involvement of larger European powers, which had their own interests in the region. The outcome of the wars reshaped borders and created a power vacuum in southeastern Europe, leading to heightened rivalries among nations such as Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, as well as prompting concern from Austria-Hungary and Russia. This increased instability created an environment ripe for conflict, as alliances were tested and national ambitions clashed. Ultimately, the rising tensions contributed to the broader conflicts that would erupt in World War I. The other answer choices do not accurately capture the primary impact of the Balkan Wars. While the Austro-Hungarian Empire may have attempted to assert its influence, it was the overall tension among the European powers that fundamentally altered the political landscape. The League of Nations was established after World War I, not as a direct consequence of the Balkan Wars, and rather than reducing territorial disputes,

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9. Which treaty in 1922 marked an important step forward for Germany and Russia?

A. The Young Plan

B. The Kellogg-Briand Pact

C. The Rapallo Treaty

D. The Treaty of Berlin

The Rapallo Treaty, signed in 1922 between Germany and the Soviet Union, is significant as it reestablished diplomatic and economic relations between the two nations that had been severed following World War I. This treaty is pivotal because it allowed Germany to regain some degree of international legitimacy and autonomy after the punitive measures imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. By engaging with the Soviet Union, Germany not only circumvented the isolation imposed by Western powers but also facilitated military and economic cooperation that would later bear fruit in the interwar years. This included secret military collaborations that were crucial for Germany's rearmament in violation of the Versailles Treaty. The Rapallo Treaty thus represented a strategic alliance that helped both countries in their attempts to challenge the prevailing post-WWI order in Europe.

10. What was the outcome of the French invasion of Vietnam?

A. Vietnam gained independence immediately

B. Communist rebellion ensued

C. Indochina became a French colony permanently

D. Economic sanctions were imposed by the US

The outcome of the French invasion of Vietnam, particularly in the context of the First Indochina War, was significantly characterized by the rise of a communist rebellion. The initial goal of the French was to reestablish control over Vietnam after World War II, but the invasion and subsequent colonial repression sparked widespread resistance among the Vietnamese population, leading to the formation of the Viet Minh, a communist-led nationalist movement. The Viet Minh, under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, organized a systematic campaign against French colonial rule, culminating in the significant battles that characterized this period, most notably the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954. This communist rebellion ultimately laid the groundwork for the escalation of conflict, which would lead to further uprisings and eventually the Vietnam War. The call for independence, fueled by the Viet Minh and other nationalists, became a pivotal aspect of Vietnam's struggle, driving the country's trajectory toward socialism and its fight against foreign intervention. The careful organization and political rallying of the communist forces during the invasion directly influenced the broader movements that followed in Southeast Asia. Thus, the answer highlights the significant implications of the invasion, marking the beginning of a solidified communist resistance that would transform the region.

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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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