TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) HIST105 HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES 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. **Who was a prominent preacher during the Great Awakening known for his dynamic sermons?**

   A. George Whitefield

   B. John Wesley

   C. Jonathan Edwards

   D. Martin Luther

2. **What was a primary resource limitation for tobacco farming mentioned in historical context?**

   A. Lack of skilled labor

   B. Insufficient land

   C. High demand for food crops

   D. Inadequate water supply

3. **Which term describes the English policy that allowed American colonies substantial freedom as long as they were profitable?**

   A. Colonial Neglect

   B. Benign Neglect

   C. Autonomous Governance

   D. Mercantile Independence

4. **What was the major outcome of the Peasant War of 1381?**

   A. Establishment of a new monarchy in Britain

   B. Recognition of peasant rights

   C. It led to further oppression of the peasantry

   D. The creation of new trade routes

5. **Who founded the colony of Connecticut based on the principle that voting should not be tied to church membership?**

   A. Thomas Hooker

   B. Roger Williams

   C. William Penn

   D. John Winthrop

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6. What movement in the 18th century emphasized the use of reason and scientific inquiry?

A. Renaissance

B. Enlightenment

C. Romanticism

D. Industrial Revolution

7. What was the primary purpose of the Massachusetts Bay Company?

A. To spread Catholicism in America

B. To take advantage of economic opportunities

C. To create a military outpost

D. To enforce British laws

8. What was the significance of the Treaty of Versailles?

A. It marked the beginning of World War II

B. It ended World War I and imposed harsh penalties on Germany

C. It established the League of Nations

D. It defined new boundaries of Eastern Europe

9. What term describes urban laborers such as journeymen and small-scale factory workers?

A. Artisans

B. Urban Laborers

C. Workers Union

D. Day Laborers

10. Which term describes the period following the Civil War when the Southern states were reintegrated into the Union?

A. Reconstruction

B. Manifest Destiny

C. The Gilded Age

D. The New Deal

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who was a prominent preacher during the Great Awakening known for his dynamic sermons?

A. George Whitefield

B. John Wesley

C. Jonathan Edwards

D. Martin Luther

The prominent preacher during the Great Awakening known for his dynamic sermons was George Whitefield. He was an English Anglican cleric who played a significant role in the American Great Awakening during the 18th century, famous for his charismatic and passionate preaching style. Whitefield's ability to engage large audiences and his talent for oration helped him gain widespread popularity across the American colonies. His sermons often emphasized personal piety and the individual's relationship with God, which resonated deeply with many people at the time, contributing to the religious revival movement. In contrast, John Wesley was a key figure in the Methodist movement but not primarily associated with the Great Awakening in America, rather he focused on reforming the Church of England. Jonathan Edwards was also a leading preacher of the Great Awakening and is known for his fire-and-brimstone sermons; however, his style was more solemn and intellectual compared to Whitefield's dynamic approach. Martin Luther, on the other hand, was pivotal in the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century and not part of the Great Awakening period. Thus, George Whitefield stands out as the correct answer due to his unique impact and method of preaching during this transformative era in American religious history.

2. What was a primary resource limitation for tobacco farming mentioned in historical context?

A. Lack of skilled labor

B. Insufficient land

C. High demand for food crops

D. Inadequate water supply

The primary resource limitation for tobacco farming that is accurately identified relates to the lack of skilled labor. During the early periods of tobacco cultivation, particularly in the 17th century, the labor-intensive nature of tobacco farming necessitated a workforce that was not only large but also skilled in the specific agricultural techniques required for successful tobacco production. Enslaved Africans were often brought to meet this demand as skilled laborers, as the existing population of indentured servants was insufficient to sustain the high labor needs associated with tobacco farming. The other options present limitations for agricultural practices but do not specifically address the unique challenges faced by tobacco farmers. Insufficient land might affect all types of farming, but tobacco cultivation was often pursued in regions that could support it, especially in the Chesapeake region. High demand for food crops does not relate directly to the challenges of cultivating tobacco, as it signifies different agricultural priorities. Lastly, inadequate water supply could impact any farming venture, but for tobacco, the critical issue was more about the labor necessary to work the fields effectively.

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3. Which term describes the English policy that allowed American colonies substantial freedom as long as they were profitable?

A. Colonial Neglect

B. Benign Neglect

C. Autonomous Governance

D. Mercantile Independence

The term that best describes the English policy granting American colonies substantial freedom as long as they were generating profit is "Benign Neglect." This policy was characterized by a relatively hands-off approach from the British government, allowing the colonies to operate with a degree of autonomy in their internal affairs while still ensuring that economic benefits flowed back to England. During the early to mid-18th century, British authorities were primarily focused on generating revenue from the colonies without overly interfering in their local governance and economic activities. This environment encouraged the growth of colonial self-governance, enabled local political structures to develop, and fostered a sense of independence among colonists. Colonial Neglect is often used interchangeably but leans more towards the idea of British disregard for colonial administration, which might imply a lack of oversight rather than a mutual benefit arrangement. Autonomous Governance suggests a complete independence and control that did not truly reflect the relationship between the colonies and Britain. Mercantile Independence implies a level of economic independence that was not present, as colonies were still expected to operate within the mercantile system favoring the British economy. Thus, "Benign Neglect" accurately captures the essence of the relationship, emphasizing the balance between freedom and profitability in the eyes of the

4. What was the major outcome of the Peasant War of 1381?

A. Establishment of a new monarchy in Britain

B. Recognition of peasant rights

C. It led to further oppression of the peasantry

D. The creation of new trade routes

The major outcome of the Peasant War of 1381 was indeed the further oppression of the peasantry. This uprising, fueled by grievances over heavy taxation and feudal obligations, highlighted the tensions between the lower classes and the ruling elite. Although the revolt initially gained some momentum and drew attention to the harsh realities faced by peasants, it was ultimately suppressed by the government. The brutal response to the uprising not only crushed the immediate rebellion but also resulted in a tightening of the social and economic restrictions placed on peasants. In the aftermath, landowners and authorities became more determined to maintain control and prevent any future insurrections, leading to an intensified oppression of the peasantry and a reaffirmation of the feudal system. This period solidified the status quo and demonstrated that any attempts at widespread reform would be met with significant resistance from the ruling classes.

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5. Who founded the colony of Connecticut based on the principle that voting should not be tied to church membership?

A. Thomas Hooker

B. Roger Williams

C. William Penn

D. John Winthrop

The founding of the colony of Connecticut is primarily attributed to Thomas Hooker, a Puritan minister who advocated for broader voting rights that were not dependent on church membership. In the 1630s, Hooker led a group of followers from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the Connecticut River Valley with the vision of establishing a community based on democratic principles. His belief in a government based on the consent of the governed challenged the prevailing notion at the time, which typically linked political rights closely with church affiliation. Hooker's ideas were instrumental in shaping the Fundamental Orders of 1638-1639, which laid the groundwork for a representative government in Connecticut and established a framework that allowed for greater inclusivity in the political process. This marked a significant shift towards a more democratic society in the New World, distinguishing Connecticut from other colonies where voting was often restricted to church members. While other figures, such as Roger Williams, also championed religious freedom and the separation of church and state, his efforts were primarily focused in Rhode Island, and he was not directly involved in the founding of Connecticut. William Penn is associated with Pennsylvania and his Quaker principles, and John Winthrop is primarily recognized for his leadership in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In this context, Thomas Hook

6. What movement in the 18th century emphasized the use of reason and scientific inquiry?

A. Renaissance

B. Enlightenment

C. Romanticism

D. Industrial Revolution

The movement that emphasized the use of reason and scientific inquiry in the 18th century is the Enlightenment. This intellectual and philosophical movement laid the groundwork for modern science, political theory, and ethics by advocating for reason as the primary source of authority and legitimacy. During the Enlightenment, thinkers such as John Locke, Voltaire, and Immanuel Kant challenged traditional beliefs and proposed ideas centered around individualism, liberty, and the social contract, highlighting the importance of an empirical approach to understanding both the natural world and human behavior. While the Renaissance contributed significantly to the revival of classical thought and laid the groundwork for subsequent movements, its focus was more on art, literature, and the rediscovery of classical antiquity rather than explicitly emphasizing reason and scientific inquiry. Romanticism, which emerged later in the 18th century and into the 19th century, centered on emotion, nature, and individualism as a reaction against the rationalism of the Enlightenment. The Industrial Revolution, while a significant period of technological advancement and economic change, occurred partly as a result of Enlightenment ideas but is not a philosophical movement in itself. Thus, the Enlightenment stands out as the correct answer, as it was integral to the promotion of reason and scientific thought during the

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7. What was the primary purpose of the Massachusetts Bay Company?

A. To spread Catholicism in America

B. To take advantage of economic opportunities

C. To create a military outpost

D. To enforce British laws

The Massachusetts Bay Company was primarily established to take advantage of economic opportunities, particularly in the context of the 17th-century New England colonies. The company was founded in 1628 by a group of Puritans who were seeking to escape the political and religious climate in England. While the religious motivations of the founders were significant, they also saw the potential for economic prosperity through agriculture, trade, and the natural resources of the New World. The company aimed to create a thriving settlement that would allow its members to establish a new society with economic stability. This focus on economic opportunities was essential in attracting settlers and investment, leading to the successful establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which became one of the most influential colonies in New England. Therefore, while other aspects such as religion did play a role in the establishment of the colony, the primary driving force behind the formation of the Massachusetts Bay Company was indeed the pursuit of economic advantages in a new territory.

8. What was the significance of the Treaty of Versailles?

A. It marked the beginning of World War II

B. It ended World War I and imposed harsh penalties on Germany

C. It established the League of Nations

D. It defined new boundaries of Eastern Europe

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, was significant primarily because it officially ended World War I, which had a profound impact on the geopolitical landscape of the world. The treaty imposed stringent penalties and reparations on Germany, holding it responsible for the war and requiring significant territorial concessions. This had long-lasting implications for Germany, leading to economic difficulties and political instability in the country, which would later contribute to the conditions that heralded World War II. Additionally, while the treaty did establish the League of Nations — an international organization aimed at promoting peace and cooperation — this was not its only significance. The League ultimately failed to prevent future conflicts, illustrating the treaty's limitations. The new boundaries drawn in Eastern Europe as a result of the treaty changed the political map but were a secondary consequence of the treaty's primary aim to address the aftermath of World War I and Germany's role in it. Thus, the essence of the Treaty of Versailles lies in its function as a peace settlement that reshaped Europe and set the stage for future global tensions.

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9. What term describes urban laborers such as journeymen and small-scale factory workers?

A. Artisans

B. Urban Laborers

C. Workers Union

D. Day Laborers

The term that best describes urban laborers such as journeymen and small-scale factory workers is "Urban Laborers." This term encompasses individuals who worked in various capacities within cities, often engaged in skilled trades or manual labor. Urban laborers typically included a wide range of occupations, reflecting the diverse nature of work in rapidly industrializing urban centers during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Journeymen, for instance, were skilled workers who had completed their apprenticeship and were working in their trades, while small-scale factory workers often took on roles in burgeoning industrial establishments. Collectively, these individuals contributed significantly to the economic development of urban areas, adapting to the demands of a changing labor market. Options like "Artisans" specifically refer to skilled craftsmen, which, while related, do not encompass the broader category of all urban laborers, particularly those in manufacturing roles. "Workers Union" refers to organized groups advocating for workers' rights, and while relevant to labor movements, it does not describe the workers themselves. "Day Laborers" typically refers to individuals who work casually or on a short-term basis, which does not necessarily align with the more permanent or skilled roles occupied by journeymen and factory workers.

10. Which term describes the period following the Civil War when the Southern states were reintegrated into the Union?

A. Reconstruction

B. Manifest Destiny

C. The Gilded Age

D. The New Deal

Reconstruction is the term that describes the period following the Civil War, which lasted from 1865 to 1877. This era was marked by significant efforts to reintegrate the Southern states into the Union and address the issues that arose from the Civil War, especially concerning the status and rights of newly freed African Americans. During Reconstruction, the federal government implemented various measures such as the Reconstruction Amendments (the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments), which aimed to abolish slavery, establish citizenship rights for former slaves, and protect their right to vote. The period also saw significant changes in Southern economies and societies, including the establishment of schools, changes in land ownership, and the political involvement of African Americans. In contrast, the other terms refer to different historical contexts. Manifest Destiny refers to the 19th-century doctrine that justified American territorial expansion across North America. The Gilded Age describes a period of rapid economic growth and industrialization in the late 19th century, while The New Deal pertains to the series of programs and policies introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the Great Depression during the 1930s. Each of these terms represents distinctly different events and movements in American history,

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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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