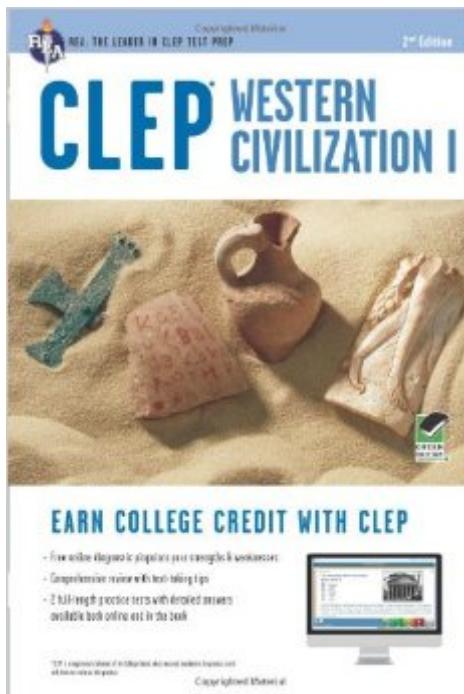


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Book Information

Series: CLEP Test Preparation

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Research & Education Association; 2 edition (December 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738610488

ISBN-13: 978-0738610481

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 1.1 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #60,145 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Materials & Material Science > Testing #14 inÂ Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > CLEP #33 inÂ Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Greece

Customer Reviews

Only used this book to study and passed Western Civ I CLEP in Dec. 2014 with 56 (need min. 50). Read everything and did 1 practice exam only. No prior knowledge on the subject at all, everything in the book was new to me. I think it is imperative to look at a map of Europe while studying. Made things easier to understand and retain. Know what Europe currently looks like, ie. where Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Czech Republic, England/UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Egypt, & countries around Lebanon are. Also helps to know some key bodies of water - Mediterranean, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea, Aegean Sea, North Sea. ALSO what Europe looked like back then, ie. where Mesopotamia was, Anatolia, Balkans. Also what the Roman Empire covered, what the Muslims covered when they took over, major stuff like that you should have a visual representation about. Took 2-3 weeks prep excluding weekends and reading a few hours a day. Actual CLEP test felt noticeably harder and there appears to be a shift in focus between the material in the book and the actual test. However the breakdown of subject area weight still seemed accurate according to the book. The middle ages had the most questions, followed by ancient Greece, ancient Rome, the renaissance, & early modern Europe having around the same amount of questions. Slightly less questions being asked about the early near east. Remember key dates and people, and form a timeline of events/people in your head. While the book is overall chronological, dates do jump around within ea. chapter because it organizes by topic. You won't be asked what happened in year X but it's good to have a general idea of what was when to help eliminate answer choices. Also this seems like the logical approach to history. Tip: 1200 - 1300 c.e. = 13th century. Book starts at a few thousand years b.c.e. and works its way to 1000 c.e. and eventually the 1600s.

I read this book as my primary resource and did a good deal of preparation for the test. I missed the passing score by 2 points. I've successfully tested out of Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Marketing, Management and Business Law. I also have a strong GPA and generally test really well.

While the test was certainly challenging, I really didn't feel like this book did too great of a job in preparing me overall. I found myself reviewing a great deal of material that was not on my test while I was scratching my head at plenty of questions that I didn't recall being covered. The photos identifying various types of art and architecture weren't useful at all and the maps weren't even close to what I encountered on the test. Additionally, I found numerous typos and that just strikes me as sloppy and unprofessional. Chapter summaries, better organization, better proofreading, a glossary and more relevant graphics would have been helpful.

I don't know yet if it will help me pass my exam, but I just wanted to say that this book does not "include" two online practice tests. It includes a code that will allow you to log in and purchase online practice tests for two dollars. It says right on the cover that the book includes these things, and that is an outright lie. I don't see how they can be allowed to advertise that.

Of several study guides I purchased to prepare myself for the Western Civ. I CLEP exam, this was undoubtedly the best. It is condensed and to the point, but still gives you all the facts and details you need to thoroughly prepare yourself for the exam. It is also well-organized, so that the sections and chapters build on each other and make it easier to absorb all the information you're given (some guides jump around chronologically and geographically so that it's hard to keep everything straight, and there's no "flow"). I found a few minor typographical errors, but not enough for me to drop the review to four stars. I give complete credit to this book (and the included online practice tests) for the excellent score I got on my CLEP exam. The online test is exactly the same as the real thing in order to prepare you for the computer format of the exam, and has the additional benefits of breaking down which "areas" (i.e. ancient Greece, Renaissance, etc.) you are strong or weak in and providing detailed explanations of all the answers. The book itself covers all the necessary information to pass, if not ace, the exam -- after studying the book and taking the online tests (1 diagnostic "pre-test" and 2 full-length practice tests), I actually felt that the real CLEP exam was easier than the intense studying and practicing I went through. This is just based on my individual experience, but in my opinion, if you study this guide and can pass the provided practice tests, you'll do GREAT on the CLEP exam!

Third time's a charm... I didn't find this book all that helpful on its own. If you do use it, be sure to also supplement with You Tube videos of John Green and other resources. This is the toughest test I've taken yet and it's hard to know what they'll focus on. Best to cover all your bases.

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