

A Level Sociology OCR Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	6
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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

- 1. What does the term "deviance" refer to according to social constructivist views?**
 - A. Actions that are inherently wrong**
 - B. Behaviors that violate societal rules**
 - C. Behaviors defined in opposition to social expectations**
 - D. Acts that are punishable by law**
- 2. Which movement is an example of digital feminism that gained attention online?**
 - A. #TimesUp**
 - B. #MeToo**
 - C. #BlackLivesMatter**
 - D. #EqualityNow**
- 3. In a matrilineal family, where does the husband typically reside?**
 - A. In his parents' house**
 - B. In a separate house**
 - C. In the wife's house**
 - D. In a communal living space**
- 4. Systematic sampling involves what selection method?**
 - A. Irregular selection of participants**
 - B. Selection of every nth unit from the population**
 - C. Selection based on researcher's discretion**
 - D. Random selection without replacement**
- 5. What does a decrease in the percentage of the population under 16 indicate?**
 - A. A growing youth population**
 - B. An aging population**
 - C. Stabilizing birth rates**
 - D. A higher immigration rate**

- 6. What is a common criticism of radical feminism?**
- A. It overly emphasizes emotional connections**
 - B. It ignores progress made in women's rights**
 - C. It focuses solely on the workplace**
 - D. It advocates for men's rights**
- 7. What is a subculture?**
- A. A group that adopts mainstream values**
 - B. A dominant cultural framework within society**
 - C. A smaller group within society with a unique identity**
 - D. An obsolete cultural category**
- 8. What does Cixous (1981) emphasize regarding language in society?**
- A. Gender-neutral terminology**
 - B. Phallogentric language related to masculinity and femininity**
 - C. The equality of linguistic representation**
 - D. Descriptive language of societal norms**
- 9. Which concept describes the process of cultural change when a group is transplanted into another culture?**
- A. Cultural Defence**
 - B. Cultural Transition**
 - C. Digital Adaptation**
 - D. Media Evolution**
- 10. What aspect did Vincent et al. (2007) focus on concerning mothers?**
- A. Social status effects on parenting**
 - B. The evolution of motherhood**
 - C. Choices of childcare for preschool children**
 - D. The impact of technology on parenting**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the term "deviance" refer to according to social constructivist views?

- A. Actions that are inherently wrong**
- B. Behaviors that violate societal rules**
- C. Behaviors defined in opposition to social expectations**
- D. Acts that are punishable by law**

The term "deviance" in social constructivist views refers to behaviors that are defined in opposition to social expectations. This perspective emphasizes that deviance is not an inherent quality of an action but is rather constructed through social processes and interactions. What is considered deviant varies significantly between different cultures and historical periods, highlighting that societal norms and values shape our understanding of what constitutes deviant behavior. This view suggests that it is the social context and the responses to certain behaviors that ultimately classify them as deviant. In contrast, other definitions, such as actions being inherently wrong or punishable by law, imply a more absolute or legalistic understanding of deviance, which does not align with the social constructivist perspective. For instance, behaviors that violate societal rules can be seen as deviant, but without the context of social expectations and collective agreements about what those rules are, their deviance may not be recognized universally. Thus, the social constructivist approach frames deviance as a fluid and culturally contingent concept.

2. Which movement is an example of digital feminism that gained attention online?

- A. #TimesUp**
- B. #MeToo**
- C. #BlackLivesMatter**
- D. #EqualityNow**

The #MeToo movement serves as a prominent example of digital feminism that gained significant traction online. It began as a social media campaign aimed at raising awareness about the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault, particularly in the workplace. The movement encouraged individuals, especially women, to share their experiences, thus fostering a sense of solidarity among survivors and amplifying their voices in a way that traditional media often overlooks. The power of #MeToo lies in its ability to create an expansive network of shared experiences, utilizing platforms like Twitter and Facebook, which enabled swift dissemination of messages and stories. This digital aspect made it possible for the movement to transcend geographical boundaries and engage a global audience, bringing attention to issues of gender-based violence in various contexts. While other options, such as #TimesUp, also address gender-related issues, they emerged as a response to the #MeToo movement rather than being the initial movement that established the groundwork for digital feminist activism. #BlackLivesMatter and #EqualityNow focus on different aspects of social justice and equality, making them important movements in their own right, but not specifically categorized under digital feminism in the same way as #MeToo.

3. In a matrilocal family, where does the husband typically reside?

- A. In his parents' house**
- B. In a separate house**
- C. In the wife's house**
- D. In a communal living space**

In a matrilocal family, the husband typically resides in the wife's house. This family structure is centered around the wife's family and home, signifying a social system where a married couple lives near or with the wife's relatives. This arrangement often reflects the cultural norms and values of societies that emphasize matrilineal inheritance and the importance of women's roles in the family structure. In contrast, other options do not accurately represent the characteristics of a matrilocal family arrangement. For example, residing in his parents' house reflects a patrilocal system, while living in a separate house implies a more independent structure that is also inconsistent with matrilocal practices. Communal living spaces, though they may exist in various cultural contexts, do not specifically denote the matrilocal arrangement that is defined by the couple living in proximity to the wife's family.

4. Systematic sampling involves what selection method?

- A. Irregular selection of participants**
- B. Selection of every nth unit from the population**
- C. Selection based on researcher's discretion**
- D. Random selection without replacement**

Systematic sampling is characterized by selecting participants at regular intervals from a larger population. The method involves determining a sampling interval (often denoted as "n") based on the desired sample size and the total population size. Once the interval is established, every nth unit is chosen until the required sample size is reached. This structured approach ensures that the selection process is consistent and can help mitigate potential bias that might arise with more arbitrary methods. In contrast, the other options describe different sampling methods or strategies that do not align with the principles of systematic sampling. Irregular selection would imply a lack of consistency, which contradicts the systematic approach. Selection based on the researcher's discretion introduces potential bias and subjectivity, making it less systematic. Random selection without replacement does not emphasize the consistent interval aspect of systematic sampling, as it typically involves selecting units randomly from a population without the interval structure. Thus, the correct answer reflects the foundational concept of systematic sampling.

5. What does a decrease in the percentage of the population under 16 indicate?

- A. A growing youth population**
- B. An aging population**
- C. Stabilizing birth rates**
- D. A higher immigration rate**

A decrease in the percentage of the population under 16 signifies an aging population. This indicates that there is a larger proportion of older individuals compared to younger individuals in society. As the birth rate declines over time, fewer children are born, which naturally leads to a decrease in the percentage of those under 16. This shift often reflects broader demographic trends such as increased life expectancy and lower fertility rates, which mean that the median age of the population increases as fewer young people are born. In contrast, the other options do not fit this demographic change as closely. A growing youth population would imply an increase in numbers under 16, stabilizing birth rates would not typically lead to a decrease in this percentage, and a higher immigration rate could lead to an increase in the youth population if those immigrants are younger families or individuals. Therefore, the phenomenon of a decreasing percentage of the population under 16 is best understood within the context of an aging demographic.

6. What is a common criticism of radical feminism?

- A. It overly emphasizes emotional connections**
- B. It ignores progress made in women's rights**
- C. It focuses solely on the workplace**
- D. It advocates for men's rights**

The criticism that radical feminism ignores the progress made in women's rights is grounded in the perception that radical feminists often focus on systemic oppression and patriarchal structures without adequately acknowledging the advancements and achievements that have been made in the pursuit of gender equality. This perspective suggests that by concentrating predominantly on the negatives, such as violence against women and institutional sexism, radical feminism may overlook positive developments, such as legal reforms, increased representation of women in various sectors, and shifts in societal attitudes towards gender roles. This viewpoint resonates with some who argue that acknowledging progress is crucial for building upon existing gains and encouraging further advancements. Critics may believe that a more balanced understanding that incorporates both the ongoing struggles and the milestones achieved would lead to a more constructive dialogue and strategy towards achieving gender equality. The other options listed do not represent widely acknowledged criticisms of radical feminism. In particular, the notion that radical feminism focuses solely on the workplace is misleading, as radical feminist discourse encompasses a broad range of societal issues, including sexuality, family structures, and cultural norms. Similarly, suggesting that radical feminism advocates for men's rights fundamentally misinterprets its core principles, which center on the belief that patriarchy disenfranchises women rather than extending its advocacy towards men's rights. Lastly, the critique

7. What is a subculture?

- A. A group that adopts mainstream values
- B. A dominant cultural framework within society
- C. A smaller group within society with a unique identity**
- D. An obsolete cultural category

A subculture refers to a distinct group within a larger culture that possesses its own unique values, norms, behaviors, and beliefs that differentiate it from the mainstream. This smaller group may develop its own identity, often in response to social, economic, or political factors that influence their collective experience. For instance, subcultures can emerge around shared interests such as music (e.g., punk, goth), lifestyle choices, or social movements. These groups often express their identity in various ways, including fashion, language, and rituals, which can sometimes stand in contrast to the prevailing cultural norms of the larger society. Recognizing subcultures is vital to understanding the diversity and complexity of societal structures as they provide insight into how different groups navigate their identities within a broader cultural landscape. The other options do not accurately capture the essence of what a subculture represents. A group that adopts mainstream values would not be classified as a subculture, as it lacks the distinctiveness that defines subcultural groups. A dominant cultural framework is related to the prevailing or mainstream culture itself, rather than a subgroup within it. Describing a subculture as an obsolete cultural category misrepresents its dynamic and evolving nature, as subcultures can continuously change and adapt,

8. What does Cixous (1981) emphasize regarding language in society?

- A. Gender-neutral terminology
- B. Phallogentric language related to masculinity and femininity**
- C. The equality of linguistic representation
- D. Descriptive language of societal norms

Cixous emphasizes the concept of phallogentric language, which refers to how language often reflects and reinforces a masculine perspective, marginalizing feminine viewpoints and voices. She critiques the dominant ways in which language is structured, which tends to favor male experiences and perspectives, ultimately leading to a representation of women that is shaped by patriarchal norms. Cixous argues that this form of language constructs societal understandings of gender and identity, and that it limits the ability of women to express themselves fully and freely. By challenging the phallogentric nature of language, Cixous advocates for alternative modes of writing and expression that recognize and celebrate women's experiences. This highlights her broader feminist project to create a space for diverse voices in literature and society at large.

9. Which concept describes the process of cultural change when a group is transplanted into another culture?

A. Cultural Defence

B. Cultural Transition

C. Digital Adaptation

D. Media Evolution

The concept that describes the process of cultural change when a group is transplanted into another culture is cultural transition. This term encapsulates the idea that as individuals or groups move from one cultural setting to another, they undergo a transformation in their cultural practices, beliefs, and norms. This transition often involves a complex interplay of assimilation, adaptation, and sometimes resistance, where the newcomers may blend their original cultural elements with those of the host culture, leading to hybrid cultural forms. In contrast, cultural defense refers to actions taken by a group to protect their culture in the face of external pressures. Digital adaptation focuses on how individuals or societies adjust to new digital technologies. Media evolution pertains to the changes in media forms and content over time, influenced by technological advancements and societal shifts. These concepts do not specifically address the notion of cultural change resulting from the relocation of a group into a different cultural context.

10. What aspect did Vincent et al. (2007) focus on concerning mothers?

A. Social status effects on parenting

B. The evolution of motherhood

C. Choices of childcare for preschool children

D. The impact of technology on parenting

Vincent et al. (2007) explored the choices that mothers make regarding childcare for preschool children, emphasizing how various factors influence these decisions. Their research highlighted the complexities surrounding childcare options, underscoring the role of socio-economic status, cultural expectations, and personal preferences. This focus is significant because it reveals how mothers navigate the interplay of available resources and societal pressures when selecting childcare solutions. By analyzing choices, Vincent et al. shed light on how these decisions affect children's development and familial dynamics, providing a nuanced understanding of modern motherhood. Understanding the emphasis on childcare choices allows for deeper insights into contemporary parenting challenges and the factors shaping those choices, making it a vital aspect of study in sociology concerning mothers.

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:

<https://alevelsociologyocr.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!