

AICE Sociology Paper 2 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 class of families was primarily characterized as nuclear due to the importance and cost of education?**
 - A. Working class**
 - B. Middle class**
 - C. Upper class**
 - D. Lower class**

- 2. How do Marxists view the relationship between families and the state?**
 - A. As separate institutions with no influence on each other**
 - B. As advantageous for both workers and employers**
 - C. As a balance of power between parents and government**
 - D. As detrimental to the concept of marriage**

- 3. What do shared households consist of?**
 - A. A family unit with kinship ties**
 - B. A couple without children**
 - C. A group of unrelated people living together**
 - D. A single-family residence**

- 4. What is the primary focus of sociology as a discipline?**
 - A. The study of economic systems**
 - B. The study of society, social behavior, and social institutions**
 - C. The study of historical events and their impact**
 - D. The study of individual psychology**

- 5. Which sociologist found little evidence supporting the idea that family members would take care of elderly relatives?**
 - A. Carlin**
 - B. Finch**
 - C. Laslett**
 - D. Anderson**

6. What distinguishes values from norms in sociology?

- A. Values are temporary; norms are permanent**
- B. Values are economic beliefs; norms are social rules**
- C. Values are deeply held beliefs; norms are specific rules**
- D. Values apply only to certain groups; norms are universal**

7. How is 'deviance' best described?

- A. Behavior that adheres to social norms**
- B. Behavior that violates social norms or expectations**
- C. Behavior that is universally accepted**
- D. Behavior that is random and unpredictable**

8. Which of the following best describes a potential limitation of qualitative research?

- A. It can provide statistical generalizations**
- B. It often lacks replicability**
- C. It is always objective**
- D. It focuses only on social structures**

9. How do parents subconsciously treat their children differently?

- A. Depending on academic performance**
- B. In terms of toys and media**
- C. Based on their friendships**
- D. According to family traditions**

10. What does 'intracultural conflict' refer to?

- A. Disputes between different cultural groups**
- B. Tensions within a cultural group due to differing beliefs or values**
- C. Conflicts arising due to lack of integration in society**
- D. An agreement on shared values among different cultures**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which class of families was primarily characterized as nuclear due to the importance and cost of education?

- A. Working class**
- B. Middle class**
- C. Upper class**
- D. Lower class**

The middle class is primarily characterized as nuclear due to the importance and cost of education because they often prioritize educational attainment as a means to maintain or enhance their social position and economic status. In middle-class families, the nuclear family structure—typically consisting of two parents and their children—is more common as it allows for better resource allocation, both in terms of time and financial investment, towards children's education. Education is seen as a critical factor for social mobility and stability in middle-class families, who may invest significantly in their children's schooling, extracurricular activities, and higher education. This investment reflects their values and the societal expectation that education is essential for success and maintaining their middle-class status. In contrast, other classes may have differing structures or emphasis on education. For instance, working-class families may value education but often face financial constraints that affect their ability to prioritize education in the same way. Lower class families might focus more on immediate economic survival than on long-term educational aspirations. Hence, the middle class stands out for its strong association with the nuclear family and the significant emphasis placed on education.

2. How do Marxists view the relationship between families and the state?

- A. As separate institutions with no influence on each other**
- B. As advantageous for both workers and employers**
- C. As a balance of power between parents and government**
- D. As detrimental to the concept of marriage**

Marxists interpret the relationship between families and the state through the lens of class struggle and economic power dynamics. They argue that families serve a significant function in maintaining the capitalist system by reinforcing patriarchal and class structures. From this perspective, families are not independent entities; instead, they play an integral role in upholding state interests that align with those of the ruling class. According to Marxism, the state acts to protect the interests of the bourgeoisie, and families are seen as a mechanism for perpetuating social inequality. The family structure fosters loyalty to the capitalist system by socializing children into the ideologies that support capitalism, thereby benefiting both the state and employers in terms of producing compliant workers. The notion of private property, which is central to capitalism, is also reinforced within the family unit, where inheritance and domestic roles often reflect and preserve class distinctions. Therefore, the view that the relationship between families and the state is advantageous for both workers and employers aligns closely with Marxist theory, emphasizing how family structures can perpetuate existing power dynamics rather than suggesting any harm to the institution of marriage or a balance of power that empowers parents against the government.

3. What do shared households consist of?

- A. A family unit with kinship ties
- B. A couple without children
- C. A group of unrelated people living together**
- D. A single-family residence

Shared households primarily consist of a group of unrelated people living together. This arrangement often arises in urban settings where individuals may share rent or other living expenses, thus creating a household that does not rely on traditional family structures. Such households can include roommates, cohabitators, or even collective living arrangements that are built around shared interests or goals, rather than family or kinship ties. This definition highlights the dynamics of modern living arrangements, reflecting changing social norms and economic circumstances where individuals might prioritize affordability and companionship over conventional family forms. In contrast, the other options encompass familial structures or specific couple arrangements that do not align with the concept of "shared households" as typically understood in sociological contexts.

4. What is the primary focus of sociology as a discipline?

- A. The study of economic systems
- B. The study of society, social behavior, and social institutions**
- C. The study of historical events and their impact
- D. The study of individual psychology

The primary focus of sociology as a discipline is indeed centered around the study of society, social behavior, and social institutions. Sociology seeks to understand how individuals interact within society, how social structures develop, and how these structures influence social behavior. This includes examining a wide range of topics, such as family dynamics, education, religion, and social stratification. Sociologists analyze the patterns of behavior within groups, the organization of communities, and the ways in which cultural norms shape societal expectations. This broad approach allows sociologists to investigate complex social phenomena and understand the underlying social forces that impact human behavior. The other options, while important areas of study, do not encapsulate the core focus of sociology. The study of economic systems is more aligned with economics, the study of historical events pertains to history, and the study of individual psychology falls under the field of psychology. Each of these disciplines may intersect with sociology at times, but sociology's unique contribution lies in its emphasis on group behavior and the societal context of interactions.

5. Which sociologist found little evidence supporting the idea that family members would take care of elderly relatives?

- A. Carlin**
- B. Finch**
- C. Laslett**
- D. Anderson**

Finch is recognized for her research highlighting the complexities and challenges surrounding family caregiving, particularly in relation to elderly relatives. She argues that there is often an expectation for family members to take care of older individuals, but the practical evidence supporting this expectation is limited. In her work, Finch examined how relationships within families can be influenced by various factors, including social norms, financial constraints, and the changing structure of families over time. She found that while many people may feel a sense of obligation to care for their elderly relatives, actual caregiving can be affected by personal circumstances, such as distance, availability, and support systems outside of the family. Her findings challenge the traditional notion that families are the primary support system for the elderly, suggesting instead that responsibilities might be distributed differently due to modern societal changes. This perspective provides insight into the dynamics of family roles and the realities of elder care in contemporary society.

6. What distinguishes values from norms in sociology?

- A. Values are temporary; norms are permanent**
- B. Values are economic beliefs; norms are social rules**
- C. Values are deeply held beliefs; norms are specific rules**
- D. Values apply only to certain groups; norms are universal**

Values are defined as deeply held beliefs that guide individuals' behavior and judgments within a society. They reflect what is considered important, desirable, or worthwhile in a culture, such as justice, freedom, and equality. These values underpin the ideals that a society aspires to and can be shaped by cultural, historical, and social factors. Norms, on the other hand, are specific rules or standards of behavior that dictate how individuals are expected to act in particular situations. They are derived from a society's values and serve as guidelines for appropriate conduct. While norms can vary between different societies, within a specific context, they provide a framework for maintaining social order and cohesion. Therefore, the distinction lies in the fact that values provide the broader guiding principles, while norms specify the particular behaviors that align with those values. Understanding this relationship helps to clarify how societies regulate behavior and the underlying principles that shape those regulations.

7. How is 'deviance' best described?

- A. Behavior that adheres to social norms
- B. Behavior that violates social norms or expectations**
- C. Behavior that is universally accepted
- D. Behavior that is random and unpredictable

Deviance is best described as behavior that violates social norms or expectations. This definition highlights that deviance is not merely about breaking laws or rules, but rather about acting outside of what is typically accepted in a given society or community. Social norms encompass the unwritten rules and expectations regarding behavior, which can vary significantly across different cultures and social groups. By defining deviance in this way, it acknowledges the role that societal context plays in determining what is considered deviant. For instance, behaviors that are seen as deviant in one culture might be perfectly acceptable in another. Thus, understanding deviance involves recognizing the fluctuating nature of social norms and the importance of cultural context in shaping perceptions of acceptable behavior. The other options do not capture the essence of deviance. Describing it as behavior that adheres to social norms misconstrues the very nature of deviance. Likewise, referring to deviance as behavior that is universally accepted overlooks the variability in norms across different societies. Lastly, characterizing deviance as random and unpredictable fails to consider that deviant behaviors typically arise from the rejection or reinterpretation of specific social standards rather than being arbitrary actions.

8. Which of the following best describes a potential limitation of qualitative research?

- A. It can provide statistical generalizations
- B. It often lacks replicability**
- C. It is always objective
- D. It focuses only on social structures

Qualitative research is primarily concerned with understanding the meanings and experiences of individuals, often through in-depth interviews, focus groups, or observational studies. One of the notable limitations of this approach is its lack of replicability. Unlike quantitative research, which typically utilizes standardized instruments that can be consistently applied across different studies, qualitative research is often more subjective and tailored to specific contexts or participants. This means that the same study, if repeated, may yield different results depending on the nuances of the situation, the specific individuals involved, or the interpretation of the researcher. Since qualitative research often relies heavily on the researcher's insights and perspectives, it can lead to variations in findings from one study to another, making it challenging to reproduce results consistently. This attribute limits the ability to generalize findings across broader populations or contexts, which is a fundamental aspect of scientific research aiming for reliability and replicability. The other options do not accurately reflect core characteristics of qualitative research. For instance, qualitative research does not produce statistical generalizations, as it focuses on depth rather than breadth. It is not always objective, as subjective interpretations play a significant role in the analysis process. Lastly, while qualitative research can examine social structures, it is not limited to this aspect; it encompasses a wide array of

9. How do parents subconsciously treat their children differently?

- A. Depending on academic performance**
- B. In terms of toys and media**
- C. Based on their friendships**
- D. According to family traditions**

The choice that highlights how parents subconsciously treat their children differently in terms of toys and media reflects a significant aspect of socialization. Parents often have distinct expectations or biases that can lead them to select different types of toys or media for their children based on gender, age, or perceived interests. For instance, a parent may unconsciously provide action figures and trucks for boys while opting for dolls and dresses for girls. This differential treatment can promote traditional gender roles and the development of interests that mirror societal norms. The impact of this differential treatment can be profound. It not only influences the way children perceive themselves and their capabilities but also affects their social and cognitive development. By engaging with specific types of toys and media, children learn to navigate their environment in ways that are often aligned with societal expectations, which can perpetuate stereotypes. While other factors mentioned, such as academic performance, friendships, and family traditions, can influence parenting styles, the immediate and tangible aspects of toys and media create a direct avenue through which parents' subconscious biases manifest in their interactions with their children. This makes the consideration of toys and media a critical lens for understanding the nuances of parental influence and children's development.

10. What does 'intracultural conflict' refer to?

- A. Disputes between different cultural groups**
- B. Tensions within a cultural group due to differing beliefs or values**
- C. Conflicts arising due to lack of integration in society**
- D. An agreement on shared values among different cultures**

Intracultural conflict refers to tensions that occur within a single cultural group as a result of differing beliefs, values, or practices among its members. This type of conflict highlights how individuals within the same culture may disagree on various issues, such as social norms, political beliefs, ethical standards, or lifestyle choices. Understanding intracultural conflict is crucial for analyzing social dynamics and recognizing that even homogeneous groups are not immune to internal disagreements. For instance, a community may face disputes over generational differences in attitudes towards technology or varying interpretations of cultural traditions. This is distinct from disputes between different cultural groups, which is known as intercultural conflict, or conflicts arising from societal integration issues. Additionally, an agreement on shared values among different cultures suggests collaboration rather than conflict and does not align with the concept of intracultural tension. By grasping the nature of intracultural conflict, one can better appreciate the complexities that exist within cultural groups and the factors that contribute to internal discord.

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://aicesociologypaper2.examzify.com>

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

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