

# AQA A Level Sociology Families and the Household Practice Test (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 Labour policy specifically targeted helping lone parent families move from welfare to work?**
  - A. First National Minimum Wage**
  - B. Increase of free childcare and nursery education**
  - C. New Deals to support lone parent families moving from dependence on welfare back into paid employment**
  - D. Child Tax Credits and measures to reduce child poverty**
  
- 2. What is Zaretsky's view of the family in relation to oppression?**
  - A. The family has no political function.**
  - B. The family is the primary site of class conflict.**
  - C. The family is the main engine of capitalist expansion.**
  - D. The family is an escape route from oppression and provides private space for individuals.**
  
- 3. What do foster care and children's homes demonstrate about rearing?**
  - A. Family is always sole rearing agent**
  - B. Government has no role in child care**
  - C. Link between natural parents and rearing can be separated; looked after by foster parents or in children's homes**
  - D. Children cannot be cared for outside the family**
  
- 4. The family unit is often described as which of the following in sociology?**
  - A. The primary economic unit in communities**
  - B. A private matter with little social relevance**
  - C. A political alliance**
  - D. The family unit is described as the cornerstone of society forming the basic unit of social organisation**
  
- 5. Births registered by both parents: what does this suggest about the parents?**
  - A. The couple must be married**
  - B. The couple live apart**
  - C. The couple were cohabiting**
  - D. The joint address indicates the couple were living together**

- 6. Which term refers to marriage to several people at the same time?**
- A. Monogamy**
  - B. Serial Monogamy**
  - C. Polyandry**
  - D. Polygamy**
- 7. Which statement best describes the explanation for problems facing boys in lone-parent households?**
- A. Lack of a male role model in the home leading to inadequate socialization**
  - B. Lack of resources**
  - C. Too much male influence**
  - D. Improved schooling**
- 8. What did Silver (1987) argue about the commercialisation of housework?**
- A. It reduces time spent on housework and enables more equal sharing.**
  - B. It increases time spent on housework.**
  - C. It has no effect on the time spent on housework.**
  - D. It only benefits men.**
- 9. In Bouton's position, who bears the main responsibility for children?**
- A. Fathers**
  - B. Female partners**
  - C. Grandparents**
  - D. Government agencies**
- 10. Which statement best describes the privatised nuclear family?**
- A. A home-centred family with extensive contact with extended kin**
  - B. A home-centred family with little contact with extended kin**
  - C. A family living in a community-living arrangement with neighbours**
  - D. A family that relies on extended kin for support**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which Labour policy specifically targeted helping lone parent families move from welfare to work?**

- A. First National Minimum Wage**
- B. Increase of free childcare and nursery education**
- C. New Deals to support lone parent families moving from dependence on welfare back into paid employment**
- D. Child Tax Credits and measures to reduce child poverty**

Welfare-to-work policies aimed to help people move from benefits into paid employment, addressing barriers that might keep them on welfare. Labour's approach included targeted support for lone parents to overcome these barriers—like help with job searching, training, and crucially, childcare so they can work. The option that explicitly fits this aim is a programme described as New Deals to support lone parent families moving from dependence on welfare back into paid employment. This was designed to reduce welfare dependence by providing tailored assistance to lone parents to secure and sustain work, making the transition more feasible through practical support. The other measures are broader or not specifically focused on moving lone-parent families from welfare to work. The minimum wage sets a wage floor for workers generally; increasing free childcare and nursery education helps many families but isn't framed as a targeted welfare-to-work initiative for lone parents alone; and Child Tax Credits and anti-poverty measures address poverty more broadly without the specific focus on transitioning lone parents into work.

**2. What is Zaretsky's view of the family in relation to oppression?**

- A. The family has no political function.**
- B. The family is the primary site of class conflict.**
- C. The family is the main engine of capitalist expansion.**
- D. The family is an escape route from oppression and provides private space for individuals.**

Zaretsky sees the family as a private sanctuary within a capitalist society. It provides emotional security and a space away from the control and exploitation of the workplace, helping individuals cope with oppression. By offering this private refuge, the family cushions people from the harsher realities of capitalism and supports the social order by reproducing the workforce and teaching accepted norms. That's why describing the family as an escape route from oppression and a private space for individuals best captures his view. The other ideas don't fit because he emphasizes the private, supportive role of the family rather than it being a non-political unit, the main site of class conflict, or the driver of capitalist expansion.

**3. What do foster care and children's homes demonstrate about rearing?**

- A. Family is always sole rearing agent**
- B. Government has no role in child care**
- C. Link between natural parents and rearing can be separated; looked after by foster parents or in children's homes**
- D. Children cannot be cared for outside the family**

The main idea being tested is that child-rearing can be provided by people other than the natural parents, showing that upbringing isn't tied exclusively to the biological family. Foster care and children's homes illustrate that the link between biology and rearing can be separated: children can be looked after and socialized by foster parents or in residential settings, with care provided outside the immediate family. This highlights how the state and other carers can play a crucial role in child care and demonstrates that families are social arrangements among others, not the only possible source of rearing. Because of that, the statement about rearing being confined to the natural family isn't accurate, and it isn't true that the government has no role in child care or that children can't be cared for outside the family.

**4. The family unit is often described as which of the following in sociology?**

- A. The primary economic unit in communities**
- B. A private matter with little social relevance**
- C. A political alliance**
- D. The family unit is described as the cornerstone of society forming the basic unit of social organisation**

The main idea is that the family is a foundational unit of society. In sociology, the family is viewed as the cornerstone of social life because it is where people first learn norms, values, and roles, and where emotional and economic support is provided. It also functions to reproduce and sustain the population, and to integrate individuals into the wider social order. Describing the family as the cornerstone forming the basic unit of social organisation captures its central, long-standing role in shaping individuals and linking them to broader social structures. While families can be involved in economic activity, private life, or even political alliances in some contexts, those aspects don't convey the broad, organizing function the family has within society.

5. Births registered by both parents: what does this suggest about the parents?

- A. The couple must be married
- B. The couple live apart
- C. The couple were cohabiting**
- D. The joint address indicates the couple were living together

Births registered by both parents point to a two-person parenting unit, where both adults are taking joint responsibility for the child. In practice, this usually means the parents are in a relationship and living together as a couple, i.e., they are cohabiting. This is stronger evidence of a two-parent intimate partnership than simply sharing a surname or address, and it does not by itself prove marriage. It also doesn't automatically show that they live apart, since the registration event involves both parents being present.

6. Which term refers to marriage to several people at the same time?

- A. Monogamy
- B. Serial Monogamy
- C. Polyandry
- D. Polygamy**

The idea being tested is being married to more than one person at the same time. Polygamy is the broad term for having multiple spouses simultaneously, and it includes specific forms like polygyny (one man with multiple wives) and polyandry (one woman with multiple husbands). Monogamy means one spouse at a time, and serial monogamy refers to a series of marriages with no overlap. So the correct term for marriages that overlap is polygamy.

7. Which statement best describes the explanation for problems facing boys in lone-parent households?

- A. Lack of a male role model in the home leading to inadequate socialization**
- B. Lack of resources
- C. Too much male influence
- D. Improved schooling

The idea being tested is how family socialization, specifically the presence or absence of a male role model, shapes boys' development and behavior. When a boy grows up without a male figure in the home, some sociological accounts argue he misses a form of gendered socialization—patterns of discipline, expectations about achievement, and how to relate to authority and school norms—that a male role model might provide. This gap can influence his attitudes toward education, conduct in school, and engagement with learning, potentially leading to the kinds of problems that are often discussed in this context. While poverty and resources can affect outcomes, the statement about a lack of a male role model directly addresses how social learning at home can impact boys' behavior and educational trajectories, making it the best fit. The other options either describe different influences (like resources) or contradict common explanations (too much male influence, or improved schooling) and don't capture the socialization mechanism at the heart of this view.

**8. What did Silver (1987) argue about the commercialisation of housework?**

- A. It reduces time spent on housework and enables more equal sharing.**
- B. It increases time spent on housework.**
- C. It has no effect on the time spent on housework.**
- D. It only benefits men.**

The idea being tested is how paying others to do domestic tasks changes how much time people spend on housework and who does it. Silver argues that when household chores can be outsourced or paid for, the actual hours spent on housework tend to fall for the person who did most of it before (often women). With that time burden reduced, couples have more opportunity to renegotiate who does what, making more equal sharing of domestic tasks possible. So the best answer reflects both the reduction in time spent on housework and the potential for more equal sharing. It doesn't fit the view that it would increase time, that it has no effect, or that it only benefits men.

**9. In Bouton's position, who bears the main responsibility for children?**

- A. Fathers**
- B. Female partners**
- C. Grandparents**
- D. Government agencies**

Bouton's view emphasizes gendered responsibilities inside the family, arguing that the main burden of childcare falls on the female partner. In this perspective, the mother is the primary carer, handling daily routines, monitoring children's needs, organizing activities, and providing emotional support. Fathers and other actors may help, but the central, ongoing caregiving load is attributed to the female partner, reflecting traditional expectations about who should care for children. Grandparents or government agencies might assist, but they do not occupy the primary caregiver role in Bouton's position.

**10. Which statement best describes the privatised nuclear family?**

- A. A home-centred family with extensive contact with extended kin**
- B. A home-centred family with little contact with extended kin**
- C. A family living in a community-living arrangement with neighbours**
- D. A family that relies on extended kin for support**

Privatised nuclear family describes a family life that centers on the home and operates largely on its own, with the immediate family (parents and children) as the main unit. Daily life and emotional support happen within the household, and contact with extended kin is reduced. This reflects changes in modern societies where households are smaller, more geographically mobile, and value privacy, often relying less on kin for daily support and more on the couple and children. The statement that best describes this is a home-centered family with little contact with extended kin, capturing both the private, self-sufficient nature of the unit and its reduced ties to extended family networks. The other descriptions imply closer involvement with extended kin or non-private living arrangements, which don't fit privatisation.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://aqaalevelsocfamilieshousehold.examzify.com>**

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

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