

AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY FAMILIES AND THE HOUSEHOLD PRACTICE TEST (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.

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. What was a Conservative policy aim in the 1980s-1990s?**
 - A. Increase welfare benefits for single mothers
 - B. Encourage extended families as primary support
 - C. Promote universal basic income
 - D. Strengthen nuclear families through self-help and reduced reliance on welfare
- 2. What characterizes integrated conjugal roles?**
 - A. Few divisions between male and female roles
 - B. No division
 - C. Equal division
 - D. Clear separation of tasks
- 3. What does Silva (1996) argue about media-fuelled concerns over lone mothers?**
 - A. They reflect genuine welfare concerns
 - B. They are patriarchal attempts to push women back into traditional roles and undermine gender equality
 - C. They have no impact on gender equality
 - D. They support women's independence
- 4. Which factor contributes to delayed or reduced childbearing?**
 - A. Rising costs of raising a family lead to delaying or childfree lifestyle
 - B. Higher birth rates due to policy changes
 - C. Decreased costs of childcare
 - D. More parental leave
- 5. Which term refers to a family formed when a previous family breaks up and is reassembled by marriage or cohabitation?**
 - A. Lone parent family
 - B. Reconstituted family
 - C. Gay or lesbian family
 - D. Single person household

- 6. What does Levin suggest LATs allow couples to do?**
- A. They can live together and share finances.
 - B. They must abandon individual identities.
 - C. They can pursue intimacy as a couple while preserving individual identities by living apart.
 - D. They rely on traditional gender roles.
- 7. What is a key claim of postmodernism regarding family norms?**
- A. There is a single, dominant family form in contemporary society.
 - B. There are many perspectives and no single normative family form.
 - C. Family life is fixed and unchanging.
 - D. The state dictates family arrangements.
- 8. Why is the modified extended family growing?**
- A. Increased government housing
 - B. More divorces
 - C. Modern communications and easy transportation maintain closeness despite distance
 - D. Emigration
- 9. Chambers (2012) argues not all components of tradition have declined; what else does he claim?**
- A. Not all components of tradition have declined; most people are still committed to family values
 - B. Tradition has strengthened
 - C. All components of tradition have declined
 - D. There is no tradition in modern society
- 10. Which term describes a same-sex couple raising children?**
- A. Double-career family
 - B. Household
 - C. Reconstituted family
 - D. Gay or lesbian family

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was a Conservative policy aim in the 1980s-1990s?

- A. Increase welfare benefits for single mothers
- B. Encourage extended families as primary support
- C. Promote universal basic income
- D. Strengthen nuclear families through self-help and reduced reliance on welfare**

The key idea here is how Conservative policy in the 1980s–1990s framed the family and welfare. The approach emphasized the nuclear family as the main source of support and aimed to reduce welfare dependence by encouraging self-help and personal responsibility. Policies during this period pushed people to work, limited welfare provision, and promoted individual and family responsibility over state provision. That makes the statement about strengthening nuclear families through self-help and reduced reliance on welfare the best fit, because it directly reflects the era's emphasis on the family as the core unit of support and on cutting welfare reliance. The other options describe approaches—expanding welfare, relying on extended families, or universal basic income—that aren't aligned with the Conservative stance of that time.

2. What characterizes integrated conjugal roles?

- A. Few divisions between male and female roles**
- B. No division
- C. Equal division
- D. Clear separation of tasks

Integrated conjugal roles involve both partners sharing domestic tasks and taking part in family life, rather than separating chores strictly by gender. This overlap means there are few clear divisions between male and female roles at home. The idea is about joint participation and blurred boundaries, not a rigid split or a complete absence of difference. So the statement that there are few divisions between gendered roles best captures this pattern.

3. What does Silva (1996) argue about media-fuelled concerns over lone mothers?

- A. They reflect genuine welfare concerns
- B. They are patriarchal attempts to push women back into traditional roles and undermine gender equality**
- C. They have no impact on gender equality
- D. They support women's independence

Media representations of lone mothers can function as a tool to reinforce patriarchal ideas about gender roles. Silva argues that the frequent media focus on lone mothers isn't simply about real welfare concerns; it serves to moralize and sensationalize them in a way that supports a traditional, male-breadwinner family ideal. This framing helps justify policies that push women back into domestic roles and curtail advances toward gender equality by portraying single motherhood as a problem rooted in individual morality rather than broader structural factors like poverty or housing. In this way, the discourse acts to uphold patriarchal norms rather than genuinely addressing welfare.

4. Which factor contributes to delayed or reduced childbearing?

- A. Rising costs of raising a family lead to delaying or childfree lifestyle
- B. Higher birth rates due to policy changes
- C. Decreased costs of childcare
- D. More parental leave

Rising costs of raising a family shape when people decide to have children. When the financial burden—covering housing, education, healthcare, day-to-day needs—becomes heavier, many individuals or couples choose to delay starting a family or decide not to have children at all. This economic constraint pushes fertility timing later or reduced overall childbearing. Policies or factors that would raise birth rates, lower childcare costs, or simply provide more parental leave don't push behavior in the same delaying direction. Higher birth rates from policy changes would encourage more childbearing, cheaper childcare would lessen the cost barrier and likely promote earlier or more births, and additional parental leave supports families but isn't the primary driver of delaying in the way rising costs are.

5. Which term refers to a family formed when a previous family breaks up and is reassembled by marriage or cohabitation?

- A. Lone parent family
- B. Reconstituted family
- C. Gay or lesbian family
- D. Single person household

Reconstituted families form when a previous family breaks up and is reassembled through marriage or cohabitation. This creates a new family unit that includes stepparents and often step-siblings, coming together after divorce or separation. It's different from a lone-parent family, which centers on one parent raising children without a new partner; from a single person household, which is someone living alone; and from a family formed by same-sex parents, which isn't defined by a remarriage or reassembly after a breakup. The defining idea is the restructuring of the family through a new partnering arrangement after a previous family has ended.

6. What does Levin suggest LATs allow couples to do?

- A. They can live together and share finances.
- B. They must abandon individual identities.
- C. They can pursue intimacy as a couple while preserving individual identities by living apart.
- D. They rely on traditional gender roles.

Levin's idea about Living Apart Together (LATs) is about keeping a close, intimate partnership while maintaining separate homes. The key is balancing emotional connection with personal autonomy. LATs let partners pursue intimacy and commitment without the arrangements that come with cohabitation, such as sharing a single living space or finances, which can affect independence and daily routines. This arrangement supports preserving individual identities while still valuing the relationship, making it the best fit for what LATs are meant to offer. The idea that couples must abandon their identities is not what LATs advocate, and living together with shared finances or relying on traditional gender roles runs counter to the concept of maintaining separate lives while staying connected.

7. What is a key claim of postmodernism regarding family norms?

- A. There is a single, dominant family form in contemporary society.
- B. There are many perspectives and no single normative family form.**
- C. Family life is fixed and unchanging.
- D. The state dictates family arrangements.

Postmodernism argues that there is not one fixed family norm. Instead, there are many different ways people live as families, and no single model dominates across time and place. Norms become plural and shifting, shaped by culture, class, ethnicity, gender, and personal choices. This view sees a variety of family forms—nuclear, extended, reconstituted, lone-parent, cohabiting, same-sex parenting, blended families, and more—as legitimate options rather than deviations from a universal standard. Factors like divorce, adoption, assisted reproduction, and media influence contribute to a diverse landscape of family life. Choosing this as the best answer reflects the postmodernist focus on diversity, fluid identities, and individual negotiation of family life, rather than a universal, fixed model. The other ideas imply there is one correct form, stability, or state control over families, which aligns less with the postmodern emphasis on pluralism and change.

8. Why is the modified extended family growing?

- A. Increased government housing
- B. More divorces
- C. Modern communications and easy transportation maintain closeness despite distance**
- D. Emigration

The key idea here is that a modified extended family grows when kin are spread out but stay closely connected. Modern communications and easy travel let relatives keep regular contact, visit one another, and share support across distances. Phones, video calls, social media, and inexpensive flights mean being apart doesn't weaken bonds; it actually allows a larger network of kin to stay involved in each other's lives. So even though people may live far apart, the extended kin network can expand because distance is no longer a barrier to feeling connected and coordinating help, making the modified extended family bigger and more resilient. Other factors like government housing, higher divorce rates, or emigration can influence family structure in various ways, but they don't directly explain why close kin networks grow across distance the way improved communication and transportation do.

9. Chambers (2012) argues not all components of tradition have declined; what else does he claim?

- A. Not all components of tradition have declined; most people are still committed to family values**
- B. Tradition has strengthened
- C. All components of tradition have declined
- D. There is no tradition in modern society

Tradition doesn't vanish in modern society; some parts endure even as others change. Chambers argues that not all components of tradition have declined, and that most people remain committed to family values. This highlights selective continuity: modernization reshapes some norms, but traditional family values continue to influence many people's behavior and expectations. The idea that tradition has strengthened or that all components have declined or that there is no tradition at all misses this nuance, since it overlooks the persistence of these values in everyday life.

10. Which term describes a same-sex couple raising children?

- A. Double-career family
- B. Household
- C. Reconstituted family
- D. Gay or lesbian family**

The situation is described in sociology by a family form that specifically names the sexuality of the parents and their parenting role. A same-sex couple who are raising children is best described as a gay or lesbian family because the term directly identifies both partners as gay or lesbian and notes that they are in a parental, caregiving role with children. A household is just about who lives together and shares a dwelling, not about the sexual orientation of the couple or whether they have children. A double-career family focuses on both partners working, not on sexual orientation or parenting. A reconstituted family refers to a blended family formed after a divorce, which doesn't apply to the idea of a same-sex couple raising children.

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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:

<https://aqaalevelsocfamilieshousehold.examzify.com>

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

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