

# AQA Sociology Crime and Deviance 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

- 1. What is a possible outcome of societal reactions according to Lemert?**
  - A. Reduction in deviance over time**
  - B. The elimination of criminal behavior**
  - C. The establishment of a deviant career due to stigma**
  - D. A direct link between personal history and deviance**
- 2. Which aspect of crime is addressed by the ideological functions of law according to Marxists?**
  - A. Control over working-class behavior**
  - B. Equal representation of all societal classes**
  - C. Reduction of overall crime rates**
  - D. Promotion of social welfare policies**
- 3. What might characterize offenses committed within a corporate setting?**
  - A. They involve severe violence against individuals**
  - B. They are typically less serious and lack financial gain**
  - C. They are often driven by the pursuit of financial gain**
  - D. They target marginalized communities directly**
- 4. What is the labeling theory?**
  - A. A theory about how laws are created**
  - B. A theory that suggests deviance is a learned behavior**
  - C. A theory that suggests individuals become deviant due to societal labeling**
  - D. A theory focusing on psychological factors of crime**
- 5. Which aspect does conflict theory emphasize in relation to crime?**
  - A. Competition among criminals**
  - B. Social crimes committed during war**
  - C. Power struggles and inequalities**
  - D. The importance of community safety**

- 6. In what way do 'subcultures' contribute to deviance?**
- A. By reinforcing mainstream societal norms**
  - B. By creating conflict with mainstream societal values**
  - C. By promoting total acceptance of all behaviors**
  - D. By eliminating the concept of deviance altogether**
- 7. What is one of the primary roles of the police?**
- A. To investigate historical crimes**
  - B. To enforce laws and maintain public order**
  - C. To create laws in the community**
  - D. To manage public relations for the government**
- 8. What is the main focus of victimology?**
- A. The study of offenders and their motivations**
  - B. The examination of the judicial process**
  - C. The analysis of victims and their experiences**
  - D. The investigation of crime statistics**
- 9. What do techniques of neutralization allow individuals to do, according to Sykes and Matza (1957)?**
- A. Justify their unethical behavior**
  - B. Enhance their social standing**
  - C. Reduce their criminal tendencies**
  - D. Increase their compliance with regulations**
- 10. According to Lea and Young, which of the following is a key factor in understanding crime?**
- A. Employment opportunities**
  - B. Relative deprivation**
  - C. Socioeconomic status**
  - D. Judicial effectiveness**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

**1. What is a possible outcome of societal reactions according to Lemert?**

- A. Reduction in deviance over time**
- B. The elimination of criminal behavior**
- C. The establishment of a deviant career due to stigma**
- D. A direct link between personal history and deviance**

According to Lemert's theory of deviance, one significant outcome of societal reactions is the establishment of a deviant career due to stigma. Lemert distinguishes between primary deviance, which is the initial act of rule-breaking, and secondary deviance, which occurs when a person is labeled as deviant by society. This label often leads to a stigmatization process, where the individual internalizes the deviant identity as a result of societal reactions. When society labels someone as deviant, it can restrict their opportunities and change their interactions with others, reinforcing the deviant behavior. This labeling can push individuals towards a deviant subculture where they may fully embrace the deviant identity and engage in further deviance, thus developing a 'deviant career.' The concept highlights how societal reactions can significantly impact individual behavior and can contribute to the perpetuation of deviance over time.

**2. Which aspect of crime is addressed by the ideological functions of law according to Marxists?**

- A. Control over working-class behavior**
- B. Equal representation of all societal classes**
- C. Reduction of overall crime rates**
- D. Promotion of social welfare policies**

The ideological functions of law, as discussed in Marxist theory, focus on how the legal system serves to maintain the interests of the ruling class while controlling the behavior of the working class. This perspective suggests that laws are created and enforced in ways that reinforce existing social inequalities and uphold the power structure. By regulating and controlling working-class behavior, the law discourages dissent and challenges to the status quo, effectively ensuring that the ruling class can continue to dominate economically and socially. Marxists argue that the legal system lacks neutrality; rather, it operates in the interest of capitalism, often criminalizing actions that threaten capitalist interests while legitimizing the exploitation of the working class. This aspect of controlling working-class behavior highlights the law's role not just as a means of regulating conduct but as a tool for ideological reinforcement of capitalist norms and values. The other choices focus on different perspectives or outcomes that are not central to the Marxist view of law. Equal representation of all societal classes implies a fairness that Marxists contest, as they argue that the law inherently favors the ruling class. Similarly, the idea of reducing crime rates overlooks the critique of how laws can serve as a mechanism of control rather than simply a means of creating a safer society. Lastly, while social welfare

### **3. What might characterize offenses committed within a corporate setting?**

- A. They involve severe violence against individuals**
- B. They are typically less serious and lack financial gain**
- C. They are often driven by the pursuit of financial gain**
- D. They target marginalized communities directly**

Offenses committed within a corporate setting are often characterized by a strong motivation to achieve financial gain. This can manifest in various ways, such as through fraud, embezzlement, insider trading, or other forms of economic crime that prioritize profit over ethical considerations. Corporate crime tends to focus on maximizing profits or market position, often at the expense of legal and ethical standards. In this context, individuals or organizations may manipulate financial records, exploit loopholes, or engage in deceptive practices to enhance their financial outcomes. This drive for profit can overshadow the potential legal repercussions or the negative impacts their actions may have on consumers, employees, and society at large. Corporate offenses can often lead to widespread repercussions, not just for the involved parties, but for the economy and community, illustrating the extensive influence of economic motivations in corporate crime.

### **4. What is the labeling theory?**

- A. A theory about how laws are created**
- B. A theory that suggests deviance is a learned behavior**
- C. A theory that suggests individuals become deviant due to societal labeling**
- D. A theory focusing on psychological factors of crime**

Labeling theory fundamentally posits that societal reactions to an individual's behavior can significantly influence that individual's self-identity and actions. It suggests that when individuals are labeled as deviant by society—whether through stigmatization or formal labeling such as being convicted of a crime—they may internalize this label, leading to further deviant behavior. This process highlights the role of social reactions and perceptions in the development of self-identities related to deviance. In the context of labeling theory, it is important to understand that the initial act of deviance may not be as significant as the subsequent societal response. The stigma associated with being labeled as a "criminal" or "deviant" can lead to exclusion from social groups and opportunities, reinforcing a cycle of deviant behavior. This concept emphasizes the social construction of deviance rather than viewing it purely as an inherent trait of individuals. The other theories mentioned—concerning law creation, learned behavior, and psychological factors—explore different aspects of criminality and deviance but do not encompass the critical idea that societal labeling plays a crucial role in the development of deviant identities.

**5. Which aspect does conflict theory emphasize in relation to crime?**

- A. Competition among criminals**
- B. Social crimes committed during war**
- C. Power struggles and inequalities**
- D. The importance of community safety**

Conflict theory emphasizes the role of power struggles and social inequalities in shaping criminal behavior and the criminal justice system. This perspective argues that society is structured around conflicts between different social classes or groups, particularly those with economic and political power versus those without. According to conflict theorists, laws and social norms are often established by those in power to maintain their dominance and control over resources. Consequently, crime is seen not just as individual acts of deviance, but as a reflection of broader societal issues, such as economic disparity and systemic oppression. For instance, marginalized groups may engage in criminal behavior as a response to their exclusion and limited access to legitimate opportunities. Additionally, the enforcement of laws may disproportionately target lower-income groups while being more lenient towards the activities of the wealthy, further highlighting the influence of power dynamics in the discourse on crime. This understanding of crime through the lens of power and inequality provides a critical framework for examining how social structures can foster criminality and how definitions of crime may vary based on the interests of powerful groups.

**6. In what way do 'subcultures' contribute to deviance?**

- A. By reinforcing mainstream societal norms**
- B. By creating conflict with mainstream societal values**
- C. By promoting total acceptance of all behaviors**
- D. By eliminating the concept of deviance altogether**

Subcultures contribute to deviance primarily by creating conflict with mainstream societal values. Members of subcultures often develop their own norms, values, and behaviors that may differ significantly from those of the larger society. This divergence can lead to actions and attitudes that are seen as deviant when viewed through the lens of mainstream culture. For example, a subculture may embrace styles, beliefs, or practices that challenge dominant cultural norms, such as certain musical genres, fashion choices, or philosophies of life that are not accepted by the broader society. This tension between subcultures and the dominant culture highlights the existence of multiple social realities, where what is considered normal or acceptable can differ based on the cultural framework one identifies with. As a result, the behaviors and practices of subcultures can be labeled as deviant when they stand in opposition to the values upheld by the mainstream. In comparison, reinforcing mainstream societal norms would likely lead to conformity rather than deviance. Promoting total acceptance of all behaviors contradicts the very notion of deviance, which relies on the idea that some behaviors fall outside societal approval. Similarly, the notion of eliminating deviance undermines the complexity of human behavior and societal functions, as deviance is integral to discussions about social

## 7. What is one of the primary roles of the police?

- A. To investigate historical crimes
- B. To enforce laws and maintain public order**
- C. To create laws in the community
- D. To manage public relations for the government

The primary role of the police is to enforce laws and maintain public order. This function involves a variety of tasks, including patrolling communities, responding to emergencies, and ensuring compliance with legal statutes. By upholding the law, the police help to deter criminal behavior and provide a sense of security to the public. Their involvement in community policing initiatives also plays a crucial role in building trust and cooperation between law enforcement and community members, ultimately contributing to safer environments. In contrast, investigating historical crimes is less of a focus for police in general, as their main responsibility is addressing current law enforcement issues. Creating laws is the role of legislative bodies, not law enforcement agencies. While police agencies may engage in public relations to share information with the community, their primary function is centered around law enforcement and order maintenance rather than managing PR in a formal sense.

## 8. What is the main focus of victimology?

- A. The study of offenders and their motivations
- B. The examination of the judicial process
- C. The analysis of victims and their experiences**
- D. The investigation of crime statistics

Victimology primarily focuses on the analysis of victims and their experiences. This area of study seeks to understand the psychological, emotional, and social impacts of crime on individuals who have been victimized. It examines the various ways that victims respond to their experiences, the roles of victims within the criminal justice system, and the societal perceptions surrounding victims. By focusing on victims, victimology highlights the significance of their experiences and the importance of addressing their needs in the context of crime prevention and response. The other options touch on different aspects of criminology and sociology. The study of offenders and their motivations concentrates on the characteristics and behaviors that lead individuals to commit crimes, which is a different field from victimology. The examination of the judicial process looks at how the legal system functions and interacts with both victims and offenders but does not specifically focus on the victims' perspectives or experiences. The investigation of crime statistics pertains to the quantitative analysis of crime data, which aids in understanding trends and patterns in criminal behavior, rather than exploring the subjective experiences of victims. Thus, the emphasis of victimology on victims sets it apart from these other fields of study within criminology.

**9. What do techniques of neutralization allow individuals to do, according to Sykes and Matza (1957)?**

- A. Justify their unethical behavior**
- B. Enhance their social standing**
- C. Reduce their criminal tendencies**
- D. Increase their compliance with regulations**

Techniques of neutralization, as proposed by Sykes and Matza, provide individuals with justifications that enable them to engage in behavior that society typically labels as deviant or unethical. These techniques act as rationalizations that help individuals maintain a positive self-image and alleviate feelings of guilt or responsibility for their actions. By using methods such as denial of responsibility, denial of injury, and appeal to higher loyalties, individuals can convince themselves that their actions are acceptable under certain circumstances, thus allowing them to reconcile their behavior with societal norms. While enhancing social standing, reducing criminal tendencies, or increasing compliance with regulations might seem relevant, these outcomes do not align with the primary purpose of techniques of neutralization, which is fundamentally about justifying and rationalizing one's deviant actions rather than fostering conformity or reducing deviance.

**10. According to Lea and Young, which of the following is a key factor in understanding crime?**

- A. Employment opportunities**
- B. Relative deprivation**
- C. Socioeconomic status**
- D. Judicial effectiveness**

Lea and Young emphasize relative deprivation as a key factor in understanding crime. Their theory argues that crime is often influenced by individuals' perceptions of their situation compared to others in society. When people feel deprived of resources, status, or opportunities relative to those around them, it can lead to feelings of frustration and resentment. This emotional response can result in criminal behavior as individuals seek to address their perceived injustices, either through legitimate means or by resorting to crime. This perspective expands the understanding of crime beyond economic factors or social class alone by highlighting the psychological and social dimensions of deprivation. In contrast, the other options address important aspects of social dynamics and crime; however, they do not capture the core concept that Lea and Young focus on regarding the subjective experience of deprivation in relation to crime. For instance, while employment opportunities are relevant, they fall under a more external factor without the personal psychological element that relative deprivation encompasses.



## 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://aqasociologycrimedeviance.examzify.com>**

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