

AQA SOCIOLOGY CRIME AND DEVIANCE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 of the following is a characteristic of retreatist subcultures according to Cloward and Ohlin?**
 - A. Strong organizational structure
 - B. Focus on violent conflict
 - C. Use of illegal drugs
 - D. Emphasis on academic achievement
- 2. In Lemert's study of paranoia, what leads to secondary deviance?**
 - A. Having a supportive social circle
 - B. Negative responses from society to primary deviance
 - C. Being labeled as a model citizen
 - D. Positive social reinforcement
- 3. Institutionalized offenses often involve which of the following?**
 - A. Public disturbances
 - B. White-collar crimes such as embezzlement
 - C. Street crimes like theft
 - D. Cyberbullying and similar acts
- 4. How does Denscombe (2001) contribute to discussions of female crime?**
 - A. By arguing for stricter punishment of female offenders
 - B. By highlighting the emergence of girl gangs
 - C. By denying any rise in female criminality
 - D. By supporting traditional gender roles
- 5. What characterizes white-collar crime?**
 - A. Violent crime committed for revenge
 - B. Non-violent crime committed for financial gain
 - C. Property crime occurring in large corporations
 - D. Cybercrime targeting personal identities
- 6. How can media representation affect views on crime?**
 - A. By accurately portraying crime statistics
 - B. By sensationalizing crime incidents
 - C. By promoting public safety measures
 - D. By providing in-depth analysis of crime causes

- 7. Which type of crime is committed by employees against their own organization?**
- A. Corporate crime
 - B. Occupational crime
 - C. White collar crime
 - D. Street crime
- 8. What is a key critique made by Kinsey, Lea, and Young about police effectiveness?**
- A. Police spend too much time on minor crimes
 - B. Police clear-up rates are too low to act as a deterrent
 - C. Police rely solely on technology for evidence gathering
 - D. Police only serve the interests of the state
- 9. According to Murray (1990), which group is increasingly associated with rising crime rates?**
- A. The affluent class
 - B. Underclass or new rabble
 - C. Mature professionals
 - D. Young entrepreneurs
- 10. What role does the nuclear family play according to right realism in crime prevention?**
- A. Inhibits positive behavior
 - B. Enhances criminal behavior
 - C. Essential for effective socialization
 - D. Creates competitive environments

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a characteristic of retreatist subcultures according to Cloward and Ohlin?

- A. Strong organizational structure
- B. Focus on violent conflict
- C. Use of illegal drugs**
- D. Emphasis on academic achievement

The characteristic of retreatist subcultures, as defined by Cloward and Ohlin, is their orientation towards the use of illegal drugs. Retreatist subcultures arise primarily among those who have failed to achieve success through both legitimate means, such as education and employment, as well as through deviant means like crime. This group consists of individuals who withdraw from society's expectations altogether and often turn to substance abuse as a form of escape or coping mechanism. The focus on illegal drugs highlights the desperation and disconnection from conventional societal goals they experience. Unlike other subcultures, which may engage in organized crime or violence to achieve status or financial gain, retreatists tend to prioritize substance use over any structured approach to conflict or achievement. Therefore, their lifestyle is characterized by disengagement from both conventional ambitions and criminal opportunities, leading them to a unique place within the broader framework of deviant subcultures.

2. In Lemert's study of paranoia, what leads to secondary deviance?

- A. Having a supportive social circle
- B. Negative responses from society to primary deviance**
- C. Being labeled as a model citizen
- D. Positive social reinforcement

The correct answer is that negative responses from society to primary deviance lead to secondary deviance in Lemert's study. Lemert's theory distinguishes between primary deviance, which is the initial act of deviance that may go unnoticed or be trivialized, and secondary deviance, which occurs when a person internalizes society's negative reactions to their primary deviance. This societal labeling can amplify feelings of alienation or stigmatization, prompting individuals to engage more deeply in deviant behaviors. For instance, if someone commits a minor offense and society reacts harshly, labeling them as a "criminal," the individual may start to adopt this identity, leading them to continue or escalate their deviant behavior. Therefore, the harmful societal reactions to the initial deviant act play a crucial role in the transition to secondary deviance. In contrast, having a supportive social circle, being labeled as a model citizen, or receiving positive social reinforcement do not contribute to the process of secondary deviance but rather support pro-social behavior and integration into society.

3. Institutionalized offenses often involve which of the following?

- A. Public disturbances
- B. White-collar crimes such as embezzlement**
- C. Street crimes like theft
- D. Cyberbullying and similar acts

Institutionalized offenses typically refer to crimes that are committed within formal structures, often by individuals or groups who hold positions of power within institutions. These offenses usually arise from the operations and norms of these institutions rather than from individual malfeasance alone. White-collar crimes, such as embezzlement, are classic examples of institutionalized offenses. They often occur in business, government, or other organizational contexts where individuals exploit their roles for personal gain, which reflects the broader systems in which such actions are embedded. In contrast, public disturbances, street crimes like theft, and cyberbullying are typically not categorized as institutionalized offenses because they are more likely to involve direct and individual actions outside the frameworks of established institutions. While these crimes can occur within societal structures, they do not typically reflect the practices or norms of an organization itself, which is a critical component of what makes a crime institutionalized.

4. How does Denscombe (2001) contribute to discussions of female crime?

- A. By arguing for stricter punishment of female offenders
- B. By highlighting the emergence of girl gangs**
- C. By denying any rise in female criminality
- D. By supporting traditional gender roles

Denscombe's contribution to discussions of female crime is notably characterized by highlighting the emergence of girl gangs. In her research, she observed that the nature and context of female criminality have evolved, showcasing how girls are increasingly engaging in gang-related activities, which was traditionally considered a male-dominated area. This shift indicates a change in societal perceptions of femininity and crime, suggesting that female aggression and criminal behavior are becoming more visible and accepted in certain societal contexts. By focusing on the phenomenon of girl gangs, Denscombe challenges traditional stereotypes that portray female offenders as less serious or less involved in criminality, bringing attention to the complexities and realities of female crime in contemporary society. Her work suggests that girls are not only participating in crime in new ways but are also negotiating their identities through these engagements, which adds depth to the understanding of gender and crime. This perspective reflects broader social changes and promotes a reevaluation of existing theories about crime and gender.

5. What characterizes white-collar crime?

- A. Violent crime committed for revenge
- B. Non-violent crime committed for financial gain**
- C. Property crime occurring in large corporations
- D. Cybercrime targeting personal identities

White-collar crime is characterized by non-violent criminal activities that are primarily committed for financial gain, typically by individuals or organizations in positions of trust and authority. This type of crime occurs in a professional or business context and often involves deceit, concealment, or violation of trust. The focus on financial gain distinguishes white-collar crime from other forms of crime that may involve violence or physical harm. Common examples include fraud, embezzlement, insider trading, and money laundering. Such crimes often have far-reaching consequences for individuals, businesses, and the economy as a whole, highlighting the serious impact of what might be perceived as 'non-traditional' forms of criminality. The other options describe different categories of crime: violent crime refers to acts that inflict physical injury or harm, property crime deals with the theft or destruction of tangible assets, and cybercrime typically involves the use of technology to commit illegal acts, such as identity theft. However, these do not encapsulate the essence of white-collar crime, which is strictly tied to non-violent acts aimed at achieving financial advantage.

6. How can media representation affect views on crime?

- A. By accurately portraying crime statistics
- B. By sensationalizing crime incidents**
- C. By promoting public safety measures
- D. By providing in-depth analysis of crime causes

The choice highlighting the sensationalization of crime incidents is particularly relevant when understanding how media representation can shape public perceptions of crime. Sensationalism often involves dramatizing crime stories to make them more engaging or shocking. This approach can lead to over-exaggeration of the prevalence and severity of crime, influencing public fear and perceptions of safety. When the media sensationalizes crime, it can create a distorted picture of reality, making certain types of crime seem more common or dangerous than they truly are. For instance, frequent coverage of violent crimes can lead viewers to believe that such incidents are widespread, even if crime rates are actually declining. This phenomenon can contribute to moral panics, where the public reacts with heightened anxiety or support for stringent law and order measures, despite evidence suggesting that crime rates are not as pronounced as presented. In contrast, while accurately portraying crime statistics, promoting public safety measures, or providing in-depth analyses of crime causes are important functions of the media, these approaches can contribute to a more informed understanding of crime, rather than skewing public perception. They do not generally encompass the same capacity to influence views and emotions as sensationalized portrayals do.

7. Which type of crime is committed by employees against their own organization?

- A. Corporate crime
- B. Occupational crime**
- C. White collar crime
- D. Street crime

The type of crime referred to as committed by employees against their own organization is occupational crime. This term specifically describes actions taken by individuals in the context of their employment, where they misuse their position or resources to commit illegal acts for personal gain. Occupational crime typically includes activities like embezzlement, fraud, or theft, which occur within a workplace setting and directly impact the organization. In contrast, corporate crime usually refers to illegal acts committed by a corporation or individuals acting on behalf of the corporation that harms people or the environment, rather than focusing on an employee's individual wrongdoing. White-collar crime is a broader category that encompasses both occupational and corporate crimes but is not specifically limited to crimes within an employee's immediate workplace context. Street crime, on the other hand, pertains to more visible, often violent crimes that occur in public areas, distinct from the context of employment and organizational settings.

8. What is a key critique made by Kinsey, Lea, and Young about police effectiveness?

- A. Police spend too much time on minor crimes
- B. Police clear-up rates are too low to act as a deterrent**
- C. Police rely solely on technology for evidence gathering
- D. Police only serve the interests of the state

A key critique made by Kinsey, Lea, and Young regarding police effectiveness revolves around the concept of police clear-up rates being too low to act as a deterrent. This perspective highlights the fact that when clearance rates for crimes are not sufficiently high, the likelihood of offenders being caught and punished diminishes. Consequently, this reduction in the effectiveness of policing can weaken its role as a deterrent, leading to a perception among the public that criminal behavior may go unpunished, which can encourage further criminal activity. The critique emphasizes a fundamental mismatch between the expectations of law enforcement and their actual impact on crime rates and public safety. This viewpoint illustrates the complexities of crime prevention and highlights the need to evaluate the effectiveness of police work beyond merely counting arrests or incidents reported, focusing more on outcomes and their implications for crime reduction.

9. According to Murray (1990), which group is increasingly associated with rising crime rates?

- A. The affluent class
- B. Underclass or new rabble**
- C. Mature professionals
- D. Young entrepreneurs

Murray (1990) is known for his work on the underclass, particularly in relation to social issues like crime. He argues that the underclass or "new rabble" represents a segment of society that has become increasingly disconnected from mainstream values, economic stability, and social cohesion. This disconnection contributes to a rise in crime rates as members of this group often face poverty, lack access to education and employment opportunities, and may engage in criminal activities as a means of survival or as a result of learned behaviors from their environment. In this context, the underclass is characterized by social issues such as family breakdown, unemployment, and a culture that may not prioritize law-abiding behavior. Murray's analysis suggests that the problems associated with the underclass are systemic and can lead to increased crime as individuals feel marginalized and disenfranchised from society. The other groups mentioned, such as the affluent class, mature professionals, and young entrepreneurs, are typically not associated with rising crime rates in the same way. These groups often have more resources, social connections, and opportunities that discourage criminal behavior, contributing to the perception that crime is more prevalent within the underclass.

10. What role does the nuclear family play according to right realism in crime prevention?

- A. Inhibits positive behavior
- B. Enhances criminal behavior
- C. Essential for effective socialization**
- D. Creates competitive environments

According to right realism, the nuclear family plays a crucial role in crime prevention by being essential for effective socialization. This perspective emphasizes that strong familial structures, particularly the traditional nuclear family consisting of two parents and their children, contribute significantly to instilling norms, values, and self-discipline in children. The belief is that when children are raised in a stable family environment, they are more likely to learn the difference between right and wrong and to develop a sense of responsibility, which can deter them from engaging in criminal behavior. This view suggests that families should provide guidance, emotional support, and clear expectations about behavior, which collectively help in preventing delinquency and criminal acts. The nuclear family is seen as a protective unit that reinforces societal norms and values, leading to better social outcomes and a decrease in crime rates within communities. In contrast, other options do not align with the right realist perspective, which prioritizes the importance of the family unit in promoting positive behavior and social cohesion. For instance, inhibiting positive behavior, enhancing criminal behavior, or creating competitive environments do not reflect the belief that a strong family foundation is key to fostering law-abiding citizens.

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://aqasociologycrime-deviance.examzify.com>

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

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