

IGCSE SOCIOLOGY PRACTICE EXAM (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. The behaviour that societies expect of their members in particular situations is called what?**
 - A. Norms
 - B. Beliefs
 - C. Culture
 - D. Trends
- 2. Which term means a group with a distinct national or cultural tradition living within a larger society?**
 - A. Distribution of wealth
 - B. Welfare state
 - C. Minority ethnic group
 - D. Social inequality
- 3. A standard instrument consisting of a fixed set of questions used in social surveys is known as what?**
 - A. Questionnaires
 - B. Open questions
 - C. Social surveys
 - D. Respondent
- 4. Which code is associated with formal schooling and explicit instruction?**
 - A. Restricted code
 - B. Cultural deprivation
 - C. Deferred gratification
 - D. Elaborate code
- 5. The way governments try to provide for the less well off and reduce social inequality.**
 - A. Welfare state
 - B. Meritocracy
 - C. Dependency culture
 - D. Social inequality

- 6. Experiments that take place in the natural setting of the real world rather than in a laboratory are known as:**
- A. Laboratory experiments
 - B. Case study
 - C. Longitudinal survey
 - D. Field experiments
- 7. Which term refers to data that is numerical in form?**
- A. Bias
 - B. Objectivity
 - C. Quantitative data
 - D. Hypothesis
- 8. Excluding someone from the community or group is called?**
- A. Segregation
 - B. Ostracism
 - C. Isolation
 - D. Stigma
- 9. A closed stratification system traditionally found in India.**
- A. Slavery
 - B. Caste
 - C. Traditional societies
 - D. Power
- 10. Any way in which children are reprimanded or receive something negative for something they have done.**
- A. Sanctions
 - B. Rewards
 - C. Social control
 - D. Informal Education

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The behaviour that societies expect of their members in particular situations is called what?

A. Norms

B. Beliefs

C. Culture

D. Trends

Norms are the expected ways of behaving in particular situations. They are the shared rules that tell people what counts as appropriate conduct in everyday life, guiding actions so interactions run smoothly and predictably. Norms are learned through family, peers, and society, and they are reinforced by social approval or sanctions when someone deviates. For example, queueing, greeting someone politely, or dressing suitably for a setting are typical norms. Beliefs are about what people think is true or important, culture is the broader system of shared meanings and practices, and trends are patterns of change over time. Because the question focuses on the behavior societies expect in specific situations, norms are the best fit.

2. Which term means a group with a distinct national or cultural tradition living within a larger society?

A. Distribution of wealth

B. Welfare state

C. Minority ethnic group

D. Social inequality

A minority ethnic group refers to a community that has its own distinct national or cultural traditions, language, or customs while living within a larger society. This term captures the idea that a group maintains a separate cultural identity inside the broader population, often sharing a sense of belonging to that group alongside the dominant culture. Because of this distinct identity, members may experience different social experiences or treatment, even though they live within the same country. The other terms describe different ideas: distribution of wealth is about how resources are spread across a population; welfare state refers to government systems that provide social services; social inequality describes unequal access to resources or status in society, not the existence of a culturally distinct group living inside a larger society.

3. A standard instrument consisting of a fixed set of questions used in social surveys is known as what?

A. Questionnaires

B. Open questions

C. Social surveys

D. Respondent

In social research, a fixed set of questions used to collect data from many people is called a questionnaire. The key idea is standardization: every respondent gets the same questions in the same order, which makes it possible to compare responses across individuals, quantify the data, and analyze it reliably. Questionnaires are especially good for obtaining comparable, scalable data, often using closed-ended items that campers can easily code and tally. Open questions, by contrast, let respondents answer in their own words and are not standardized, so they're harder to compare across a large group. Social surveys refer to the overall data-collection approach, not the instrument itself, while a respondent is the person answering the questions.

4. Which code is associated with formal schooling and explicit instruction?

- A. Restricted code
- B. Cultural deprivation
- C. Deferred gratification
- D. Elaborate code**

Language codes and schooling: formal schooling relies on an elaborated code, a style of language that uses precise vocabulary, explicit connections between ideas, and full sentences so meaning is clear without needing shared context. This makes it well-suited for explicit instruction, where teachers present definitions, reasons, and explanations step by step and students are expected to articulate abstract ideas clearly. In contrast, a restricted code depends on context, shared knowledge, and fewer explicit details, which is typical of everyday talk and social interactions but not ideal for formal teaching. The other concepts describe different ideas—one about communication relying on context and implicit meaning, another about delaying rewards, and another about social factors affecting access to education—so they don't fit the role of a language style used in formal schooling.

5. The way governments try to provide for the less well off and reduce social inequality.

- A. Welfare state**
- B. Meritocracy
- C. Dependency culture
- D. Social inequality

The main idea here is how a government actively supports people who are worse off and tries to lessen inequality through public policies. The welfare state is the system that does this. It includes programs like health care, pensions, unemployment benefits, public education, and housing assistance funded by taxation. By providing these services and transfers, the government redistributes resources to raise living standards and reduce gaps between rich and poor. Other terms describe different things: meritocracy is about rewarding people for ability and effort, not about providing for those in need; dependency culture is a critique suggesting welfare can create reliance, not the system itself; social inequality is the outcome of unequal resources, not the policy approach to address it.

6. Experiments that take place in the natural setting of the real world rather than in a laboratory are known as:

- A. Laboratory experiments
- B. Case study
- C. Longitudinal survey
- D. Field experiments**

Field experiments involve conducting experiments in real-world settings rather than in a controlled laboratory. This approach aims to see how manipulated variables play out in everyday environments, giving results that reflect how people actually behave outside artificial conditions. The key advantage is higher ecological validity because participants act more naturally when not in a lab. In contrast, laboratory experiments take place in controlled spaces where researchers can tightly control variables but may prompt unusual behavior due to the artificial setting. A case study focuses on an in-depth examination of one or a few cases without experimental manipulation. A longitudinal survey collects data over time to track changes, rather than testing cause-and-effect relationships through controlled manipulation. Field experiments, by introducing a deliberate change in a real setting and measuring outcomes, balance some control with real-world relevance.

7. Which term refers to data that is numerical in form?

- A. Bias
- B. Objectivity
- C. Quantitative data**
- D. Hypothesis

Numerical data is called quantitative data. This type of data comes from counting or measuring and can be used in arithmetic and statistical analysis. Examples include ages, test scores, incomes, or the number of people in a group. It contrasts with qualitative data, which describes qualities or characteristics using words rather than numbers. The other terms refer to aspects of the research process rather than the form of data: bias is a distortion in results, objectivity means impartiality, and a hypothesis is a proposed relationship to test.

8. Excluding someone from the community or group is called?

- A. Segregation
- B. Ostracism**
- C. Isolation
- D. Stigma

The key idea here is social exclusion within a group. Ostracism means deliberately ignoring or excluding someone from social interactions and activities, effectively cutting them out of the group's social life. It's about the group's behavior toward a member—shunning, not inviting, or avoiding participation. Segregation refers to formal separation of groups, often by policy or law, not necessarily the day-to-day act of excluding a specific person from a group. Isolation is a broader state of being alone or cut off, which may happen without active exclusion by others. Stigma involves negative labeling and prejudice toward someone, which can lead to exclusion, but stigma is about beliefs and attitudes, not the act of being excluded itself.

9. A closed stratification system traditionally found in India.

- A. Slavery
- B. Caste**
- C. Traditional societies
- D. Power

This item is about a socially rigid system where a person's place in society is fixed by birth and becomes extremely hard to change. In India's historical context, this is the caste system—a hereditary, endogamous hierarchy where people are born into a caste, carry out designated occupations, and follow rules about whom they may marry. Mobility between ranks is highly limited, and social status is tied to notions of ritual purity and birthright, shaping daily life from work to social interactions. That makes the caste concept the best fit here, because it specifically describes a closed, birth-based system of stratification tied to occupation and social roles. Other options don't fit as precisely: slavery refers to ownership of people and broader forms of coercion, not a structured, birth-based social order; traditional societies is a broad label that doesn't pin down the India-specific mechanism; power describes who holds authority rather than the organized, hereditary ranking of all members of society by birth.

10. Any way in which children are reprimanded or receive something negative for something they have done.

A. Sanctions

B. Rewards

C. Social control

D. Informal Education

Sanctions are the mechanisms by which norms are enforced through punishments or negative consequences when someone deviates. When a child is reprimanded or receives something negative for what they have done, that is a negative sanction in action—the aim is to discourage the behavior and bring the person back in line with expected rules. Rewards would be the opposite, serving as positive reinforcement rather than punishment. Social control is the broader system that uses various tools to regulate behavior, with sanctions being one specific method within that system. Informal Education covers learning about norms through everyday interactions rather than the direct punitive response described.

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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://igcsesociology.examzify.com>

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

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