

IGCSE Sociology Unit 2 - Culture, identity and Socialization Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

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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. A society in which children are highly valued and a lot of time and effort are devoted to their well-being?**
 - A. Adulthood**
 - B. Childhood**
 - C. Child-centered**
 - D. Beliefs**

- 2. Which term refers to formal rules enacted by the state to regulate behavior?**
 - A. Informal Social Control**
 - B. Lifestyle**
 - C. Laws**
 - D. Masculinity**

- 3. The use or threat of force to make someone conform to norms and values in society.**
 - A. Coercion**
 - B. Beliefs**
 - C. Agencies of Socialization**
 - D. Canalization**

- 4. What term means evaluating cultures on their own context?**
 - A. Ethnocentrism**
 - B. Cultural Relativism**
 - C. Beliefs**
 - D. Age Group**

- 5. How parents and others encourage some behavior and discourage other behavior.**
 - A. Manipulation**
 - B. Masculinity**
 - C. Globalization**
 - D. Laws**

- 6. When socialization is incomplete or ineffective.**
- A. Inadequate Socialization**
 - B. Lifestyle**
 - C. Informal Social Control**
 - D. Global Culture**
- 7. Which term best describes the spread of cultures through global contact?**
- A. Global Culture**
 - B. Imitation**
 - C. Globalization**
 - D. Laws**
- 8. Which statement best describes deterrence in sociology?**
- A. It Discourages Actions By Instilling Fear Of Punishment**
 - B. It Accurately Measures Social Conformity Through Sanctions**
 - C. It Only Operates Within Formal Legal Systems**
 - D. It Replaces All Forms Of Rehabilitation**
- 9. A position that someone has in a society; which can be ascribed or achieved.**
- A. Status**
 - B. Value Consensus**
 - C. Identity**
 - D. Culture**
- 10. The stage of development between childhood and adulthood is called?**
- A. Adulthood**
 - B. Childhood**
 - C. Beliefs**
 - D. Adolescence**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A society in which children are highly valued and a lot of time and effort are devoted to their well-being?

- A. Adulthood**
- B. Childhood**
- C. Child-centered**
- D. Beliefs**

This item is about how a society prioritizes the welfare and development of its youngest members. A child-centered society places high value on children, dedicating time, money, and policy attention to their well-being, education, safety, and overall development. It describes the orientation of social institutions toward children, not just the status of being a child or a set of beliefs. The other terms don't capture that social focus: adulthood refers to a life stage, childhood to the phase itself, and beliefs to shared ideas rather than the way a society organizes around children. So the best description is child-centered.

2. Which term refers to formal rules enacted by the state to regulate behavior?

- A. Informal Social Control**
- B. Lifestyle**
- C. Laws**
- D. Masculinity**

Formal social control focuses on rules created by the state to regulate behavior. Laws are the formal rules enacted by the state that govern actions and carry legal penalties when violated. This makes them the best answer because they are precisely the state-backed, codified guidelines that regulate conduct. Informal social control covers unwritten norms enforced by family and peers; lifestyle describes a pattern of living; and masculinity is a social construct about gender, not a set of state-enforced rules.

3. The use or threat of force to make someone conform to norms and values in society.

- A. Coercion**
- B. Beliefs**
- C. Agencies of Socialization**
- D. Canalization**

Coercion is the use or threat of force to compel people to follow the norms and values of society. It represents a direct form of social control where power is exercised to ensure conformity, often through punishment, sanctions, or applying fear of consequences. This differs from beliefs, which are internal convictions held by individuals; agencies of socialization, which are the institutions and processes that teach and transmit those norms; and canalization, which is a gradual shaping of behavior by guiding children's opportunities and activities without necessarily invoking force or threats.

4. What term means evaluating cultures on their own context?

- A. Ethnocentrism
- B. Cultural Relativism**
- C. Beliefs
- D. Age Group

Cultural Relativism is the idea that each culture's beliefs, practices, and values should be understood within its own social and historical context, rather than judged against the standards of another culture. This approach helps us see why certain customs exist and how they fit into a culture's lives, avoiding biased comparisons. It's a way to interpret behavior from inside the culture's own frame of reference, which is different from evaluating everything by one's own culture. For example, practices that seem strange at first can make sense when viewed in their own social setting. Beliefs are simply ideas people hold, not a method for comparing cultures. Age group is a demographic category, not a principle for interpreting cultural meaning.

5. How parents and others encourage some behavior and discourage other behavior.

- A. Manipulation**
- B. Masculinity
- C. Globalization
- D. Laws

Shaping behavior through rewards and sanctions used by family and others is manipulation in the context of socialization and social control. Parents and other adults encourage certain actions by praising, rewarding, or approving them, and discourage others through punishment, disapproval, or setting consequences. This ongoing process helps individuals learn what is expected in their culture and internalize those norms so their behavior aligns with social expectations. The other options don't fit this idea: laws are formal rules enforced by the state and operate at a societal level rather than through everyday interpersonal influence; globalization is about global interconnectedness rather than how individuals are guided to behave; masculinity refers to a gendered identity and set of norms, not the mechanism by which behavior is shaped in daily life.

6. When socialization is incomplete or ineffective.

- A. Inadequate Socialization**
- B. Lifestyle
- C. Informal Social Control
- D. Global Culture

Socialization is the lifelong process by which people learn the norms, values, and expected behaviors of their culture. When that process is incomplete or ineffective, individuals may not internalize those norms and may struggle to behave in socially acceptable ways, understand their roles, or relate to others. This is best described as inadequate socialization, which captures the gap between what is learned and what is needed to function smoothly in society. The other options describe things that aren't about the failure to learn social norms: lifestyle refers to how someone lives, informal social control refers to the sanctions and pressure used to enforce norms, and global culture refers to widespread cultural patterns, not an individual's level of socialization.

7. Which term best describes the spread of cultures through global contact?

- A. Global Culture**
- B. Imitation**
- C. Globalization**
- D. Laws**

Globalization is the process that explains how cultures spread through global contact. It encompasses the way trade, travel, media, migration, and communication connect people and places, allowing ideas, foods, languages, and customs to move across borders and influence one another. Global culture refers to what results from that spread—the shared, worldwide mix of practices—so it’s more about the outcome than the mechanism. Imitation describes copying specific elements, which is narrower and doesn’t capture the broad system of interconnected exchanges. Laws are about rules and governance, not the transmission of cultural traits. Therefore, globalization best describes the spread of cultures through global contact.

8. Which statement best describes deterrence in sociology?

- A. It Discourages Actions By Instilling Fear Of Punishment**
- B. It Accurately Measures Social Conformity Through Sanctions**
- C. It Only Operates Within Formal Legal Systems**
- D. It Replaces All Forms Of Rehabilitation**

Deterrence in sociology is the idea that people are discouraged from committing offences because they expect to face punishment or negative consequences. The strongest description here is that deterrence works by instilling fear of punishment, which is the key mechanism that aims to prevent action before it happens. Punishment can be formal, like police and courts, or informal, like social disapproval, and both can influence decisions. It’s not about measuring conformity through sanctions or about only formal legal systems, since informal social controls can also deter. It doesn’t replace rehabilitation, which focuses on reforming offenders rather than simply preventing crime through the threat of punishment.

9. A position that someone has in a society; which can be ascribed or achieved.

- A. Status**
- B. Value Consensus**
- C. Identity**
- D. Culture**

Status is the position a person occupies within the social structure. It can be ascribed, such as being born into a particular family, gender, or ethnicity, or achieved, such as becoming a teacher, doctor, or athlete through effort and merit. This focus on a person’s social standing explains why it’s the best fit for a phrase describing a position in society that can be either inherited or earned. Value consensus refers to shared beliefs and values within a group, not a specific social position. Identity is about how someone sees themselves or is labeled, not the structured position they hold. Culture means the shared patterns of life a group engages in, including norms, symbols, and practices, not a single social position.

10. The stage of development between childhood and adulthood is called?

- A. Adulthood**
- B. Childhood**
- C. Beliefs**
- D. Adolescence**

Adolescence is the stage of development between childhood and adulthood. It's the period when physical changes of puberty occur alongside important social and identity changes—young people start thinking more about who they are, what they want, and how they fit with peers, school, and future plans. It's a transition from dependence toward greater independence and new social roles, which is why it's treated as its own distinct life stage in sociology. Adulthood comes after adolescence, bringing full independence and adult responsibilities. Childhood is earlier, a time of greater dependence and simpler social expectations. Beliefs refers to ideas people hold, not a stage of development.

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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://igcsesociologyunit2.examzify.com>

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

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