

IGCSE Sociology Unit 2 - Culture, identity and Socialization 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

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- 1. In evaluating deterrence, researchers emphasize that punishment must be swift, certain, and proportional.**
 - A. Deterrence Is Most Effective When Punishment Is Severe Only**
 - B. Deterrence Depends On Certainty, Swiftness, And Severity**
 - C. Deterrence Relies On Rehabilitation**
 - D. Deterrence Operates Only In Formal Contexts**

- 2. Which term describes the state of being accepted by culture as a full member?**
 - A. Beliefs**
 - B. Adulthood**
 - C. Childhood**
 - D. Agencies of Socialization**

- 3. General agreement across a society on a set of values.**
 - A. Values**
 - B. Social Identity**
 - C. Sub-culture**
 - D. Value Consensus**

- 4. What term refers to age-based groups sharing similar status and roles?**
 - A. Agencies of Socialization**
 - B. Beliefs**
 - C. Age Group**
 - D. Cultural Relativism**

- 5. A position that someone has in a society; which can be ascribed or achieved.**
 - A. Status**
 - B. Value Consensus**
 - C. Identity**
 - D. Culture**

- 6. Which concept describes a society that prioritizes children's well-being?**
- A. Child-centered**
 - B. Adulthood**
 - C. Agencies of Socialization**
 - D. Coercion**
- 7. A key assumption of deterrence theory is that people weigh perceived costs and benefits before deciding to commit a crime.**
- A. Deterrence Is Based On Rational Calculations Of Costs And Benefits**
 - B. Deterrence Is Not Relevant In All Types Of Crimes**
 - C. People Weigh Perceived Costs And Benefits Before Deciding To Commit A Crime**
 - D. Deterrence Emphasizes Rehabilitation Over Punishment**
- 8. Which term describes belonging to the age group of those advanced in years?**
- A. Youth**
 - B. Adult**
 - C. Elderly**
 - D. Child**
- 9. 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**
- 10. A position that someone has in a society; which can be ascribed (fixed by others) or achieved.**
- A. Status**
 - B. Value Consensus**
 - C. Values**
 - D. Social Identity**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In evaluating deterrence, researchers emphasize that punishment must be swift, certain, and proportional.
 - A. Deterrence Is Most Effective When Punishment Is Severe Only
 - B. Deterrence Depends On Certainty, Swiftness, And Severity**
 - C. Deterrence Relies On Rehabilitation
 - D. Deterrence Operates Only In Formal Contexts

Deterrence theory rests on the idea that people weigh the costs and benefits of their actions before acting. For punishment to deter, three things must line up: it is certain to happen if the offense is committed, it occurs quickly after the act, and it is proportionate to the crime. When punishment is likely to occur, immediate, and appropriate in severity, the perceived cost of offending rises, making individuals less likely to offend. This is why the statement about deterrence depends on certainty, swiftness, and severity is the best fit. If punishment isn't likely, the threat loses credibility and deterrence weakens. If punishment is delayed, the connection between the crime and punishment isn't clear, reducing deterrence. And if punishment isn't appropriate in severity, offenders may feel the costs aren't worth it, or the system may fail to signal a clear disincentive. Rehabilitation focuses on reforming the offender rather than preventing crime through the threat of punishment, and deterrence can operate beyond formal legal penalties, through informal social sanctions as well.

2. Which term describes the state of being accepted by culture as a full member?
 - A. Beliefs
 - B. Adulthood**
 - C. Childhood
 - D. Agencies of Socialization

Becoming a full member of a culture is about achieving social status that signals you're a capable, accepted participant with rights and responsibilities. Adulthood is the point at which society typically grants full participation—legal rights, work, family roles, and expected behaviors—so a person is recognized as a mature, contributing member. Beliefs are just what someone thinks or values, not a status of belonging. Childhood is the prior developmental stage before full social participation. Agencies of socialization are the institutions that teach culture (family, school, media), not the status of being a full member.

3. General agreement across a society on a set of values.

- A. Values**
- B. Social Identity**
- C. Sub-culture**
- D. Value Consensus**

Value consensus refers to a general agreement across a society on a set of values that guide behavior and judgments. This shared common ground helps people anticipate each other's actions, settle disputes, and maintain social order because most members of the society endorse similar ideas about what is good, right, or desirable. Values are the beliefs about what is important, but consensus is about how widely those beliefs are shared. Social Identity is about how people define themselves in relation to groups they belong to, which shapes belonging and roles but not the overall level of agreement on values across the whole society. A sub-culture is a smaller group within the broader culture that may hold distinct norms and values, again not representing the general level of agreement across the entire society.

4. What term refers to age-based groups sharing similar status and roles?

- A. Agencies of Socialization**
- B. Beliefs**
- C. Age Group**
- D. Cultural Relativism**

The key idea is grouping people by age to reflect the social roles and status typically associated with that life stage. An age group is a social category defined by a specific range of ages, and members share similar expectations and responsibilities—like being students, workers, or retirees—based on their age. That makes it the best fit for “age-based groups sharing similar status and roles.” The other terms describe different ideas: Agencies of Socialization are the channels that transmit culture (family, school, media), beliefs are ideas or convictions, and cultural relativism is a method for judging a culture by its own standards. None of these name a category of people defined by age and the statuses and roles that come with that age.

5. 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.

6. Which concept describes a society that prioritizes children's well-being?

- A. Child-centered**
- B. Adulthood**
- C. Agencies of Socialization**
- D. Coercion**

Child-centered thinking describes a society that prioritizes children's well-being. When a society puts the needs, rights, and development of children at the heart of policy and everyday life, institutions like schools, healthcare, and family services are organized around ensuring children grow up safe, healthy, and with opportunities. This term directly captures that focus on children, which is why it fits best. The other ideas don't fit as well. Adulthood refers to grown-up social roles, not a society's orientation toward children. Agencies of socialization describe the processes (like family, school, media) through which people learn culture, rather than a society's prioritization of children. Coercion implies control or force, not a constructive emphasis on children's welfare.

7. A key assumption of deterrence theory is that people weigh perceived costs and benefits before deciding to commit a crime.

- A. Deterrence Is Based On Rational Calculations Of Costs And Benefits**
- B. Deterrence Is Not Relevant In All Types Of Crimes**
- C. People Weigh Perceived Costs And Benefits Before Deciding To Commit A Crime**
- D. Deterrence Emphasizes Rehabilitation Over Punishment**

Deterrence theory rests on the idea that potential offenders think through what might happen before acting. They weigh the costs they might face (like the chances and severity of punishment, time, social stigma) against the benefits (the gains from committing the crime). If the perceived costs outweigh the benefits, they decide not to offend. The statement that captures this exact process—people weigh perceived costs and benefits before deciding to commit a crime—is why it is the best answer. The other ideas touch on related but different points: one shifts to whether deterrence works for all crimes, another mentions rational calculation in a general sense, and another argues for rehabilitation over punishment, which is not what deterrence emphasizes.

8. Which term describes belonging to the age group of those advanced in years?

- A. Youth**
- B. Adult**
- C. Elderly**
- D. Child**

In sociology, we categorize people by life stages to understand how roles, expectations, and experiences change over time. When we talk about those who are advanced in years, the label elderly is used because it signals old age and the social aspects that come with it—like retirement, health considerations, and the kinds of care or respect often discussed in aging studies. The other terms describe different points on the life span. Child and youth refer to younger ages, while adult covers a broad range that includes middle age and some older ages but isn't specific to being old. So elderly is the most precise term for describing people in the later stage of life.

9. 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.

10. A position that someone has in a society; which can be ascribed (fixed by others) or achieved.

A. Status

B. Value Consensus

C. Values

D. Social Identity

In sociology, a status is a social position that a person occupies within a society, and it comes with expected roles and duties. This position can be ascribed, meaning it is assigned by birth or other fixed factors beyond the individual's control (such as gender or family lineage), or achieved, meaning it is earned through personal effort or choices (such as becoming a student, teacher, or professional). Understanding this helps explain social dynamics: where you stand in the social hierarchy affects how others treat you and what is expected of you, regardless of your personal abilities or desires. The idea that some statuses are given and others earned captures how society assigns prestige and influence. The other terms relate to different ideas: values are beliefs about what is important, value consensus refers to broad agreement on norms, and social identity concerns how people define themselves in relation to groups. They describe beliefs or group belonging, not the specific position a person holds in the social structure.

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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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