

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION 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. What does relative deprivation theory claim?

- A. People feel poorer or less satisfied when they compare themselves to others who are better off.
- B. People feel poorer only when they are objectively poorer.
- C. Relative deprivation has no effect on social cohesion or behavior.
- D. Relative deprivation increases satisfaction when others improve.

2. Which factors contribute to gender wage gaps in many regions?

- A. Discrimination and occupational segregation
- B. Education level only
- C. Climate and weather patterns
- D. Geographic location alone

3. Which two criteria define functional importance in this theory?

- A. Degree of functional uniqueness and degree of dependency from other positions on the given one.
- B. Salary level and tenure.
- C. Number of subordinates and age of the occupation.
- D. Geographic location and union status.

4. How does education function as a mechanism of social reproduction?

- A. Education transmits cultural capital, validates credentials, and creates social networks that reproduce existing class structures across generations.
- B. Education has no impact on social mobility.
- C. Education primarily reduces inequality by equalizing resources.
- D. Education only teaches practical skills with no influence on social status.

5. In the US and Canada, race and ethnicity become the basis of categorization and inequality. What does this imply?

- A. Race/ethnicity shapes social boundaries and rewards.
- B. It has no impact on social structure.
- C. It only affects politics.
- D. It is unrelated to inequality.

- 6. Which statement best defines the persuasive form of power?**
- A. Military coercion
 - B. Prestige attached to a position or esteem for an individual
 - C. Economic domination
 - D. Legal mandates
- 7. Which policy is most likely to reduce income inequality?**
- A. Reducing the social safety net.
 - B. Expanding targeted public services and universal programs funded by progressive taxation.
 - C. Deregulating markets.
 - D. Cutting taxes for the top earners.
- 8. Which perspective views inequality as a product of coercion and power that serves the interests of dominant groups?**
- A. Conflict theory
 - B. Functionalist theory
 - C. Symbolic interactionism
 - D. Feminist theory
- 9. How do social determinants of health relate to stratification in health outcomes?**
- A. Stratification influences health by shaping access to resources and exposure to risk.
 - B. Social determinants are unrelated to stratification.
 - C. Stratification affects health only through genetics.
 - D. Health outcomes determine social position to a large extent.
- 10. Which statement best defines habitus and its relation to education?**
- A. Habitus refers to durable dispositions shaped by early life experiences and social conditions that influence tastes, behaviors, and success in educational settings.
 - B. Habitus is the formal policy framework for curricula.
 - C. Habitus is a monetary grant awarded for academic achievement.
 - D. Habitus describes external barriers to access.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does relative deprivation theory claim?

- A. People feel poorer or less satisfied when they compare themselves to others who are better off.
- B. People feel poorer only when they are objectively poorer.
- C. Relative deprivation has no effect on social cohesion or behavior.
- D. Relative deprivation increases satisfaction when others improve.

Relative deprivation theory says that how deprived you feel depends on how you compare yourself to others, not just on your objective situation. When you see others who are better off, you perceive a gap between your own circumstances and theirs, which can make you feel poorer or less satisfied even if your resources haven't changed. This upward comparison can fuel discontent, resentment, and changes in behavior or attitudes as people respond to the perceived inequality. The idea isn't that you must be objectively poor to feel deprived, and it isn't about people becoming more satisfied when others improve; rather, deprivation arises from the relative gap and the emotions tied to that comparison.

2. Which factors contribute to gender wage gaps in many regions?

- A. Discrimination and occupational segregation
- B. Education level only
- C. Climate and weather patterns
- D. Geographic location alone

Gender wage gaps persist because bias in how people are treated in pay and promotion, along with the way jobs are divided by gender, shape who earns more. Discrimination shows up in pay decisions, promotion opportunities, and negotiation outcomes, so women often earn less on average even when they have similar education and experience. Occupational segregation means men and women tend to cluster in different fields, and many high paying roles are male dominated while many lower paid roles are female dominated. This separation drags down overall earnings for women relative to men. Education helps individuals but doesn't by itself erase these systemic dynamics. Climate, weather patterns, or geographic location don't fundamentally drive the wage gap across regions. So the combination of discrimination and occupational segregation best explains why gender wage gaps occur.

3. Which two criteria define functional importance in this theory?

- A. Degree of functional uniqueness and degree of dependency from other positions on the given one.
- B. Salary level and tenure.
- C. Number of subordinates and age of the occupation.
- D. Geographic location and union status.

In this theory, functional importance is about how essential a position's function is within the organization's workflow, not about pay or tenure. The two criteria are the degree of functional uniqueness and the degree of dependency from other positions on the given one. Functional uniqueness means how hard it would be to replace the function—if only a few people can perform it, the function is highly important. Dependency from other positions refers to how much output from this position is used by others; the more units rely on it to do their work, the more important the position is. For example, a function that coordinates and integrates input from multiple departments will often be highly functionally important because its outputs are needed across many roles, and there are few easy substitutes. On the other hand, factors like salary level, tenure, number of subordinates, age of the occupation, geographic location, or union status do not measure how central the function is to the organization's operations, so they don't define functional importance.

4. How does education function as a mechanism of social reproduction?

- A. Education transmits cultural capital, validates credentials, and creates social networks that reproduce existing class structures across generations.
- B. Education has no impact on social mobility.
- C. Education primarily reduces inequality by equalizing resources.
- D. Education only teaches practical skills with no influence on social status.

The main idea is that education can reproduce social inequality by passing on advantages from one generation to the next through cultural assets, credentials, and social ties. Cultural capital includes the knowledge, language, tastes, and behaviors that higher-status families tend to cultivate and that schools reward. When students arrive with these assets, they often navigate school more smoothly, perform better on exams, and access advanced tracks or elite institutions, which then leads to better job prospects and higher status later on. Credentialing matters because diplomas and degrees act as signals to employers and gatekeepers about a person's qualifications; they create barriers for those without the same credentials, helping to maintain existing class positions even when skills vary. Networks formed in school—relationships with teachers, mentors, and alumni—also provide access to internships, recommendations, and opportunities that bolster a path up the social ladder. Together, these mechanisms keep the structure of class relatively stable across generations, even as individual mobility occurs in some cases. In contrast, the other statements ignore how education can reinforce status through cultural, credential, and network channels, and they misstate its impact on equality and the kinds of skills education imparts.

5. In the US and Canada, race and ethnicity become the basis of categorization and inequality. What does this imply?

- A. Race/ethnicity shapes social boundaries and rewards.
- B. It has no impact on social structure.
- C. It only affects politics.
- D. It is unrelated to inequality.

Race and ethnicity act as organizing categories that create social boundaries and determine where rewards go in society. In the US and Canada, these categories shape who gets access to resources, opportunities, and status through institutions like schools, housing, the labor market, and the justice system, leading to persistent inequality across generations. This is why the idea that race/ethnicity structures both social boundaries and rewards best captures what happens. The other statements miss the broad and enduring impact of these categories on social structure and inequality.

6. Which statement best defines the persuasive form of power?

- A. Military coercion
- B. Prestige attached to a position or esteem for an individual
- C. Economic domination
- D. Legal mandates

Persuasive power relies on legitimacy, trust, and admiration rather than force or material leverage. When influence comes from prestige attached to a position or esteem for an individual, people are motivated to follow or listen because they value that person's authority and credibility. This makes compliance voluntary and influenced by shared norms and beliefs, not by threats or coercion. In contrast, military coercion uses threats or actual force to compel behavior, economic domination relies on controlling resources to pressure others, and legal mandates depend on formal rules and institutions to enforce obedience. The statement about prestige and esteem best captures power that persuades through accepted authority and respect.

7. Which policy is most likely to reduce income inequality?

- A. Reducing the social safety net.
- B. Expanding targeted public services and universal programs funded by progressive taxation.**
- C. Deregulating markets.
- D. Cutting taxes for the top earners.

Reducing income inequality comes from strengthening access to essential services for everyone and paying for them in a way that asks more from those with higher incomes. Expanding targeted public services and universal programs funded by progressive taxation does just that: it raises living standards for lower- and middle-income people, expands opportunity, and narrows the gap between rich and poor. By providing universal health care, quality education, childcare, housing support, and social safety nets, the basic needs of the whole population are met more evenly, which helps people move up based on effort and talent rather than solely on starting circumstances. Progressive taxation ensures the funding for these programs comes from those with greater ability to pay, reducing after-tax inequality while keeping the burden relatively fair. Removing the social safety net would erode the protection for vulnerable groups, widening gaps during economic downturns or shocks. Deregulating markets tends to favor existing advantage and can increase disparities. Cutting taxes for top earners reduces redistribution and typically raises after-tax inequality.

8. Which perspective views inequality as a product of coercion and power that serves the interests of dominant groups?

- A. Conflict theory**
- B. Functionalist theory
- C. Symbolic interactionism
- D. Feminist theory

Inequality arising from power struggles and coercive domination by those in control is a hallmark of conflict theory. This view sees society as a arena where groups compete for scarce resources—wealth, status, political influence—and those with power use coercion and the wielding of institutions like laws, policing, and policy to protect their advantages. Because these structures reproduce benefits for the dominant groups while restricting opportunities for others, inequality is seen as actively produced and reinforced to serve the interests of those at the top. This macro-level lens focuses on how social arrangements sustain hierarchy and conflict, rather than on stability or individual interactions. By contrast, functionalist theory emphasizes stability and function, symbolic interactionism looks at everyday meanings in micro-interactions, and feminist theory analyzes gender-based power, though it can intersect with the broader power analysis that conflict theory foregrounds.

9. How do social determinants of health relate to stratification in health outcomes?

- A. Stratification influences health by shaping access to resources and exposure to risk.
- B. Social determinants are unrelated to stratification.
- C. Stratification affects health only through genetics.**
- D. Health outcomes determine social position to a large extent.

The key idea here is that health outcomes are shaped by social determinants of health, and these determinants are distributed unequally across society, creating differences in health across social groups. Factors like income, education, housing, neighborhood conditions, and access to healthcare influence both how much risk people are exposed to and what resources they can obtain to protect their health. Because some groups have better access to resources and safer environments while others face more stress, crowding, pollution, or barriers to care, their health trajectories diverge over time. This is why disparities in health align with social position: stratification in society translates into unequal exposure to risk and unequal access to resources that promote well-being. The option that captures this mechanism says stratification influences health by shaping access to resources and exposure to risk. The other statements miss the central point, such as treating social determinants as unrelated, attributing health mainly to genetics, or reversing the direction of influence where health would largely determine social position.

10. Which statement best defines habitus and its relation to education?

- A. Habitus refers to durable dispositions shaped by early life experiences and social conditions that influence tastes, behaviors, and success in educational settings.
- B. Habitus is the formal policy framework for curricula.**
- C. Habitus is a monetary grant awarded for academic achievement.
- D. Habitus describes external barriers to access.

Habitus consists of durable dispositions shaped by early life experiences and social conditions that influence tastes, behaviors, and how well someone does in educational settings. In school, these ingrained ways of thinking and acting affect what students value, how they participate, how they navigate classroom norms, and what they expect to achieve. Because habitus is about these internalized patterns, it helps explain why students from different backgrounds often engage with learning in distinct ways and experience different levels of success, even when they have similar abilities. The other options describe things that aren't about internalized dispositions: a formal policy framework for curricula is a policy construct, a monetary grant is financial aid, and external barriers to access refer to obstacles outside a person's dispositions.

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://socialstratification.examzify.com>

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

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