

# Western Governors University (WGU) SOCG1010 C273 Introduction to Sociology Practice Exam (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. What does goal displacement refer to?**
  - A. The removal of all goals**
  - B. Changing old goals for new ones**
  - C. Setting impossible goals**
  - D. Achieving all set goals**
  
- 2. What is the goal of sharing research results?**
  - A. To promote personal recognition among peers**
  - B. To provide data for policy change and practical applications**
  - C. To critique other researchers' findings**
  - D. To foster competitive research in the field**
  
- 3. Which term describes a group toward which one feels antagonism?**
  - A. In-group**
  - B. Bureaucracy**
  - C. Reference group**
  - D. Out-group**
  
- 4. How does media contribute to socialization?**
  - A. By depicting only economic issues**
  - B. By providing entertainment only**
  - C. By shaping perceptions and reflecting societal values**
  - D. By promoting individualism**
  
- 5. Which of the following is an example of an outer control in Control Theory?**
  - A. Morality**
  - B. Intuition**
  - C. Role models**
  - D. Personal values**
  
- 6. How can a social movement be defined?**
  - A. A random gathering of people**
  - B. A collective, organized effort to promote or resist social change**
  - C. A formal assembly for discussing community issues**
  - D. Any small group working towards a common goal**

- 7. In functionalism, what is the role of a 'function'?**
- A. To provide stability and balance**
  - B. To create social conflict**
  - C. To serve as a symbol of culture**
  - D. To reinforce social norms**
- 8. How do sociologists typically use surveys?**
- A. To gather qualitative insights from personal interviews**
  - B. To collect quantitative data about opinions and behaviors from a population sample**
  - C. To analyze historical trends**
  - D. To observe social interactions in natural settings**
- 9. Who is known for the "looking-glass self" theory?**
- A. George Herbert Mead**
  - B. Charles Horton Cooley**
  - C. Erving Goffman**
  - D. Sigmund Freud**
- 10. How does race fundamentally differ from ethnicity?**
- A. Race is based on cultural identity**
  - B. Race is based on physical characteristics**
  - C. Ethnicity is determined by nationality**
  - D. Ethnicity is based on individual choices**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What does goal displacement refer to?

- A. The removal of all goals
- B. Changing old goals for new ones**
- C. Setting impossible goals
- D. Achieving all set goals

Goal displacement refers to a phenomenon where the original goals of an organization or group become secondary to new objectives or strategies that emerge over time. This process often occurs when the primary aim is altered or shifted, leading to a focus on new goals while the initial ones are either neglected or forgotten. In this context, the correct answer emphasizes the transition from old goals to new ones. This can happen for various reasons, such as changing circumstances, emerging challenges, or different leadership directives. Understanding goal displacement is important because it highlights how organizations might adapt their priorities in response to environmental changes or internal dynamics, potentially impacting their overall effectiveness and mission fulfillment. The other options do not accurately capture the essence of goal displacement. For instance, the concept does not involve complete removal of all goals or the establishment of unattainable objectives; rather, it describes a shift in focus rather than a total abandonment of direction or purpose.

## 2. What is the goal of sharing research results?

- A. To promote personal recognition among peers
- B. To provide data for policy change and practical applications**
- C. To critique other researchers' findings
- D. To foster competitive research in the field

The goal of sharing research results primarily revolves around the impact that findings can have on real-world situations. By disseminating data, researchers aim to inform and influence policy changes and practical applications that can benefit society. This sharing process allows for other researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to access valuable information that might lead to improvements in various fields, such as health, education, social policy, and more. The intent is not merely about gaining personal recognition, critiquing others, or fostering competition; instead, it centers on enhancing knowledge and driving positive change through informed decisions and actions based on the research findings. When research results are shared widely, they can lead to collaborative efforts and collective advancement rather than focusing solely on individual achievements or rivalries.

### 3. Which term describes a group toward which one feels antagonism?

- A. In-group
- B. Bureaucracy
- C. Reference group
- D. Out-group**

The term that defines a group toward which one feels antagonism is "out-group." An out-group is characterized by the perception of being different or opposing, leading individuals to feel animosity, hostility, or competition towards members of that group. This term often arises in sociological contexts when discussing social identity and intergroup relations, where individuals identify with their own group (the in-group) and often view those outside of their group (the out-group) as adversaries or competitors. Understanding this concept is crucial in sociology, as it reflects how groups create boundaries and establish dynamics of inclusion and exclusion. This antagonism can manifest in various ways, from prejudice and discrimination to conflict, particularly when the out-group is seen as a threat to the in-group's identity or interests.

### 4. How does media contribute to socialization?

- A. By depicting only economic issues
- B. By providing entertainment only
- C. By shaping perceptions and reflecting societal values**
- D. By promoting individualism

Media plays a crucial role in socialization by shaping perceptions and reflecting societal values. It serves as a primary means through which individuals learn about social norms, cultural practices, and societal expectations. By presenting stories, news, and diverse representations of different communities, media helps individuals understand the world around them and their place within it. Through various forms of content—such as television shows, films, news articles, and social media—media not only conveys information but also reinforces or challenges existing values and beliefs. For example, portrayals of gender roles, family structures, or social issues in media can influence public opinion and societal attitudes. Additionally, media exposure to different cultures and viewpoints broadens individuals' perspectives, contributing to a greater understanding of diversity and the complexities of social life. The other options do not encapsulate the full scope of media's impact on socialization. Focusing solely on economic issues or providing entertainment overlooks the broader role of media in influencing societal values and individual behavior. While promoting individualism may occur in some contexts, it does not encompass the overall contributions of media to the socialization process, which is more about shared values and collective understanding.

**5. Which of the following is an example of an outer control in Control Theory?**

- A. Morality**
- B. Intuition**
- C. Role models**
- D. Personal values**

The correct answer is role models, as they exemplify outer control in Control Theory. Outer controls refer to external influences that can help prevent deviant behavior by providing guidelines and social norms to follow. Role models demonstrate acceptable behavior and values through their actions, serving as influential examples for others. When individuals look to role models, they often align their behavior with the expectations and norms exhibited by these figures, thereby reinforcing societal standards. Morality, intuition, and personal values represent inner controls, which are internalized beliefs and feelings that guide an individual's behavior. While they play a significant role in influencing actions, they originate from within the individual rather than from external societal structures or influences. This distinction highlights why role models are categorized as an outer control in this context, making them instrumental in shaping behavior through external guidance.

**6. How can a social movement be defined?**

- A. A random gathering of people**
- B. A collective, organized effort to promote or resist social change**
- C. A formal assembly for discussing community issues**
- D. Any small group working towards a common goal**

A social movement can be defined as a collective, organized effort to promote or resist social change because it involves a group of individuals coming together with a shared objective that aims to influence societal views, behaviors, or policies. Social movements often arise in response to perceived injustices or disparities in society, allowing participants to channel their dissatisfaction into coordinated actions, which may include protests, advocacy, and various forms of activism. The effectiveness and structure of social movements are based on organization, commitment, and a focus on achieving specific goals related to social reform or transformation, which distinguishes them from more casual interactions or gatherings of people. This organized and purposeful nature is crucial for understanding how social movements can influence public policy and cultural norms over time. Factors such as leadership, resources, and the use of media are often incorporated into social movements, demonstrating that they are systematic efforts rather than spontaneous or random actions.

## 7. In functionalism, what is the role of a 'function'?

- A. To provide stability and balance**
- B. To create social conflict**
- C. To serve as a symbol of culture**
- D. To reinforce social norms**

In functionalism, the concept of a 'function' refers to the role that different elements of society play in maintaining the stability and balance of the overall social system. Each component, whether it be institutions, norms, or practices, serves a specific purpose that contributes to the smooth operation and cohesion of society. For instance, education serves the function of socializing individuals and preparing them for their roles, while family structures provide emotional support and socialization. The emphasis on stability highlights how societal parts work interdependently, ensuring that disruptions are minimized, and the system functions harmoniously. This perspective sees social change as a gradual process that occurs when aspects of society adapt to new conditions, rather than through conflict or upheaval. Understanding this framework helps in analyzing the connections between various societal elements and their contributions to overall social equilibrium.

## 8. How do sociologists typically use surveys?

- A. To gather qualitative insights from personal interviews**
- B. To collect quantitative data about opinions and behaviors from a population sample**
- C. To analyze historical trends**
- D. To observe social interactions in natural settings**

Sociologists typically use surveys as a systematic method to collect quantitative data regarding opinions, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors from a sample of a population. This approach allows researchers to gather responses from a diverse group and analyze that data statistically, which can help identify patterns, correlations, and trends within the broader population. Surveys are particularly valuable because they can efficiently collect large amounts of data, making it possible to generalize results to a larger population. This quantitative aspect enables sociologists to make informed conclusions based on measurable data, as opposed to purely subjective interpretations. The alternative methods mentioned, such as gathering qualitative insights from personal interviews or analyzing historical trends, serve different purposes and typically do not focus on the quantifiable aspects of social phenomena. Observing social interactions in natural settings is another qualitative approach that also does not use survey data, emphasizing the differing aims and methods within sociological research.

**9. Who is known for the "looking-glass self" theory?**

- A. George Herbert Mead**
- B. Charles Horton Cooley**
- C. Erving Goffman**
- D. Sigmund Freud**

The "looking-glass self" theory is attributed to Charles Horton Cooley, who introduced this concept in his work "Human Nature and the Social Order." According to Cooley, the self is developed through social interactions and is shaped by how we believe others perceive us. He argued that individuals form their self-concepts based largely on how they think they are viewed by others, much like looking into a mirror, which reflects not just our physical appearance but also our social identity. The process involves three key components: imagining how we appear to others, imagining the judgment of that appearance, and developing a feeling about ourselves based on that imagined judgment. This theory emphasizes the social nature of identity formation, highlighting the influence of society and interpersonal relationships on the self, which is fundamental to the study of sociology.

**10. How does race fundamentally differ from ethnicity?**

- A. Race is based on cultural identity**
- B. Race is based on physical characteristics**
- C. Ethnicity is determined by nationality**
- D. Ethnicity is based on individual choices**

Race fundamentally differs from ethnicity primarily because race is based on physical characteristics. This includes traits such as skin color, hair texture, and facial features that are often perceived as inherent and biological. Racial categories are typically identified in a social context and can influence societal perceptions and access to resources. In contrast, ethnicity is more closely related to cultural identity, encompassing elements such as language, nationality, traditions, and shared history. While race is often ascribed at birth and can be seen as a superficial classification, ethnicity allows for a broader and more nuanced understanding of groups that may share cultural practices. Therefore, the distinction lies in the basis of categorization: race relies on physical traits, while ethnicity focuses on cultural and social identities.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://wgu-socg1010-c273.examzify.com>**

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

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