AICE SOCIOLOGY PAPER 2 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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. What is the principle of 'cultural relativism'?

A. Judging cultures based on personal beliefs

B. Evaluating a culture using external standards

C. Understanding a culture without bias

D. Believing one culture is superior to another

2. What do shared households consist of?

A. A family unit with kinship ties

B. A couple without children

C. A group of unrelated people living together

D. A single-family residence

3. What term refers to functions that, while altered, still exist within the family despite state involvement?

A. Core functions

B. Peripheral functions

C. Dominant functions

D. Supplementary functions

4. What does 'social constructivism' argue?

A. Social features are influenced by interactions

B. Every culture is superior to others

C. Aging leads to diminishing social roles

D. Gender roles are biologically determined

5. What did Katz find about Sudanese children's freedoms?

A. They have many restrictions

B. They are allowed to roam freely

C. They only play indoors

D. They have structured schedules

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6. In neo-functionalism, what type of roles do men and women typically occupy?

A. Financial and emotional roles

B. Instrumental and expressive roles

C. Dominant and submissive roles

D. Supportive and administrative roles

7. What does Murdock argue regarding the nuclear family?

A. All family structures are variations of the nuclear family

B. The nuclear family is only a modern development

C. Extended families are more relevant than nuclear families

D. The nuclear family is incompatible with societal changes

8. What is 'institutional racism'?

A. A personal bias against individuals of different races

B. Racism embedded in societal institutions' policies and practices

C. A temporary trend in racial discrimination

D. A concept limited to individual actions

9. Which of the following best describes the impact of urbanization on cities?

A. Decreased urban population density

B. Increased urban infrastructure development

C. Reduction in city size

D. Decline of urban job markets

10. What do families provide to individuals in the context of psychological stability?

A. A strong focal point of identity

B. Connections with outside society

C. Financial support for education

D. A network of friends

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the principle of 'cultural relativism'?

A. Judging cultures based on personal beliefs

B. Evaluating a culture using external standards

C. Understanding a culture without bias

D. Believing one culture is superior to another

Cultural relativism is a sociological concept that emphasizes the importance of understanding and interpreting cultural practices and beliefs in their own context, rather than imposing external standards or personal biases. It advocates for an appreciation of the diversity of cultures and promotes the idea that no single culture can be deemed superior or inferior to another based solely on subjective criteria or personal judgments. This principle encourages individuals to approach different cultures with an open mind and to recognize that beliefs and practices are often shaped by historical, social, and environmental factors unique to each society. By striving to understand a culture without bias, one can gain deeper insights into the values, norms, and behaviors that define that culture. This understanding is crucial for fostering tolerance and respect in an increasingly interconnected world, where cultural diversity is prevalent. In contrast, other concepts such as judging cultures based on personal beliefs, evaluating a culture using external standards, or believing one culture is superior to another directly oppose the foundational idea of cultural relativism, which seeks to eliminate such biases in understanding.

2. What do shared households consist of?

A. A family unit with kinship ties

B. A couple without children

C. A group of unrelated people living together

D. A single-family residence

Shared households primarily consist of a group of unrelated people living together. This arrangement often arises in urban settings where individuals may share rent or other living expenses, thus creating a household that does not rely on traditional family structures. Such households can include roommates, cohabitors, or even collective living arrangements that are built around shared interests or goals, rather than family or kinship ties. This definition highlights the dynamics of modern living arrangements, reflecting changing social norms and economic circumstances where individuals might prioritize affordability and companionship over conventional family forms. In contrast, the other options encompass familial structures or specific couple arrangements that do not align with the concept of "shared households" as typically understood in sociological contexts.

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3. What term refers to functions that, while altered, still exist within the family despite state involvement?

A. Core functions

B. Peripheral functions

C. Dominant functions

D. Supplementary functions

The term "peripheral functions" describes those family roles and responsibilities that continue to operate within the family unit, even when there are influences or interventions from the state. In this context, peripheral functions pertain to aspects of family life that might be modified or impacted by external forces, such as government policies or social services, but still persist in some form. This concept highlights the resilience of the family structure and its ability to adapt while retaining certain responsibilities, such as emotional support, socialization of children, or care for elderly members. Peripheral functions are often seen as secondary to the core functions of the family, which are more central to its primary role in society. Understanding the distinction between core and peripheral functions can deepen one's comprehension of how families navigate external pressures while maintaining their internal dynamics and social roles, making "peripheral functions" the most appropriate term in this scenario.

4. What does 'social constructivism' argue?

A. Social features are influenced by interactions

B. Every culture is superior to others

C. Aging leads to diminishing social roles

D. Gender roles are biologically determined

Social constructivism posits that social features, including norms, values, and roles, emerge from and are influenced by social interactions among individuals. This perspective suggests that our understanding of reality is not fixed or inherent but is constructed through our experiences and the meanings we attribute to them. Thus, social constructs develop through ongoing interactions, shaping how we perceive and engage with the world around us. This view contrasts sharply with perspectives that assert the superiority of cultures, as it recognizes the diversity and relativity of social realities created through specific social contexts rather than promoting one as inherently better. Additionally, social constructivism challenges notions related to aging, which may imply that roles diminish based solely on biological or physical aging rather than the societal changes that accompany it. Lastly, the claim that gender roles are biologically determined contradicts the principles of social constructivism, which emphasizes the role of socialization and cultural influences in shaping gender identities and expectations. By focusing on interactions, social constructivism provides a framework for understanding how individual and collective perceptions are formed and how they evolve over time.

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5. What did Katz find about Sudanese children's freedoms?

A. They have many restrictions

B. They are allowed to roam freely

C. They only play indoors

D. They have structured schedules

Katz's research indicated that Sudanese children experience a significant degree of freedom, particularly in terms of their mobility and the ability to roam freely. This observation underscores the cultural and contextual factors that influence children's activities and independence in different societies. In Sudan, children are often seen playing outside and engaging with their environment in ways that reflect both cultural norms and community practices, highlighting a contrast to more restrictive environments that may limit children's exploration and social interactions. This freedom allows children to develop social skills and gain independence as they navigate their surroundings and interact with peers, which is a vital aspect of their growth and development in a communal setting. In contrast, other options suggest limitations or restrictions on children's activities, which do not align with Katz's findings that emphasized the experience of freedom among Sudanese children.

6. In neo-functionalism, what type of roles do men and women typically occupy?

A. Financial and emotional roles

B. Instrumental and expressive roles

C. Dominant and submissive roles

D. Supportive and administrative roles

Neo-functionalism, which builds upon the ideas of functionalism, discusses the roles that individuals play within a society and highlights the importance of maintaining stability and social order through these roles. In this framework, men and women are often seen as occupying different, yet complementary roles: instrumental roles for men and expressive roles for women. Instrumental roles are typically associated with the responsibilities that are oriented towards achieving goals and providing for the family, often linked to financial stability and decision-making. These roles can be seen as embodying strength and authority. In contrast, expressive roles are focused on nurturing, emotional support, and maintaining relationships within the family. This division of roles emphasizes the idea that both men and women contribute significantly to the functioning of society, albeit in different capacities. This perspective is vital in understanding how traditional gender roles are framed within neo-functionalism. It offers insights into the expectations placed on men and women within the familial structure and how these roles facilitate social cohesion. In essence, the emphasis on instrumental and expressive roles encapsulates the broader understanding of gender dynamics in this sociological theory.

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7. What does Murdock argue regarding the nuclear family?

A. All family structures are variations of the nuclear family

B. The nuclear family is only a modern development

C. Extended families are more relevant than nuclear families

D. The nuclear family is incompatible with societal changes

Murdock argues that all family structures are variations of the nuclear family, which refers to the traditional family unit consisting of two parents and their children. His perspective highlights the nuclear family's fundamental role as a basic social unit across different cultures and throughout history. He emphasized that while family forms may vary, they often reflect the nuclear structure's core components, such as a two-parent system and their offspring, adapted to meet specific cultural and social needs. This stance supports the idea that regardless of the presence of extended family forms, the nuclear family remains a central point of reference in understanding family dynamics and societal functions. Murdock's argument is rooted in his belief that the nuclear family fulfills essential societal functions, such as reproduction, socialization, and sexual regulation, which may influence other family structures. This understanding is crucial for analyzing how families operate within various societies and the persistence of the nuclear family across different cultures and historical periods.

8. What is 'institutional racism'?

A. A personal bias against individuals of different races

B. Racism embedded in societal institutions' policies and practices

C. A temporary trend in racial discrimination

D. A concept limited to individual actions

'Institutional racism' refers to the systematic discrimination that is built into the policies and practices of societal institutions, such as schools, the criminal justice system, healthcare, and the workplace. This type of racism is not solely based on individual beliefs or actions but is reflected in the way institutions operate and the disparities created as a result. For example, if a school district's funding policies disproportionately affect schools in predominantly minority neighborhoods, this would illustrate how institutional racism can manifest. It highlights the ways in which societal structures can perpetuate inequality, even when individuals within those institutions may not harbor personal biases. In contrast, the other options focus on personal bias, temporary trends, or individual actions, which do not capture the systemic nature of how racism can be ingrained in institutions and broader societal systems. Institutional racism represents a collective pattern of discrimination that has far-reaching implications on different racial groups, making it a more complex and impactful issue than individual acts of prejudice.

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9. Which of the following best describes the impact of urbanization on cities?

A. Decreased urban population density

B. Increased urban infrastructure development

C. Reduction in city size

D. Decline of urban job markets

The choice of increased urban infrastructure development accurately reflects the impact of urbanization on cities. As urbanization occurs, more people move into urban areas, resulting in a higher population density. This surge in population necessitates the expansion and enhancement of infrastructure, including transportation systems, housing, sanitation, and public services. Cities must adapt to accommodate the growing number of residents, leading to investments in both physical and social infrastructure. In contrast, the other options relate to outcomes that typically do not align with the trends seen in urbanization. For instance, urban population density often increases rather than decreases, city sizes generally expand to accommodate growth, and urban job markets typically evolve rather than simply decline, albeit challenges may arise in specific sectors. This understanding of urbanization highlights the need for cities to develop robust infrastructure to support a thriving urban population.

10. What do families provide to individuals in the context of psychological stability?

A. A strong focal point of identity

B. Connections with outside society

C. Financial support for education

D. A network of friends

Families contribute significantly to psychological stability by acting as a strong focal point of identity. Individuals often derive a sense of self from their familial relationships; this connection helps to shape their values, beliefs, and overall sense of belonging. When a person feels secure in their family identity, they experience enhanced emotional well-being, which can lead to increased resilience against stress and external pressures. Identity formation within the family context allows individuals to explore their roles in society and develop a sense of purpose. This foundational experience creates a supportive environment where individuals can claim their personal and social identities, fostering psychological health. In contrast, while connections with outside society, financial support for education, and networks of friends are important, they do not directly address the core aspect of psychological stability rooted in familial identity. They play varying roles in an individual's life, but the primary function of family in terms of psychological stability centers around its ability to provide a secure, identity-forming base from which individuals can grow and interact with the broader world.

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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://aicesociologypaper2.examzify.com

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

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