AQA SOCIOLOGY CRIME AND DEVIANCE PRACTICE TEST (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 Merton's Strain Theory primarily concerned with?

A. The positive aspects of deviance in society

B. Legitimate means of achieving cultural goals

C. The encouragement of illegal activities by government

D. The psychological development of criminals

2. What major social issue does Left Realism focus on as a cause of crime?

A. Substance abuse

B. Inequality and discrimination

C. Political corruption

D. Globalization

3. What do statistics suggest about occupational diseases in the UK?

A. They are rare and not a significant issue

B. They cause an estimated 50,000 deaths per year

C. Only a small number are reported

D. They mainly affect office workers

4. What does restorative justice focus on?

A. Punishing offenders harshly

B. Rehabilitating offenders through reconciliation with victims

C. Expanding prison populations

D. Implementing stricter laws

5. From a Marxist perspective, what is seen as a natural function of capitalism?

A. Corporate crime being rare

B. Normalcy of corporate crime

C. False representation of corporate harm

D. Financial success without ethical concerns

6. What are 'hate crimes' primarily motivated by?

A. Economic status of the individual

B. Prejudice or bias against particular groups

C. Political affiliations of the offender

D. Personal grievances

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7. What does Miller suggest about the lower class in relation to crime?

A. They conform to mainstream societal values
B. They have developed a subculture with unique norms
C. They experience less conflict with the law
D. They have a lower crime rate than middle class

8. What do biological theories of crime suggest?

A. Criminal behavior is learned through social interactions
B. Criminality is influenced by genetic and physiological factors
C. Cultural factors primarily dictate criminal behavior
D. Economic status determines levels of crime

9. What role does education play in shaping crime rates?

A. Higher education levels always decrease crime
B. There is no correlation between education and crime
C. Lower education levels can increase criminal behavior
D. Education only influences white-collar crime

10. According to Reiman and Leighton, how do perceptions of crime differ among social classes?

A. Lower class crimes are seen as more serious
B. High-class crimes are less likely to be regarded as offenses
C. All crimes are treated equally by the law
D. Perceptions are identical across all demographics

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is Merton's Strain Theory primarily concerned with?

A. The positive aspects of deviance in society

B. Legitimate means of achieving cultural goals

C. The encouragement of illegal activities by government

D. The psychological development of criminals

Merton's Strain Theory is fundamentally focused on the relationship between culturally defined goals and the legitimate means available to achieve these goals within a society. According to Merton, in societies where there is an emphasis on success and achievement—often measured through wealth or status—individuals may experience "strain" or pressure when there is a disconnect between these aspirations and the means to attain them legally. This strain can lead to various adaptations or responses, including conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion. Importantly, Merton posited that individuals who lack access to legitimate means might resort to deviance or crime as alternative pathways to achieve these culturally prescribed goals. Thus, Merton's theory is primarily concerned with the legitimate means of achieving cultural goals, emphasizing how societal structures can create disparities that lead to deviant behavior. The other options reflect different themes in sociology that are not the primary focus of Merton's Strain Theory. The positive aspects of deviance relate more to the functions of deviance in social cohesion and change, while the encouragement of illegal activities by government does not align with Merton's emphasis on individual responses to societal pressures. Finally, the psychological development of criminals might be related to the broader field of criminology

2. What major social issue does Left Realism focus on as a cause of crime?

A. Substance abuse

B. Inequality and discrimination

C. Political corruption

D. Globalization

Left Realism emphasizes the significant role that inequality and discrimination play as contributing factors to crime. According to this perspective, social structures that create disparities in wealth and opportunity can lead individuals to engage in criminal behavior as a means of coping with their disadvantaged circumstances. Left Realists argue that crime is not just a result of individual choices but is deeply rooted in societal issues, including economic inequality and social injustice. This approach highlights how marginalized groups often face systemic challenges that can push them towards criminal acts. The focus on inequality and discrimination differentiates Left Realism from other criminological perspectives that may emphasize individual pathology or moral failings. Instead, it encourages a broader understanding of crime within the context of societal structures and encourages efforts toward addressing these systemic issues to effectively reduce crime rates.

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3. What do statistics suggest about occupational diseases in the UK?

A. They are rare and not a significant issue

B. They cause an estimated 50,000 deaths per year

C. Only a small number are reported

D. They mainly affect office workers

The choice that states occupational diseases cause an estimated 50,000 deaths per year reflects a significant concern regarding the impact of work-related health issues in the UK. This figure underscores the seriousness of occupational diseases, illustrating that they are not merely isolated incidents but rather a major public health issue that can have deadly consequences. This statistic emphasizes the need for awareness and preventative measures in workplaces to protect employees from hazards that can lead to various diseases, ranging from respiratory conditions to musculoskeletal disorders. The notion that occupational diseases are rare and not significant tends to downplay the substantial health risks associated with various occupations, while suggesting that only a small number are reported addresses an important reporting issue but does not highlight the severity of the known cases. Finally, the idea that they mainly affect office workers is misleading, as occupational diseases can affect a wide range of workers across different sectors, including manual labor, manufacturing, and healthcare, not limited to the office environment.

4. What does restorative justice focus on?

A. Punishing offenders harshly

B. Rehabilitating offenders through reconciliation with victims

C. Expanding prison populations

D. Implementing stricter laws

Restorative justice focuses on rehabilitating offenders through reconciliation with victims. This approach seeks to repair the harm caused by criminal behavior rather than simply enforcing punitive measures. It emphasizes understanding the impact of the offense on the victims, encouraging offenders to take accountability for their actions, and facilitating a dialogue between both parties. This process allows victims to gain closure and encourages offenders to recognize the consequences of their actions, ultimately aiming to reintegrate them into society as responsible individuals. This method contrasts with traditional punitive justice systems that prioritize punishment over healing and reconciliation.

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5. From a Marxist perspective, what is seen as a natural function of capitalism?

A. Corporate crime being rare

B. Normalcy of corporate crime

C. False representation of corporate harm

D. Financial success without ethical concerns

From a Marxist perspective, corporate crime is viewed as a normal and inherent function of capitalism. This viewpoint is grounded in the belief that the capitalist system is structured in a way that prioritizes profit over ethical considerations, leading businesses to engage in unlawful or harmful practices in pursuit of financial gain. In capitalism, competition and the drive for profit can create situations where corporations may exploit regulations, harm consumers, and engage in deceptive practices, making corporate crime a routine aspect of business operations rather than an anomaly. Marxists argue that this occurs because the capitalist system inherently encourages individuals and corporations to act in their self-interest, often at the expense of ethical standards and societal welfare. The other options do not align as closely with this perspective. For instance, considering corporate crime as rare contradicts the Marxist view that such crimes are widespread and systematic within the capitalist framework. A false representation of corporate harm suggests a misunderstanding of the impact of corporate actions, which is also inconsistent with the Marxist belief that these harms are often overlooked or minimized within capitalist societies. Finally, while financial success without ethical concerns can resonate with some Marxist critiques, it doesn't specifically highlight the normalization of corporate crime, which is central to the argument presented.

6. What are 'hate crimes' primarily motivated by?

A. Economic status of the individual

B. Prejudice or bias against particular groups

C. Political affiliations of the offender

D. Personal grievances

Hate crimes are primarily motivated by prejudice or bias against particular groups. This definition highlights that such crimes are driven by negative attitudes toward specific characteristics or identities of individuals, including race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity. The impact of hate crimes extends beyond the immediate victim, often inciting fear and tension within the community associated with the targeted group. This motivation is distinct from economic status, political affiliations, or personal grievances, which may influence other types of crime but do not define hate crimes. While an individual's economic situation might contribute to criminal behavior in general, it does not specifically drive hate crimes. Similarly, political affiliations can be a factor in certain crimes, but they are not the defining feature of hate crimes. Personal grievances might lead to violence or antagonism but lack the broader societal implications tied to prejudice and bias inherent in hate crimes. Therefore, the clear connection between hate crimes and targeted bias against groups marks this answer as the most accurate.

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7. What does Miller suggest about the lower class in relation to crime?

A. They conform to mainstream societal values

B. They have developed a subculture with unique norms

C. They experience less conflict with the law

D. They have a lower crime rate than middle class

Miller suggests that the lower class has developed a subculture with unique norms that diverge from mainstream societal values. This idea stems from his analysis of how distinct social groups create their own set of values and behavior patterns based on their socioeconomic conditions and experiences. He identifies a "focal concern" within lower-class communities, which includes values such as toughness, street smarts, and a sense of fate, leading to behaviors that may be viewed as deviant or criminal by broader society. This perspective highlights that the norms and values of the lower class are not simply a reflection of mainstream societal values, but rather a reaction to their own lived experiences and social context. Consequently, this subcultural approach explains how certain actions deemed criminal can be viewed as acceptable or normal within these communities, thereby providing a framework for understanding the relationship between class and crime.

8. What do biological theories of crime suggest?

A. Criminal behavior is learned through social interactions

B. Criminality is influenced by genetic and physiological factors

C. Cultural factors primarily dictate criminal behavior

D. Economic status determines levels of crime

Biological theories of crime propose that criminal behavior can be traced back to genetic and physiological factors inherent in individuals. This perspective posits that certain biological traits, including genetic predispositions and neurophysiological variations, can influence a person's propensity toward criminal activity. For instance, some studies suggest that variations in brain chemistry or structure may correlate with aggressive or antisocial behavior, indicating a biological influence on actions typically classified as criminal. In contrast, the other options focus on social learning, cultural norms, and economic circumstances as primary factors in criminal behavior. While these theories emphasize the role of environment and external influences in shaping behavior, biological theories hone in on the intrinsic attributes of individuals, thus providing a distinct lens through which to analyze crime. This biological viewpoint has sparked debate and research into the extent to which environment interacts with biology in the development of criminal behavior.

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9. What role does education play in shaping crime rates?

A. Higher education levels always decrease crime

B. There is no correlation between education and crime

C. Lower education levels can increase criminal behavior

D. Education only influences white-collar crime

Education plays a crucial role in shaping crime rates, particularly through its influence on social behavior and socioeconomic status. Lower education levels can increase criminal behavior for several reasons. Individuals with less education often have limited access to well-paying jobs, which can lead to economic strain and increased likelihood of engaging in criminal activity as a means of survival or frustration. Furthermore, a lack of educational attainment can affect critical thinking skills, social norms, and a person's understanding of the consequences of crime. This option is supported by various sociological theories, such as strain theory, which suggests that individuals who face social and economic challenges may resort to crime when they are unable to achieve success through legitimate means. Moreover, education can provide awareness of the law and its implications, making educated individuals less likely to partake in criminal activities. The other options do not effectively capture the complex relationship between education and crime. The assertion that higher education levels always decrease crime overlooks the nuances of individual circumstances and does not acknowledge that situational factors play a role in crime. The claim that there is no correlation between education and crime ignores substantial research showing a link between educational attainment and crime rates. Finally, the idea that education only influences white-collar crime excludes a significant body of evidence that demonstrates the impact of education on

10. According to Reiman and Leighton, how do perceptions of crime differ among social classes?

A. Lower class crimes are seen as more serious

B. High-class crimes are less likely to be regarded as offenses

C. All crimes are treated equally by the law

D. Perceptions are identical across all demographics

Reiman and Leighton argue that perceptions of crime are significantly influenced by social class dynamics. They highlight how high-class crimes, often committed by individuals in affluent positions, are frequently downplayed or not recognized as serious offenses by society and the legal system. This perspective illustrates a bias in the understanding of crime, where the criminality of those in higher social classes can be marginalized or justified, compared to crimes committed by lower-class individuals, which are more publicly condemned and perceived as severe. This focus on how socio-economic status shapes the recognition and seriousness of crime sheds light on broader structural inequalities. It reflects the idea that legal definitions and societal perceptions can vary depending on who commits the crime and their social standing, reinforcing the notion that the criminal justice system is influenced by power dynamics rather than a uniform application of justice.

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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:

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

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