5.1 Formal and Informal Social Control: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and give clear examples where asked.

1 Which of these is an example of formal social control?

- ☐ A) A parent grounding a child
- ☐ B) A court issuing a fine
- ☐ C) A friend disapproving of a lie
- ☐ D) A teacher giving a disappointed look

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Explain how sociological ideas about informal social control help explain this scenario.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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3 Sanctions are the tools social control relies on. Define the term sanctions.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Deviance and crime are related but different ideas.

(a) State one example of behaviour that most people in the UK would see as deviant but that is not against the law. **(2)**

(b) Explain why sociologists describe deviance as 'relative' rather than fixed. **(2)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.1 Formal and Informal Social Control: Test Pack

Question 1

B (a court issuing a fine) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies the classmate's exclusion from social events as an informal sanction **B1**

explains that group approval or disapproval can shape behaviour without any law being involved **B1**

explains the possible deterrent effect: fear of exclusion might discourage the student, or others watching, from behaving the same way again **B1**

notes that no formal agency, such as the police or courts, is involved in this scenario **B1**

correctly identifies the peer group or college friendship group as the specific agency of informal control at work **B1**

clear, accurate use of social control terminology throughout (e.g. informal social control, sanction) **B1**

Answer: The students' decision not to invite their classmate to social events is an informal sanction imposed by the peer group; it shows how disapproval, rather than any law or official agency, can discourage rule-breaking through fear of social exclusion, illustrating informal social control in action.

Question 3

a reward or punishment used to encourage conformity to a norm or value (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. sanctions can be positive (praise, reward) or negative (punishment, disapproval) **B1**

Answer: A reward or punishment used to encourage conformity to a norm or value; sanctions can be positive (e.g. praise) or negative (e.g. punishment or disapproval).

Question 4

(a) a genuine example, e.g. being extremely rude to an elderly relative at a family gathering, or wearing clothing widely seen as highly inappropriate at a formal occasion such as a funeral **B1**

(a) brief accurate explanation of why it counts as deviant (breaks a shared social norm or expectation) without breaking any law **B1**

(a) Answer: Being extremely rude to an elderly relative at a family gathering: this breaks a shared social norm of respect, so it is deviant, but it breaks no law, so it is not criminal.

(b) identifies that what counts as deviant is not fixed but varies between different times, places, cultures or social groups (oe) **B1**

(b) a correct example, e.g. an act widely disapproved of in one era or culture may be considered acceptable in another **B1**

(b) Answer: Deviance is relative because what counts as deviant varies between different times, places, cultures and social groups, rather than being fixed; an act disapproved of in one era or culture may be accepted in another.

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