

Exercise walk-through

1.3

Interaction in Society

GAC Social Science

You must be able to

- define a social norm
- distinguish ascribed and achieved status
- apply these ideas to a social situation

1

The method

Method — Rules can be unwritten

Norms 社会规范 are unwritten group rules, such as waiting your turn to speak.

We often notice a norm only when someone breaks it.

Ascribed status 先赋地位 is given, such as age or family background.

Achieved status 自致地位 is earned, such as a qualification or team position.

2

Practice

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

Define a social norm.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

- An unwritten rule or expectation in a group. **B1**

Practice 2.2 ■ 1 mark

State whether a university qualification is ascribed or achieved status.

Solution 2.2

Method: Rules can be unwritten — p.4

Worked steps

- Achieved status. **B1**

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Explain why someone breaking a norm may be described as rude.

Solution 2.3

Method: Rules can be unwritten — p.4

Worked steps

- The person acts against an expected group rule. **B1**
- Others may judge the action negatively because it disrupts the normal interaction. **A1**

3

Exam-style

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 4 marks

Compare ascribed and achieved status.

Solution 3.1

Method: Rules can be unwritten — p.4

Worked steps

- Both are positions a person has in a group. **B1**
- Ascribed status is given, such as age or birth. **A1**
- Achieved status is earned, such as a job or qualification. **A1**
- The difference is whether the person gained it through achievement. **B1**

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 4 marks

Explain how norms can make group behaviour predictable.

Solution 3.2

Method: Rules can be unwritten — p.4

Worked steps

- Norms show group members what behaviour is expected. (B1)
- People can anticipate how others will act in common situations. (A1)
- Shared expectations reduce uncertainty in interaction. (A1)
- Breaking a norm becomes noticeable because the usual pattern changes. (B1)