

# VISION IAS

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class  
relationship  
to  
the  
means of  
production

Class constitutes a basic concept of Marxism. According to Marx, in all stratified societies there are two major social groups - the haves & the have nots, the ruling class & the subject class. Since the emergence of the two antagonistic classes in <sup>society,</sup> history, human history has been a history of class struggle.

Meaning  
of  
ownership  
of  
means  
of  
production

In Marxian view, a class is a social group whose members share the same relationship to the forces of production. In slavery, there were master and slave, feudal lord & serf in feudalism, bourgeois and proletariat in capitalism.

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Marx and Engels believed that the struggle between the antagonistic classes had been of fundamental importance in society since the dissolution of primitive communism which was characterised by common ownership of means of production.

2  
exploiting  
class

The power of the ruling class derives from the ownership & control of forces of production. The ruling class exploits & oppresses the subject class as a result there is basic conflict of interest between the two.

in  
the  
mode of  
production  
characteristic  
of

Economic factor which is the substructure of the society according to Marx, is the most important factor of class differentiation. All the other institutions of the society such as the legal political & educational systems are instruments

stage of history of society

Question No.  
(प्रश्न संख्या)

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of the dominant class & form the superstructure.

In every society, the exploiting class tries its best to improve & develop the forces of production in order to increase their wealth. Relations of production which are dependent on the forces of production, on the other hand, are not allowed to develop naturally. The basis of all class struggle is this contradiction between <sup>developing</sup> forces & <sup>lagging</sup> relations of production.

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existing in the mode of production. In the context of capitalistic society, the bourgeois or the owning class tries to keep the proletariat unaware of the hostile situation, its alienated state & exploitation. The working class suffers from a state of 'false consciousness' which the bourgeois maintains by creating a purposeful atmosphere of heightened competition.

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Karl  
Marx  
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Eco  
criticism

Marx argues that a social group fully becomes a class only when it transforms from 'a class in itself', a mere statistical category, to a 'class for itself' after developing its class consciousness and class solidarity.

The final stage of class consciousness is reached when members realise that only by collective & consolidated action they can overthrow the ruling class and take to revolution. At this time of crisis

different minor social groups like petty bourgeoisie, traders, shopkeepers, the intelligensia tend to align themselves with either of the <sup>two</sup> groups. In this process the bourgeoisie also polarises to maintain the status quo. To Marx, this process is called polarisation of classes.

According to Marx, all revolutions are the result of class struggle. Marx says that almost all revolutions are collective action of the oppressed people.

Class struggle passes gradually through three main levels — economic, political & finally ideological struggle. Marx believed, that as the working class gains power, knowledge & significance, it would gradually bring about a Socialist revolution, which is the extreme state of class struggle. This Socialist society, with the proletariat rulers, will one day work itself towards a stage of classlessness, the stage of scientific communism.