



ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGY MAINS Question Papers 2006-2010 (PAPER I)

- TEAM VISION IAS

Q.No.	Question	Topics	Subtopics
Paper-I (2006)			
1-(a)	Intellectual background for the emergence of sociology.	Sociology -The Discipline:	Modernity and social change in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
(b)	Concept of Ideal Type and its limitations.	Sociological Thinkers:	Max Weber- Ideal Types.
(c)	Nuclear family and industrial society.	Systems of Kinship:	Types and forms of family.
(d)	Vertical social mobility.	Stratification and Mobility:	Social mobility- Types of mobility.
2-	Explain Karl Marx's 'theory of social change'. What are the reactions of functionalists of his views?	Sociological Theories: Social Change in Modern Society.	Karl Marx- Historical Materialism/ Sociological Theories of Social change.
3-	What according to Emile Durkheim is the nature of relationship between the individual and society? Explain this with the help of his analysis of division of labour in society?	Sociological Thinkers:	Emile Durkheim- Division of Labour.
4-	What are the reactions of Robert Merton to the functionalism pioneered by social anthropologists? Indicate the limitations of his idea of latent functions.	Sociological Thinkers:	Robert K. Merton- Manifest and Latent functions.
5-(a)	Caste-system as a principle of social stratification.	Stratification and Mobility:	Dimensions of social stratification: Caste.
(b)	Structure of a social movement.	Politics and Society:	Social Movements.
(c)	Religion and Science.	Religion and Society:	Religion in Modern society: Religion and science.
(d)	Human factors involved in directed social change.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Agents of social change.
6-	"Education is one of the basic activities for the continued existence and development of society". Elaborate this statement.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Education and social change.
7-	Explain the ideal of social responsibility of science. Analyse the social consequences of development of science and technology in the context of removal of backwardness in developing societies.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Science, technology and social change.
8-	State significance of social policy in social development. Under what conditions a social policy fails to be effective in its performance?	Old syllabus	Old syllabus

Paper-I (2007)

1-(a)	Sociology as a science of society	Sociology as Science:	Science, scientific method and critique;
(b)	Talcott Parsons' concept of social system	Sociological Thinkers:	Talcott Parsons- Social system.
(c)	Social facts	Sociological Thinkers:	Emile Durkheim- Social fact.
(d)	Robert Merton's views on manifest and latent functions	Sociological Thinkers:	Robert K. Merton- Manifest and Latent functions.
2-	Explain Karl Marx's analysis of capitalistic mode of production and class-struggle. What are the intellectual reactions to his views?	Sociological Thinkers:	Karl Marx: Mode of Production.; Class - struggle.
3-	What is the subject-matter of Sociology according to Max Weber? Which major methods did he suggest for social science research? Illustrate your answer with his sociological contributions.	Sociological Thinkers:	Max Weber.
4-	Elaborate Emile Durkheim's analysis of the Elementary Forms of Religious Life and role of religion in society. How does he explain existence of religion in modern industrial societies?	Sociological Thinkers:	Emile Durkheim- Religion and Society.
5-(a)	Changing structure of family	Systems of Kinship:	Contemporary Trends.
(b)	Role-conflict and its revolution	Old syllabus	Old syllabus
(c)	Education as an instrument of social change	Social Change in Modern Society:	Education and social change.
(d)	Features of Pre-Industrial economic system	Works and Economic Life:	Informal organization of work.
6-	Indicate social determinants of economic development. Discuss any one sociological perspective analyzing backwardness and poverty in the developing societies.	Old syllabus	Old syllabus
7-	What are the structural elements of a social movement? State how a social movement comes to its end. Illustrate your answer with example.	Politics and Society:	Social Movements.
8-	Explain the meaning and modes of political participation. What are the factors preventing people's participation in politics in India?	Old syllabus	Old syllabus

Paper-I (2008)

1-(a)	Role of values in sociological enquiry	Sociology as Science:	Fact, value, objectivity.
(b)	Social mobility in open and closed systems	Stratification and Mobility:	Social Mobility- open and closed systems.
(c)	Social movement as an expression of protest	Politics and Society:	Social movements.
(d)	Education as an agent of social change.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Education and social change.
2-	How is emergence of sociology linked with modernization of Europe?	Sociology - The Discipline.	Modernity and social change in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
3-	What is the importance of sampling in sociological studies? Distinguish between simple random sampling and stratified random sampling.	Research Methods and Analysis:	Sampling.
4-	Using Max Weber's theory, discuss what ethical and religious ideas produced capitalism in certain societies and how?	Sociological Thinkers:	Max Weber- Protestant ethic and Spirit of capitalism.
5-(a)	Relevance of pattern variables in the study of social change.	Sociological Thinkers:	Talcott Parsons- Pattern variables.
(b)	Mead's notion of self	Sociological Thinkers:	Mead- Self and identity.
(c)	Importance and sources of hypotheses in social research	Research Methods and Analysis:	Hypothesis.
(d)	New trends in the types and forms of family in contemporary in India.	Systems of Kinship:	Types and forms of family, Contemporary trends.
6-	What is Merton's view of relationship between social structure and deviance? In what sense is a deviant also a conformist?	Sociological Thinkers:	Robert K. Merton- Conformity and Deviance.
7-	In what important ways can religion be a force both for social stability and social change? Discuss.	Religion and Society:	Sociological Theories of social change; Religion in modern society.
8-	How does hierarchy get built into the systems of natural and social inequalities?	Stratification and Mobility:	Concepts: Inequality, hierarchy.

Paper-I (2009)

1-(a)	Problems of objectivity in sociological research	Sociology as Science:	Fact value and objectivity.
(b)	Subject-matter of Sociology, according to Emile Durkheim	Sociological Thinkers:	Emile Durkheim- Social fact.
(c)	Comparison between Sociology any Economics	Sociology-The Discipline:	Comparison with other Social Sciences.
(d)	Talcott Parsons' idea of 'moving equilibrium'	Sociological Thinkers:	Talcott Parsons- Social system.
2-(a)	Distinguish between probability and non probability sampling methods. How many types of sampling design are there?	Research Methods and Analysis:	Sampling.
(b)	Comment on the responses of the functionalist school of Karl Marx's view on social change.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Sociological Theories of Social change.
3-(a)	Comment on the reasons why neo-idealism an symbolic interactionists are critical of 'positivism' in Sociology.	Sociology as Science:	Non-Positivist methodologies.
(b)	What are the reasons for calling Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore's theory of social stratification a functional theory?	Stratification and Mobility:	Structural functionalist theory.
4-	To Robert Merton, deviant behaviour is a result of anomie. Analyse his sociological theory of deviant behaviour, with a special reference to his formulation of types of deviance.	Sociological Thinkers:	Robert K. Merton- Conformity and Deviance.
5-(a)	C.W. Mills' Power Elite	Politics and Society:	Power elite.
(b)	Industrialization and changes in the family's functions	Systems of Kinship:	Contemporary Trends.
(c)	Secularization of societies in the modern world	Religion and Society:	Religion in Modern society: Secularization.
(d)	Structure of social movement	Politics and Society:	Social Movements.
6-(a)	Comment on the critics' charge that Immanuel Wallerstein's dependency theory is simplistic and wrong.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Development and Dependency.
(b)	What, according to Max Weber, is the role of "particular ideas" in the emergence of modern capitalism?	Sociological Thinkers:	Max Weber-Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
7-	"Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Comment on this statement critically in the light of emerging sociological context in Europe, USA and India.	Religion and Society:	Religion in Modern society: Religion and Science.
8-	Discuss the emerging forms of marriage and family with examples from the West and the East. Can there be family without marriage? Examine.	Systems of Kinship:	Family, household, marriage.

Paper-I (2010)

1-(a)	Content Analysis	Research Methods and Analysis:	Qualitative and Quantitative Methods;
(b)	Nomothetic and Idiographic Methods	Research Methods and Analysis:	Qualitative and Quantitative Methods;
(c)	Serendipity	Sociology as Science:	Science, scientific method and critique; Fact value and objectivity.
(d)	Cybernetic Hierarchy of Control	Sociological Thinkers:	Talcott Parsons; Social system.
(e)	Ethnicity and Development	Stratification and Mobility:	Dimensions of Social Stratification- ethnicity;
2-(a)	“Sociology without History is rootless and History without Sociology is fruitless”. Elaborate.	Sociology -The Discipline:	Comparison with other Social Sciences.
(b)	Examine the social dimensions of religious revivalism and fundamentalism in the context of globalization.	Religion and Society:	Religion in modern society: Religious revivalism, religious fundamentalism.
3-(a)	“Work in capitalism is reduced to mere labour in which the individual does not develop freely his physical and mental energy but mortifies his body and ruins his mind.” Critically evaluate the assertion.	Work and Economic life:	Social organization of work in different types of society-Industrial /Capitalist society; Labour and society.
(b)	Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of ‘division of labour’.	Sociological Thinkers:	Karl Marx; Class struggle, Alienation : Emile Durkheim; Division of labour.
4-(a)	Critically analyse the contributions of G.H. Mead to ‘symbolic interactionism’.	Sociological Thinkers: Sociology as science	G.H. Mead; Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
(b)	Examine how open and closed systems of stratification are undergoing transformation in the emergence of new hierarchical social order in societies.	Stratification and Mobility:	Social Mobility- open and closed systems, sources and causes of mobility.
5-(a)	Feminization of Labour in Informal Sector	Work and Economic life:	Labour and society, informal organization of work.
(b)	Identity Politics	Politics and Society:	Political parties, Social movements.
(c)	Positive Religion	Religion and Society:	Religion in Modern society: Religion and science.
(d)	Kinship and Social Capital	Systems of Kinship:	Types and forms of family.
(e)	Human Relations School of Thought by Elton Mayo as a social organization of work process in industry.	Work and Economic life:	Social organization of work in different types of society-Industrial /Capitalist society; Labour and society.

6-(a)	"There has been a substantial decline in labour class and increase in labour force in non-manual jobs with the advent of new technological revolution." Critically examine.	Work and Economic life:	Social organization of work in different types of society-Industrial /Capitalist society;
(b)	Distinguish between people being socially excluded and people excluding themselves socially in societies.	Stratification and Mobility:	Exclusion; Poverty and Deprivation.
(c)	"Science has empirical means to logical ends and religion has non-empirical means to logical ends." Comment.	Religion and Society:	Religion in modern society: Religion and Science.
7-(a)	List the sources of power and explain the various indicators based on which power can be measured.	Politics and Society:	Sociological Theories of Power.
(b)	Examine the social dimensions of displacement induced by development.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Development and Dependency.
(c)	Examine the social dimensions of displacement induced by development.	Social Change in Modern Society:	Development and Dependency.
8-(a)	Evaluate how civil society and democracy mutually reinforce each other.	Politics and Society:	Democracy; Civil society.
(b)	Examine Karl Marx's views on 'class-in-itself' and 'class-for-itself' with reference to proletarians.	Sociological Thinkers:	Karl Marx; Class struggle.

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