

UPSC SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL

PYQs

TOPIC - WISE SEGREGATED

2013 - 2025

PAPER 1



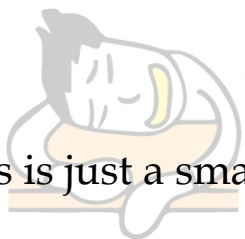
By Shekhar Sir

“History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce.” - Karl Marx

With the intention of knowing and understanding sociology's history, we bring to you this small booklet.

It contains **previous year's questions for sociology optional (2013-2025)**.

The PYQs have been segregated **chapter-wise** for you to solve and raise the level of your preparation.



Let's write, revise and analyse.

This is just a small gift from us at Sleepy Classes to the entire student community.

This is to help you make your present '**sharp**' and future '**bright**'. May you make the most of it.

With you in your UPSC journey always!

Team Sleepy Classes

For Your Convenience we have marked the year, question number, and marks in the below format - (Year/Paper I or II/ Question No. /Marks)

150 Words for 10 Marks | Around 250 Words for 20 Marks

Chapter 1 Sociology the Discipline

a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and the emergence of sociology.

1. Sociology is the product of European enlightenment and renaissance. Critically examine this statement. (2024/I/2a/20)
2. Discuss the nature of sociology. Highlight its relationship with social anthropology. (2024/I/1a/10)
3. What aspects of Enlightenment do you think paved way for the emergence of sociology? Elaborate. (2022/I/2a/20)
4. How did the Intellectual forces lead to the emergence of Sociology? Discuss (2020/I/1a/10)
5. Discuss the historical antecedents of the emergence of sociology as a discipline. (2019/I/1a/10)
6. "Sociology is pre-eminently study of modern society." Discuss (2016/I/2c/10)
7. How had enlightenment contributed to the emergence of Sociology? (2015/I/3c/10)
8. Write a short answer of the following in about 150 words: How did the emergence of industrial society change family life in Western Europe? (2014/I/1b/10)
9. "Sociology emerged in Europe and flourished to begin with on social reformist orientation in the U.S.A." -Comment. (2013/I/1a/10)
10. Europe was the first and the only place where modernity emerged. Comment (2021/I/1a/10)

b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences

1. In what way is the scope of sociology unique? Explain. (2025/1/5a/10)
2. What is the relationship (similarities and differences) between sociology and history in terms of their area of study and methodology? Discuss (2025/1/1b/10)
3. Delimit the scope of Sociology in relation to other social sciences. (2022/I/1a/10)
4. From the viewpoint of growing importance of multidisciplinary, how do you relate sociology to other social sciences? (2021/I/2a/20)
5. Sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relationship between the two in a society. C.W. Mills. Explain. (2018/I/8a/20)
6. Discuss the changing equations of discipline of Sociology with other social sciences. (2017/1/2a/20)
7. In the Context of globalization, has the scope of Sociology been changing in India? Comment (2020/I/5a/10)
8. Explain how sociology has emerged as a distinct discipline based on rationality and scientific temper. (2017/I/1a/10)
9. How is Sociological approach to human actions different from that of psychological approach? (2014/I/1c/10)
10. Compare and contrast Sociology with Anthropology. (2013/I/1b/10)

c) Sociology and common sense

1. What is common sense? How are common knowledge and sociology related to each other? Explain. (2025/1/1a/10)
2. Do you think that common sense is the starting point of social research? What are its advantages and limitations? Explain. (2023/I/ 4a/20)
3. Discuss the relationship between sociology and political science. (2023 /I/1b/10)
4. How is Sociology related to common sense? (2021/I/2c/10)
5. The focal point of Sociology rests on interaction. How do you distinguish it from common sense? (2018/I/1a/10)
6. Is sociology common sense? Give reasons in support of your argument. (2016/I/2c/10)



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Chapter 2 - Sociology As Science

a) Science, scientific method and critique.

1. What is science? Do you think that the methods used in natural sciences can be applied to sociology? Give reasons for your answer. (2025/I/6a/20)
2. Examine the relevance of corporate social responsibility in a world marked by increasing environmental crises. (2023/ I/5a/1)
3. What are the characteristics of scientific method? Do you think that scientific method in conducting sociological research is foolproof? Elaborate. (2023/ I/3a/20)
4. How does a researcher achieve objectivity in interpretative research? (2022/I/1b/10)
5. Describe the basic postulates of Scientific method. How far are these followed in sociological research? (2016/I/3b/20)
6. Does scientific method make Sociology a science? Illustrate your answer with Durkheim's method. (2018/I/5c/10)
7. Is Sociology a science? Give reasons for your answer. (2015/I/1a/10)
8. Discuss the relevance of historical method in the study of Society? (2015/I/1b/10)

b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology

1. What is positivism? Critically analyze the major arguments against it. (2025/I/2a/20)
2. Methodology is a system of rules, principles and procedures, which forms scientific investigation. Comment. (2020/I/1c/10)
3. Elaborate the main tenets of interpretative perspective in sociology. (2017/I/2c/10)
4. In what way 'Interpretative' method is different from the 'positivist' approach in the study of social phenomena? Explain with examples, the explanatory and exploratory designs of Social research. (2018/I/6c/10)

c) Positivism and its critique

1. What are the shortfalls of positivist philosophy that gave rise to the non-positivist methods of studying social reality? (2022/I/3a/20)
2. Phenomenological perspectives in Sociology reject many of the assumption of positivism, Comment. (2020/I/7b/20)
3. Examine the basic postulates of positivism and post-positivism. (2017/I/2b/20)
4. Explain ethnomethodological and phenomenological perspectives as critique of positivism. (2017/I/1b/10)
5. Critically examine positivistic approach in sociology studies. (2013/I/1c/10)

d) Fact value and objectivity

1. Do you think 'objectivity' is an over-hyped idea in sociological research? Discuss the merits and demerits of non-positivist methods. (2024/I/2b/20)
2. Is Sociology a Value -free Science? Discuss. (2020/I/1b/10)
3. What is 'Value free Sociology'? Clarify. (2016/I/1b/10)

4. How is objectivity different from value neutrality? Discuss with reference to Weber's views on methodology. (2014/I/1a/10)

e) Non-positivist methodologies

1. Do you think ethnomethodology helps us in getting reliable and valid data? Justify your answer. (2021/I/1b/10)
2. How far are sociologists justified in using positivist approach to understand social reality? Explain with suitable illustrations. (2021/I/2b/20)
3. Is non-positivism methodology scientific? Illustrate. (2018/I/2a/20)
4. "Non – positivistic methodology is essential for understanding human behavior." Discuss (2015/I/4a/20).



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Chapter 3- Research Methods & Analysis

a) Qualitative and quantitative methods

1. What do you understand by 'Mixed method'? Discuss its strengths and limitations in Social research. (2024/I/4a/20)
2. How do you view and assess the increasing trend of digital ethnography and use of visual culture in sociological research? (2024/I/3a/20)
3. What are the different dimensions of qualitative method? Do you think that qualitative methods help to gain a deeper sociological insight? Give reasons for your answer. (2023/I/6a/20)
4. What is the distinctiveness of the feminist method of Social research? Comment? (2022/I/1a/10)
5. Discuss the challenges involved in collecting data through census method (2021/I/1c/10)
6. How do qualitative and quantitative methods supplement each other in sociological enquiry? (2021/I/3a/20)
7. Analyse the limitation of quantitative methods in social research. (2013/I/2a/20)
8. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection with suitable examples from Indian society. (2018/I/5d/10)
9. Examine epistemological foundations of qualitative methods of social research. (2017/I/3c/10)
10. Analyse the importance of qualitative method on social research. (2016/I/1c/10)

b) Techniques of data collection

1. What are the ethical issues that a researcher faces in making use of participant observation as a method of collecting data? Explain. (2023/I/6c/10)
2. Bring out the significance of Ethnography in social research. (2019/I/2b/20)
3. "Participant observation is the most effective tool for collecting facts." Comment. (2016/I/4b/20)
4. In what ways biographies could be used to study social life? Explain. (2014/I/1d/10)
5. Which research technique would be most suitable for the study of consumer behaviour and its social correlates? Explain. (2014/I/2a/20)
6. Analyse the strengths and weakness of social survey method in social research. (2020/I/6c/10)

c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity

1. What is sampling in the context of social research? Discuss different forms of sampling with their relative advantages and disadvantages. (2025/I/7a/20)
2. What is hypothesis? Critically evaluate the significance of hypothesis in social research. (2025/I/3c/10)
3. What do you mean by reliability? Discuss the importance of reliability in social science research. (2025/I/2c/10)
4. What is a variable in social research? What are their different types? Elaborate (2025/I/1c/10)
5. What are variables? How do they facilitate research? (2023/I/2c/10)

6. How does the dramaturgical perspective enable our understanding of everyday life? (2023/I/1c/10)
7. The difference between information and data in social science is subtle. Comment. (2022/I/1c/10)
8. Explain the different types of non-probability sampling techniques. Bring out the conditions of their usage with appropriate examples. (2022/I/2b/20)
9. Suggest measures to minimize the influence of the researcher in the process of collecting data through focus group discussion. (2022/I/3c/10)
10. What is reliability? Explain the different tests available to social science researchers to establish reliability. (2022/I/4c/10)
11. Examine the Problems of maintaining objectivity and value neutrality in Social Science research. (15/I/2b/20)
12. Why is random sampling said to have more reliability and validity in research? (2015/I/3a/20)
13. Discuss the importance and source of hypothesis in social research. (2020/I/5b/10)
14. Explain the probability sampling strategies with examples. (2019/I/1e/10).
15. Illustrate with example the significance of variables in sociological research. (2017/I/1c/10)
16. How can one resolve the issue of reliability and validity in the context of sociological research on inequality? (2017/I/4c/10)
17. "Hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two or more variables." Elucidate by giving examples of poverty and illiteracy. (2016/I/3c/10)
18. What are variables? Discuss their role in experimental research. (2015/I/1c/10)

Chapter 4 -Sociological Thinkers

a) Karl Marx- Historical Materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.

1. Highlight the main features of historical materialism as propounded by Marx. How far is this theory relevant in understanding contemporary societies? Explain. (2025/I/2b/20)
2. Critically explain the salient features of 'alienation' as propounded by Karl Marx. (2024/I/3c/10)
3. What is historical materialism? Examine its relevance in understanding contemporary societies. (2023/I/2b/20)
4. According to Marx, how are human beings alienated from their human potential and what does he suggest to change this? (2018/I/4a/20)
5. Analyse Marxian conception of historical materialism as a critique of Hegelian dialectics. (2017/I/3b/20)
6. Identify the similarities and differences between Marx's theory of 'alienation' and Durkheim's theory of 'anomie'. (2014/I/2b/20)
7. According to Marx, capitalism transforms even the personal relationship between men and women. Critically examine with illustrations from the contemporary Indian context. (2014/I/7c/10)
8. Analyse the salient features of historical materialism. (2013/I/2c/10)
9. Critically examine the dialectics involved in each mode of production as propounded by Karl Marx. (2021/I/3b/20)
10. Critically assess the Marxian Theory of 'Alienation'. (2020/I/7c/10)
11. What is the Marxist concept of 'Fetishism of Commodities'? (2019/I/1c/10)
12. Evaluate Marx's ideas on mode of production. (2016/I/1d/10)
13. How do Karl Marx and Max Weber differ in terms of their analysis of social stratification? (2013/I/6a/20)

b) Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.

1. How do Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? Explain (2025/I/7b/20)
2. Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim? (2024/I/5a/10)
3. Durkheim argued that society is more than the sum of individual acts. Discuss (2022/I/1d/10)
4. Critically examine how Durkheim and Merton explicate Anomie. (2022/I/3b/20)
5. Critically examine the relevance of Durkheim's views on religion in contemporary society. (2022/I/5a/10)
6. Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of 'division of labour'. (2013/I/3a/20)
7. Discuss distinct sociological method adopted by Emile Durkheim in his method of 'suicide'. (2017/I/3c/20)

8. Explain Durkheim's basic arguments on suicide. Can you analyse high suicide rates of contemporary Indian society with Durkheim's theory? (2018/I/2b/20)
9. Critically analyse Durkheim's views on elementary forms of religious life and role of religion. Also discuss the consequences of religious revivalism in contemporary society. (2020/I/3b/20)
10. What are the problems in observing social facts in Durkheim's views? (2020/I/5c/10)
11. How well do you think Tonnies, Durkheim, Weber and Max predicted the character of modern society? Critique. (2019/I/5e/10)
12. In what way did Durkheim perceive religion as functional to society? (2018/I/8c/10)
13. Elaborate the views of Durkheim on "The Elementary Forms of Religious life". (2015/I/8c/10)
14. "According to Durkheim, the essence of religion in modern society is the same as religion in primitive society." Comment. (2014/I/5e/10)
15. Explain whether Durkheim's theory of Division of Labour is relevant in the present-day context. (2021/I/1d/10)

c) Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism

1. How does Weber's Verstehen address the objectivity-subjectivity debate in sociology. (2025/I/5d/10)
2. Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism' as a critique of Marxism. (2024/I/3b/20)
3. Discuss the importance of interpretative understanding of social phenomena and explain its limitations. (2019/I/3a/20)
4. How does Weber use the notion of 'ideal types' in his theory of bureaucracy? (2014/I/4a/20)
5. Distinguish between fact and value in Weber's Protestant Ethic and spirit of Capitalism. (2018/I/1b/10)
6. Examine Max Weber's method of maintaining objectivity in social research. (2016/I/4a/20)
7. Which concept did Weber use to analyse the forms of legitimate domination? (2015/I/1d/10)
8. Examine the salient features of Weberian bureaucracy. (2013/I/3c/10)
9. Do you agree with Max Weber's idea that bureaucracy has the potential to become an iron cage? Justify your answer (2021/I/3c/10)
10. 'Ideal Types' of Max Weber are mental constructs; they do not correspond to the reality. Give your views. (2020/I/1d/10)

d) Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables

1. According to Mead the idea of self develops when the individual becomes self-conscious. Explain. 20 (2022/I/6a/20)
2. Critically analyse Parsons views on society as a social system. (2022/I/7a/20)
3. How can Parsons AGIL framework be used to analyse key problems in a society? Discuss (2018/I/7a/20)

4. Describe the functional prerequisites of social systems as given by Talcott Parsons. Examine in the context of a university as a social system. (2016/I/2b/20)
5. How is social equilibrium mentioned in Parsonian framework? (2015/I/4b/20)
6. Analyse the relevance of 'Pattern Variables' in the study of Social change. (2020/I/1e/10)
7. Critically analyse Talcott Parsons' conception 'Pattern Variables'. (2017/I/1d/10)
8. Examine the relevance of Parsonian Social systems in a present society? (2013/I/6c/10)

e) Robert K Merton

1. Can Merton's reference group theory be relevant in understanding identity making' in digital world? Explain (2025/I/1d/10)
2. Is reference group theory a universally applicable model? Elucidate. (2023/I/1d/10)
3. With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K. Merton. (2021/I/4c/10)
4. What are the reactions of R.K Merton to the functionalism of social anthropologists? Bring on the limitations of latent functions. (2020/I/2a/20)
5. How according to Merton, are deviant subcultures generated? (2019/18b/20)
6. Analyse the manifest and latent functions of 'security of the tenure of the bureaucrats' in the light of Merton's Theory. (2016/I/3a/20)
7. How could one use Merton's concept of deviance to understand the traffic problems in urban area? (2014/I/2c/10)
8. Using Merton's Concept of 'manifest' and latent functions, explain the persistence of corruption in India Society? (2014/I/3c/10)
9. How can we use reference group theory to understand the fashion in Society? (2014/I/1e/10)
10. What according to Merton, is the different between 'unanticipated consequences' and 'latent functions? Give examples to elaborate. (2019/I/3c/10)
11. What is the Difference between the anomia in Merton and Durkheim? Explain. (2018/I/2c/10)
12. "Anomie the Social structure" Explain the reference to R.K Merton's contribution. (2015/I/4c/10)

f) Mead- Self and identity

1. Explain G.H. Mead's idea of development of 'self' through the 'generalised other'. (2024/I/5b/10)
2. According to Mead the idea of self develops when the individual becomes self-conscious. Explain. (2022/I/6a/20)
3. According to Mead, "We play a key role in our own socialisation." Explain. 1. (2019/I/2a/20)
4. Write short note: Mead's notion of self. (2020/I/5b/10)
5. Critically analyses the contributions of G.H. Mead to 'symbolic interactionism'. (2013/I/3b/20)
6. Do you think 'I' and 'Me' are central terms in Mead's work? (2018/I/1c/10)



7. "Self and Society are twin - born". Examine the statement of Mead. (2015/1/2c/10)
8. Using Mead's theory of symbolic interactionism, discuss the stages in the formation of gender identity. (2014/1/4c/10)



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Chapter 5- Stratification and Mobility

a) Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation

1. Compare capability deprivation approach with that of social capital deprivation in understanding chronic poverty. (2025/I/3a/20)
2. Discuss the dimensions of power the construction and maintenance of social hierarchies in a society. (2024/ I/7c/10)
3. Analyse the changing nature of caste as a status group. (2024/ I/1b/10)
4. How is poverty a form of social exclusion? Illustrate in this connection the different dimensions of poverty and social exclusion. (2023/ I/4b/20)
5. How do sociologists construct gender in their analysis on social inequality? (2022/I/1e/10)
6. How are Hierarchy and Exclusion the major impediments in the transformation of societies? Discuss. (2020/I/2b/20)
7. What is the difference between natural and social inequality? Give examples from caste and class dimensions. (2018/1/1d/10)
8. Discuss the relationship between poverty and social exclusion. (2016/1/4c/10)
9. Can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living'?Elaborate your answer. (2017/1/1e/10)
10. Distinguish between people being socially excluded and people excluding themselves socially societies. (2013/1/5a/10)
11. What is affirmative action? Substantiate theoretical positions on affirmative actions with examples. (2019/1/6c/10)

b) Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.

1. Does the structural-functionalist perspective on social stratification promote a status quo? Give reasons for your answer. (2025/I/5b/10)
2. Is the social stratification theory gender-blind? Elucidate (2025/I/1e/10)
3. Explain Max Weber's theory of social stratification. How does Weber's idea of class differ from that of Marx? (2023/I/6b/20)
4. Compare and contrast the contributions of Marx and Weber on social stratification in capitalist society. (2019/1/4b/20)
5. Evaluate if social stratification is functional for society. (2018/1/2c/10)
6. What is Weberian critique of Marxist notion of social stratification? (2017/1/4a/20)
7. Elucidate the basic premises of Davis' structural-functional theory of social stratification. How far is it relevant in understanding contemporary Indian society? (2016/1 / 2a / 20)
8. Differentiate between Marxian and Weberian theories of Social Stratification? (2015/I/3b/20)
9. Critically examine the functionalist tradition in Sociology. (2013/I/2b/20)
10. "According to Max Weber, 'class' and 'status' are two different dimensions of power." Discuss. (2014/1/3b/20)
11. For Marx, class divisions are outcomes of 'exploitation'. Discuss. (in about 150 words) (2014/1/5a/10)

12. Critically examine Max Weber's theory of Social Stratification. (2016/I/2a/20)
13. Davis and Moore made it clear that social stratification is a functional necessity and also an unconscious device. Discuss. (2019/I/1b/10)

c) Dimensions- Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity, and race.

1. Do you think that the boundary line between ethnicity and race is blurred? Justify your answer. (2023/I/1e/10)
2. Social stratification is claimed to contribute to the maintenance of social order and stability in society. Critically assess. (2022/I/4b/20)
3. Modernisation presupposes class society however, caste, ethnicity and race are still predominant. Explain. (2019/I/4a/20)
4. Why is gender a dimension of social stratification? How does gender intersect other dimensions of inequality based on caste, class, race and ethnicity? (2019/I/6a/20)
5. Examine gender, ethnicity and race as major dimensions of social stratification. (2017/I/4b/20)
6. What do you understand by gender? How does it shape 'male identity'? (2014/I/3a/20)
7. Present a sociological review on the 'new middle-class'. (2019/I/1d/10)
8. Differentiate between 'Life-chances' and 'Life-style' with suitable examples. (2019/I/5a/10)
9. Analyse the gender bias in the present society with examples. (150 words) (2013/I/5e/10)

d) Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

1. What is social mobility? Critically examine the classification of 'closed' and 'open' models of social stratification. (2024/I/2c/10)
2. Discuss social mobility in open and closed systems. (2022/I/2c/10)
3. Explain the growing salience of ethnicity in the contemporary world with illustrations. (2021/I/7c/10)
4. How are open and closed systems of stratification undergoing transformation in the emergence of new hierarchical social order in societies? (2013/I/4a/20)
5. Critically assess social mobility in closed and open systems. (2020/I/4c/10)
6. Is social mobility possible in closed systems of stratification? Illustrate from research work. (2018/I/5e/10)
7. "Vertical mobility brings structural change even in a closed social system." Comment. (2016/I/1e/10)
8. "No society can either be absolutely open or absolutely closed." Comment (2015/I/1e/10)

Chapter 6- Works and Economic Life

a) Social organisation of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial/capitalist society

1. Define the concept of 'gig' economy and discuss its impact on labour market and workers social security net. (2024/I/4b/20)
2. Describe the differing principles of work organization in feudal and capitalist societies. (2024/I/5c/10)
3. Explain how economic globalization has brought changes in the patterns of employment in the 21st century. (2023/I/7a/20)
4. Discuss the nature of social organisation of work in capitalist society with reference to the 'Limits of the working day'. (2018/I/6a/20)
5. Trace the changing nature of organisation of work in capitalist society over the years. (2017/I/6a/20)
6. Describe the nature of social organization of work in industrial society. (2016/I/5a/10)
7. Distinguish between the social organization of work in feudal society and in capitalist society. (2015/I/5a/10)
8. What are the distinctive features of social organization of work in slave society? How is it different from feudal society? (In about 150 words) (2014/I/5b/10)

b) Formal and informal organisation of work

1. Do you think that formal workspaces are free of gender bias? Argue your case (2025/I/5c/10)
2. Critically analyze the sociological significance of informal sectors in the economy of developing societies. (2025/I/4c/10)
3. What characterizes degradation of work in capitalist society according to Marx? (2022/I/4a/20)
4. Explain the implications of feminization of work in the developing societies. 10 (2022/I/5c/20)
5. Explain the emerging challenges in establishing gender equality in the informal sector. 10 (2021/I/5a/10)
6. The increasing importance of the tertiary sector has weakened the formal organization of work in recent times. Examine the statement. (2015/I/7b/20).
7. How has the idea of 'Work from Home' forced us to redefine the formal and informal organization of work? (2021/I/4b/20)
8. "Globalization has pushed the labour into informal organization of work." Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (2016/I/6a/20)
9. Capitalism has brought increasing informalisation of work in society. Substantiate your answer. (2020/I/3a/20)
10. Discuss the new labour codes and their impact on formal and informal labour in India. (2020/I/6a/20)
11. What is 'informal labour'? Discuss the need for and challenges in regulating informal labour in the post-industrial society (2019/I/7a/20)

12. What do you understand by 'informalisation of labour'? Write your answer with special reference to India. (2017/I/5a/10)

c) Labour and society

1. Elucidate the main problems and challenges faced by the migrant labourers in the recent 'Lockdown period'. (2021/I/6a/20)
2. Explain how political parties and pressure groups are dialectically related to each other in terms of achieving their goals. (2021/I/6b/20)
3. What is labour commitment? Discuss it with reference to studies of manufacturing industry. (2018/I/7b/20)
4. Examine the social impact of globalization on labour and society. (2013/I/6b/20)
5. What is 'reserve army of labour'? Present the position of feminist scholars on this. (2019/I/2c/10)



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Chapter 7- Politics and Society

a) Sociological theories of Power

1. How is 'power' different from 'authority'? Discuss various types of authorities as theorized by Max Weber. (2024/I/5d/10)
2. What are the theoretical models of societal power? Which one of them is most applicable in advanced industrial societies? (2019/I/6b/20)
3. "Power is not a zero-sum game". Discuss with reference to Weber's and Parsons's views. (2014/I/6a/20)

b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.

1. What would you identify as the similarities and differences in the elite theories of Mosca, Michels and Pareto? Discuss their main/crucial issues. (2025/I/4b/20)
2. Are pressure groups a threat to or a necessary element of democracy? Explain with suitable illustrations. (2025/I/3b/20)
3. Is Weber's idea of bureaucracy a product of the historical experiences of Europe? Comment. (2023/I/3c/20)
4. What, according to Robert Michels, is the iron law of oligarchy? Do lions and foxes in Vilfredo Pareto's theory, essentially differ from each other? Substantiate. (2023/I/2a/20)
5. Critically examine the relevance of Vilfredo Pareto's theory of Circulation of Elites in the present scenario. (2021/I/5b/10)
6. Examine the dynamics of pressure groups in multi-party- political system. (2017/I/6a/20)
7. According to Mills, "Elite's rule in institutional terms rather than psychological terms." Comment. (2020/I/6b/10)
8. Discuss the concept of circulation of elite. (2019/I/7c/10)
9. What, according to Pareto, are the basic characteristics of elites? Discuss. (2018/I/7c/10)
10. Discuss the importance of 'power elite' in democracy. (2016/I/5b/10)
11. Distinguish between Political Parties and Pressure Groups. (2014/I/5d/10)

c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.

1. How do Civil Society Organizations' such as NGOs' and Self-Help Groups' contribute to grassroot level social changes? Discuss. (2025/I/8b/20)
2. Democracy needs a vibrant culture of civil society in order to strengthen its foundation of citizenship. Comment. (2024/I/1d/10)
3. How is civil society used in deepening the roots of democracy? (2023/I/2b/20)
4. Highlight the roles and function of civil society in a democratic system. (2021/I/8c/10)
5. "Globalization involves deterritorialization." Examine with reference to the nation - state. (2015/I/8a/20)
6. Evaluate how do civil society and democracy mutually reinforce each other. (2013/I/7a/20)
7. Explain democracy as an order of society. What are the factors preventing people's participation people's participation in politics? (2020/I/2c/10)

8. What is civil society? Present a note on civil society engagement with science and technology policy in India. (2019/1/5c/10)
9. Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independent India. (2017/1/5b/10)
10. "Ideology is crucial for social transformation in a democracy." Discuss. (2015/1/5b/10)
11. Caste ideology appears to have strengthened democracy. Comment. (2015/1/7c/10)
12. Discuss T. H. Marshall's views on citizenship. (2014/1/5c/10)
13. Critically examine the role of civil society in democracy (2013/1/7c/10)

d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

1. How can you assess the significance of social movements in the digital era? Explain. (2025/1/6c/10)
2. Underline the role of social media in contemporary social movements and describe its challenges. (2023/1/6a/20)
3. Do you think that the social media has brought significant changes in the forms of protest? Argue your case. (2023/1/7b/20)
4. Analyse the nature of transition from ideology to identity politics India. (2022/1/6b/20)
5. Discuss how 'environmentalism' can be explained with new social movements approach. (2022/1/7b/20)
6. Illustrate with examples the role of pressure groups in the formulation of social policies, (2022/1/7c/10)
7. Explain the conditions under which a collective action transforms into a social movement. (2015/1/6b/20)
8. What is new in 'new social movements'? Elaborate your answer with special reference to India. (2017/1/6b/20)
9. How is terrorism a new form of asymmetrical warfare? What are some of the challenges in trying to win the war on terrorism? (2019/1/8c/10)
10. Examine how social movements come to an end. Illustrate with examples. (2020/1/8c/10)
11. Are social movements primordial in means and progressive in agenda? Explain. (2018/1/5b/10)
12. Examine the role of protest movements in changing the status of Dalits in India. (2016/1/6c/10)
13. To what success revolution replaces the existing order of society? Discuss. (2016/1/7c/10)
14. What do you understand by social movement? How has the mobilization by Scheduled Castes helped them in constructing a new identity? (2014/1/8c/10)
15. Defines social movement. Elucidate the role of reformist movements in social change. (150 words) (2013/1/5b/10)

Chapter 8- Religion and Society

a) Sociological Theories of religion

1. How does a multicultural society accommodate diversities of all kinds- ethnic, linguistic and religious? Discuss its major challenges. (2024/I/6b/20)
2. What is Taylorism? Analyze its merits and demerits. (2023/I/8a/20)
3. Give an assessment of Durkheimian notion of 'sacred' and 'profane' in sociology of religion. (2017/I/5c/20)
4. How is Durkheim's theory of religion different from Max Weber's theory of Religion? (2016/I/8b/20)
5. Are all world religious patriarchal? Substantiate your answer with examples? (2019/I/3b/20)

b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.

1. How do you understand the phenomena of the mushrooming of sects and cults in contemporary society? Discuss the factors responsible for the trend. (2024/I/7b/20)
2. Discuss the concept of animism and differentiate it from naturism. (2024/I/6c/10)
3. What are new religious movements? Elaborate emphasizing their forms and orientations. (2023/I/8b/20)
4. Highlight the differences and similarities between totemism and animism. (2023/I/4c/10)
5. "Religious and Pluralism is the order of present-day societies." Explain by giving suitable examples. (2016/I/7a/20)
6. What are sects? Discuss the role in multi-religious societies with empirical examples. (2018/I/8b/20)
7. Elaborate on various types of religious practices prevalent in Indian society. (2017/I/8c/10)
8. State the reasons for the various religious beliefs and practices in pre-modern societies. (2020/I/5d/10)
9. Distinguish between sects and cults with illustrations. (2015/I/5c/10)

c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

1. What is the nature of relationship between science and religion in modern society? Analyze with suitable examples. (2025/I/7c/10)
2. Do modernization and secularization necessarily go together? Give your views (2024/I/7a/20)
3. What functions does religion perform in a pluralistic society? (2023/I/5c/10)
4. Write a note on global trends of secularization. (2022/I/5d/10)
5. How do little tradition and great tradition coexist in contemporary Indian society? (2022/I/6c/10)
6. Critically compare the views of E.B. Tylor and Max Muller on Religion. (2021/I/5c/10)
7. What is cult? Explain the growth of cults in the contemporary world. (2021/I/5d/10)

8. Discuss the challenges thrown by religious revivalism to a secular nation- state. (2018/I/4c/20)
9. Give your comments on the growth of religious revivalism in the present-day context. (2021/I/6c/10)
10. Is religion playing an important role in increasing fundamentalism? Give reasons for your answer. (2016/I/5c/10)
11. Define Secularisation. What are its major dimensions in the modern world? (2015/I/7a/20)
12. How is religious revivalism different from communalism? Elaborate with Suitable examples from the Indian context? (2014/I/7a/20)
13. "Science has empirical means to logical end and religion has non- empirical means to logical ends." Comment (2013/I/5c/10)
14. "Is Religion antithetical to science? Comment. (2013/I/8c/10)
15. Problematised the concept of secularism in the present context. (2017/I/7c/10)



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Chapter 9- System of Kinship

a) Family, household, marriage

1. In what way does queer kinship challenge the traditional kinship system? Substantiate by giving illustrations. (2025/I/8c/10)
2. Give an account of the recent trends of marriage in the Indian context. How are these different from traditional practices? (2025/I/4a/20)
3. Modern families have not just become nuclear and neo-local, but also filiocentric. How do you explain this trend? (2024/I/8a/20)
4. What are the 'basic and irreducible' functions of the family as proposed by Talcott Parsons? Explain. (2024/I/1e/10)
5. Marriage as an institution has undergone a radical transformation from 'ritual' to 'commercial' in its outlook. Explain the factors behind this change. (2024/I/1c/10)
6. Analyze critically David Morgan's views on family practices (2023/I/5d/10)
7. How do you assess the changing patterns in kinship relations in societies today? (2023/I/3b/20)
8. In the light of judicial intervention on 'Live-in relationships', discuss the future of marriage and family in India. (2019/1/8a/20)
9. Discuss the changing nature of kinship relations in the contemporary world. (2021/I/7b/20)
10. Distinguish between family and household with reference to the concept of development of the household. (2018/1/6b/20)
11. What is the impact of gender division of labour on the development of society? (2020/1/8b/20)
12. Discuss the consequences of Across Region marriage on kinship system in modern Indian society. (2020/1/3c/10)
13. Does the institution of marriage continue to be sacred in Indian society? Comment. (2020/1/5e/10)
14. What are the new forms of family in developed societies? Discuss. (2018/1/1e/10)
15. Distinguish between family and household as sociological concepts. (2016/1/8c/10)

b) Types and forms of family

1. Discuss various theoretical perspectives on the family. (2022/I/5b/20)
2. Explain how the pattern of patriarchy is being altered in a family and at the workplace in the present context. (2021/I/7a/20)
3. What, according to Irawati Karve, are the major differences between North Indian and South Indian Kinship systems? (2019/1/ 4c / 10)
4. How do the rules of descent and alliance in kinship differ from each other? Illustrate. (2015/1 / 6c / 10)

c) Lineage and descent

1. Is male authority absent in matrilineal society? Discuss. (2021/I/1d/10)

d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour

1. What do you understand by gender-based domestic division of labour? Is it undergoing a change in the wake of increasing participation of women in formal employment? Clarify your answer with illustrations. (2025/I/6b/20)
2. Does women's education help to eradicate patriarchal discriminations? Reflect with illustrations. (2023/I/5e/10)
3. How do you understand the relationship between patriarchy and social development? (2022/I/8c/10)
4. Define patriarchy. How does patriarchy manifest in interpersonal relations? (2018/1/3b/20)
5. Examine 'patriarchal bargain' as gendered division of work in contemporary India. (2017/1/5d/10)

e) Contemporary Trends

1. Discuss the contemporary trends in family as a response to social change in modern society. (2016/I/7b/20)
2. Critically examine the functionalist views on the institution of family. How do those help us in understanding family in the present times? (2014/1/6b/20)



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Chapter 10 - Education System & Social change

a) Sociological theories of social change

1. Critically examine the World-Systems theory Of Immanuel Wallerstein in terms of development and dependency of various nations. (2024/1/8c/10)
2. Discuss various theories of social change. Explain the limitations of unilinear theory of social change. (2024/1/8b/20)
3. Critically examine the roles of science and technology in social change. What is your opinion on their increasing trend in 'online' education and teaching? (2024/1/5e/10)
4. According to Durkheim, "The major function of education is the transmission of society's norms and values." Discuss. (2020/1/4b/20)
5. Does collapse of functionalism and bankruptcy of Marxism coincide with the rupture of modernity? Discuss. (2018/1/3a/20)
6. How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change? (2020/1/8a/20)
7. Examine any two theories of social change in detail. (2017/1/8a/20)
8. Critically examine the cultural theories of social change with suitable examples. (2013/1/8b/20)
9. Criticize A.G. Frank's 'development of underdevelopment'. (2019/1/5d/10)
10. Is the theory of cultural lag valid in present times? Discuss. (2018/1/5a/10)

b) Development and dependency

1. What do you understand by sustainable development? Discuss the elements of sustainable development as proposed in the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals Report-2015. (2025/1/8a/20)
2. Assess critically A. G. Frank's theory of development of underdevelopment'. (2023/ 1/7c/10)
3. Critically examine the contribution of dependency theories in understanding the present global scenario.(2021/1/8b/20)
4. Examine the dialectical relation between tradition and modernity in the study of social change. (2015/1/8b/20)
5. Illustrate the conflicts and tensions experienced by societies undergoing social change. (2013/1/8a/20)
6. Write a short essay on the Latin American perspective on 'dependency'. (2014/1/8b/20)
7. "Social change can be brought about through development". Illustrate from the contemporary situation of India. (2016/1/6b/20)
8. Feminist scholars argue that 'New media' is masculine and hence reinforces structural hierarchies rather than reconfiguring them. Comment. (2019/1/7b/20)
9. Technology has accelerated the process of development and dependency. Discuss (2020/1/7a/20)
10. Examine the social dimensions of displacement induced by development. (2013/1/5d/10)
11. "Social conflict is both a cause and a consequence of social change." Explain. (2016/1/5e/10)

12. Explain the relevance of the idea of 'cultural lag' in understanding social change. (2015/1/5e/10)

c) Agents of social change

1. Assess the role of mass media as an agent of social change. (2017/1/ 5e / 10)

d) Education and social change

1. To what extent can education and skill development be an agent of social change? Critically analyze. (2025/1/5e/10)
2. Schooling does not ensure upward mobility of all members of the society. Discuss with reference to class societies. (2018/1/8a/20)
3. "Education is a major source of Social Mobility in contemporary society". Explain. (2016/1/8a/20)
4. "Education helps in perpetuating social and economic inequalities." Critically examine the statement. (2015/1/6a/20).
5. Education is often viewed as an agency of social change. However, in reality it could also reinforce inequalities and conservatism. Discuss. (2020/1/5c/10)
6. Discuss the issues of access and exclusion in higher education in India. (2019/1/5b/10)

e) Science, Technology and Social change

1. Critically assess the impact of technological advancement and automation on the nature of work and employment. (2024/1/4c/10)
2. Examine the role of science and technology in addressing age-old taboos and superstitions. (2023/1/8c/10)
3. Trace the trajectory of development perspectives on social change. (2022/1/5e/10)
4. Sociologists argue for democratization of science and technology for inclusive development. Comment. (2022/1/8a/20)
5. Are traditional social institutions getting weakened as agents of social change in the contemporary society? Substantiate. (2022/1/8b/20)
6. Describe the role of Science & Technology in enabling us to face the challenges triggered by the COVID - 19 pandemics. (2021/1/6a/20)
7. Is humanity at the mercy of Nature, Science, and Technology? Comment in the light of the pandemic situation. (2020/1/4a/20)
8. Critically analyze the role of science and technology in bringing about social change. (2017/1/8b/20)
9. How is the increasing use of technology changing the status of women in Indian society? (2014/1/8a/20)
10. Examine science and technology as agents of social change. (150 words) (2013/1/1d/10)