



IAS Gurukul

Sociology Optional For UPSC CSE



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STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Sociology Optional 2015 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2015

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UPSC Sociology Optional 2015 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2015

SECTION—A

1. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each (10x5=50)

(a)

Is Sociology a science? Give reasons for your answer.

10 Marks · Sociology As Science · Science, scientific method and critique.

(b)

Discuss the relevance of historical method in the study of Society?

10 Marks · Sociology As Science · Science, scientific method and critique.

(c)

What are variables? Discuss their role in experimental research.

10 Marks · Research Methods & Analysis · "Hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two or more variables." Elucidate by

(d)

Which concept did Weber use to analyse the forms of legitimate domination?

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism

(e)

"No society can either be absolutely open or absolutely closed." Comment

10 Marks · Stratification and Mobility · What is social mobility? Critically examine the classification of 'closed' and 'open' models

2.

(b)

20 marks

Examine the Problems of maintaining objectivity and value neutrality in Social Science research.

20 Marks · Research Methods & Analysis · Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity

(c) **10 marks**

"Self and Society are twin - born". Examine the statement of Mead.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Mead- Self and identity

3.

(a) **20 marks**

Why is random sampling said to have more reliability and validity in research?

20 Marks · Research Methods & Analysis · Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity

(b) **20 marks**

Differentiate between Marxian and Weberian theories of Social Stratification?

20 Marks · Stratification and Mobility · Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.

(c) **10 marks**

How had enlightenment contributed to the emergence of Sociology?

10 Marks · Sociology the Discipline · Modernity and social changes in Europe and the emergence of sociology.

4.

(a) **20 marks**

"Non – positivistic methodology is essential for understanding human behavior." Discuss

20 Marks · Sociology As Science · Non-positivist methodologies

(b) **20 marks**

How is social equilibrium mentioned in Parsonian framework?

20 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables

(c) **10 marks**

"Anomie the Social structure" Explain the reference to R.K Merton's contribution.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Using Merton's Concept of 'manifest' and latent functions, explain the persistence of

SECTION—B**5. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each (10x4=40)****(a)**

Distinguish between the social organization of work in feudal society and in capitalist society.

10 Marks · Works and Economic Life · Social organisation of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial/capitalist society

(b)

"Ideology is crucial for social transformation in a democracy." Discuss.

10 Marks · Politics and Society · Explain democracy as an order of society. What are the factors preventing people's

(c)

Distinguish between sects and cults with illustrations.

10 Marks · Religion and Society · Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.

(e)

Explain the relevance of the idea of 'cultural lag' in understanding social change.

10 Marks · Education System & Social change · Development and dependency

6.**(a)****20 marks**

statement.

20 Marks · Education System & Social change · "Education helps in perpetuating social and economic inequalities." Critically examine the

(b)**20 marks**

Explain the conditions under which a collective action transforms into a social movement.

20 Marks · Politics and Society · Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

(c)**10 marks**

How do the rules of descent and alliance in kinship differ from each other? Illustrate.

10 Marks · System of Kinship · Types and forms of family

7.

(a)

20 marks

Define Secularisation. What are its major dimensions in the modern world?

20 Marks · Religion and Society · Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

(b)

20 marks

The increasing importance of the tertiary sector has weakened the formal organization of work in recent times. Examine the statement.

20 Marks · Works and Economic Life · Formal and informal organisation of work

(c)

10 marks

Caste ideology appears to have strengthened democracy. Comment.

10 Marks · Politics and Society · Explain democracy as an order of society. What are the factors preventing people's

8.

(a)

20 marks

"Globalization involves deterritorialization." Examine with reference to the nation - state.

20 Marks · Politics and Society · How do Civil Society Organizations' such as NGOs' and Self-Help Groups' contribute to

(b)

20 marks

Examine the dialectical relation between tradition and modernity in the study of social change.

20 Marks · Education System & Social change · Development and dependency

(c)

10 marks

Elaborate the views of Durkheim on "The Elementary Forms of Religious life".

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
