



IAS Gurukul

Sociology Optional For UPSC CSE



by Pranay Aggarwal Sir

STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Sociology Optional 2017 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2017

<https://www.iasgurukul.com>

+91 9999693744 · +91 7042745191

mail@iasgurukul.com

UPSC Sociology Optional 2017 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2017

SECTION—A

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

(a)

Explain how sociology has emerged as a distinct discipline based on rationality and scientific temper.

10 Marks · Sociology the Discipline · Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences

(b)

Explain ethnomethodological and phenomenological perspectives as critique of positivism.

10 Marks · Sociology As Science · Positivism and its critique

(c)

Illustrate with example the significance of variables in sociological research.

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

(d)

Critically analyse Talcott Parsons' conception 'Pattern Variables'.

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

(e)

Can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living'? Elaborate your answer.

10 Marks · Stratification and Mobility · Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation

2.

(a)

20 marks

Discuss the changing equations of discipline of Sociology with other social sciences.

20 Marks · Sociology the Discipline · Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences

(b)

20 marks

Examine the basic postulates of positivism and post-positivism.

20 Marks · Sociology As Science · Positivism and its critique

(c)

10 marks

Elaborate the main tenets of interpretative perspective in sociology.

10 Marks · Sociology As Science · Major theoretical strands of research methodology

3.

(b)

20 marks

Analyse Marxian conception of historical materialism as a critique of Hegelian dialectics.

20 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Karl Marx- Historical Materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.

(c)

10 marks

Examine epistemological foundations of qualitative methods of social research.

10 Marks · Research Methods & Analysis · Qualitative and quantitative methods

(c)

20 marks

Discuss distinct sociological method adopted by Emile Durkheim in his method of 'suicide'.

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

4.

(a)

20 marks

What is Weberian critique of Marxist notion of social stratification?

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

(b)

20 marks

Examine gender, ethnicity and race as major dimensions of social stratification.

20 Marks · Stratification and Mobility · Dimensions- Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity, and race.

(c) 10 marks

How can one resolve the issue of reliability and validity in the context of sociological research on inequality?

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

SECTION—B

5.

(a) 10 marks

What do you understand by 'informalisation of labour'? Write your answer with special reference to India.

10 Marks · Works and Economic Life · What is 'informal labour'? Discuss the need for and challenges in regulating informal

(b) 10 marks

Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independent India.

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

(c) 20 marks

Give an assessment of Durkheimian notion of 'sacred' and 'profane' in sociology of religion.

20 Marks · Religion and Society · Sociological Theories of religion

(d) 10 marks

Examine 'patriarchal bargain' as gendered division of work in contemporary India.

10 Marks · System of Kinship · Patriarchy and sexual division of labour

(e) 10 marks

Assess the role of mass media as an agent of social change.

10 Marks · Education System & Social change · Agents of social change

6.

(a)

20 marks

Trace the changing nature of organisation of work in capitalist society over the years.

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

(a)

20 marks

Examine the dynamics of pressure groups in multi-party- political system.

20 Marks · Politics and Society · Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.

(b)

20 marks

What is new in 'new social movements'? Elaborate your answer with special reference to India.

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

(b)

20 marks

Examine the impact of heritage tourism urban socio-spatial patterns in India.

20 Marks · Social Changes in India: · Industrialization and Urbanisation in India

7.

(c)

10 marks

Problematise the concept of secularism in the present context.

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

8.

(a)

20 marks

Examine any two theories of social change in detail.

20 Marks · Education System & Social change · Critically examine the roles of science and technology in social change. What is your

(b)

20 marks

Critically analyze the role of science and technology in bringing about social change.

20 Marks · Education System & Social change · Science, Technology and Social change

(c)

10 marks

Elaborate on various types of religious practices prevalent in Indian society.

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