



IAS Gurukul

Sociology Optional For UPSC CSE



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STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Sociology Optional 2020 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2020

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UPSC Sociology Optional 2020 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2020

SECTION—A

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

(a)

How did the Intellectual forces lead to the emergence of Sociology? Discuss

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

(b)

Is Sociology a Value -free Science? Discuss.

10 Marks · Sociology As Science · Fact value and objectivity

(c)

Methodology is a system of rules, principles and procedures, which forms scientific investigation.

Comment.

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

(d)

'Ideal Types' of Max Weber are mental constructs; they do not correspond to the reality. Give your views.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Do you agree with Max Weber's idea that bureaucracy has the potential to become an iron

(e)

Analyse the relevance of 'Pattern Variables' in the study of Social change.

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

2.

(a)

20 marks

What are the reactions of R.K Merton to the functionalism of social anthropologists? Bring on the limitations of latent functions.

20 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Robert K Merton

(b)

20 marks

How are Hierarchy and Exclusion the major impediments in the transformation of societies? Discuss.

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

(c)

10 marks

participation people's participation in politics?

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

3.

(a)

20 marks

Capitalism has brought increasing informalisation of work in society. Substantiate your answer.

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

(b)

20 marks

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.

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

(c)

10 marks

Discuss the consequences of Across Region marriage on kinship system in modern Indian society.

10 Marks · System of Kinship · Family, household, marriage

4.

(a)

20 marks

Is humanity at the mercy of Nature, Science, and Technology? Comment in the light of the pandemic situation.

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

(b)

20 marks

According to Durkheim, "The major function of education is the transmission of society's norms and values." Discuss.

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

(c)

10 marks

Critically assess social mobility in closed and open systems.

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

SECTION—B

5. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each (10x7=70)

(a)

In the Context of globalization, has the scope of Sociology been changing in India? Comment

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

(b)

Discuss the importance and source of hypothesis in social research.

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

(b)

Write short note: Mead's notion of self.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Mead- Self and identity

(c)

What are the problems in observing social facts in Durkheim's views?

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

(c)

Education is often viewed as an agency of social change. However, in reality it could also reinforce inequalities and conservatism. Discuss.

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

(d)

State the reasons for the various religious beliefs and practices in pre-modern societies.

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

(e)

Does the institution of marriage continue to be sacred in Indian society? Comment.

10 Marks · System of Kinship · Family, household, marriage

6.

(a)

20 marks

Discuss the new labour codes and their impact on formal and informal labour in India.

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

(b)

10 marks

According to Mills, "Elite's rule in institutional terms rather than psychological terms." Comment.

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

(c)

10 marks

Analyse the strengths and weakness of social survey method in social research.

10 Marks · Research Methods & Analysis · Techniques of data collection

7.

(a)

20 marks

Technology has accelerated the process of development and dependency. Discuss

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

(b)

20 marks

Phenomenological perspectives in Sociology reject many of the assumption of positivism, Comment.

20 Marks · Sociology As Science · Positivism and its critique

(c)

10 marks

Critically assess the Marxian Theory of 'Alienation'.

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

8.

(a)

20 marks

How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change?

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

(b)

20 marks

What is the impact of gender division of labour on the development of society?

20 Marks · System of Kinship · Family, household, marriage

(c)

10 marks

Examine how social movements come to an end. Illustrate with examples.

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