



IAS Gurukul

Sociology Optional For UPSC CSE



by Pranay Aggarwal Sir

STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Sociology Optional 2021 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2021

<https://www.iasgurukul.com>

+91 9999693744 · +91 7042745191

mail@iasgurukul.com

UPSC Sociology Optional 2021 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2021

SECTION—A

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

(a)

Europe was the first and the only place where modernity emerged. Comment

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

(b)

Do you think ethnomethodology helps us in getting reliable and valid data? Justify your answer.

10 Marks · Sociology As Science · Non-positivist methodologies

(c)

Discuss the challenges involved in collecting data through census method

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

(d)

Explain whether Durkheim's theory of Division of Labour is relevant in the present-day context.

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

(d)

Is male authority absent in matrilineal society? Discuss.

10 Marks · System of Kinship · Lineage and descent

2.

(a)

20 marks

From the viewpoint of growing importance of multidisciplinary, how do you relate sociology to other social sciences?

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

(b) 20 marks

How far are sociologists justified in using positivist approach to understand social reality? Explain with suitable illustrations.

20 Marks · Sociology As Science · Non-positivist methodologies

(c) 10 marks

How is Sociology related to common sense?

10 Marks · Sociology the Discipline · Sociology and common sense

3.

(a) 20 marks

How do qualitative and quantitative methods supplement each other in sociological enquiry?

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

(b) 20 marks

Critically examine the dialectics involved in each mode of production as propounded by Karl Marx.

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

(c) 10 marks

How is bureaucracy an iron cage? Justify your answer

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

4.

(b) 20 marks

How has the idea of 'Work from Home' forced us to redefine the formal and informal organization of work?

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

(c) **10 marks**

With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R. K. Merton.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Robert K Merton

SECTION—B

5. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each (10x4=40)

(a)

Explain the emerging challenges in establishing gender equality in the informal sector. 10

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

(b)

Critically examine the relevance of Vilfredo Pareto's theory of Circulation of Elites in the present scenario.

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

(c)

Critically compare the views of E.B. Tylor and Max Muller on Religion.

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

(d)

What is cult? Explain the growth of cults in the contemporary world.

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

6.

(a)

20 marks

Elucidate the main problems and challenges faced by the migrant labourers in the recent 'Lockdown period'.

20 Marks · Works and Economic Life · Labour and society

(a)

20 marks

Describe the role of Science & Technology in enabling us to face the challenges triggered by the COVID – 19 pandemics.

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

(b)

20 marks

Explain how political parties and pressure groups are dialectically related to each other in terms of achieving their goals.

20 Marks · Works and Economic Life · Labour and society

(c)

10 marks

Give your comments on the growth of religious revivalism in the present-day context.

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

7.

(a)

20 marks

Explain how the pattern of patriarchy is being altered in a family and at the workplace in the present context.

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

(b)

20 marks

Discuss the changing nature of kinship relations in the contemporary world.

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

(c)**10 marks**

Explain the growing salience of ethnicity in the contemporary world with illustrations.

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

8.**(b)****20 marks**

Critically examine the contribution of dependency theories in understanding the present global scenario.

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

(c)**10 marks**

Highlight the roles and function of civil society in a democratic system.

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