



IAS Gurukul

Sociology Optional For UPSC CSE



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STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Sociology Optional 2023 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2023

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UPSC Sociology Optional 2023 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2023

SECTION—A

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

(b)

Discuss the relationship between sociology and political science.

10 Marks · Sociology the Discipline · Sociology and common sense

(c)

How does the dramaturgical perspective enable our understanding of everyday life?

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

(d)

Is reference group theory a universally applicable model? Elucidate.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Robert K Merton

(e)

Do you think that the boundary line between ethnicity and race is blurred? Justify your answer.

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

2.

(a)

20 marks

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.

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

(b)

20 marks

What is historical materialism? Examine its relevance in understanding contemporary societies.

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

(b) 20 marks

How is civil society used in deepening the roots of democracy?

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

(c) 10 marks

What are variables? How do they facilitate research?

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

3.

(a) 20 marks

What are the characteristics of scientific method? Do you think that scientific method in conducting sociological research is foolproof? Elaborate.

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

(b) 20 marks

How do you assess the changing patterns in kinship relations in societies today?

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

(c) 20 marks

Is Weber's idea of bureaucracy a product of the historical experiences of Europe? Comment.

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

4.

(a) 20 marks

Do you think that common sense is the starting point of social research? What are its advantages and limitations? Explain.

20 Marks · Sociology the Discipline · Sociology and common sense

(b)

20 marks

How is poverty a form of social exclusion? Illustrate in this connection the different dimensions of poverty and social exclusion.

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

(c)

10 marks

Highlight the differences and similarities between totemism and animism.

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

SECTION—B

5.

(a)

1 marks

Examine the relevance of corporate social responsibility in a world marked by increasing environmental crises.

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

(c)

10 marks

What functions does religion perform in a pluralistic society?

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

(d)

10 marks

Analyze critically David Morgan's views on family practices

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

(e)

10 marks

Does women's education help to eradicate patriarchal discriminations? Reflect with illustrations.

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

6.

(a)

20 marks

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.

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

(a)

20 marks

Underline the role of social media in contemporary social movements and describe its challenges.

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

(b)

20 marks

Explain Max Weber's theory of social stratification. How does Weber's idea of class differ from that of Marx?

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

(c)

10 marks

What are the ethical issues that a researcher faces in making use of participant observation as a method of collecting data? Explain.

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

7.

(a)

20 marks

Explain how economic globalization has brought changes in the patterns of employment in the 21st century.

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

(b)

20 marks

Do you think that the social media has brought significant changes in the forms of protest? Argue your case.

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

(c) **10 marks**

Assess critically A. G. Frank's theory of development of underdevelopment'.

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

8.

(a) **20 marks**

What is Taylorism? Analyze its merits and demerits.

20 Marks · Religion and Society · Sociological Theories of religion

(b) **20 marks**

What are new religious movements? Elaborate emphasizing their forms and orientations.

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

(c) **10 marks**

Examine the role of science and technology in addressing age-old taboos and superstitions.

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