



IAS Gurukul

Sociology Optional For UPSC CSE



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STUDY MATERIAL

UPSC Sociology Optional 2024 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2024

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UPSC Sociology Optional 2024 Paper I Previous Year Questions

Previous Year Questions · Paper I · 2024

SECTION—A

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

(a)

Discuss the nature of sociology. Highlight its relationship with social anthropology.

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

(b)

Analyse the changing nature of caste as a status group.

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

(c)

Marriage as an institution has undergone a radical transformation from 'ritual' to 'commercial' in its outlook. Explain the factors behind this change.

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

(d)

Democracy needs a vibrant culture of civil society in order to strengthen its foundation of citizenship. Comment.

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

(e)

What are the 'basic and irreducible' functions of the family as proposed by Talcott Parsons ? Explain.

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

2.

(a)

20 marks

Sociology is the product of European enlightenment and renaissance. Critically examine this statement

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

(b)

20 marks

Do you think 'objectivity' is an over-hyped idea in sociological research? Discuss the merits and demerits of non-positivist methods.

20 Marks · Sociology As Science · Fact value and objectivity

(c)

10 marks

of social stratification.

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

3.

(a)

20 marks

How do you view and assess the increasing trend of digital ethnography and use of visual culture in sociological research?

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

(b)

20 marks

Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism' as a critique of Marxism.

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

(c)

10 marks

Critically explain the salient features of 'alienation' as propounded by Karl Marx.

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

4.

(a)

20 marks

What do you understand by 'Mixed method'? Discuss its strengths and limitations in Social research.

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

(b)

20 marks

Define the concept of 'gig' economy and discuss its impact on labour market and workers social security net.

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

(c)

10 marks

Critically assess the impact of technological advancement and automation on the nature of work and employment.

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

SECTION—B

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

(a)

Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim?

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

(b)

Explain G.H. Mead's idea of development of 'self' through the 'generalised other'.

10 Marks · Sociological Thinkers · Mead- Self and identity

(c)

Describe the differing principles of work organization in feudal and capitalist societies.

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

(d)

How is 'power' different from 'authority'? Discuss various types of authorities as theorized by Max Weber.

10 Marks · Politics and Society · Sociological theories of Power

(e)

opinion on their increasing trend in 'online' education and teaching?

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

6.

(b)

20 marks

How does a multicultural society accommodate diversities of all kinds- ethnic, linguistic and religious? Discuss its major challenges.

20 Marks · Religion and Society · Sociological Theories of religion

(c)

10 marks

Discuss the concept of animism and differentiate it from naturism.

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

7.

(a)

20 marks

Domodernizationandsecularizationnecessarilygottogether?Giveyourviews

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

(b)

20 marks

How do you understand the phenomena of the mushrooming of sects and cults in contemporary society? Discuss the factors responsible for the trend.

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

(c) **10 marks**

Discuss the dimensions of power the construction and maintenance of social hierarchies in a society.

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

8.

(a) **20 marks**

Modern families have not just become nuclear and neo-local, but also filiocentric. How do you explain this trend?

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

(b) **20 marks**

Discuss various theories of social change. Explain the limitations of unilinear theory of social change.

20 Marks · Education System & Social change · Sociological theories of social change

(c) **10 marks**

Critically examine the World-Systems theory Of Immanuel Wallerstein in terms of development and dependency of various nations.

10 Marks · Education System & Social change · Sociological theories of social change
