



ALL INDIA CIVIL SERVICES COACHING CENTRE

OPTIONAL ANSWER BOOKLET - WEEKLY



போட்டித் தேர்வுகள் மிரிவு

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ID	NMCEM	Date of Exam	4-JUL-2025
		Subject	Sociology

Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))

Q.No.	MARKS	Q.No.	MARKS	INSTRUCTIONS
1.		11.		1. It is advisable to attempt all questions provided in the booklet within the given timeline. 2. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one. 3. Use only blue and black pens to write answers. Do not use a pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc. 4. Kindly ensure that you adhere to the word limit mentioned against each question. 5. Do not write answers in illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated. 6. Please mention the question number and question before each answer, if you are submitting your answers in A4 sheets. 7. Marks allocated to each answer is final, and we will not entertain any kind of reevaluation. 8. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
2.		12.		
3.		13.		
4.		14.		
5.		15.		
6.		16.		
7.		17.		
8.		18.		
9.		19.		
10.		20.		
TOTAL MARKS		TOTAL MARKS		

EVALUATION INDICATORS

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Innovation						
Content						
Number of Questions attempted						

EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

Overall Macro Comments/Feedback/Suggestions on Answer booklet

(THIS WILL INCLUDE COMMENTS ON POSITIVES / AREAS OF IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS WHEREVER RELEVANT)

Question Interpretation		
Content	Relevance	
	Quality	
Answer Structure		
Presentation		
<u>Other Parameters</u>		

1.

Social fact according to Durkheim are ways of acting, thinking and feeling external to an individual which are enforced upon him by coercion and exercise control over him.

Characteristics of a 'social fact':-

Social fact is the subject matter of sociology eg., Religion. It has following features.

- 1) Externality - it is external to an individual in existence
- 2) Constraining - It has constraining influence on individual action
- 3) Generality - it is of general type and not specific type
- 4) Independent - social fact can change individual but the opposite is not true

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Suicide rate as a social fact:-

In his *Le Suicide*, Durkheim established suicide rate as a social fact.

- 1) Suicide rate is based on external societal factors like integration and regulation, not based on psychology or individual factors.
- 2) Suicide rate is constrained^{ing} by individual actions eg., less suicide during war
- 3) It is a general phenomenon in society
- 4) Existence of suicide rate is independent of individual behaviour.
eg., certain rate of suicide is seen in all the societies.

Hence through social fact Durkheim tried to establish sociology as a positive discipline and laid its foundation.

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Individuals deviate from expected standard of behaviour. Results from strain between defined goals and available norms.

For eg., involving in crime to become rich.

Coexistence of conformity and deviance:-

- 1) In any society, majority are conformist and few are deviant
- 2) Conformist of one society can be deviant in another society. Eg., Homosexuals legalised in 30 countries.
- 3) Deviance can be positive also. Eg., Innovators like scientist.
- 4) Punishment of deviance reinforces conformity by others.

Hence conformity and deviance are coexisting in any society and has some functional aspects to society as whole.

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3.

Informal organisations are the ones where the rules are stated rather than implied as employer-employee relations are based on preferences rather than contract.

Informal organisations:-

They attain organisational goals in an informal way through,

- 1) flexibility in work organisation
- 2) easy entry and exit as there are no formal regulations
- 3) escape from legislations that secure job security & social security
- 4) based on preferences like kinship, caste or reference.

For example, gig economy

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NGOs as informal organisations:-

NGOs are non governmental organisations acting as bridge between government and people.

Formal Features

- 1) They are registered with the government
- 2) They are regulated
eg., FCRA by MHA
- 3) They have governing board with hierarchy
- 4) Membership is ensured through fees or renewal

Informal Features

- 1) Their work is flexible as per needs
- 2) At times easy entry exit for members
- 3) More of informal relations than rigid rules.

NGOs can therefore be regarded as formal organisation with informal features as both can coexist as said by Peter Blau.

A.

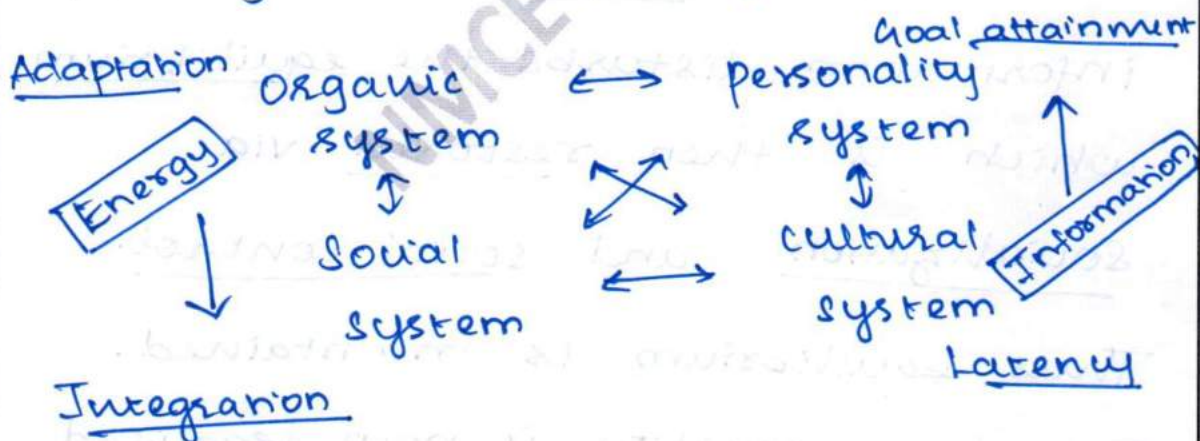
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Talcott Parsons in his 'Social System' explained interrelations between subsystem through the 'cybernetic theory of hierarchy'.

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Social System of Talcott Parsons:-

The institutionalized pattern of interactions between social actors is called social system. It has the following prerequisites.



- 1) organic system — physical aspect of social reality & storehouse of energy
- 2) personality system — storehouse of motivation

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3) social system - where actual interactions take place

4) cultural system - information control through values and norms.

Despite being unique with distinct boundaries there is interlinkage between the system through flow of energy and information control. This is called cybernetic theory of hierarchy.

Any change in energy or information disturbs the equilibrium which is then restored via socialization and social control.

Thus equilibrium is maintained.

Eg., homosexuality is now legalised in 30+ countries. New values are

internalised and equilibrium maintained.

5.

Weber through his work 'The Protestant Ethic' stated that even superstructure can influence material or infrastructure as critique of Marx.

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The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit
of Capitalism:-

Weber analyzed the causes for rise of capitalism in Europe. He found that protestant ethic promoted capitalism by comparing the 'Ideal Types' of both.

Ideal Type of Protestant Ethic

- 1) Doctrine of predestination leads to working hard.
- 2) Worldly asceticism to attain salvation.

3) All work is saved

4) Wealth should be reinvested

Ideal Type of capitalism

1) Rational organisation of work

2) Time is money, work should be done well

3) work should lead to profit

Weber finds there is an elective affinity between both the Ideal Types. The salvational anxiety lead to hardwork and reinvestment much need for nascent capitalism.

Thus protestant ethic gave the 'spirit' while the 'substance' like factory system, stable polity, new tools and techniques already present, thus led to capitalism.

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Critique of Marxism:-

According to Marx, it is the material factors called infrastructure influences the superstructure like religion, law and culture. He was an economic reductionist and monocausal theorist.

However Weber rightly pointed out that even superstructure can influence infrastructure as shown. Moreover there can be multiple probable causes for a social event.

Hence Protestant Ethic is seen as a critique of Marxism.

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6.

Marx as a conflict theorist

viewed social conflict or class struggle as a catalyst to social change.

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Marx view on history of society
or social change:-

He viewed history in the
conception of evolution of society
from one stage to another due
to dialectical relations leading to
social conflict.

There are six stages in
history and whenever antagonism
rises between opposing groups in
each stage, it leads to conflict

followed by class struggle and then social change as follows.

1) Ancient communism

It was a hunting and gathering society with defacto equality. When new tools discovered it led to conflict between owners of tools and workers, thus conflict & change.

2) Master - slave society

Masters are owners of tools and slaves subordinate to masters.

Increasing exploitation to produce more led to conflict and change.

3) Feudal society

Serfs forced to cultivate for landlords and to pay high taxes.

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Conflict between commoners and
others led to social change.

4) Capitalism

Increasing antagonism between
haves and have nots due to
exploitation will lead to Revolution.

5) Socialism

Proletarians will take temporary
control of forces of production after
the Revolution in capitalism.

6) Advanced communism.

Closing chapter of historical
materialism as communal ownership
of resource reestablished. There is

no more antagonism, thus no
conflict and no more social change.

Thus it is the social conflict
act as a motor for social change.

7.

Work From Home has become the new normal after the covid-19 pandemic and advancements in technology.

Work from Home culture and organisation of work modifications:-

Organisation of work refers to how societies regulate and manage economic activities.

In formal organisation, work is based on contract between the employer and employee, whereas

informal organisations operate out of preferences with stated flexibility and informal relations.

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WFH and formal organisation:-

- 1) Despite WFH option, worker is still in formal contract with the employer.
- 2) Remote surveillance ensures accountability of worker to complete assigned task.
- 3) Legislative protections are still applicable ensuring job security and social security.

WFH as informal organisation:-

- 1) Increased flexibility to worker
- 2) Direct surveillance is not possible and there are loopholes in remote monitoring.
- 3) Provides more space for leisure

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and disconnecting from workspace
benefitting women employees with
double burden.

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4) Increase in hire and fire power
due to flexibility in choosing workers.

5) certain employers do not account
WFH employees as permanent workers
to escape scrutiny and cut labour cost
Thus leading to job insecurity.

WFH culture has thus
redefined conventional norms of
work organisation. It has both
functional and dysfunctional aspects
and is becoming the new normal
workspace with both formal
and informal characteristics.

8.

Gendered division of labour refers to unequal proportion of women in workforce due to existing patriarchal norms.

Gendered DOL on social organisation of work:-

causes:-

- 1) Structural barriers to women such as discrimination in household to receive education.
- 2) Ann Oakley points out that industrialisation has led to confinement of women within their houses.
- 3) Due to pink collarisation,

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women are concentrated in few jobs like teaching and nursing.

Very negligible participation of women in STEM sectors.

4) Glass ceiling prevents women from climbing the ladders of hierarchy
Less than 4% women in boardrooms of top MNCs

5) Less representation of women in decision-making eg., only 13% women MPs in 18th Lok Sabha

6) Social stigma and discrimination surrounding menstrual leave policy, creche facilities and maternity benefits.

7) Motherhood penalty and lack of family support.

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Impact of gendered DOL:-

- 1) Non-inclusive growth as women are left behind
- 2) feminisation of poverty as a vicious cycle.
- 3) Reinforcement of patriarchy through dependency culture.
- 4) Unable to harness demographic dividend to the fullest potential.

These limitations should be overcome through policy interventions, safe working space for women, ensuring equal pay for equal work to ensure equal proportionate of women in workforce.



SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL TEST – QUESTION PAPER (STI)

WEEK – 3

DAY – 4: 04-07-2025 (FRIDAY)

SYLLABUS:

PAPER 1 : UNIT-4 & UNIT-6

1. Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim? (10M)
2. With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K. Merton. (10M)
3. What are informal organisations? Are NGOs informal organisations? (10M)
4. Explain the Cybernetic theory of hierarchy of Talcott Parsons? (10M)
5. Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism' as a critique of Marxism. (20M)
6. How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change? (20M)
7. How has the idea of 'Work From Home' forced us to redefine the formal and informal organisation of work? (20M)
8. Analyse the causes and impact of gendered division of labour on social organization of work. (20M)