



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)



ALL INDIA CIVIL SERVICES COACHING CENTRE

OPTIONAL ANSWER BOOKLET - WEEKLY



போட்டி தேர்வுகள் மிரிவு

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ID	NMCEM 24000336	Date of Exam	04/07/2025
		Subject	SOCIOLOGY

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

Q.No.	MARKS	Q.No.	MARKS	INSTRUCTIONS
1.		11.		- It is advisable to attempt all questions provided in the booklet within the given timeline. - 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. - 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. - Kindly ensure that you adhere to the word limit mentioned against each question. - Do not write answers in illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated. - Please mention the question number and question before each answer, if you are submitting your answers in A4 sheets. - Marks allocated to each answer is final, and we will not entertain any kind of reevaluation. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
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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) Durkheim, in the way of Augustus Comte, tried to establish Sociology as a science of society, with social fact as the scope of Sociology.

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Characteristics of Social fact & relevance with Rate of Suicide

- 1) 'Social fact' according to Durkheim acts as a constraining force on the individual.

* With Suicide, Durkheim speaks about the Suicidogenic impulses social currents due to mixture of Integration & regulation.

- 2) Durkheim's characteristics of Social fact include:

(i) Social facts are external to on individual, not dependant on individual will.

* Similarly suicide rate depends

on level of integration & regulation
exercised by the society.

(Eg): Egrotic suicide → Low integration

(ii) Social facts are coercive.

* Suicide is not an individual
action based on will. Societal factors
coerces the individual.

(iii) Social facts are enduring,
than any individual/group.

* Suicide as a social phenomenon
has existence from slave society to
modern capitalistic society.

(iv) Social facts are general,
cannot be specific to any group.

* Durkheim observes suicide
as a general phenomenon all over
world, irrespective of geographic
boundaries, the rate remains common.

Thus, Durkheim observes

suicide as a social phenomenon
diverging from psychological views.

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2)

Merton, following Durkheim's path, puts forth that Anomie has existence in social structure.

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Conformity & Deviance in society

1) Conformity: It refers to adherence to culturally proposed goals & structurally available means.

Eg: Role of Government, following rules, reaching goals like women led development.

2) Deviance refers to non conformity to societal norms & values.

i) Innovator

→ Follows culturally approved goals

→ Rejects structurally available means

Eg: Role of researchers & scientists, while innovating new things, helping the Government to solve problems.

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(iii) Ritualist

- Accepts structurally available means
- Rejects culturally adopted goals.

[Eg]: Bureaucracy & Red tapism
hindering goal achievement.

(iv) Retreatist

- Accepts neither cultural goals
nor structurally available means.
- Indifferent to attainment of
goals, following norms.

[Eg]: Drug addicts has no intention
towards goals / means.

(v) Rebellion

- Rejects both cultural goals
& structural means.
- Invents new structures.

[Eg]: Naxalites, to establish new Government

Merton puts forth that
deviance can be corrected by rectifying
social structure, not by punishing individuals.

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3) Keith Hart puts forth that Expansion of Capitalism results in informal organisations, which includes all organisations except Government & large commercial ventures.

Informal Organisations

- 1) Organisations having low level of organisation (<10 workers)
- 2) Workers receive low or no wages.
- 3) Worker - Owner relationship is casual & not formal contract based.
- 4) Work is labour intensive & workers are semi/low skilled.
- 5) Entry & exit is easier.
- 6) Lack of social security for workers in informal organisation.

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NGOs

NGOs and Informal Organisation

- 1) Entry & exit in NGOs is easier.
- 2) Relationship between employer-worker is casual, not based on contract.
- 3) Lack of union for workers in NGO.
- 4) No focus on wages for workers.

NGOs vs Informal Organisation

1) NGOs are service based, while informal organisation focuses on production.

2) Informal workers face Alienation, while in NGOs people are not alienated.

3) NGO is a voluntary call, not a forced survival mechanism.

Though NGO has certain shades of informal organisation, the motive & working is different.

4)

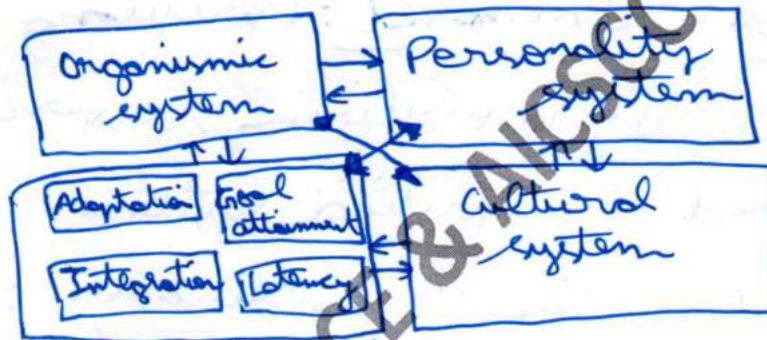
Talcott Parsons, through his

work "The social system" shows how different action systems are linked & work coordinatively for social order.

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Cybernetic theory of hierarchy



Different action systems are linked with each other through energy & information flow. This is called cybernetic hierarchy of Systems. Any change in energy & information flow results in social change.

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Functional prerequisites of the system are :

1) Adaptation : It refers to the Control of humans (Social system) over the Environment, performed by Economy.

2) Goal attainment : Pursuing social objectives by mobilising resources, performed by political system.

3) Integration : Coordination of different institutions, by social control.

4) Latency : It allows pattern maintenance by Socialisation.

Social control & Socialisation control social change.

Through cybernetic theory, Parsons gives a macro framework of functioning of all Action systems.

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5) While Engels propounded that capitalism gives rise to religion, Weber puts forth that religion gives rise to Capitalism.

Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism → Critique of Marxism

Weber observed that majority of industrialists & highly paid workers are Protestants and tried to establish link between Capitalism & Protestants, taking Calvinism.

Features Common between Capitalism & Calvinism are :

1) Doctrine of predestination

Weber says that Calvinists believe only few are chosen by God to be a chosen, it requires material success in this world.

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Morixists criticize that for Communists to be chosen, they just invest Capital, but labour is by the Proletariats.

2) Asceticism:

Following God's will, through strict discipline & frugality, which leads to growth of Capitalism.

Morixists criticize that Capitalists' frugality affects proletariats as they are not given proper wages or have poor working conditions.

3) To gain more profits, conserve wealth & donate to God.

Morixists criticize that this legitimizes the profit maximisation motive of the capitalists.

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4) 'Holy days', not Holidays!

Without rest, work actively
on a daily basis.

Criticism: Capitalists are just
investors & supervisors, but
Proletarians are the actual ones
working.

5) Weber says that religion
leads to rationality, as God
establishes systematic procedures.

Marx calls religion as opium of
masses, hindering proletarian revolution.

6) Marxists also criticize
Weber's neglect of conflicts,
over emphasizing functionalism of
Capitalism.

Marxists in contrast says
that proletarian revolution (class
struggle) leads to social change.

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6)

Marx propounds in his economic & political theories, class conflict is indispensable for change in socio economic aspects of society.

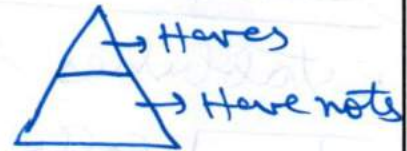
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Social conflict & Social change

1) Class:

Marx sees 'class' as a unit of society, comprising people who have similar relation with forces of production.



2) Class antagonism

He says that the Bourgeoisie & proletariats have different interests, yet try to cooperate, due to lack of class consciousness.

3) Class Polarisation

→ Polarisation of classes is essential for 'perception of common enemy', for social change.

(Fg): Bourgeoisisation, Proletarianisation
(Embourgeoisement)

4) Class consciousness

Shift from class in itself
to class for itself.
↓
Unification

↓
lack of class consciousness

→ Due to (i) Polarisation
(ii) Homogenisation
(iii) Pauperisation

5) Class conflict

Results in class struggle
between opposing classes.
In earlier societies, 'Landlords'
were replaced by 'Capitalists', but
the 'serfs' remain as proletarians,
so Marx sees a partial social
change only.

6) Capitalism & Social change

Alienation is at peak
as there is no other alternative.

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Social conflict results due to

- (i) True consciousness
- (ii) Rise of leadership
- (iii) Ideology & Unionisation

Results in shift of Proletariats
from 'being exploited' to Revolution.

Social conflict results in

- 1) Dictatorship of Proletariat, to
be replaced by Advanced Communism
- 2) Communal ownership of
property; no private property.
- 3) Removal of different classes.
- 4) 'No state' as centralized
instrument.
- 5) Dialectic process ceases and
individuals pursue internal urges.

Marx says that "History
of hitherto existing society is
history of class struggle and conflicts"

7)

'Work from Home' is the new work model, due to pandemic imposed quarantine.

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Work from Home → Formal organisation of work

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1) Digitalisation of work

Workers have now shifted from manual sphere to the digital sphere. Eg: Online Education

2) Raise of women in workforce

Work from home is comfortable for women to maintain their work stability; but stresses them through dual burden.

3) Increased work burden

Results in alienation as workers are asked to work beyond stipulated hours.

Eg: Australia has imposed restrictions on such practices

4) Better balance to domestic & professional responsibilities
→ Increased sharing of work by men

5) Formal labour has also become informal, due to flexibility & contractualisation & instant layoffs due to lower productivity.

6) Reduction in socialisation among workers, reduce social networks.

In Informal Organisation

1) Job has become more insecure, with instant fire culture.

2) Women are being largely pushed into informal works.

[Eg]: Raising women share in gig works → Exploitative nature

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3) Work from Home has resulted in increased service based informalisation

Eg: Food delivery, Commercial products

4) Growth of digitalisation & digital literacy among informal workers.

5) Higher exploitation of informal workers, as influx of more demands for work, but lesser job opportunities, result in poysuperisation.

6) Growth of urban migration especially by youths for freelance jobs.

'Work from Home' has thus resulted in better mobility to formal sectors, but increased workload to informal organisations.

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8)

Gendered division of labour refers to the split of work, where particular type of work are done by women & the rest by men.

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Causes of Gendered division of labour

1) Patriarchy speaks about the role of Patriarchy as social institution, where men dominate & assign roles to women.

2) Lack of Educational Choices

→ Women are forced into specific fields like Nursing, Hospitality; while existence of Societal Control over other jobs like military.

3) Curbs Migration

Violence against women

in urban areas curbs their choice of profession. Eg: Rape of Kolkata Doctor.

4) Poor health conditions

Increased focus on men's health result in deterioration of women's wellness, thus curbing their job opportunities → Restricted to household chores.

5) Morris speaks about emergence of private property and seclusion of women within homes.

6) Uma Chakravarti speaks about role of Green Revolution in feminization of Agricultural labour.

Impacts of Gendered DoL

1) Pauperisation of women
→ Lack of proper life chances for women, result in their economic dependance.

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2) Inter generational trauma

→ Socialisation of values
to the next generations result
in perpetuation of slavery.

3) Domestic Violence

→ Result of poor mobility
of women.

4) Alienation of women

They become alienated within
their own social world.

5) Intersectionality

[Gail Omvedt] speaks about
exploitative discrimination faced
by lower caste women.

6) Lack of social support

for women due to poor class
consciousness, as they are underrepresented

Proper empowerment of women
with inclusive Education & economic
mobility leads to SDG 5 - Gender Equality.

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