



SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL TEST – QUESTION PAPER (STI)

WEEK – 2

DAY – 4: 27-06-2025 (FRIDAY)

SYLLABUS:

PAPER 2 : A(1), A(2),B(1), C(2), C(3)

- 1) Critically examine the concept of sanskritisation with suitable illustrations. (10m)
- 2) Do you agree with the view of Andre Beteille that india's villages are representative of Indian society's basic civilizational values? Present a sociological overview. (10m)
- 3) Discuss the role of technology in agrarian change in India. (10m)
- 4) Write a short note on changing means of production and increased rural poverty. (10m)
- 5) Examine the features and relevance of Indological studies of Ghurye and Dumont. (20m)
- 6) Evaluate the efficiency of land reforms in India. Can the lacunae be addressed in Land Reforms 2.0? (20m)
- 7) Discuss the challenges during village studies in India. (20m)
- 8) Examine the factors responsible for the rural unrest in contemporary India. (20m)



ALL INDIA CIVIL SERVICES COACHING CENTRE

OPTIONAL ANSWER BOOKLET - WEEKLY



மொத்த தேர்வுகள் மீயிவு

CANDIDATE NAME:	ARUNPRAKASH.M	MOBILE NUMBER:	[REDACTED]
-----------------	---------------	----------------	------------

UPSC ROLL NO:	1203659	Email ID:	[REDACTED]
---------------	---------	-----------	------------

ID	NMCEM 24000336	Date of Exam	27/06/2025
		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.
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>		

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

1)

The concept of Sanskritisation put forth by M.N. Srinivas involves a cultural process where lower castes / tribes try to emulate the practices / way of life of upper caste, to gain higher position in caste hierarchy.

Sanskritisation

→ Merits of the process:

1) It leads to fluidity of caste hierarchy, which was seen as rigid social institution.

2) Gives opportunity for social mobility for the oppressed castes.

→ Critical view

1) It results in reaffirming caste hierarchy, imposing superiority & inferiority of castes.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

2) Ambedkar criticizes the study as it makes caste as a functional social institution, reflecting the exclusion perpetuated. (Eg): Untouchability

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

3) Sanskritisation also results in seeing down of evil habits of dominant castes to "lower castes" & tribes. (Eg): Dowry

4) The study has less focus on the Non Brahmin tradition & their way of life.

5) Sanskritisation just gives mobility in local hierarchy. No change in larger Varma framework.

(Eg): Still Brahmins occupy higher Caste hierarchy, subsequently more life chances

Regardless of criticisms, "Sanskritisation" shows that change in secular hierarchy can lead to rise in ritual position.

- 2) India is regarded as "land of villages" & hence Indian villages are the basic modes of Indian culture as per Andre Beteille.

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

Villages representing Indian society's values

1) Religion

Local deities & associated rituals are representation of India's connect with Religion as social institution.

2) Family system

The primacy to 'family' as affective social institution is associated with village based joint family system.

3) Existence of Patriarchy

→ Domination of men in rural households & in local governance is a reflection of larger patriarchy in India.

Advancement of Urban areas as representation of India

1) Raising Urbanisation

→ About 31% people live in urban areas, which might increase to 55% by 2050.

→ More migration to urban areas.

2) Modernisation

Penetration of global culture, results in globalisation.

Eg: Change in food preferences of individuals.

3) Growth of individualism in modern area, results in breakdown of family structure, thus working socialisation of values.

Eg: Decline of caste rigidity

Though villages possess basic traditional values, they are undergoing modernisation culturally & structurally.

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

Technology emerged as a major agent of social change in transforming agriculture from traditional to modern form.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

Role of Technology

Functional role

1) Introduction of industrialisation resulted in mechanisation of Agriculture, resulting in shift from feudal to capitalistic agriculture.

2) Resulted in raise of Bullock cart capitalists as per landlords due to more surplus.

3) Technology helped in social mobility Eg: Raise of dominant castes as beneficiaries of Green Revolution, helped in them mobilising for Peasants Movements.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

4) Women's role changed from household chores to Agricultural labourers, helping in their Economic Empowerment.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

Dysfunctions due to Technology

1) Differentiation

→ Resulted in inequality, due to lack of access to poorer class.

2) Affected service castes

→ Mechanisation resulted in big farmers taking back lands, resulting in migration of lower castes.

3) Regional inequality

→ Green Revolution flourished in North West India, but North East remained unaffected.

Technology has be made inclusive, so that it can result in upward mobility socially & economically of the distressed.

4)

With the rise of industrialisation,

Indian society shifted from
feudalistic mode of production to a
Capitalistic society.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

Changing means of production

1) Raise of new working
class population

→ In Marxian sense, it resulted
in Bourgeoisie-Proletariat society.

2) Migration

→ Shift of population from
rural to urban industrial areas.

3) Industrial production

Use of inanimate power,
led to mass production than
earlier subsistence production

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

Increased rural poverty

1) Urbanisation resulted in lower economic opportunities in rural areas.

2) Mechanisation of Agriculture
Reduced the role of agricultural labourers.

Eg: Income of Tractors

3) Incoming of migrant labourers
→ Employed for cheap wages, thus resulting in lower economic mobility for the local population.

4) Development focus on Urban results in lack of infrastructure development in rural areas, as per [A.R. Desai].

Rural empowerment, in the direction of Rural-Urban continuum thus becomes necessary to address inequality.

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

→ Indology focussed on studying
Indian society in ways & methods
that are unique to India, through
 analysis of ancient scriptures.

Features of Indological studies of Ghurye & Dumont

1) Caste

* They assert that Caste is
 an important social institution that
shapes the social relationships.

* Ghurye gives diffusionist
 explanation of caste, that it
 spread from Ganga region to other
 areas of India.

Relevance :

1) Existence of caste hierarchy,
 still in rural areas. Eg: Differential
 land access.

2) Prevalence of Endogamy.

But, occupation is not ascriptive anymore.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

2) Religion:

* Religion is an important aspect of Culture & thus studying Hindu Culture is essential to understand Indian Culture.

* Religion is dynamic & adaptive

Relevance :

1) India is still more spiritual nation. Eg: Raising religious worship places.

2) Flexibility of religion

Eg: Allowing multi religious syncretism like food habit change.

Issue: Existence of multiple religious beliefs; not just Hindu society.

3) Tribe:

* Tribes are backward Hindus.

* So there is need for

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

assimilation approach , incubating
Hindu values into Tribes.

Relevance: Majority of tribes
follow Hindu culture. Eg: Idol worship

Issue: Assimilation may result in
Cultural erosion of tribes , thus
diminishing India's cultural diversity.

4) Village

Villages are not self
sufficient & there existed Village
Exogamy.

Relevance: Rising inter dependence of
villages due to Globalisation
& Industrialisation

Indological studies are still
relevant to an extent , but yet
they were largely mere book views
than comprehensive field studies.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

6) In post independent India, land reforms were initiated to establish "equality in land access" to the marginalized.

Efficiency of land reforms in India

1) Abolition of Zamindari rights

* Brought peasants in direct contact with the Government.

* Increased productivity, due to self consumption.

2) Land ceiling

* An upper cap was laid on land asset possession, thus resulting in land redistribution.

3) Tenancy reforms

* Curbed exploitative levies & fixed proper tenure rules.

4) Cooperative farming

Pooling of resources resulted in collectivisation & improved profits

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

Dysfunctions of Land reforms

1) Lack of land records

→ Hindrance of land transfer to peasants.

2) Legal loopholes

Eg: Benami transfers helped landlords from losing traditional assets.

3) Bureaucratic inefficiency

→ Delay in land procurements & close nexus with Zamindars.

4) Tenants were not affordable enough to cultivate in their lands.

5) Landless labourers had no access to lands still.

A.R. Desai terms that land reforms are half hearted effort by Bourgeoisie state.

Land Reforms 2.0

Focuses on land records digitalisation.

Merits:

- 1) Improves asset transparency
- 2) Settles social disputes by addressing ownership issues.
- 3) Improves Capitalisation of land
→ Improves input access.
- 4) Better monitoring by Government helps in social welfare Eg: PM Kisan Scheme

Issues:

- 1) Don't address inequality in land access.
- 2) Existence of service caste Poverty
- 3) Feminisation of Agricultural labour & migrant Exploitation is not addressed.

As M.S. Swaminathan says "land reform is an unfinished agenda, requires equitable access."

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates must not write on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

7) "Villages" are regarded as authentic models of Indian society, thus making village studies becomes essential to comprehend "Indian values".

Famous Village studies

- 1) M.N. Srinivas studied caste hierarchy & society in Coorg.
- 2) F.G. Bailey studied societal values of Bisipara village.
- 3) S.C. Dube studied Shamirpet village to account for changing rural institutions.

Challenges during Village studies

- 1) Generalisation of Village study
→ Every village has subjective values, thus claiming objectivity of research is difficult.

2) Researcher bias

Researcher becomes too intertwined with the society, as he/she stays there for long duration, affecting the objective analysis -

3) Elite bias

Domination of rural elites in the village studies, result in lack of subaltern perspectives as per Ranjit Guha.

4) Lack of gender focus

Patricia Uberoi criticizes that majority of village studies focus on men alone, thus leaving out gender suppression,

5) Sampling error

Observing few individuals of village & taking decisions about larger whole may result in failure of research.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

6) Ambedkar criticizes that villages are narrow minded & orthodox, thus unrepresentative of original Indian values.

7) Village studies may result in Hawthorne effect, which can result in differential behavior of those observed.

8) Social desirability bias in village studies result in defeat of actual purpose of research.
Eg: M.N. Srinivas study of caste shows functionalities, rejects dysfunctions

9) Village studies largely focus on Agrarian societies alone leaving out working class & migrant people

Despite challenges, village studies help in understanding the rural social structure, thus helping in developmental policies.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

8)

There has been raising
unrest in rural India, with
modernisation & change of rural
social structure.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

Factors responsible for rural
unrest in India

1) Green Revolution

Resulted in rise of dominant
castes in rural areas, thus
suppressing the lower castes.

2) Land reforms

Resulted in land access
to the service castes & tenants,
thus sparking social tensions with
traditional landlord class.

3) Breakdown of Endogamy

Inter caste Marriages often
spark caste violence in rural
areas, due to breakdown of
caste boundary.

4) Education

Results in weaponising the subaltern with Economic mobility, thus freeing them from bondage system.

5) Legal reforms

Results in legal empowerment of rural oppressed class, questioning dominant class discrimination.

Eg: Prohibition of atrocities against SC / ST Act.

6) Raising construction of settlements results in lower geographical segregation of different social groups.

7) Political influence

Local Panchayats while resulting in participative democracy, also sparks political conflicts.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

8) Communal violence

With better economic mobility, the religious minorities voice out against discrimination.

Eg: Role of Social Media;
Protest against Hate speech.

9) Empowerment of women

results in loosening of Patriarchy as social institution.

Eg: Social tensions against harassment of women.

10) With more individualism

& Modernisation, weakening of Collective Conscience & fictive kinship

Inculcating community spirit with frequent social osmosis through discussion & empowerment of rural people, social unrest will decline.

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC



(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

(Candidates
must not write
on this margin)

NMCE & AICSCC