



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 பிரிவு

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ID	NMCEM	Date of Exam	04.07.25
		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.		
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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) Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'.
How is state of matter a social fact according to Durkheim.

Emile Durkheim created the concept of

'Social facts' which is defined as the phenomenon that exist independently outside the individual and influence the behaviour / actions of the individual.

Characteristics of social fact:

1) Externality:

↳ Social facts are "Sui-generis" - exist independently outside the individual.

2) Coercive:

↳ They influence the behaviour of the individuals.

3) Enduring:

↳ They continue to persist in all forms of societies in different forms.

4) Collectivity:

↳ They are based on the general perspective of the society not of individuals.

5) Distinct:

↳ They are not changeable by individuals.

Rate of suicide is a social fact

Durkheim viewed 'suicide' as a social phenomenon rather than psychological phenomenon.

He considered it as social fact

because

1) Suicide is determined by suicidogenic forces (degree of integration and degree of Regulation) external to individual.

2) Certain suicide rates are present in all societies, collected from police records (empirical)

3) Certain regularities can be seen in through different social variables (Gender, Religion, War, Marital status, development status).

However, Durkheim failed to acknowledge the psychological / Individualistic cause of suicide in his theory which later studied by post-positivists.

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2) With suitable examples, explain how Conformity & deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K. Merton.

R.K. Merton gave the theory of "Structural strain theory" emphasising how the social structure itself creates Deviance and refuted Durkheim's view on Anomie as natural and always present in society.

'Anomie / Deviance' occur when there is an inconsistency between the culturally attainable goals and structurally available means to achieve it.

Merton postulate five Adaptive responses.

	Means	Goals	
Conformists	follow	follow	eg: School students
Innovators	Reject	follow	eg: Scientists
Ritualists	follow	Reject	eg: Bureaucrats
Rebels	Reject	Reject	eg: Alcoholics, Drug addicts
Revolutionaries	change	change	eg: Revolutionaries like Gandhi.

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Illustration:

① Conformity and deviance (the latter 4 adaptive responses) exist in a society. For example, There are good citizens in a country who follow the rules and laws to align with the goals of the country (conformists) but, we also have,

Innovators → Inventors who deviate from their means in a good way
 ↳ Criminals who deviate from their means taking wrong path

Ritualists → Bureaucrats who maintain objectivity in their action

Retreatists → Drug addicts and alcoholics

Revolutionaries → through movements and whistleblowers.

Thus, the responses are dynamic and changes with the social structure and individual interests.

3) What are Informal organisations? Are NCOS informal organisation?

Informal organisations are the form of total organisation of work in which there is no structural organisation present.

Features of Informal organisation:

1) No definite hierarchy:

↳ Hierarchy is not rigid in informal sectors, there is collective action and cooperation among the members to attain the goals.

eg) MSMEs in India.

2) No written rules and by-laws for organisation.

↳ They run with their own unwritten rules and own perceived and prescribed functions.

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3) No job security:

↳ No permanency of job, no entry or exit barriers in present.

4) No fixed salary (wage):

↳ The salary/wage depends on the production / the demand but not fixed like in formal organisation.

[NGOs] are can be said as Quasi-formal organisations which has both elements of formal and informal organisation.

↳ Regulated & Registered with government

↳ Have own set of principles and directions that guides them

↳ No entry or exit barrier (totally

voluntary)

↳ No fixed salary / mostly they are Non-profit motive.

Informal sector play a major role in employment and social security of Indians.

4) Explain the cybernetic theory of hierarchy of Talcott Parsons?

Talcott Parsons in his theory of social change considered that society undergoes a Moving equilibrium adapting to the changing social systems and subsystems. through his cybernetic theory of hierarchy.

In this theory, he viewed that social equilibrium is maintained through

 ↓

Energy flow

from High organicic system to low cultural system

Information control

from High cultural system to low organicic system.



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He viewed that Social change occurs when there is disrupt in this equilibrium but

the structure itself re-stabilize through



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He believed that the social change is unidirectional moving from Traditional with Pattern variables 'A' ~~out~~ to Modern society with Pattern variables 'B'

However, his theory is not completely relevant as we can see reversal of

social change from Modern to Traditional after Talibans took control over Afghanistan.

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

Max Weber in his book "The Protestant ethic and spirit of Capitalism" talked about the similarities of a religious sect (Calvinism) to the capitalist elements which goes against the Marxist principle.

Marx viewed that Capitalism will lead to Alienation and proletariats pursue Religion to find solace for the exploitation (consequence). He viewed "Religion as the opium of masses".

However, criticizing this Weber pointed that the Religion itself is the cause for rise of capitalism by his study on Protestant (Calvinist) Christians.

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In his study, he found that certain elements in protestant ethic ultimately lead to rise of capitalism.

1) Doctrine of predestination in calvinism - make the hard work as the only way to attain salvation

↳ This Hardwork is important factor for rise of capitalism.

2) Worldly - Asceticism of calvinist Christians → leads to wealth accumulation that converts to investment in capitalism.

3) Doctrine of calling - they consider 'work as god' and thus, protest Capitalists are worry free protestants.

Also, Weber did not talk about the classes and their conflict which Marx emphasised on.

Weber consider Religion as the reason for rise of capitalism where as Karl Marx considered the economic infrastructure as the fundamental cause for determining the social superstructure.

However, though Weber's theory challenged Marx's theory, even, Weber's theory has been criticised by other sociologists for his narrow view and ignoring the other elements in other religions that lead to capitalism.

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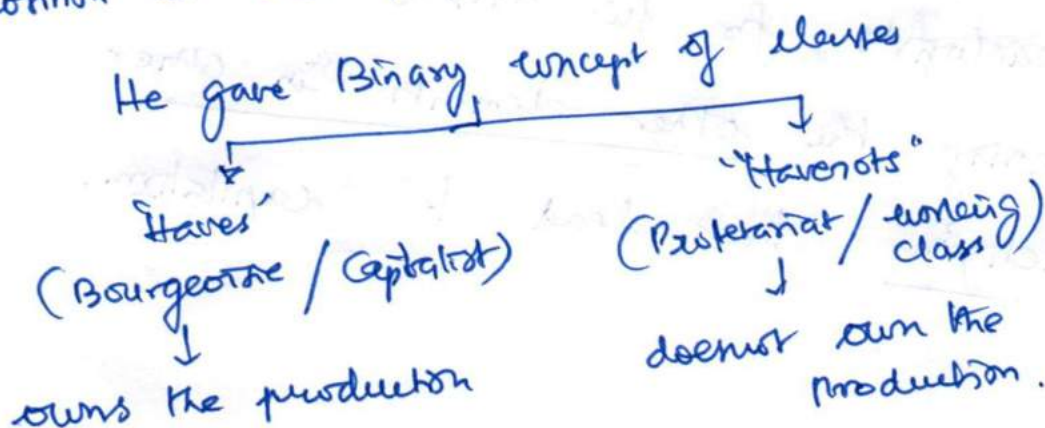
6) How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change?

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Marx in his concept of 'class struggle' viewed that the dialectism between the binary classes (Haves and Have-nots) will lead to social change (New mode of production) in a capitalist society.

He believed 'Class' as the fundamental unit of society which he defined as "a group of individuals who share the common position in the process of production".



The Evolution of class struggle :

1) Theory of surplus:

The capitalist mode of production creates surplus production and only the Bourgeoisie own the surplus.

2) Antagonistic cooperation:

The capitalist needs proletariat for the production and proletariat need wages for the survival and deperate despite of their exploitation.

3) Alienation:

The capitalism alienates the proletariat from the process of production, product, from co-workers and from onself and his potential (extreme form of exploitation).

4) Class polarization:

The intermediate class joined will also either get embourgeoisement or undergo proletarianization.

5) Class consciousness:

With increased alienation, the class by itself changes to change for itself creating a collective consciousness.

6) Revolution:

He believed with class consciousness proletariats will revolutionize (fight against capitalism) for their rights.

7) Socialism and Communism:

Revolution of proletariats will lead to 'Dictatorship of proletariats' forming a transient socialist society, finally leading to a Communist society (classless society).

However, his emphasis on Economic forces as the sole reason for social change is seen as utopian as we can see the continuance of capitalism even after 140 years.

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7. How has the idea of work from home forced us to redefine the formal and informal organisation of work?

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the culture of 'work from Home' (WFH) in formal organisations like IT sector, Educational sector created a "Quasi-formal" organisation of work.

WFH has the blend of formal and informal organisation elements and effect, it led to "Informalisation of the formal" organisation of work.

Feature of formal organisation of work:

1) Though the work nature has changed from office to home through video calls and virtual meets, the hierarchy still maintained.

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2) Rigid working hours were present during WFH and workers are expected to be available during working hours, e.g., WFH increased the working hours because of "You are in home only, you can do at anytime" attitude.

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3) The Salary and the privileges of employees continued.

4) Dress code of employees are well maintained during the calls.

Features of informal organisation of work

1) Location:
↳ The work shifted from office to home which itself is informal in nature.

2) Flexibility in working hours:

Some employees were allowed to take breaks at their convenience.

3) Dual-burden for women:

The women employees faced the dual burden of taking care of home as well as job during WFH.

Thus, the idea of work from home has revolutionized the formal organization of work introducing the elements of informal organization.

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8) Analyse the cause and impact of gendered division of labour on social organisation of work.

'Gendered Division of labour' is the social phenomenon where in the works are segregated as "jobs of male and jobs of female" by the society.

Cause of: Gendered DOL:

1) Biological theory:

Sociologists like Parsons viewed that women are for care-giving and men are for hard-working that is based on the biological nature.

2) Cultural theory:

The patriarchal nature of the society separates the women as passive and men as active players.

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3) Economic causes:

The need for increasing family income led the women to take up household jobs like tailoring, embroidery, weaving, etc. which also follows the rule of scarcity

4) Migration (Sex-selective)

Migration of men to urban area for industrial work led to feminization of agriculture.

5) Globalization

L led to informalization of labour - demanding masses.

Impact of gendered BDL:

1) Feminization of Agriculture:

L Nowadays, Agriculture labourers are mostly women as men are migrated to urban.

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2) Feminization of service sector:

↳ Increase in Care economy and need for service roles, increased women's role in service sector.

↳ 'Pink collar jobs' - like Nurses, teachers, etc.

3) Dual-Burden for women:

↳ Burden of taking care of family and also the work.

4) Empowerment of women in their popular fields like Doctors, teachers, scientists

However, challenges like glass ceiling, sticky floor (in less key jobs), motherhood penalty prevents the mobility of women in all fields of work.

Need an inclusive and equitable policies for empowering women in all areas.

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