



SHANKAR
IAS ACADEMYTM
The Best IAS Academy In South India SINCE 2004

Moksha
Mains Oriented Knowledge Sharing & Assessment
UPSC MAINS TEST SERIES 2024

SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)

TEST - 1

DATE: 04/07/23

CANDIDATE NAME:

Reshma . S

MOBILE
NUMBER:

UPSC ROLL NO:
(compulsory)

1 2 0 3 8 5 4

Email ID:

SIA UNIQUE ID

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

Parts Q.No	a	b	c	d	e	Marks Obtained	Total Marks of Question
1							50
2							50
3							50
4							50
5							50
GRAND TOTAL							250

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
2. Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
3. If you wish to cancel any work "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.
4. Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the

answer. Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.

5. Please mention the question number and question before each answer, if you are submitting your answers in A4 sheets.
6. Students submitting copies online must ensure that the quality of scanning is not compromised. Badly scanned answers will not be evaluated.
7. Marks allocated to each answer is final, and we will not entertain any kind of reevaluation.

IF THERE ARE ANY CONCERNS/GRIEVANCES/SUGGESTIONS/please mail to mokshasocio@shankarias.in

TIME TAKEN :

START:

END:

IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS WITH REGARD EVALUATION

EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

(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>		



Q.1 Write short notes on the following: (Each note should not exceed 150 words)

(10 x 5 = 50)

(a) What are the criteria used for evaluating the soundness of a sociological research? (10)

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Sociological research can be evaluated by ^{using} reliability and validity of data.

The criteria would vary from research to research.

Reliability :- (The credibility of the data is checked)

1. Inter-rater reliability :- Even by changing the researcher the results of the research should not vary.

2. Parallel forms of reliability :-

The researcher can use both qualitative and quantitative methods to check it.

3. Split half reliability :-

The split data is split into two and the average of both the data is compared. It is used in quantitative methods.



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4. By randomly checking the data the reliability have to be correct and it is called as Inter-consistency reliability.

validity:-

The data is compared with the expected outcomes.

1. content validity:- The data is checked to relate it with the need of the research.

2. construct validity:- The data is checked to increase reliability and to decrease extraneous variables.

3. measurement validity:- The measurement of the data could be checked again to ensure correct measurement.

At the end of the research, there should be a high validity and reliability which can be achieved using triangulation to some extent.

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(b) Many claim that Sociology is nothing but the application of common sense. Do you agree? (10)

Common sense can be considered as a collection of (or) bunch of guesses, trails and preconceived notions. They are often without any proof or empiricism to substantiate.

eg:- Dowry would disappear as education increases → which has not happened.

Sociology as a function of common sense

1. Thinkers like Alfred Schütz have advocated that, ~~com~~ human behaviour is reflexive and with the help of common sense, people create and recreate their social world.

Peter Berger also said that, common sense would help the people to understand the demand of the situation and act accordingly.



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/Davis and ~~Meid~~ opined that common sense and science are comple-
mentary to each other. But they form
the basis for sociological research.

Some sociologists have advocated
that science and common sense are in
continuum.

Common sense should not be
part of sociology

Thinkers like Durkheim, Veber
did not support for common sense as
they felt that the very purpose of
creating sociology itself will undermine
if it is included.

I agree that common sense is
a part of sociology and can be said
that if sociology is food then
common sense can be considered as salt
(or) sugar that enriches the flavour
of sociology.

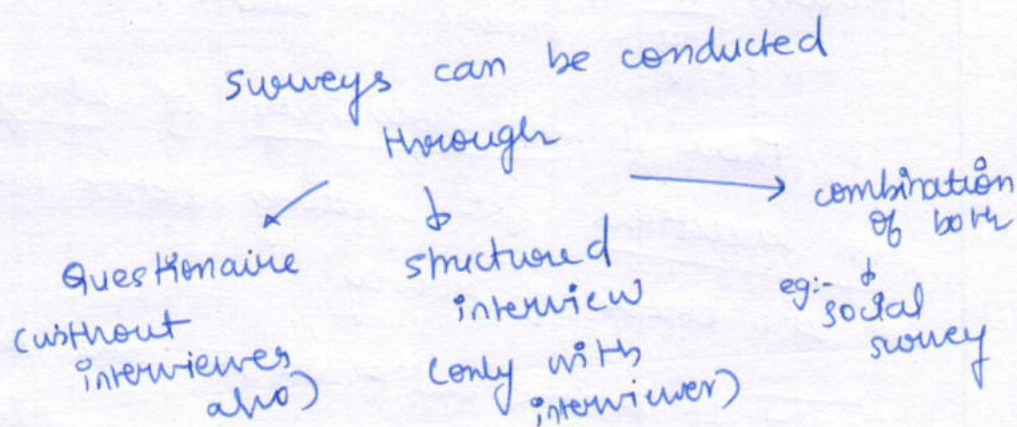
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(c) What are the limitations of surveys that use standardized questions? (10)

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According to Mitchell's sociology dictionary, survey is the collection of data, of the people who are present in a particular geographical location.

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Advantages of survey :-

1. Data collected is reliable.
2. It is helpful in collecting information from varied geographical location.

3. There is no possibility of Hawthorne effect in case of survey with questionnaire.

Dysfunctions of survey :-

1. Interviewer bias could be very



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high as the interviewers ^{may} interpret it in a wrong way.

2. If the population is too large then it becomes a time consuming process.

[eg:-] census in India.

3. There is no possibility of changing the questions for getting better answers in the course of survey.

[eg:-] It becomes difficult to note the correct identity of LSBTQIA+ community, as there is only one column others.

4. complex issues cannot be answered as the answering capacity is restricted.

5. There is no way where a researcher could communicate with participants if there is any ambiguity in the questions.

6. There are difficulties in quantifying the answers which involves some subjectivity.

Undoubtedly surveys are helpful in creating government policies based on needs of people.



(d) When asked to compare Sociology and Psychology, G.H. Mead made an analogy about studying the trees or the forest to compare sociology and individual human behavior. What do you think? (10)

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(e) Examine the relationship between Sociology and Economics.

(10)

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Economics can be considered as a special social science which deals with the unending desires of the human beings for the scarce resources.

Sociology is considered to be a social science that deals with study of human behaviour in a society.

Inter-relationship :-

Economics to sociology :-

1. The quantitative research methodologies like the use of statistical tool have come from economics to sociology.
2. Economics is considered to be the sub-structure for all superstructure for Marxian Ideologists.
3. Class as a system of stratification have been inspired from economics.

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Sociology to economics :-

1. Welfare policies that are related to poverty, unemployment have a sociological connotation.

Eg:- Five year planning (economics) dealt ^{with} the removal of poverty.

2. Feminisation of poverty, have a high sociological influence into economics.

3. Time poverty which is faced by almost all people in today's world have the influence of sociology.

4. Welfare capitalism as a concept emerged.
eg:- labour laws.

Differences :-

1. Economics is concrete whereas sociology is abstract.

2. It is an old social science and sociology is relatively new.

Recently, Japan's former prime minister Abe introduced 'Womenomics' that focuses on the ~~work~~ employment of women, as Japan is a conservative society. Interdependence is very high.

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Q.2

- (a) **There is a constant feedback loop between sociological research and human behavior; one informs the other. All research involving humans can pose ethical dilemmas. Illustrate with suitable examples. (20)**

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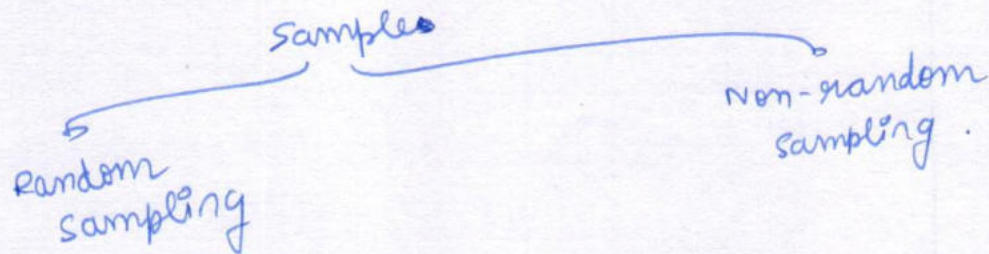
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(b) What is sampling? Distinguish between random and non random sampling techniques. (20)

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In a sociological research, sampling plays an very important role, as it can direct the research based on the composition of sample.



1. simple sampling :-

It basically divides the people into into two groups without any consideration.

2. stratified sampling :-

The groups are divided into



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(c) Differentiate between quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. (10)

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Quantitative methods and Qualitative methods are used in sociological research for data collection also for the hypothesis building.

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Qualitative	Quantitative
① There is a qualitative grounding ② It is usually advised in the earlier phase of research. ③ Researcher himself acts as a tool for data collection. ④ Design of the research unfolds only when the research is undertaken	① There is much thing quantitative all are o's and i's. ② It is advised in the later part of research. ③ Researcher uses various statistical tools for data collection. ④ Designs of the research are ready before the research process.



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⑤. The data is very much subjective.

⑥. The aim of research is to completely understand the problem.

⑦. The researcher does not know the process of the research.

⑧. The researcher and the data are subjectively inter-related.

⑨. Eg:- Case study

⑤. The data is objective.

⑥. The aim of the research is to count the features and tabulate them.

⑦. Researcher does know the process of the research.

⑧. The researcher and the data are objectively separated.

⑨. Eg:- Questionnaire

Nowadays, there is a Triangulation taking place. According to Allen Bryman the quantitative and qualitative methods are ~~also~~ blended and used in the research which increases the both reliability and validity of the research.

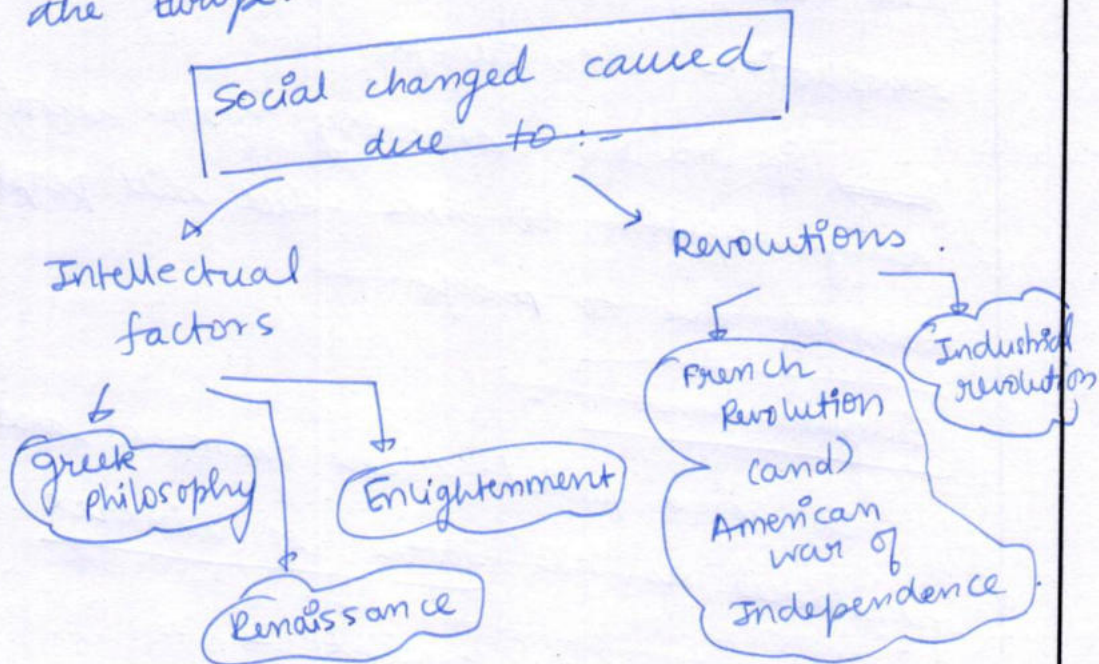
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- Q.3 (a) Analyse how Sociology as a discipline was born out of the attempt to understand the transformations that seemed to threaten the stability of society. (20)

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Sociology as a subject emerged in the 18th CE. It is emerged to study the social change that took place in the Europe.



Intellectual factors :-

Greek philosophy :-

Plato in his book mentioned that democracy is mobocracy and advocated the rule of an altruistic king.

The philosophy aimed at human happiness and social order. It also advocated that man should be ruled by laws as man as a social animal.

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Renaissance :-

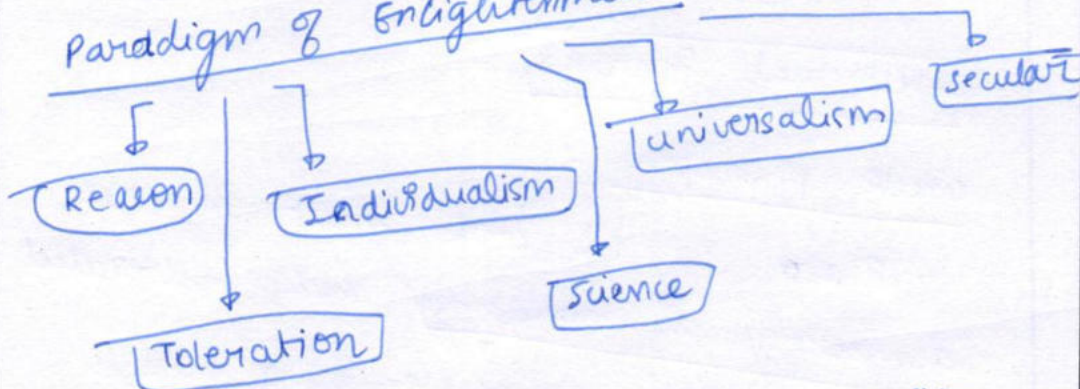
It is considered to be a transition from dogma to science. People started to think rationally and critically. Religious reforms and science are the twin factors that led to the revolution in Europe.

~~Enlight~~ Eg:- Newton's discovery made certain things opposite to Bible. But still people believed due to proofs

Enlightenment :-

It is a period where humans are considered as the centre of universe.

Paradigm of Enlightenment :-



During this period, scholars like

Rousseau in his book The Republic

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provided certain values like liberty, equality
and fraternity.

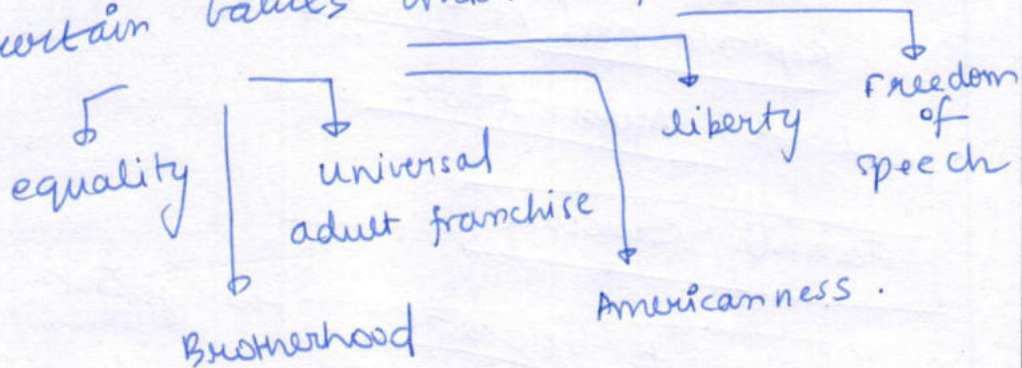
Montesquieu in his book social contract
advocated for separation of powers.

These ideological transformation led
to French revolution and American
war of Independence.

American war of Independence :-

Tocquerville says that democracy brought
capitalism to America.

According to him there are
certain values which is present in America.



French Revolution :-

The soldiers who fought in American
war of Independence brought democracy
into France. so, through a violent

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revolution, monarchy was replaced by
democracy in France.

Industrial revolution :-

The spirit of science led to
commercial revolution in Europe. It
actually led to various changes in
social structure.

Changes among workers :-

Depersonalisation → The workers are no
longer linked to the work they do and
are replaceable easily.

Repetition and routinisation of work
led to Alienation.

Family structure :-

Due to migration, the joint
families were replaced into nuclear families.

Mechanisation and migration led
to development of classes and change
in class structure.

These changes were not studied by any
social science. So Comte created sociology and
others contributed to it.

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(b) What are the salient features of positivism? How was positivism critiqued?

(20)

Sociology emerged during a period where scientific temper was high. So, it came under the influence of science. The founding fathers like Comte, Aurkheim thought that ~~it~~ ^{Sociology} could also use scientific methods to study society. Such process is called positivism.

Features of positivism :-

1. Positivism made sociology as a subject that consists of social facts. And these social facts are considered as things. eg:- suicide rate is considered as fact.

2. Statistical tools :-

These social facts are studied quantitatively and the subjective things that involves human consciousness has to be ignored.

eg:- Data for suicidal analysis is collected are correlated.

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3. Correlation :-

The social facts has to be compared with 2 (or) more other facts in order to arrive at a conclusion.

eg:- suicide rate is compared with religion, sex, marital status and authority.

4. causal explanation :-

The correlation has to be substantiated with the causal explanation for each facts.

eg:- The suicide rate among protestant is higher than among catholics, as protestant does not have any vent out for their feelings, whereas religion is used as a vent out by catholics.

Critique to positivism :-

Horkheimer, a german sociologist criticized positivism as he said that sociology is a very vast subject, that deals ~~with~~ ^{from} inequalities to society.



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Having scientific methods alone would not bring much outcomes and he advocated the use of various methods to study sociology.

Adorno, considered scientific methods to be a negative dialectics to sociology, as it brings down sociology from the exclusive position that sociology must have. So, it is better to move away from positivism.

Postphenomenologists like Peter Berger advocated that the scientific methods could study only objective facts, but the human behaviour is reflexive. And scientific methods may ~~fall short~~ of it. studying objective facts and leaving out subjective facts is a disaster in sociology.

Althusser, from conflict school of thought said that the social

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inequalities like poverty, unemployment are studied based on the dominant class people's perspective. Using scientific methods to study sociology is absolutely uncalled for.

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The data which is used by positivists is itself questioned.

[Eg]- Douglas questioned the validity of the data used by Arkheim to study the suicide rate.

There could be many variables that are often left out during the correlation of the variables.

[Eg]- Taylor's study of suicide

All the facts cannot be objective and there could be subjectivity involved.

[Eg] :- many sociologists questioned the Integration concept of Durkheim as it involved subjectivity.

Undoubtedly Positivism provided a base for sociology. Today sociology is mature and moving out of positivism.

(c) What is a hypothesis? Develop and evaluate a hypothesis on corruption present in Indian society. (10)

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Hypothesis is considered to be a conjectural statement that relates two (or) more variables.

Types of Hypothesis

Explanatory

It is relatively not a new hypothesis and it explains the existing one.

Eg:- Andre Beteille's analysis of caste, class, power in Stripuram village which is based on vetter's class, status, party.

Exploratory

It is relatively a new hypothesis that is not present earlier.

Eg:- M. Mead's analysis of pacific tribes which provided that gender roles are developed through socialisation.

→ It basically guides the research without getting deflected from the actual research → Theoderon and Theoderon



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Hypothesis for corruption

In Indian society, corruption reduces red-tapism. (ie) corruption makes the movement of files faster.

Evaluation :-

1. It explains one of the positive attribute of corruption.
2. But there are negative attributes, like it favors the person who has money rather than one who doesn't have.

Good hypothesis characteristics :-

- i) It should contain any ambiguous statements
- ii) It should explain one issue in detail.
- iii) It should not contain contradictory statements.
- iv) It should be simple.

3. However corruption is not present ~~any~~ everywhere. There are places where it is present and also not present.

However, the hypothesis is helpful to analyzing the extent and presence in the Indian society.



Q.4 Write short notes on the following: (Each note should not exceed 150 words)

(10 × 5 = 50)

(a) Describe how status is used as a system of stratification.

(10)

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Status is considered to be a social
honour which could be due to presence
of power, wealth, prestige, etc but beyond
that it can also be due to various
institutional factors.

Eg:- Poor Brahmin is given higher
status than a powerful politician.

Status as a system of stratification in
different societies

i) Primitive
Ancient societies :-

①. valour is considered to be a status.

[eg:- skull garland by eyenard teniki,
usually the bravery is given higher status.

ii) Ancient societies :-

In certain societies, age is given
high status. (Higher the age, higher the status)

[Eg] :- In Australian Aborigines, older³¹
age is given high status but in western
world they are permeated of.

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ii) Feudal societies :-

owning land gives higher status.

iv) capitalist societies :-

owning wealth is given higher status. Eg:- In America, the person with higher wealth is given higher status.

v) post-industrialist society :-

Education is given higher status. Higher the education, higher the skill and higher the status awarded.

Weber advocates that class and status are different. class is based on market situation whereas status is based on the social position that is decided by values.

Marx ~~refers~~ considers status as a reflection of class.

By using status as a symbol ~~whereas~~ various political parties are propagating the agenda to win votes ~~in~~ ^{status} ~~today's world~~ of their group today.

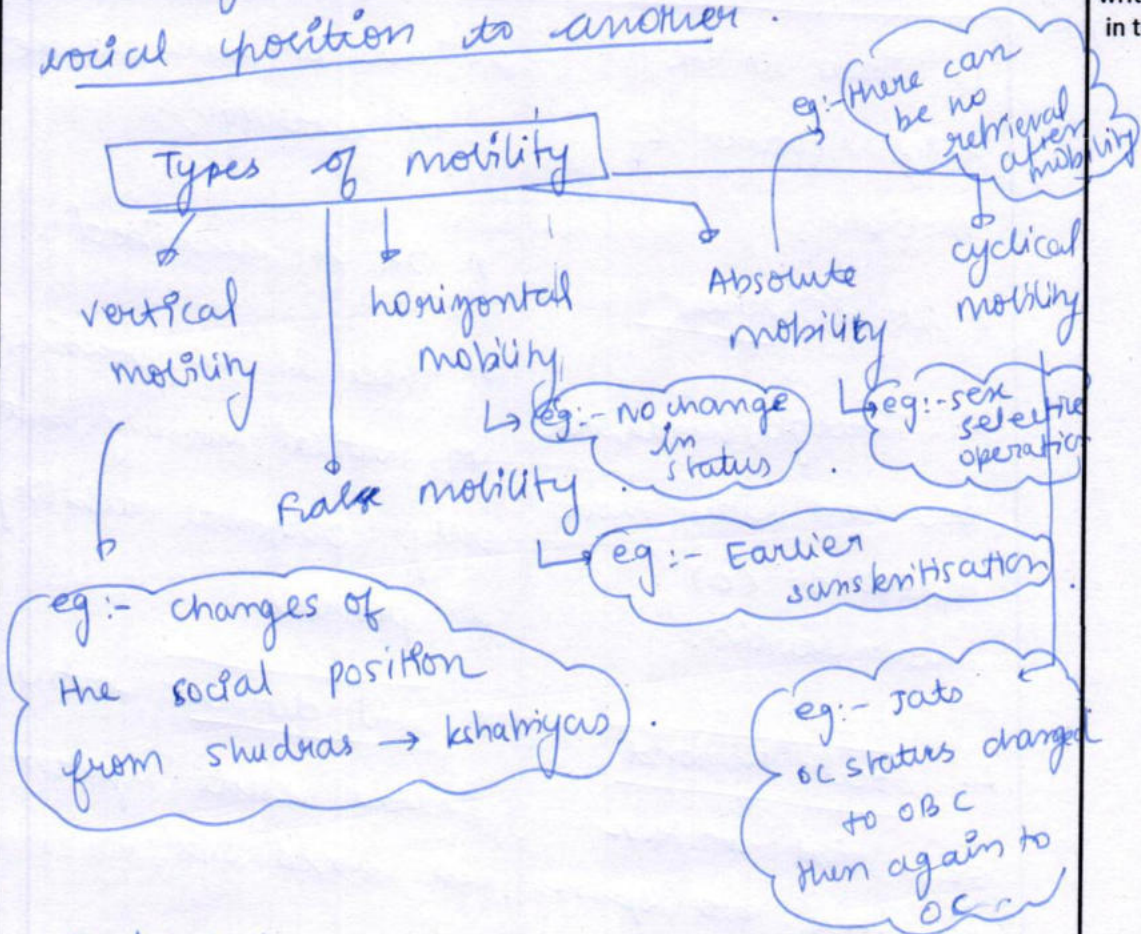
(b) Differentiate between social mobility in open and closed systems.

(10)

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According to Wallace and Wallace, mobility means moving from one social position to another.



Factors :-

1. Talent of a person

eg:- Chandragupta Maurya moved from shudras to kshatriya

2. Education

eg:- In capitalist societies money determines class position. With high education one can earn more.



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3. socio cultural factors.

eg:- anticipatory socialisation

open ~~society~~ systems

closed systems

1. There is a high chance of mobility.

2. It is achieved

3. Through hardwork one can either move upwards or downwards.

4. Louis Dumont says that western societies are open and mobility is possible.

eg:- through education vertical mobility is possible (High class from low class)

1. There is no chance of mobility.

2. It is ascribed.

3. There is no possibility of vertical mobility but only horizontal mobility is possible.

4. Louis Dumont criticizes India's caste system as a closed one.

Eg:- caste system is highly ascribed.

Dahrendoff tells that it acts a safety valve, so that only revolutions are not often in modern societies

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(c) Examine the middle Classes in contemporary India.

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Middle class are those who are neither bourgeoisie nor proletariat. It is result of education in India but Industrialisation in western society.

Middle class in India :-

1. It was said that nearly 40% of India's population is middle class.

2. It consists of :-

- i) people of managerial class
- ii) people who holds start up business.
- iii) workers of IT sectors, etc.

There is also upper middle class, middle middle class and lower middle class in India.

Consumption pattern :-

1. The market in India is huge due to the proliferation of middle class not merely due to population



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2. They often indulge in conspicuous consumption. eg:- purchasing netflix.

3. Westernized culture in food pattern and dressing styles.

Eg:- ordering food from swiggy.

4. High expenditure towards education and eager to have an upward mobility.

Nature of middle class :-

1. India's middle class is a hardworking group to rise their class position.

2. Certain groups tend to compare them with their counterparts to achieve higher status.

3. People are cautiously/Judiciously spend their resources to avoid unwanted expenditure in certain things.

It is expected that by 2030 India would have 55-1. (around) of population in middle class and who contribute to India's growth.

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(d) Are Social Isolation and social exclusion different?

(10)

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(e) Analyse the various types of equality.

(10)

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Equality and Inequality are the two factors which has the potential to explain entire human evolution. Equality is considered to be a shadow of Inequality.

Gender equality:-

Men and women are born with natural inequality but with the association of masculinity and femininity gender makes its appearance. gender is social inequality.

Biological inequality:-

According to Pooreau, the biological inequality are considered less important whereas social inequality is the more reason for stratification.

Eg:- Racial inequality in the western world.

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Economic inequality :-

According to Marx, the capitalist accumulate wealth and transmit to next generation and proletariats transmits poverty to their next generation.

Social inequality :-

Dumont, in his study of caste system in India, advocates that Indian system is orthodox and permissive whereas the modern world advocates equality.

Marxian perspective, tells that inequality should be abolished and an egalitarian society has to be established through proletarian revolution.

Functionalists advocates that inequality is ensuring stability in the society and has to be accepted in the society.

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- Q.5 (a) Gender is a socially constructed stratification system, embedded at the individual, interactional and institutional dimensions of the society.

Comment.

(20)

gender is ^{one among various} systems of stratification. According to Togendra Singh, women is the most deprived and discriminated section of the society.

At an individual dimension :-

According to Bettle, women and men are born with natural inequalities. With this natural inequalities, the gender role comes into pictures when they acquire the characteristics of masculine ~~male~~ and feminine.

M. Mead have proven that gender roles are through socialisation only through his pacific tribes analysis. It is purely ^{through} societal interaction.



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Institutions :-

Women in family :-

Lea Nov advocates that family is the biggest bourgeoisie.

A. Bechtle says that family helps in personality stabilisation process. It is countered by Teeny Bernard and advocates that there is male personality stabilisation that happens in family.

Women in Jobs :-

According to Martin analysis, >90% of women are engaged in informal works only.

✓ out of which 70% of women are engaged in pink collar jobs.

Eythorpe in his studies proves that women in UK only takes care of expenditure in family and so they are empowered.

But it is countered that women



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are engaged in more household works rather than jobs.

Women in politics :-

Sulaimith and Firestone advocated that women's backwardness in polity is due to cultural and social backwardness in other places.

many sociologists questions the decision made by women as panchayat leaders as they are influenced by family.

There is a commodification of body of women is taking place in the society and politics is bend to it.

women are not empowered in politics. eg :- 33% reservation of women in lok sabha is still pending in parliament.

Women as minorities :-

Hellen mayer Hacker through her

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analysis of American and African women found that,

✓ They are having almost same physical attributes.

✓ Both men (black and white) treat women as doing house hold works.

✓ There are gender-specific jobs and women of both the races accept the society and have high adaptability.

Discrimination :-

1. women are paid less, approximately 20-30% than men with same expertise.
2. weak in forming trade unions due to family responsibilities.
3. Feminisation of poverty due to sex selective migration.

In recent covid pandemic, women were most affected due to double burden (work and household duties). But there is a progress from previous era and a still a long way out.

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(b) Distinguish between Marxian and Weberian theories of social stratification.

(20)

Maxwell defines social stratification as different social groups that are ranked one above the another in a society, based on the values of the society.

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mark	weber
① mark does not provide a concrete definition of class and says that it is based on relations of production	According to weber, class is determined by market situations that provides a similar life chances.

② unidimensional class	dimensions of stratification	multidimensional power, class, status
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

③ Marx denies the concept	concept of middle class	weber accepts it and gives 2 kinds of middle class
		①. petty bourgeoisie ②. property less white collar workers



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④ Marx argues that there is a proletarianization and pauperization of the middle class. Due to competition, the petty bourgeoisie gets proletarianized and polarised into 2 classes (ie) Bourgeoisie and Proletariat

According to Weber, as capitalism increases, the number of property less white collar worker increases and he advocates for proliferation of classes.

Gold Thorpe in his book, The Affluent Worker mentions about middle class and praises Weber.

⑤ 2 classes :-

- ①. Bourgeoisie
- ②. Proletariat

No. of
classes

- 4 classes.
- ①. Bourgeoisie
 - ②. Petty Bourgeoisie
 - ③. Property less white collar worker
 - ④. Proletariat

⑥ Marx advocates that based on class, there is stratification in society

concept
of
stratification

stratification is based on societal values and it is inevitable to society.

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② He considers it
as dysfunctional
to society.

He considers it as
a important component
of society.

③. Abolition
of private
property and
establishment of
a communist
society.

solution for
stratification

- never did
not provide

any solution for
stratification as he
did not consider it
as a problem.

Similarities :-

Both Marx and Wber accepted that
capitalist as a system has perpetuated
into the society.

They also accepted that class and
economics are important in the
society. Both determines the life
chances of an individual.

Marx theory is ^{not that} relevant today
but based on that only there was
a Bolshevik revolution which tried to

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to eliminate inequality in the
~~the~~ Russian society.

Weber's theory in the contemporary
times is very relevant as there is
a proliferation of middle class in
the society.

Even in the U.S there was a
contemporary study in relating
caste, class, power of India to
that of status, class, power in U.S.
(~~caste~~) (class)
which correlated the concept of
caste and race in both the societies
and class and status of both the societies.
It was found that there was high
similarities in the correlation.

According to functionalist like
Parsons, stratification is not always
anti-social and anti-people, but it
helps in maintaining orderly society.

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- (c) The variation in the concept of poverty reveals its dimensionality. However, when closely examined, these dimensions are seen to be conceptually interrelated and complementary rather than substitutable. Elaborate. (10)

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Poverty is an undesirable outcome for human. It may lead to social, economical, geographical exclusion of people.

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Dimensions of poverty :-

1. Poverty among women :-

Rural women poverty is different from that of the urban women poverty due to accoutlessness.

Rural women are more engaged in agricultural work due to sex selective migration.

Urban women are more engaged in household works and often excluded socially. (their own house as well as others house)

2. Technology access also affects women. As the penetration of mobile phones among women in rural areas is poor.



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3. Marginalisation of poverty

Tribal poverty is basically due to lack of proper implementation of forest rights.

which led to social ostracism and also led to ^{take up jobs like} manual scavenging.

4. Influence of politics :-

→ Poverty is the main reason for B vote bank politics.

→ It also led to politicisation of caste and casteisation of politics.

5. Denial of other services like education :-

Poverty does not promote education among their children as proved by Krishnakumar studies as they drop out earlier from the schools.

Poverty takes into various dimensions and are often interconnected and so even one dimension is addressed⁵⁰ there are various dimensions which still prevail.