



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



யோக்யத் தேர்வுகள் மிரிவு

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ID	NMCEM	Date of Exam	4/8/25
		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.		
3.		13.		
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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>		

SECTION A

1. Describe various characteristics of "social fact".
How is rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim?

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Durkheim in his work exp-
-lined [social fact] that is used in study
which are socially defined and regulate
the people.

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Various characteristics of social fact

- ① External to individual - as the individual is not involved in creating it.
- ② Impact decision of individual by providing a outline in decision.
eg) Religion decide food choices.
- ③ Objectivity as they can be observed using scientific method.
- ④ Generalisation is possible as they are applied using comparative study.

Rate of suicide is a social fact

① External to Individual - as Durkheim observe that societal cause reason for suicide.

② Impact decision - because the factors observed in social fact impact his decision making.

eg) Due to his integration with society goes for altruistic suicide

	High	Low
INTEGRATION	Altruistic	Egoistic
REGULATION	Fatalistic	Anomic

③ Objective as the research was considered

after data collection and can also be generalised.

Thus Durkheim perspective helped in understanding increasing suicide rate in society beyond Imitation

theory aspect [Gabriel Tarde]

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2. With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K. Merton?

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R.K. Merton using his middle

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range theories explained how the mismatch between societal goals and Instrumental means has led to conformity and deviance coexistence.

Conformity and deviance coexist

CONTINUITY

① Conformity -

Societal goals

when the means and goals are present.

Instrumental Means

Conformity	Innovation	high
Ritualistic	Retreat	Low
high	Low	Rebellion

② Doctor studies MBBS and becomes a clinical doctor.

③ Innovation When goals are obtained

without adequate means going for innovation.

(eg) A Business becomes rich by using black money.

③ Retardation when adhere to the means and do not achieve the goals.

(eg) Low level labour continues his job without promoting.

DEVIANCE

④ Retraction → when the individual do not adopt means and goals and live life of own. (eg) Newbee culture in slum areas

⑤ Rebellion → when they begin to collectively oppose.

R.K. Merton study explains the coexistence of deviance and conformity explaining social system process of continuity.

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3. What are informal organisations? Are NGOs informal organisation?

Antony Giddens explain informal organisations as those who earn money / transaction outside the formal setup.

Informal Organisations

Keith Hart explain the characteristics of informal organisation as

- ① low level skill jobs
- ② low wages for job done
- ③ heterogeneous section
- ④ free entry and exist

Thus informal organisations are flexible which can be of two types

- Informal sector (Street vendors)
- Informal workforce (Skilled ^{semi} labour)

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NGOs informal organisation

① fixed labour charges are not provided to workers and they act as charitable source.

② Division of labour is absent in NGOs and mostly the management is on the basis of voluntarism.

③ profit accumulation is absent and they rely on funds to distribute.

eg Green peace foundation

④ Welfare of workers focuses rather than production process.

Thus NGOs as informal organisations plays major role in tackling the informal section who have inadequate wages and skills.

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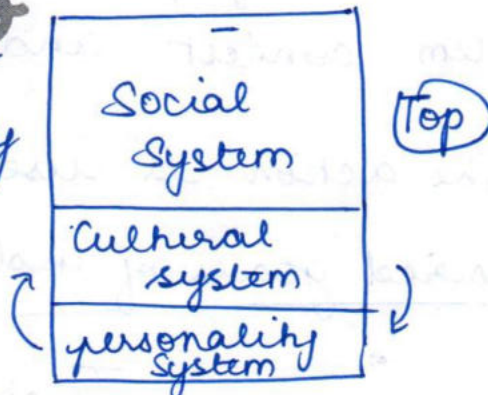
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4. Explain the Cybernetic theory of hierarchy of Talcott parsons?

Talcott parsons a structural functionalist tried to study the social system by equating it with human body and explaining the concept of Cybernetic theory of hierarchy.

Cybernetic Theory of hierarchy

① Social system is the topmost in hierarchy of his theory. The roles are primary



units who play roles on the requirement of alter and society.

② Moving equilibrium - he considers it

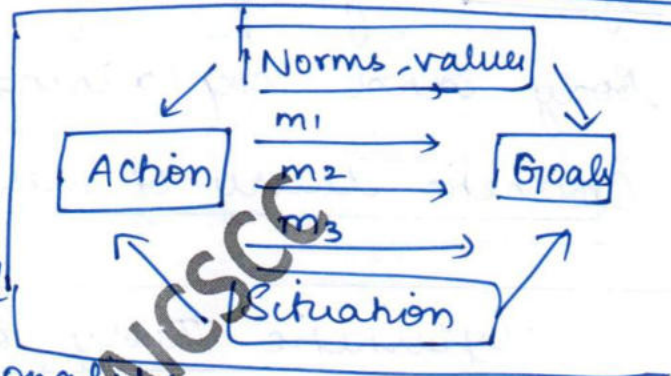
as a continuous system that can evolve and adapt.

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③ The role faces a dilemma in decision making between the values and behaviour while acting.

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④ The values of the cultural system and behaviour of personality system contest and decide on an action.



⑤ The action is used to achieve the desired goals of individual.

Talcott parsons using this theory try to explain the influence of society and personal interest in the process of decision making.

5. Describe the main idea of Masc Weber's book, "The protestant ethic and the spirit of Capitalism" as a critique of Marxism.

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Masc Weber in his book

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"The protestant ethic and spirit of capitalism"

explain the relation between Calvinist religion that has inculcated capitalist mindset in its members that led to their success.

Main idea of book

According to Weber, ~~he~~ draws a relation between religion and economic behaviour of individual. The features of protestant are:

- ① Image of God - Calvinism
- ② This worldly religion
- ③ Pre-destination
- ④ The calling notation of god

⑤ Materialistic Asceticism

A critique of Marxism

① Economic determinism when Marx considers economic base as the reason for social change and division of labour in society, Weber contradicts by explaining the religious influence cause of economic choices.

eg) The protestants, Jews etc driven by religion go for profit.

② Religion Weber considered the functional aspect in individual whereas Marx considered it as control the true consciousness of workers.

"Religion - the opium of Masses"

③ View on capitalism - when Weber considers

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the positive aspect of capitalism such as job opportunity, social mobility. Marx explain it as exploitative system.

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④ Division of Labour - Weber says the division is based on income where people are divided whereas Marx consider it as forced division.

Criticism of
Weber

① Cultural Industries as explained by Habermas where he explain the state control religion, etc of the people.

② Rules ritualism that weber emphasis on rules by RK Merton.

Despite being a critic, the weber study was inspired by Marx approach to analysing society leading to raise of Interpretive sociology.

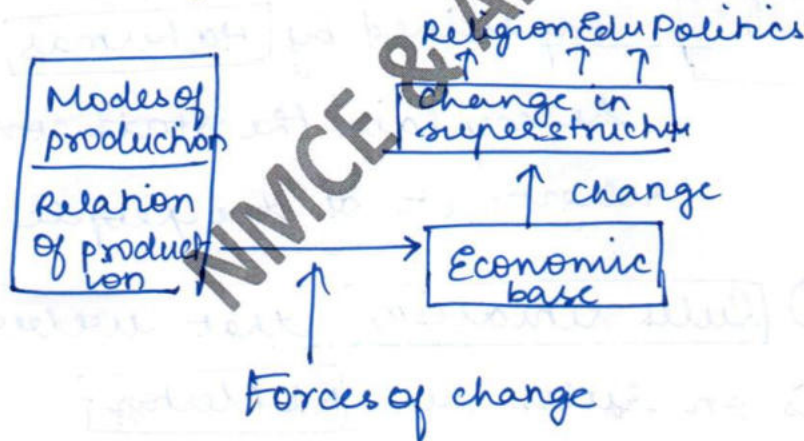
6. How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change?

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Karl Marx borrowing the concept of dialectics from Hegel explained that dialectics in society as the reason for social change propounding the concept of historical materialism.

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Social conflict - essential element in change



Marx observed the social conflict in historical analysis method to understand the social change caused due to new forces of change affecting the

existing modes of production.

Slave society

→ slaves exploited by owners who had conflicts. expansion of land led to change.

Fudal society

→ the landlords exploited the peasants which led to dispute among them and brought change

Capitalistic society

→ the surplus of labour accumulated by capitalist led to conflict between Haveest & Have nots.

False Consciousness
class in itself

Alienation
Pauperisation
Exchange value > Use value

True class consciousness
class for itself



Proletariat Revolution

Thus he explain that, social conflict between

two classes as the based for revolution and social change.

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Critic of Mass View

① Peasant revolution that has brought significant changes ignored.

Chaynov explain how peasant struggle brought changes in Russia, India etc that is not studied.

② Facts are subdued -- where he ignores the regional disparities. William Goode André Betheille explain how when capitalism was result of colonialism in India different from the west.

③ Economic reductionism where he neglect other aspects that bring change.

Mass conflict approach in societal study brought a new approach to study societal change that can be relevant such as Disintegration of USSR due to economy failure.

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

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The covid impact has increased the culture of "Work from home" which is being generalised and normalised in present world context.

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Redefine formal and informal organisation

FORMAL ORGANISATION

① Reduced cost - due to expenditure on the infrastructure that can lead to increased profit accumulation.

② Maternal Wall can be eased as it provide flexibility to women working in their home.

③ Glass ceiling can be diffused, as

they are evaluated for their performance.

R. Moss explain that in corporates women opportunities are restricted due to homosocialibility of men where they are sidelined by men.

④ Reduced Alienation as there is increased time spend for personal space and improve skills.

⑤ Blurring line between personal and professional space that increase stress and family dynamics.

eg) youtube parenting, helicopter parenting.

INFORMAL WORK

① Increased income → as the cost is reduced in travel and other expenses and multiple

job opportunities.

② Footloose Labourers who are migrant workers are impacted as they are low skilled who do not adequately engage with technology.

④ Dual burden of women as the workload increases due to flexible time further reducing personal space.

Holschild Third shift concept explain the guilt of compromising and rationalised workshift.

As Tan Barmer says there is diffusion between formal and informal workspace and also interdependency which make us redefine the workplace.

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8.

Analyse the cause and impact of gendered division of labour on social organisation of Work.

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The gendered division of labour has enforced inequality of opportunity where more than 90% of women are concentrated on informal sector with low social securities.

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Cause and impacts of Gendered DOL

① Care economy increased participant share in care economy has reduced their opportunities.

[CAUSE] → the practice of Egalitarianism of household work.

[Impact] → The economic survey explain that 3% of GDP is shared by women for

unpaid household work.

② Concentration in low level jobs where women are not promoted for higher positions in office.

CAUSE - As **Moss** explains there is homosoc-
iability of men where women are often
sidelined.

IMPACT - Sticky floor effect where only 5%
women represent top managerial positions.

③ Patriarchal mindset where women are
considered inferior and given menial
jobs in workforce.

CAUSE : lack of adequate skilling and
opportunities

IMPACT - Pink collarisation of workforce,

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As Kabeer explain increased participation of women in hazardous industries has impacted their health highlighting concentrated gender participation.

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Changing gendered division

The society, feminist government along with organisations are bringing change in narrative such as Bihar government introduced PINK BUSES for women with GPS, women driver etc ensuring safe and changing narrative of "male only work jobs"

Thus including the women in workspace is essential as they represent half the world population who can effectively contribute to the development of nation.