

Sociology Paper I

Time Allowed: Three Hours | Maximum Marks: 250

Question Paper Specific Instructions

- There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS.
- Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Questions no. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly.

SECTION A

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| 1(a) | Explain how sociology has emerged as a distinct discipline based on rationality and scientific temper. | 10 |
| 1(b) | Examine ethnomethodological and phenomenological perspectives as critique of positivism. | 10 |
| 1(c) | Illustrate with example the significance of variables in sociological research. | 10 |
| 1(d) | Critically analyse Talcott Parsons' conception of 'Pattern Variables'. | 10 |
| 1(e) | Can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living'? Elaborate your answer. | 10 |
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| 2(a) | Discuss the changing equations of discipline of sociology with other social sciences. | 20 |
| 2(b) | Examine the basic postulates of positivism and post-positivism. | 20 |
| 2(c) | Elaborate the main tenets of interpretative perspective in sociology. | 10 |
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| 3(a) | Discuss distinct sociological method adopted by Emile Durkheim in his study of 'suicide'. | 20 |
| 3(b) | Analyse Marxian conception of historical materialism as a critique of Hegelian dialectics. | 20 |
| 3(c) | Examine epistemological foundations of qualitative methods of social research. | 10 |
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| 4(a) | What is Weberian critique of Marxist notion of social stratification? | 20 |

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| 4(b) | Examine gender, ethnicity and race as major dimensions of social stratification. | 20 |
| 4(c) | How can one resolve the issue of reliability and validity in the context of sociological research on inequality? | 10 |

SECTION B

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| 5(a) | What do you understand by 'informalisation of labour'? Write your answer with special reference to India. | 10 |
| 5(b) | Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independent India. | 10 |
| 5(c) | Give an assessment of Durkheimian notion of 'sacred' and 'profane' in sociology of religion. | 10 |
| 5(d) | Examine 'patriarchal bargain' as gendered division of work in contemporary India. | 10 |
| 5(e) | Assess the role of mass media as an agent of social change. | 10 |
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| 6(a) | Trace the changing nature of organisation of work in capitalist society over the years. | 20 |
| 6(b) | What is new in 'new social movements'? Elaborate your answer with special reference to India. | 20 |
| 6(c) | Examine the dynamics of pressure groups in multi-party political system. | 10 |
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| 7(a) | Examine the relationship between the contemporary trends in marriage and changing forms of family. | 20 |
| 7(b) | Discuss the regional variations of kinship system in Indian society. | 20 |
| 7(c) | Problematise the concept of secularism in the present context. | 10 |
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| 8(a) | Examine any two theories of social change in detail. | 20 |
| 8(b) | Critically analyse the role of science and technology in bringing about social change. | 20 |
| 8(c) | Elaborate on various types of religious practices prevalent in Indian society. | 10 |
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Typeset by UPSC Gurus from the official UPSC question paper. The official bilingual paper is available at upsc.gov.in.