



Sociology Optional

(Paper I)

1. Sociology - The Discipline:

- a. Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- b. Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- c. Sociology and common sense.

2. Sociology as Science:

- a. Science, scientific method and critique.
- b. Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- c. Positivism and its critique.
- d. Fact value and objectivity.
- e. Non- positivist methodologies.

3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- a. Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- b. Techniques of data collection.
- c. Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

4. Sociological Thinkers:

- a. Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- b. Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- c. Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- d. Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables.
- e. Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
- f. Mead - Self and identity.

5. Stratification and Mobility:

- a. Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.
- b. Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
- c. Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.

- d. Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

6. Works and Economic Life:

- a. Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society.
- b. Formal and informal organization of work.
- c. Labour and society.

7. Politics and Society:

- a. Sociological theories of power.
- b. Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.
- c. Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- d. Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

8. Religion and Society:

- a. Sociological theories of religion.
- b. Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- c. Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

9. Systems of Kinship:

- a. Family, household, marriage.
- b. Types and forms of family.
- c. Lineage and descent.
- d. Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
- e. Contemporary trends.

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- a. Sociological theories of social change.
- b. Development and dependency.
- c. Agents of social change.
- d. Education and social change.
- e. Science, technology and social change.

(Paper II)

INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society:

- a. Indology (GS. Ghurye).
- b. Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas).
- c. Marxist sociology (A R Desai).

(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society :

- a. Social background of Indian nationalism
- b. Modernization of Indian tradition.
- c. Protests and movements during the colonial period.
- d. Social reforms.

B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

- a. The idea of Indian village and village studies.
- b. Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

(ii) Caste System:

- a. Perspectives on the study of caste systems: GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
- b. Features of caste system.
- c. Untouchability - forms and perspectives.

(iii) Caste System:

- a. Definitional problems.
- b. Geographical spread.
- c. Colonial policies and tribes.
- d. Issues of integration and autonomy.

(iv) Social Classes in India:

- a. Agrarian class structure.
- b. Industrial class structure.
- c. Middle classes in India.

(v) Systems of kinship in India

- a. Lineage and descent in India
- b. Types of kinship system
- c. Family and marriage in India
- d. House holds dimensions of the family

(vi) Religion and Society:

- a. Religious communities in India.
- b. Problems of religious minorities.

C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- a. Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
- b. Constitution, law and social change.
- c. Education and social change.

(ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India:

- a. Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
- b. Green revolution and social change.
- c. Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.
- d. Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

- a. Evolution of modern industry in India.
- b. Growth of urban settlements in India.
- c. Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- d. Informal sector, child labour.
- e. Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

(iv) Politics and Society:

- a. Nation, democracy and citizenship.
- b. Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite
- c. Regionalism and decentralization of power.
- d. Secularization

(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

- a. Peasants and farmers movements.
- b. Women's movements
- c. Backward classes & Dalit movement.
- d. Environmental movements.
- e. Ethnicity and Identity movements.

(vi) Population Dynamics:

- a. Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
- b. Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
- c. Population policy and family planning.
- d. Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

- a. Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.
- b. Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
- c. Violence against women.
- d. Caste conflicts.
- e. Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
- f. Illiteracy and disparities in education.