Analysis of previous years’ questions and the current trend of Sociology paper I and paper II

You must have noticed a marked shift in the pattern of questions from 2012 when UPSC switched over to one optional only.

One thing which became popular with sociology questions was the comparative questions. Now comparative questions have become regular.

1) In the first paper i.e. principles of sociology, very often they are giving questions from Indian society. Now it is a regular feature.

2) In the theory section or sociological theories, they are asking applied questions i.e. apply Merton’s theory of deviance in explaining Indian traffic violations, can Parsonian concept of social system be applied to the study of Indian society?

3) Regarding Indian society questions, there are no boundaries. They can ask any thing. There is no reference to Indian reformers in the syllabus but now it has become a regular practice to ask questions from Gandhi, Phule and Ambedkar. Therefore, we may expect questions from Narayan Guru and Periyar in coming examinations.

4) Second paper can have any question from social issues and social problems. These social issue questions may include recent social legislations like the Indian forest rights act, child labour amendment act. They may include Indian rural mission, Swachha Bharat Abhiyan etc.

5) In the first paper or principles of sociology never give examples from books, western society or even other developing societies. Always give examples from Indian society. These should not be your personal or family experience, always give examples from public sphere. Those incidents which have been reported in the newspapers or electronic media.

6) In the Indian society questions write with a theoretical perspective on social issue and social legislation sections. These theories can be Marxism, Weberian, Functionalism and Interaction theory. It is always easier to apply the interaction or symbolic interaction theory.

7) In the second paper questions you must give case studies. It is better to give recent case studies. You can collect them from the journal Economic and Political weekly (EPW).

8) Always keep in mind the theoretical perspective. There are only four perspectives namely the Marxian, Weberian, the Functional and the interaction theory. Remember nothing in sociology is outside the purview of sociological theory.

FULL PRINTED STUDY MATERIAL TO BE GIVEN AT REGULAR INTERVALS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE SOCIOLOGY TESTS.
### SOCIOLGY MAINS TEST SERIES

**THE TEST NUMBERS AND COURSE FROM WHICH THE QUESTIONS WILL BE SET IN DIFFERENT TESTS**

**SOCIOLGY PAPER I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T. No.</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Systems of kinship. Types of kinship, family, household, household dimensions of family, types of family, marriage, changes in marriage, live in relationships. Lineage and descent, patriarchy and sexual division of labour, position of women in modern world, recent trends in family and marriage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Social change in modern society: Sociological theories of social change; Karl Marx, P.A. Sorokin and Ogburn. Models of development, the socialist model, the social democratic model and modernization model, Dependency theory in the context of Latin American societies. Discussion of Test 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sociology the discipline: emergence of sociology, modernity and social change in Europe as the contexts of emergence of sociology. What is sociology, subject matter of sociology, Comparison of sociology with Anthropology, Psychology, History, Economics and Political science. Sociology and common sense, no relevance of common sense in sociology, The scientific temper of sociology.</td>
<td>10 NOV. 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Research methods and analysis: Qualitative and quantitative methods, Designs of social research, Hypothesis, Variables, Sampling and types of sampling. Primary and secondary data; techniques of data collection, observation, participant observation, interview, Focused group interview, Questionnaire and Schedule.

4. 10. Sociological theories: Karl Marx; Historical materialism, mode of production, class struggle and alienation. Emile Durkheim; social fact, division of labour, suicide and religion and society. Max Weber; social action, ideal type, authority, Rationality; bureaucracy, capitalism, rise of capitalism and protestant ethics. Comparison between Marx’s idea of capitalism and Weber’s idea of capitalism, Marx’s alienation and Durkheim’s anomie, Durkheim’s view of religion and Weber’s view of religion, Religion in India. Comparison between Marx and Durkheim on the question of division of labour, comparison between Marx and Weber on the question of social stratification, class and class struggle. Talcott Parsons, social action, Parson’s social system, pattern variables, Equilibrium, how equilibrium is maintained, R. K. Merton; Latent and Manifest function, conformity and deviance, comparison between Durkheim’s idea of anomie and Merton’s idea of deviance. George Herbert Mead: Self and identity, stages in the development of self, stages in the development of gender and any other identity, symbolic interactionism.

Discussion of Test 3

SOCIOLOGY PAPER II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T. No.</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
2. Impact of colonial rule on Indian society: General appraisal of British rule, social background of Indian nationalism by A.R. Desai and modernization of Indian tradition by Yogendra Singh.  
3. Social structure of India: The idea of Indian village, village India at the time of independence, village India to-day, the meaning and relevance of village studies in the 1950s and 1960s.  
4. Agrarian social structure, Land Reforms in India, Green Revolution and the search for new Green revolution.                                                                 | 8 DEC. 2018 |
5. Caste in India: Meaning of the caste system and caste identity, features of the caste system; perspectives of the study of caste system of G. S. Ghurye, M.N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont and Andre Beteille, changes and tenacity of the caste, causes of caste tenacity, untouchability, untouchability at present times in India, Dalit castes and Dalit identity.


7. Social classes in India: class in India according to Andre Beteille, the caste-class syndrome in India, middle classes in India, Divisions in the Indian middle classes, role of the middle classes in India, classes in Indian society, classes in Industry and classes in Indian agriculture.

**Discussion of Test 4**

6. Kinship, family and marriage, kinship types in India, regional variations and the views of Irawati Karve, Patricia Uiberoi and P. M. Kolenda, Lineage and Descent in India, family and house hold, household dimensions of family, the study of A. M. Shah and Patricia Uiberoi, changes in family in India, patriarchy in India and its causes, sexual division of labour in India, change in women roles, marriage in India, current marriage trends in India, live in relations and its possible consequences.

9. Religion in India: religious communities in India, religious revivalism, the debate in India on secularism, Ashis Nandi, T.N. Madan, Andre Beteille, Deepankar Gupta and others, inter-community relations, communalism in India, problems of minorities.

10. Politics and society in India: nation, state, democracy, Civil society, relationship between democracy and civil society, political parties, pressure groups, social and political role of parties and pressure groups in India, regionalism, religion and politics in India, caste and politics in India.

11. Population dynamics in India: emerging issues, ageing and population of senior citizens in India, unequal sex ration in India particularly in some of the developed states in India, young population as population dividend.

**Discussion of Test 5**


12. Industry and urbanization: evolution of industry in India, industry in planned economy, industry and privatization, liberalization and globalization, working class, structure, growth in informal sector, child labour, women in informal sector, slums and slum development programmes, migrant poor in urban areas, deprivation and urban degradation in India, smart cities, rurban mission.
14. Rural and agrarian transformation in India: programmes of rural development, community development programmes, poverty alleviation programmes, MNREGA, NFSA 2013, Agrarian crisis, peasant unrest, MSP as an issue, change in rural area's work pattern, more rural people migrating to near by urban areas daily, predominance of non-agricultural work in rural India.


Discussion of Test 6


19. Challenges of social transformation in India: crisis of development, displacement, environmental problems and sustainability, poverty, deprivation and inequality, problems of change and transformation, conflicts; ethnic conflicts, class conflicts and caste conflicts.

Discussion of Test 7

| Test 9 | Mock Test I Paper I (10 am-1 pm) | 16 FEB. 2019 |
| Test 10 | Mock Test I Paper II (2 pm-5 pm) | 16 FEB. 2019 |

Discussion of both the Mock Tests on 9 MARCH, 2019 from 10 AM to 1 PM - 2 PM to 5 PM
UNDERSTANDING TERMINOLOGIES USED IN QUESTIONS

It is the pre-fix or suffix of the question which determines direction and command of the answer. It is for your convenience, we are trying to make explicit what is meant by these words and what you will write.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terminology</th>
<th>Meaning and demand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss</td>
<td>In discuss you have to write two or all the aspects of an issue. Don’t criticize, simply present all the sides in an analytical manner. As the conclusion you write a brief summary of all the sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically Discuss</td>
<td>Critically discuss again has to aspects. In discuss one writes two aspects or all aspects of an issue or the problem. Discuss is an elaboration in which all the aspects of a problem, issue and a phenomenon are to be presented. Critically discuss is a popular command. Critically discuss indicate, one has to present all the aspects by examining its pros and cons. One does not only present all aspects but evaluate the different aspects. Critically discuss refers to examine either two aspects or aspects by examining aspects. One has to give the plus points and minus points of a phenomenon. For example one has to critically discuss the Gandhian view of nonviolence. In this one has to see the plus points of nonviolence and one must give the example of India’s national struggle. Then one has to severely criticize the concept of non violence and cite all the negative aspects of nonviolence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>It is also a common directive. You write the meaning of the problem, all aspects involved in it. You simply try to write all the why which may emerge in the problem. We can give an example; Why smart city programme, this has to be written in <code>explain smart city. Explain is the answer to all </code>why`. It touches and explores allaspects. Explanations require you to write the context of the question. You explain or convince by providing this context. In simple terms you write all aspects without any criticism and your opinion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>critically examine, examine and evaluate</td>
<td>These all indicate the same meaning. You first write after two lines of introduction, a brief statement of what the idea or presentation is. Only then you evaluate, criticize or examine. Examine does not mean only a rejection of the idea it also mean support and praise. In such questions you do not criticize on your own. You are not eligible to criticize as scholars. Criticize on the basis of scholar’s views. In nutshell, you should demolish the proposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Generally this is presented at the end of the question and so it is called suffix. In comment, you write the different aspects of a problem or issue or the topic in an analytical manner and you also give your opinion. In comment the whole problem or issue is presented and different aspects and different views are presented related to the issue or the problem. No criticisms are to be attempted. Criticism is the view of a scholar and comment is yourview.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically Comment</td>
<td>Critically comment is a double evaluation in simple terms. In comment one has to give one’s view on any particular issue. In comment one has the liberty to make any comments showing the for or against views. The comment is not baseless. It requires you to do a general perusal and then you comment. This general perusal is also a type ofevaluation. Critically comment requires you to show all the aspects with an evaluation which is systematic and on concrete grounds. One has to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
meticulously see one by one all issues issue. The evaluation is on certain criteria. This evaluation must indicate the merits and demerits of the given topic or problem.

Critically comment therefore, indicate to comment after evaluation in a systematic way. Comment is the view of some body in a deliberate manner but when it is critically comment then the view has to be given after systematic evaluation. For example, if one has to comment on the question of nationalism, one can simply say nationalism is sacrosanct and nobody should be allowed say anything against it. The other non critical comment can be nationalism has many bases and there can be different views on it.

Critically comment has to go by an evaluation of the principle of nationalism and then one takes a position. One has to evaluate both the consequences of nationalism and also the positive effects of nationalism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analyse</th>
<th>It is also a very frequent directive. You simply remember one analogy. As the medical students dissect insects or human organs in their laboratories so you analyse a problem. You go deeper, you want to see the inner meanings.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critically Analyse</td>
<td>We have already presented the meaning of analyze. One has to dissect any phenomenon trying to go deeper and present the causes of any phenomenon. This requires one to go inside any phenomenon and do the drain searching. Critically analyze means one is an intense drain inspector. One does not only show the underlying causes of a phenomenon but show all other dimensions. Critically analyze requires any one to show the underlying causes but also the plus and minus of any cause. This refers to seeing and imagining all the interrelated aspects of the causes. This is in-depth and analyzes underlying and interrelated causes. For example one has to critically analyze the problem of black money in India. One has to write the sources of black money, the causes of black money, why it is difficult to identify black money, how other countries like USA have done this. Critically analyze does not mean you have to more rather deeper causes in very brief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe</td>
<td>It is the simplest directive. Describe is the description of a phenomenon or a simple statement of facts. In describe neither you criticize nor you analyse. You directly write about the apparent features. You write in straight way the features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrate, Elucidate, Enumerate and Elaborate</td>
<td>They are almost identical terms. Normally in central services examinations <code>describe</code> is not given but other queries are there. In all these cases you state the facts or arguments in a straight forward manner. No criticisms should be attempted. Detailed description is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguish</td>
<td>It indicates a directive when you have to write the differences between two or more phenomenon. You distinguish all aspects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>It is a directive in which you first, in very brief present the meanings of the phenomena you are to compare. Then you write the differences as well as similarities of the two. In the conclusion when you are summarizing write what are more, the similarities or the differences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantiate</td>
<td>It means you have to prove a particular proposition. You give only positive aspects. You present your arguments as a lawyer. You convince the examiner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUGGESTED READINGS FOR SOCIOLOGY IN PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY AND INDIAN SOCIETY

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

2. Sociological Theory: George Ritzer, McGraw Hill, Cambridge ORs
4. An Introduction to Sociological Thought : Morgan and Abraham, McMillan, New Delhi
5. Sociological Methods and Techniques : Rajendra Kumar Sharma, Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi
6. Methods of Social survey and Research: S.R. Bajpai, Kitabghar, Kanpur
7. Sociology : T.B. Bottomore, Permanent Black, New Delhi

INDIAN SOCIETY

1. Perspectives on Indian Society: T.N. Madan
2. Modernization of Indian Tradition : Yogendra Singh
3. Chronicles of Our Times : Andre Beteille
4. Social backgrounds of Indian Nationalism: A.R. Desai
5. Indian Social Thinkers : K.B. Nagla
6. Social Movements in India (ed.) : Ghanashyam Shah
7. Ideology and Social Sciences: Andre Beteille
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  - AT UNDERSTANDING LEVEL
  - AT FACTUAL/SHARP KNOWLEDGE LEVEL
  - AT ELIMINATION SKILLS LEVEL
  - AT CONTEMPORARY/CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS LEVEL

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