



ELITE IAS

Sociology Optional PYQs

(10 Years of Core PYQs + 20
Years of Unique Questions)

What to Prepare

What to Prioritise

Why UPSC Asks It

A Strategic PYQ Compilation for Sociology Optional

2026 Edition

Why to refer PYQs?

- *They reveal what UPSC actually demands:* The syllabus tells you what exists; PYQs tell you what UPSC considers important. They reveal recurring themes, neglected areas, the depth of understanding required, and the way concepts are actually tested. Without PYQs, preparation can easily become a random exercise of covering everything..
- *They train you to think like UPSC:* UPSC rarely asks Sociology in a purely straightforward manner. Regular exposure to PYQs trains your mind to connect concepts, identify hidden dimensions, compare perspectives and apply theory to contemporary issues - the kind of thinking the examination rewards.
- *They turn the “unpredictable” exam into a decipherable one:* Many aspirants believe UPSC can ask absolutely anything. PYQs tell a different story. Beneath the apparent unpredictability, questions repeatedly draw upon core concepts, established thinkers, recurring themes, contemporary developments and their application..
- *They improve answer writing before you even start writing:* Reading PYQs develops your ability to decode the question, identify the demand, recognise command words and anticipate the dimensions expected in an answer - whether UPSC asks you to *critically examine, discuss, evaluate, substantiate, or do you agree*.
- *They help you study smarter, not simply study more:* PYQs allow you to distinguish between what must be mastered, what should be understood, and what can be kept at the periphery. That prioritisation is crucial when the syllabus is vast and revision time is limited.

Why NOT to refer to “Solved” PYQs ?

Because UPSC rewards thinking - not memorisation.

- *Solved answers can create an illusion of preparation:* Reading a polished answer makes the question look easy. But in the examination hall, the real challenge is to think, connect, structure and write under pressure. If you only consume solved answers, you may never develop this ability.
- *You risk becoming dependent on “model answers”:* When you repeatedly read someone else’s language, structure and arguments, you may start reproducing them instead of developing your own understanding. UPSC does not ask predictable questions - and copy-paste preparation breaks down when the question changes.
- *You stop exploring the syllabus beyond what has already been asked:* PYQs should reveal patterns, not become boundaries. If you prepare only the dimensions already tested, you may be caught off guard when UPSC connects Sociology with technology, AI, network society, migration, urbanisation, globalisation or other emerging issues.
- *You become exam-oriented too early:* Early preparation should build conceptual clarity, theoretical understanding, intellectual curiosity and multiple perspectives. PYQs should guide your preparation - not dictate its limits.

First understand. Then analyse PYQs. Then build your own answer.

PYQs are a compass - not a script.

CHAPTER 1: SOCIOLOGY: THE DISCIPLINE

I. Emergence of sociology

- i. Sociology is the product of European Enlightenment & Renaissance. Critically examine this statement (2024/20m)
- ii. What aspects of 'Enlightenment' do you think paved way for the emergence of sociology? Elaborate. (2022/20 m)
- iii. Europe was the first and the only place where modernity emerged. Comment. (2021/10m)
- iv. How did intellectual forces lead to the emergence of sociology? Discuss. (2020/10 m)
- v. Discuss the historical antecedents of the emergence of sociology as a discipline. (2019/10 m)
- vi. How well do you think Tonnie's, Durkheim, Weber and Marx predicted the character of modern society? Critique. (2019/10 m)
- vii. Explain how sociology has emerged as a distinct discipline based on rationality and scientific temper. (2017/10 m)
- viii. "Sociology is pre-eminently study of modern societies". Discuss. (2016/10m)
- ix. How had enlightenment contributed to the emergence of sociology? (2015/10 m).
- x. "Sociology emerged in Europe and flourished to begin with on social reformist to begin with on social reformist orientation in the U.S.A".- comment. (2013/10 m)

II. Scope of subject and comparison with other social science.

- I. In what way is the scope of Sociology unique? Explain. (2025/10m)
- II. What is the relationship (similarities and differences) between sociology & history in terms of their area of study and methodology? Discuss. (2025/10m)
- III. Discuss the nature of Sociology. Highlight its relationship with Social Anthropology (2024/10m)
- IV. Discuss the relationship between Sociology & political Science. (2023/10 m)
- V. Delimit the scope of sociology in relation to other social sciences. (2022/10m)
- VI. From the viewpoint of growing importance of multidisciplinary, how do you relate sociology to other social sciences? (2021/10 m)
- VII. In the context of globalisation, has the scope of sociology been changing in India? Comment. (2020/10 m)
- VIII. Discuss the changing equations of discipline of sociology with other social sciences. (2017/20 m)
- IX. How is sociological approach to human actions different from that of psychological approach? (2014/10 m)
- X. Compare and contrast Sociology with Anthropology. (2013/10 m).

III. Sociology and common sense

- i. What is common sense? How are common knowledge and sociology related to each other? Explain. (2025/10m)

- ii. Do you think that common sense is the starting point of social research? What are its advantages & limitations? Explain. (2023/20m)
- iii. How is sociology related to common sense? (2021/10 m)
- iv. The focal point of sociology rests on interaction. How do you distinguish it from common sense? (2018/10 m)
- v. "The sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relationship between the two in a society."-C.W Mills. Explain. (2017/10 m)
- vi. Is sociology common sense? Give reason in support of your argument. (2016/10 m).

CHAPTER 2: SOCIOLOGY AS SCIENCE

I. Science, scientific method and critique.

- i. What are the characteristics of Scientific method? Do you think scientific method in conducting sociological research is foolproof? Elaborate (2023/20 m)
- ii. Methodology is a system of rules, principles and procedures, which forms scientific investigation. Comment. (2020/ 10 m)
- iii. Does scientific method make Sociology a science? Illustrate your answer with Durkheim's method. (2018/10 m)
- iv. Describe the basic postulates of scientific method. How far are these followed in sociological research? (2016/ 20 m)

II. Positivism & its critique, Fact, value and objectivity

- i. What is Science? Do you think that the methods used in natural sciences can be applied to sociology? Give reasons for your answer. (2025/20m)
- ii. How does Weber's Verstehen address the objectivity-subjectivity debate in sociology. (2025/10m)
- iii. What is positivism? Critically analyze the major arguments against it (2025/20m)
- iv. Do you think 'objectivity' is an over-hyped idea in sociological research? Discuss the merits and demerits of non-positivist methods (2024/20m)
- v. What are the shortfalls of positivist philosophy that gave rise to the non-positivists methods of studying social reality? (2022/20 m)
- vi. How far are sociologists justified in using positivist approach to understand social reality? Explain with suitable illustrations. (2021/20m)
- vii. Is sociology a value-free science? Discuss. (2020/10 m)
- viii. Examine the basic postulates of positivism and post-positivism. (2017/20 m)
- ix. What is 'value-free sociology'? Clarify. (2016/10 m)
- x. Examine Max Weber's method of maintaining objectivity in social research. (2016/20 m)
- xi. Is Sociology a Science? give reasons for your answer. (2015/10 m).

- xii. Examine the problems of maintaining objectivity and value neutrality in social science research? (2015/20 m)
- xiii. How is objectivity different from value neutrality? Discuss with reference to Weber's views on methodology. (2014/10 m)
- xiv. Critically examine positivistic approach in sociological studies. (2013/10 m)

III. Non-positivist methodologies

- i. How does dramaturgical perspective enable our understanding of everyday life? (2023/10 m)
- ii. How does a researcher achieve objectivity in interpretative research? (2022/10 m)
- iii. Do you think ethnomethodology helps us in getting reliable and valid data? Justify your answer. (2021/10 m)
- iv. Phenomenological perspective in sociology rejects many of the assumptions of positivism. Comment (2020/20 m)
- v. Is non-positivistic methodology scientific? Illustrate (2018/20 m)
- vi. Examine ethnomethodological and phenomenological perspective as critique of positivism. (2017/10 m)
- vii. Elaborate the main tenets of interpretative perspective in sociology.
- viii. "Non-positivistic methodology is essential for understanding human behaviour." Discuss. (2015/20 m)
- ix. In what way 'interpretative' method is different from 'positivist' approach in the study of social phenomena? (2014/20 m)

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODS

I. Qualitative and Quantitative methods.

- i. What do you understand by 'mixed method'? Discuss its strengths & limitations in social research (2024/20m)
- ii. What are the different dimensions of qualitative method? Do you think that qualitative method helps to gain a deeper sociological insight? Give reasons for your answer. (2023/20 m)
- iii. What is the distinctiveness of the feminist method of social research? Comment. (2023/10 m)
- iv. How do qualitative and quantitative methods supplement each other in sociological enquiry? (2021/20 m)
- v. Bring out the significance of ethnography in social research. (2019/10 m)
- vi. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection with suitable examples from Indian society. (2018/10 m).
- vii. Examine the epistemological foundations of qualitative methods of social research. (2017/ 10 m)

- viii. Analyse the importance of qualitative method in social research. (2016/10 m)
- ix. Discuss the relevance of historical method in the study of society. (2015/10 m)
- x. Analyse the limitations of quantitative methods in social research. (2013/20 m).

II. Techniques of data collection

- i. How do you view & assess the increasing trend of digital ethnography and use of visual culture in sociological research? (2024/20 m)
- ii. What are the ethical issues that a researcher faces in making use of participant observation as a method of collecting data? Explain. (2023/10m)
- iii. The difference between information and data in social science is subtle. Comment. (2022/10m)
- iv. Discuss the challenges involved in collecting data through census method. (2021/10 m)
- v. "Participant observation is the most effective tool for collecting facts." Comment. (2016/20 m)
- vi. In what way biographies could be used to study social life? (2014/10m)
- vii. Which research technique would be most suitable for the study of consumer behaviour and its social correlates? Explain. (2014/20 m)

III. Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity

- i. What is sampling in the context of social research? Discuss different forms of sampling with their relative advantages and disadvantages. (2025/20m)
- ii. What is hypothesis? Critically evaluate the significance of hypothesis in social research. (2025/10m)
- iii. What do you mean by reliability? Discuss the importance of reliability in social science research? (2025/10m)
- iv. What is a variable in a social research? What are their different types? Elaborate (2025/10m)
- v. What are variables? How do they facilitate research? (2023/10m)
- vi. Explain the different types of non-probability sampling techniques. Bring out the conditions of their usage with appropriate examples. (2022/20 m)
- vii. Suggest measures to minimize the influence of the researcher in the process of collecting data through focus group discussion. (2022/10 m)
- viii. What is reliability? Explain the different tests available to social science researcher to establish reliability. (2022/10 m)
- ix. Explain with examples, the explanatory and exploratory designs of social research. (2018/ 10 m)
- x. Discuss the importance and sources of hypothesis in social research. (2020/10 m)

- xi. Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of social survey method in social research. (2019/10 m)
- xii. Explain the probability sampling strategies with examples. (2019/10 m)
- xiii. Illustrate with example the significance of variables in sociological research. (2017/10 m)
- xiv. How can one resolve the issue of reliability and validity in the context of sociological research on inequality? (2017/10 m)
- xv. "Hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two or more variables." Elucidate by giving examples of poverty and illiteracy. (2016/10 m)
- xvi. What are variables? Discuss their role in experimental research. (2015/10 m)
- xvii. Why is random sampling said to have more reliability and validity in research? (2015/20 m)

CHAPTER 4: SOCIOLOGICAL THINKERS

4.1. Karl Marx (1818-83)

I. Historical Materialism

- i. Highlight the main features of historical materialism as proposed by Marx. How far is this theory relevant in understanding contemporary societies? Explain. (2025/20m)
- ii. What is historical materialism? Examine its relevance in understanding contemporary societies. (2023/20 m)
- iii. Analyse Marxian conception of historical materialism as a critique of Hegelian dialectics. (2017/ 20 m)
- iv. Analyse the salient features of historical materialism. (2013/ 10 m)



II. Mode of production

- i. Critically examine the dialectics involved in each mode of production as propounded by Karl Marx. (2021/20 m)
- ii. What is 'reserve army of labour'? Present the position of feminist scholars on this. (2019/10 m)
- iii. Evaluate Marx's ideas on mode of production. (2016/10 m)
- iv. According to Marx, capitalism transforms even the personal relationships between men and women. Critically examine with illustrations from the contemporary Indian context. (2014/10 m)

- v. In Marxian classification of society, feudal and slave societies are very important. How are they different from each other? (2012/20m)
- vi. Explain Karl Marx's view analysis of capitalistic mode of production and class struggle. What are the intellectual reactions to his views? (2007/60 m)

III. Alienation

- i. Critically examine the salient features of 'Alienation' as propounded by Karl Marx (2024/10m)
- ii. What characterizes degradation of work in capitalist society according to Marx? (2022/20 m)
- iii. Critically assess the Marxian theory of 'Alienation'. (2020/10m)
- iv. According to Marx, how are human beings alienated from their human potential what does he suggest to change this? (2018/20 m)
- v. Identify the similarities and differences between Marx's theory of 'alienation' and Durkheim's theory of 'anomie'. (2014/20 m)
- vi. What is Marxist concept of 'fetishism of commodities'? (2019/10 m)
- vii. Sometimes workers do not feel attachment for their work. Marx formed a theory for this situation, discuss that theory. (2012/20 m)

IV. Class struggle

- i. Examine Karl Marx's views on 'class-in-itself' and 'class-for-itself' with reference to proletarians. (2010/30 m)
- ii. Write short notes on class struggle as conceived by Karl Marx. (2005/20 m)
- iii. Write short note: Class-in-itself and class-for-itself. (2003/20 m)

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

I. Division of Labour

- i. Explain whether Durkheim's theory of Division of Labour is relevant in the present-day context. (2021/10 m),
- ii. Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of 'Division of labour'. (2013/20 m).
- iii. Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of 'Division of labour'. (2010/30 m).
- iv. What according to Emile Durkheim is the nature of relationship between the individual and society? Explain this with the help of his analysis of division of labour in society. (2006/60 m)



II. Social Fact

- i. Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim? (2024/10m)
- ii. Durkheim argued that Society is more than sum of individual acts. Discuss. (2022/10 m)
- iii. What are the problems in observing social facts in Durkheim's views? (2020/10 m)
- iv. 'Social fact is to be treated as a thing'. Discuss. (2012/20 m)
- v. Write short note on subject matter of sociology, according to Emile Durkheim. (2009/20 m)
- vi. Write short note on social facts. (2007/20 m)
- vii. Examine the nature of social facts as understood by Durkheim. (2002/60 m)

III. Suicide

- i. Explain Durkheim's basic arguments on suicide. Can you analyse high suicide rates of contemporary Indian society with Durkheim's theory? (2018/20 m)
- ii. Discuss the distinct sociological method adopted by Durkheim in his study of 'suicide'. (2017/20 m)

IV. Religion and society

- i. Critically examine the relevance of Durkheim's views on religion in contemporary society? (2022/10 m)
- ii. Critically analyse Durkheim's views on elementary form of religious life and role of religion. Also discuss the consequences of religious revivalism in contemporary society. (2020/20 m)
- iii. In what way did Durkheim perceive religion as functional to society? (2018/10 m)
- iv. Elaborate the views of Durkheim on "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life". (2015/10 m)
- v. "According to Durkheim, the essence of religion in modern society is the same as religion in primitive society". Comment (2014/10 m)
- vi. Write short note on following, keeping sociological perspective in view: Sacred and profane. (2012/10 m)
- vii. Show how Durkheim through the study of totemism demonstrates the reality of religion. (2012/30 m)
- viii. Elaborate Emile Durkheim's analysis of the Elementary forms of religious life and role of religion in society. How does this explain existence of religion in modern industrial societies? (2007/60 m)
- ix. Give a critical review of Emile Durkheim's theory of religion and society. To what extent does it explain the contemporary scenario in Asia? (2004/60m)
- x. Write a short note on: sacred and profane. (2002/20 m)

Max Weber (1864-1920)**I. Social Action & Ideal Types**

- i. 'Ideal Types' of Max Weber are mental constructs; they do not correspond to the reality. Give your views. (2020/ 10 m)
- ii. Discuss the importance of interpretative understanding of social phenomena and explain its limitations. (2019/20 m)
- iii. How does Weber use the notion of 'ideal types' in his theory of bureaucracy? (2014/20 m)
- iv. Define 'Ideal Type' and explain Weber's concept of 'Verstehen' for understanding social phenomena. (2011/30 m)
- v. What is the subject-matter of sociology according to Max Weber? Which major methods did he suggest for social science research? Illustrate your answer with his sociological contributions. (2007/60 m)
- vi. Write short note on: concept of ideal type and its limitations. (2006/20 m)
- vii. Discuss Max Weber's ideal types and role of authority in bureaucracy. (2005/60 m)

II. Authority and Bureaucracy

- i. How is 'power' different from 'authority'? Discuss various types of authorities as theorized by Max Weber. (2024/10m)
- ii. Is Weber's idea of Bureaucracy a product of the historical experiences of Europe? Comment (2023/10 m)
- iii. Do you agree with Max Weber's idea that Bureaucracy has the potential to become an iron cage? Justify your answer. (2021/10 m)
- iv. Which concept did weber use to analyse the forms of legitimate domination? (2015/10 m)
- v. Examine the salient feature of Weberian bureaucracy (2013/10 m)
- vi. 'Power and Authority' go together. Examine. Explain the various types of authority also. (2012/30 m)

III. Protestant Ethic and spirit of capitalism

- i. Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism' as a critique of Marxism (2024/20m)
- ii. Distinguish between fact and value in weber's protestant Ethic and spirit of capitalism. (2018/10 m)
- iii. Discuss the role of Calvinist ethic in development of capitalism. (2015/20 m)
- iv. Explain how Weber's characterisation of capitalism is different from those of Marx. (2012/30 m)

- v. Write short note on protestant ethic and spirit of capitalism, keeping sociological perspective in view. (2011/10 m)
- vi. What according to Max Weber is the role of “particular religious ideas “in the emergence of modern capitalism.”? (2009/30 m)
- vii. Using Max Weber’s theory, discuss what ethical and religious ideas produced capitalism in certain societies and how? (2008/60 m)
- viii. Critically examine Max Weber’s theory of protestant ethic and spirit of capitalism’. Could it be otherwise possibility that the tenets of the capitalism must also have affected the emergence of the Protestant ethics? Comment with suitable examples. (2003/60 m)
- ix. Critically examine Weber’s theory of protestant Ethic and spirit of capitalism. (2002/60 m)

Talcott Parsons (1902-79)

I. Social system

- i. Critically analyse Parsons views on society as a social system. (2022/20m)
- ii. How can Parsons’ AGIL Framework be used to analyse key problems in a society. Discuss. (2018/20 m)
- iii. Describe the functional pre-requisites of social system as given by Talcott parsons. Examine in the context of a university as a social system. (2016/20m).
- iv. How is social equilibrium maintained in Parsonian framework? (2015/20 m)
- v. Examine the relevance of Parsonian social system in the present society. (2013/10 m)
- vi. Give conceptual meaning of social system. What is cognitive consonance between ‘pattern variable’ and ‘paradigm’? (2011/30 m)
- vii. Write short note on cybernetic hierarchy of control. (2010/15 m)
- viii. Write short note on Talcott Parson idea of ‘moving equilibrium’. (2009/20m)
- ix. Write short note: Talcott Parson’s concept of social system. (2007/20 m)
- x. Bring out comparative analysis of Marxian and Parsonian views of social change and examine the relevance of each view for social development in the contemporary India. (2004/60 m)
- xi. Write short note on social system and pattern variables. (2003/20 m)



II. Pattern Variable

- i. Analyse the relevance of “pattern variable” in the study of social change. (2020/10 m)
- ii. Critically analyse Talcott parson’s conception of ‘pattern variables. (2017/10m)

- iii. Write short note on following, keeping sociological perspective in view
Universalism vs Particularism. (2012/10 m)
- iv. Write short note: Relevance of pattern variables in the study of social change.
(2008/20 m)

4.4 Robert k. Merton (1910-2003)

I. Functionalism, Latent and Manifest functions

- i. what are reactions of R.K Merton to the functionalism of social anthropologists? Bring out the limitations of latent functions. (2020/20 m)
- ii. what, according to Merton, is the difference between 'unanticipated consequences' and 'latent functions'? Give examples to elaborate. (2019/10m)
- iii. Analyse the manifest and latent functions of 'security of the tenure of the bureaucrats' in the light of Merton's theory. (2016/20 m)
- iv. Using Merton's concept of 'latent' and 'manifest' functions, explain the persistence of corruption in Indian society. (2014/10 m)
- v. Write short note: Robert Merton's views on manifest and latent functions. (2007/20 m)
- vi. What are the reactions of Robert Merton to the functionalism pioneered by social anthropologists? Indicate the limitations of his idea of latent functions. (2006/60 m).



II. Conformity and deviance

- i. Critically examine how Durkheim and Merton explicate Anomie. (2022/20 m)
- ii. With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K Merton. (2021/10 m)
- iii. How according to Merton, are deviant subcultures generated? (2019/20 m)
- iv. What is the difference between anomie in Merton and Durkheim? Explain. (2018/10 m)
- v. "Anomie is rooted in social structure." Explain with reference to R.K Merton's contribution. (2015/10 m)
- vi. How could one use Merton's concept of deviance to understand the traffic problem in urban India? (2014/10 m)
- vii. To Merton deviant behaviour is a result of anomie. Analyse his sociological theory of deviant behaviour, with a special reference to his formulation of types of deviance. (2009/60 m)
- viii. What is Merton's view of relationship between social structure and deviance? In what sense is a deviant also a conformist? (2008/60 m)

- ix. Critically analyse the concept of anomie. Elaborate, with suitable examples the theoretical relationships between nature of anomie and types of social deviations as have been formulated by R.K Merton. (2003/60 m)

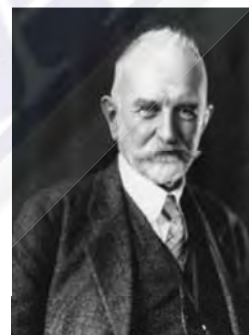
III. Reference groups.

- i. Can Merton's reference group theory be relevant in understanding 'identity making' in digital world? (2025/10m)
- ii. Is reference group theory a universally applicable model? Elucidate. (2023/ 10m)
- iii. How can we use reference group theory to understand fashion in society? (2014/10 m)
- iv. Write short note: primary and reference groups. (2003/20 m)

G.H Mead (1863-1931)

Self and identity

- i. Explain G.H. Mead's idea of development of 'self' through the 'generalised other'. (2024/10m)
- ii. According to Mead, the idea of self develops when the individual becomes self-conscious. Explain (2022/20 m)
- iii. According to Mead, "we play a key role in our own socialisation". (2019/20 m)
- iv. Do you think 'I' and 'Me' are central terms in Mead's work? (2015/10 m)
- v. "Self and society are twin-born". Examine the statement of Mead. (2015/10 m)
- vi. Using Mead's theory of symbolic interactionism, discuss the stages in the formation of gender identity. (2014/10 m)
- vii. Critically analyse the contributions of G.H Mead to 'symbolic interactionism'. (2013/20 m)
- viii. Critically analyse the contributions of G.H Mead to 'symbolic interactionism'. (2010/30 m)
- ix. Write short note: Mead's notion of self. (2008/20 m)



CHAPTER 5: STRATIFICATION AND MOBILITY

I. Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation

- i. Compare capability deprivation approach with that of social capital deprivation in understanding chronic poverty. (2025/20m)
- ii. How is poverty a form of social exclusion? Illustrate in this connection the different dimension of poverty & social exclusion. (2023/ 20m)
- iii. How hierarchy and exclusion the major impediments in the transformation of societies? Discuss. (2020/20m)

- iv. What is affirmative action? Substantiate theoretical positions on affirmative actions with examples. (2019/10 m)
- v. What is 'social security'? Examine recent security measures adopted by the Government of India. (2019/10 m)
- vi. what is the difference between natural and social inequality? Give examples from caste and class dimensions. (2018/10 m)
- vii. can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living'? Elaborate your answer. (2017/10 m)
- viii. what according to you, are the two fundamental axes of social discrimination in Indian society? Are they changing? (2017/20 m).
- ix. Discuss the relationship between 'poverty' and 'social exclusion'. (2016/10 m)
- x. Distinguish between people being socially excluded and people excluding themselves socially in societies. (2013/10 m)

II. Theories of social stratification – structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory

- i. Does the structural functionalist perspective on social stratification promote a status quo? Give reasons for your answer. (2025/10m)
- ii. Explain Max Weber's theory of social stratification. How does Weber's idea of class differ from that of Marx? (2023/20 m)
- iii. Social stratification is claimed to contribute to the maintenance of social order and stability in society. Critically assess. (2022/20 m)
- iv. Critically examine max weber's theory of social stratification. (2021/10 m)
- v. Davis and Moore made it clear that social stratification is a functional necessity and also an unconscious device. Discuss. (2019/ 10 m)
- vi. Compare and contrast the contributions of Marx and Weber on social stratification in capitalist society. (2019/20 m)
- vii. Evaluate if stratification is functional for society. (2018/10 m)
- viii. What is Weberian critique of Marxist notion of social stratification? (2017/20 m)
- ix. Elucidate the basic premises of Davis' structural-functional theory of social stratification. How far is it relevant in understanding contemporary Indian society? (2016/20 m)
- x. Differentiate between Marxian and Weberian theories of social stratification? (2015/20 m)
- xi. Critically examine the functionalist tradition in sociology. (2013/20 m)
- xii. How do Karl Marx and Max Weber differ in terms of their analysis of social stratification? (2013/20 m)

III. Dimensions- social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.

- i. Is the social stratification theory gender-blind? Elucidate (2025/10m)
- ii. Analyse the changing nature of caste as a status group. (2024/10m)
- iii. Do you think that the boundary line between ethnicity and race is blurred? Justify your answer. (2023/10 m)
- iv. How do sociologists construct gender in their analysis on social inequality? (2022/10 m)

- v. Modernisation presupposes class society; however, caste, ethnicity and race are still predominant. Explain (2019/20 m)
- vi. Why is gender a dimension of social stratification? How does gender intersect other dimensions of inequality based on caste, class, race and ethnicity? (2019/20 m)
- vii. Present a sociological review on the 'new middle-class'. (2019/10 m)
- viii. Difference between 'Life-chances' and 'Life-style' with suitable examples. (2019/10 m)
- ix. Examine gender, ethnicity and race as major dimensions of social stratification? (2017/20 m)
- x. What do you understand by gender? How does it shape 'male identity'? (2014/20 m)
- xi. "According to Max Weber, 'class' and 'status' are two different dimensions of power." Discuss (2014/20 m)
- xii. For Marx class division are outcomes of 'exploitation'. Discuss (2014/10 m)
- xiii. Analyse the gender bias in the present society with examples. (2013/10 m)

IV. Social mobility – open and close systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

- i. What is social mobility ? Critically examine the classification of 'closed' and 'open' models of social stratification (2024/10m)
- ii. Discuss social mobility in open and closed system. (2022/10 m)
- iii. Examine the concept of social mobility. Describe with suitable illustrations how education and social mobility are related to each other. (2021/20 m)
- iv. Critically assess social mobility in closed and open systems. (2020/10 m)
- v. Is social mobility possible in closed system of stratification? Illustrate from research work. (2018/10 m)
- vi. "Vertical mobility brings structural change even in a closed social system." Comment. (2016/10 m)
- vii. "No society can either be absolutely open or absolutely closed". Comment. (2015/10 m)
- viii. How are open and closed system of stratification undergoing transformation in the emergence of new hierarchical social order in societies? (2013/20 m)

CHAPTER 6: WORKS AND ECONOMIC LIFE

I. Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial/capitalist society.

- i. Describe the differing principles of work organization in feudal and capitalist societies. (2024/10m)
- ii. Explain the implication of feminization of work in the developing societies. (2022/10 m)
- iii. Discuss the nature of social organisation of work in capitalist society with reference to the 'limits of the working day'. (2018/20 m)
- iv. Trace the changing nature of organisation of work in capitalist society over the years. (2017/20 m)

- v. Describe the nature of social organisation of work in industrial society. (2016/10 m)
- vi. Distinguish between social organisation of work in feudal society and in capitalist society. (2015/10 m)
- vii. What are distinctive features of social organization of work in slave society? How is it different from feudal society? (2014/10 m)

II. Formal and informal organization of work

- i. Do you think that the formal workspaces are free of gender bias? (2025/10m)
- ii. Critically analyze the sociological significance of informal sector in the economy of developing societies (2025/10m)
- iii. Critically assess the impact of technological advancement & automation on the nature of work and employment. (2024/10m)
- iv. Explain how economic globalization has brought changes in the patterns of employment in the 21st century (2023/20m)
- v. How has the idea of 'Work from Home' forced us to redefine the formal and informal organisation of work? (2021/20 m)
- vi. Explain the emerging challenges in establishing gender equality in the informal sector. (2021/10 m)
- vii. Capitalism has brought increasing informalisation of work in society. Substantiate your answer. (2020/20 m)
- viii. What is informal labour? Discuss the need for and challenges in regulating informal labour in the post-industrial society. (2019/20 m)
- ix. What do you understand by 'informalisation of labour'? write your answer with special reference to India. (2017/10 m)
- x. "Globalisation has pushed the labour into informal organization of work". Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (2016/20 m)
- xi. The increasing importance of the tertiary sector has weakened the formal organization of work in recent times. Examine the statement. (2015/20 m)
- xii. What is formal organisation? "The growth of bureaucracy has resulted in extreme concentration of power at larger levels of social organisation". Discuss. (2011/20 m)

III. Labour and society

- i. Define the concept of 'gig' economy and discuss its impact on labor market & workers' social security net. (2024/20m)
- ii. Elucidate the main problems and challenges faced by migrant labourers in the recent 'lockdown period'. (2021/20 m)
- iii. Discuss the new labour codes and their impact on formal and informal labour in India. (2020/20 m)
- iv. What is labour commitment? Discuss it with reference to studies of manufacturing industries. (2018/ 20 m)
- v. Examine the social impact of globalisation on labour and society. (2013/20 m).
- vi. Write short note on Human relations School of thought by Elton Mayo as a social organisation of work process in industry. (2010/15)

CHAPTER 7: POLITICS AND SOCIETY

I. Sociological theories of power.

- i. What would you identify as the similarities and differences in the elite theories of Mosca, Michels and Pareto? Discuss their main/critical issues. (2025/20m)
- ii. Discuss the dimensions of power in the construction and maintenance of social hierarchies in a society (2024/10m)
- iii. What, according to Robert Michels, is the Iron law of oligarchy? Do lions and foxes in Vilfred Pareto's theory, essentially differ from each other? Substantiate (2023/20 m)
- iv. What are the theoretical models of societal power? Which one of them is most applicable in advanced industrial societies? (2019/20 m)
- v. Critically examine the relevance of Vilfred Pareto's theory of circulation of elites in the present scenario. (2021/10 m)
- vi. Discuss the concept of circulation of elite. (2019/10 m)
- vii. What according to Pareto, are the basic characteristics of elites? Discuss. (2018/10 m)
- viii. "Power is not a zero-sum game". Discuss with reference to Weber's and Parson's views. (2014/20 m)

II. Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure group, and political parties.

- i. Are pressure groups a threat to or a necessary element of democracy? Explain with suitable illustrations. (2025/20m)
- ii. Illustrate with examples the role of pressure groups in the formulation of social policies. (2022/10 m)
- iii. Explain how political parties and pressure groups are dialectically related to each other in terms of achieving their goals. (2021/ 20 m)
- iv. According to Mills, "Elites rule in institutional terms rather than psychological terms". Comment. (2020/20 m)
- v. Examine the dynamics of pressure groups in multi-party-political system. (2017/20 m)
- vi. Discuss the importance of 'power elite' in democracy. (2016/10 m)
- vii. Distinguish between political parties and pressure groups. (2014/10 m)
- viii. Examine the role of pressure groups in parliamentary democracy? (2013/10 m)

III. Nations, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.

- i. How do Civil society organisations such as NGOs and Self help groups contribute to grassroot level social change? Discuss. (2025/20m)
- ii. How does a multicultural society accommodate diversities of all kinds- ethnic, linguistic, and religious? Discuss its major challenges. (2024/20m)
- iii. Democracy needs a vibrant culture of civil society in order to strengthen its foundation of citizenship. Comment (2024/10m)
- iv. How is civil society useful in deepening the roots of democracy? (2023/10m)

- v. Analyse the nature of transition from ideology to identity politics in India. (2022/20 m).
- vi. Highlight the roles and functions of civil society in a democratic system. (2021/10 m).
- vii. Explain democracy as an order of society. What are the factors preventing peoples' participation in politics? (2020/10 m)
- viii. What is civil society? Present a note on civil society engagement with science and technology policy in India. (2019/10 m)
- ix. How is terrorism a new form of asymmetrical warfare? What are some of the challenges in trying to win the war on terrorism? (2019/10 m)
- x. Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independence India. (2017/10 m)
- xi. "Ideology is crucial for social transformation in a democracy". Discuss. (2015/10 m)
- xii. Caste ideology appears to have strengthened democracy. Comment. (2015/10 m)
- xiii. Discuss T.H Marshall's views on citizenship. (2014/10 m)
- xiv. Evaluate how do civil society and democracy mutually reinforce each other. (2013/20 m)
- xv. Critically examine the role of civil society in democracy. (2013/10 m)

IV. Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

- i. How can you assess the significance of social movements in the digital era? Explain (2025/10m)
- ii. Underline the role of social media in contemporary social movements and describe its challenges. (2024/20m)
- iii. Do you think that the social media has brought significant changes in the forms of protest? Argue your case. (2023/20 m)
- iv. Discuss how 'environmentalism' can be explained with new social movements approach. (2022/20 m)
- v. Examine how social movements come to an end. Illustrate with examples. (2020/10 m)
- vi. How is terrorism a new form of asymmetrical warfare? What are some of the challenges in trying to win the war on terrorism? (2019/10m)
- vii. Do you agree that social movements are caused by opportunity structures that are generated by media? Why? (2019/10 m)
- viii. Are social movements primordial in means and progressive in agenda? (2018/10 m)
- ix. What is new in 'new social movements? Elaborate your answer with special reference to India. (2017/20 m)
- x. Examine the role of protest movements in changing the status of Dalits in India. (2016/10 m)

- xi. To what extent revolution replaces the existing order of society? Discuss. (2016/10 m)
- xii. Explain the conditions under which a collective action transforms into a social movement. (2015/20 m)
- xiii. What do you understand by social movement? How has the mobilization by schedule castes helped them in constructing new Identity? (2014/10 m)
- xiv. Define social-movement. Elucidate the role of reformists in social change. (2013/10 m)

CHAPTER 8: RELIGION AND SOCIETY

***I.* Sociological theories of religion**

- i. How do theories of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? Explain. (2025/20m)
- ii. What functions does religion perform in a pluralistic society? (2023/10m)
- iii. Are the world religions patriarchal? Substantiate your answer with examples. (2019/10m)
- iv. Give an assessment of Durkheimian notice of 'Sacred' and 'profane' in sociology of religion. (2017/10 m)
- v. How is Durkheim's theory of religion different from Max Weber's theory of religion. (2016/20 m)

***II.* Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.**

- i. How do you understand the phenomena of the mushrooming of sects & cults in contemporary society? Discuss the factors responsible for the trend (2024/20m)
- ii. Discuss the concept of animism and differentiate it from naturism. (2024/10m)
- iii. What are new religious movements? Elaborate emphasising their forms and orientations. (2023/20m)
- iv. Highlight the differences and similarities between totemism and animism. (2023/10 m)
- v. Critically compare views of E.B Tylor and Max muller on Religion. (2021/10 m)
- vi. What is cult? Explain the growth of cults in the contemporary world. (2021/10 m)
- vii. State the reasons for various religious beliefs and practices in pre-modern societies. (2020/10 m)
- viii. What are sects? Discuss their role in multi-religious societies with empirical examples. (2018/20 m)
- ix. Elaborate on various types of religious practices prevalent in Indian society. (2017/10 m)
- x. Distinguish between sects and cults with illustrations. (2015/10 m)

III. Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism

- i. What is the nature of relationship between science and religion in modern society? Analyze with suitable examples (2025/10m)
- ii. Do modernization and secularization necessarily go together? Give your views (2024/20m)
- iii. Write a note on global trends of secularization. (2022/10 m)
- iv. Give your comments on the growth of religious revivalism in the present-day context. (2021/10 m)
- v. Discuss the challenges thrown by religious revivalism to a secular nation-state. (2018/10 m)
- vi. Problematised the concept of secularism in the present context. (2017/10 m)
- vii. Is religion playing an important role in increasing fundamentalism? Give reason for your answer. (2016/10 m)
- viii. "Religious pluralism is the order of present-day societies." Explain by giving suitable examples. (2016/20 m)
- ix. Define secularisation. What are its major dimensions in the modern world? (2015/20 m)
- x. How is religious revivalism different from communalism? Elaborate with suitable examples from the Indian context. (2014/20 m)
- xi. "Science has empirical means to logical ends and religion has non-empirical means to logical ends." (2013/10 m)
- xii. Is religion antithetical to science? Comment. (2013/10 m)

CHAPTER 9: SYSTEM OF KINSHIP

I. Family, household and marriage.

- i. What are the basic and irreducible functions of the family as proposed by Talcott Parsons? Explain (2024/10m)
- ii. Analyze critically David Morgan's views on family practices. (2023/10m)
- iii. Discuss various theoretical perspective on family. (2022/10 m)
- iv. Discuss the consequences of across region marriage on kinship system in modern Indian society. (2020/10 m)
- v. Does the institution of marriage continue to be sacred in Indian society? (2020/10 m)
- vi. What, according to Irawati Karve, are the major differences between North Indian and South Indian Kinship Systems? (2019/10 m)
- vii. Distinguish between family and household with reference to the concept of development of the household. (2018/20 m)
- viii. Discuss the regional variations of kinship system in Indian system. (2017/20 m)

- ix. Distinguish between family and household as a sociological concept. (2016/10 m)
- x. Critically examine the functionalist view on the institution of family. How do those help us in understanding family in the present times? (2014/20 m)
- xi. How did the emergence of industrial society change the family life in Western Europe? (2014/10 m)
- xii. Examine the emerging trends in marriage and family as a response to the charges in economic and social order. (2013/20 m)

II. Types and forms of family.

- i. What are the new forms of family in developed societies? Discuss. (2018/10 m)

III. Lineage and descent.

- i. How do the rules of descent and alliance in kinship differ from each other? Illustrate. (2015/10 m)

IV. Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.

- i. What do you understand by gender based domestic division of labor? Is it undergoing a change in the wake of increasing participation of women in formal employment? Clarify your answer with illustrations. (2025/20m)
- ii. How do you understand the relationship between patriarchy and social development? (2022/10m)
- iii. Explain how the pattern of patriarchy is being altered in a family and at the workplace in the present context. (2021/20 m)
- iv. What is the impact of gender division of labour on the development of society? (2020/20 m)
- v. Define patriarchy. How does patriarchy manifest in interpersonal relations? (2018/20 m)
- vi. Examine 'patriarchal bargain' as gendered division of work in contemporary India. (2017/10 m)
- vii. To what extent is patriarchy a cause for the problems of women? Discuss. (2016/10 m)
- viii. Is male authority absent in matrilineal society? Discuss. (2015/10 m)
- ix. Is patriarchy a universal phenomenon? critically examine how does patriarchy affect sexual division of labour in societies. (2013/20 m)

V. Contemporary trends

- i. In what ways does Queer kinship challenge the traditional kinship systems? Substantiate by giving illustrations. (2025/10m)

- ii. Give an account of the recent trends of marriage in the Indian context. How are these different from traditional practices ? (2025/20m)
- iii. Modern families have not just become nuclear and neo-local, but also filiocentric. How do you explain this trend? (2024/20m)
- iv. Marriage as an institution has undergone a radical transformation from 'ritual' to 'commercial' in its outlook. Explain the factors behind this change. (2024/10m)
- v. How do you assess the changing pattern in kinship relations in societies today? (2023/ 20m)
- vi. Discuss the changing nature of kinship relations in the contemporary world. (2021/20 m)
- vii. In the light of Judicial intervention on 'Live-in-relationship', discuss the future of marriage and family in India. (2019/20 m)
- viii. Examine the relationships between the contemporary trends in marriage and changing forms of family. (2017/20 m)
- ix. Discuss the contemporary trends in family as a response to social change in modern society. (2016/20 m)
- x. What do you understand by institutionalisation of 'live-in-relationship'? (2014/10 m)
- xi. Analyse the contemporary trends in family with examples. (2013/10 m)

CHAPTER 10: SOCIAL CHANGE IN MODERN SOCIETY

I. Sociological theories of social change

- i. Discuss various theories of social change. Explain the limitations of unilinear theory of social change. (2024/20m)
- ii. Do you think Talcott Parsons gave an adequate theory of social change? Justify your answer. (2021/10 m)
- iii. How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change? (2020/20 m)
- iv. Does collapse of functionalism and bankruptcy of Marxism coincide with the rupture of modernity? Discuss. (2018/20 m)
- v. Is the theory of cultural lag valid in present times? Discuss. (2018/10 m)
- vi. Examine any two theories of social change in detail. (2017/20 m)
- vii. "Social conflict is both a cause and consequence of social change." Explain. (2016/10 m).
- viii. Explain the relevance of the idea of "cultural lag" in understanding social change. (2015/10 m)
- ix. Examine the dialectical relation between tradition in the study of social change. (2015/20 m)
- x. Critically examine the cultural theories of social change with suitable examples. (2013/20 m)

- xi. Illustrate the conflicts and tensions experienced by societies undergoing social change.
(2013/20 m)

II. Development and dependency

- i. What do you understand by Sustainable development? Discuss the elements of sustainable development as proposed in UNDP's SDG report -2015. (2025/20m)
- ii. Critically examine the World-systems theory of Immanuel Wallerstein in terms of development and dependency of various nations. (2024/10m)
- iii. Assess critically A.G. Frank's 'theory of development of underdevelopment'.
(2023/10m)
- iv. Trace the trajectory of development perspectives on social change.
(2022/20 m)
- v. Critically examine the contribution of dependency theories in understanding the present global scenario. (2021/20 m)
- vi. Technology has accelerated the process of development and dependency. Discuss.
(2020/20 m)
- vii. Critique A.G Frank's development of underdevelopment.' (2019/10 m)
- viii. "Globalisation involves deterritorialization". Examine with reference to the nation-state. (2015/20 m)
- ix. Write a short essay on the Latin American perspective on 'dependency'. (2014/20 m)
- x. Examine the social dimensions of displacement induced by development.
(2013/10 m)

III. Agents of social change

- i. Are traditional social institutions getting weakened as agents of social change in the contemporary society? Substantiate. (2022/10 m)
- ii. Feminist scholars argue that 'New media' is masculine and hence reinforces structural hierarchies rather than reconfiguring them. Comment. (2019/20 m)
- iii. Assess the role of mass media as an agent of social change. (2017/10 m)
- iv. "Social change can be brought through development". Illustrate from the contemporary situation of India. (2016/20 m)

IV. Education and social change

- i. To what extent can education and skill development be an agent of social change? Critically analyze (2025/10m)
- ii. Does women's education help to eradicate patriarchal discrimination? Reflect with Illustrations. (2023/10m)
- iii. According to Durkheim, "the major function of education is the transmission of society's norms and values." Discuss. (2020/20 m)
- iv. Discuss the issues of access and exclusion in higher education in India. (2019/10 m)

- v. Schooling does not ensure upward mobility of all members of the society. Discuss with reference to class societies. (2018/20 m)
- vi. "Education is the major source of social mobility in contemporary society." Explain. (2016/20 m)
- vii. "Education helps in perpetuating social and economic inequalities." Critically examine the statement. (2015/20 m)
- viii. Education is often viewed as an agency of social change. However, in reality it could also reinforce inequalities and conservatism. Discuss. (2014/20 m)

V. Science and technology

- i. Critically examine the roles of science & technology in social change. What is your opinion on their increasing trend in 'online' education & teaching?
- ii. Examine the relevance of corporate social responsibility in a world marked by increasing environmental crises. (2023/10m)
- iii. Examine the role of science & technology in addressing age-old taboos and superstitions. (2023/ 10m)
- iv. Sociologists argue for democratization of science and technology for inclusive development. Comment (2022/20 m)
- v. Describe the role of science and technology in enabling us to face the challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. (2021/20 m)
- vi. Is humanity at the mercy of nature, science and technology? Comment in the light of pandemic situation. (2020/20 m)
- vii. Critically analyse the role of science and technology in bringing about social change. (2017/20 m)
- viii. How is the increasing use of technology changing the status of women in Indian society? (2014/20 m)
- ix. Examine science and technology as agents of social change. (2013/10 m)

SOCIOLOGY- PAPER 2**PART A****INTRODUCING INDIAN SOCIETY**

Perspectives on the study of Indian society-

I. Indology (G.S GHURYE)— (1893-1983)

- i. How would you appropriate to characterise G. S. Ghurye as a practitioner of 'theoretical pluralism'? (2025/10m)
- ii. 'Textual perspective is important in understanding of Indian Social System.' Discuss. (2025/10m)
- iii. Differentiate between 'Western' and 'Indological' perspectives on the study of Indian society. Bring out the major aspects of G.S. Ghurye's contribution to 'Indological approach' (2024/20m)
- iv. Critically examine G.S Ghurye's Indological approach to the understanding of Indian society. (2022/20 m)
- v. Colonial administrators helped to construct the very traditionalism which marked the Indian society as 'backward'. Comment critically. (2020/20 m)
- vi. Write a note on G.S Ghurye's Indological perspective of understanding Indian society. (2018/10 m)
- vii. write a short note on G.S Ghurye's Indological approach of understanding Indian society in India. (2014/10 m)
- viii. Write a short note on Indological perspective of G.S Ghurye. (2009/20 m)

**II. Structural Functionalism (M.N Srinivas) ---- (1916-99)**

- i. Elaborate on M.N Srinivas's structural-functional approach to the study of Indian society. (2022/10 m)
- ii. Elaborate Srinivas's views on religion and society among the Coorgs. (2019/10 m)
- iii. Write a critique of the structural and functional perspective used by M.N Srinivas in the understanding of Indian society. (2017/10 m)
- iv. Write Short note: M.N Srinivas's concept of Westernisation. (2013/10 m)
- v. How far is the structural functional perspective helpful in understanding changes in contemporary Indian society? (2010/30 m)



- vi. What are the main principles of the structural-functional perspective? Comment on the suitability of applying this perspective to the study of Indian society. (2009/60 m)

III. Marxist Sociology (A.R Desai) ---- (1915-94)

- i. Do you think that new economic reforms of British rule have disrupted the old economic system of India? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (2025/20m)
- ii. Highlight the significant features of A.R. Desai's 'Dialectical perspective' to study Indian society (2023/10m)
- iii. Elaborate A.R Desai's perspective to the study of Indian society. (2020/10 m)
- iv. Analyse A.R Desai's views on India's path of development. (2018/20 m)
- v. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Salient features of A.R Desai's Marxist Sociology. (2016/10 m)



IV. Sub-altern perspective (Ranjit Guha, B.R Ambedkar, David Hardiman, James Scott etc.)

Give an account of Ranjit Guha's approach in studying 'subaltern class'. (2019/10 m).

V. Feminist perspective (Leela Dube, Uma Chakrabarti, Bina Agarwal, Vandana Shiva etc...)

1. Explain Leela Dube's concept of 'Seed & Earth' (2022/10m)

VI. Civilizational perspective (McKimm Marriot, Milton Singer, Robert Redcliffe etc...)

- i. Write short note on the following with sociological perspective: Interaction of 'Little Tradition' and 'Great Tradition'. (2012/12 m)
- ii. How do little tradition and great tradition coexist in contemporary Indian society. (2022/10 m)

CHAPTER 2: IMPACT OF COLONIAL RULE ON INDIAN SOCIETY

I. Social background of Indian Nationalism

- i. Examine social background of growth of Indian nationalism. (2022/20 m)
- ii. Discuss Marxist approach to the analysis of Indian Nationalism. (2015/20 m)
- iii. Discuss the social background of Indian nationalism. (2014/20 m)
- iv. Write a short note: A.R Desai's Characterization of leadership of Indian freedom movement. (2010/20 m)
- v. How has the Marxist perspective been applied to explain social background of Indian Nationalism? (2008/60 m)

II. Modernization of Indian tradition

- i. Do you think that in a society like India orthogenetic changes take place through differentiation? Do you observe continuities in the orthogenetic process ? Elaborate your answer with suitable examples.(2025/20m)
- ii. Justify that the Indian traditions are modernizing. Also discuss its contributing factors.(2025/10m)
- iii. Are tradition and modernity antithetical to each other? Comment (2023/10 m)
- iv. Critically examine Yogendra Singh's thesis on 'Modernisation of Indian tradition'. (2022/20 m)
- v. Discuss in detail the major contribution of Yogendra Singh in theorizing India's modernization. (2021/20 m)
- vi. Discuss Yogendra Singh's thesis on Modernisation Indian tradition and evaluate it's applicability in the present day context. (2017/20 m)
- vii. Discuss the paradigm of modernization of Indian tradition in analysing social change in India. (2015/20 m)
- viii. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: modernisation of Indian tradition. (2014/10 m)
- ix. Comment critically on the heterogenic features that influenced Indian tradition, according to Yogendra Singh. (2010/20 m)
- x. How do you differentiate between social change and modernization? Explain with examples from Indian society. (2008/60 m)

III. Protests and movements during the colonial period.

- i. Highlight the major contribution of reform movements in pre-Independent India (2024/20m)
- ii. Examine sociological dynamics of Champaran peasant movement in colonial India. (2018/20 m)
- iii. The main objectives of socio-religious movements during the colonial rule in India were reforming and synthesising Hinduism. Write on any two such important movements. (2017/20 m)
- iv. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Anti-Brahmanical movements during the colonial period. (2016/10 m)

- v. Analyse Gandhi as a moralist, ascetic and man of action through his Hind Swaraj. (2015/20 m)

IV. Social reforms

- i. According to you, which social reform movement has played the most effective role in uplifting the status of women? Explain. (2025/10m)
- ii. Banning practice of 'sati' is attributed to annihilation of a major social evil in colonial India". Comment (2020/10 m)
- iii. Do you think that the Indian saints have brought about social reform and awareness in Indian Society? Explain. (2019/10 m)
- iv. Write a short note with a sociological perspective: Jyotiba Phule as an agrarian radical. (2015/10 m)
- v. How have social reform movements in colonial India contributed to modernization of Indian society? (2012/20 m)
- vi. Write short note on colonial hangover and its social impact. (2009/20 m)

PART B:

CHAPTER 3: RURAL AND AGRARIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

I. The idea of Indian village and village studies.

- i. Who is said to be the pioneer of village studies in India? Illustratively describe contributions of some Indian sociologists on village studies. How their approaches are distinct from each other? (2025/20m)
- ii. Do you agree with the view of Andre Beteille that India's villages are representative of Indian society's basic civilizational values? Present a sociological overview (2023/20 m)
- iii. "The decade of 1950s was the golden period of village studies in Indian Sociology". Explain the statement (2023/10 m).
- iv. Discuss the challenges during village studies in India. (2022/10 m)
- v. Critically examine briefly the phrase "Little republics" as used to denote India's villages. (2021/10 m)
- vi. Examine the factors responsible for the rural unrest in contemporary India. (2021/20 m)
- vii. "Indian rural society is a faction-ridden society". Discuss. (2020/10 m)
- viii. Critically examine SC Dube's contributions to the study of Indian villages. (2019/20 m)
- ix. Give a critical analysis of Andre Beteille study of Tanjore village. (2018/10 m)
- x. Write short notes: significance of village studies in Indian sociology. (2016/10 m)

II. Agrarian social structure- evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

- i. 'The transfer of land from cultivating to the non-cultivating owners is bringing about transformation in Indian society.' Justify your answer by giving suitable illustrations. (2025/10m)
- ii. Discuss the main features of Land reforms in post-independence India (2023/10 m)
- iii. Explain how land reforms brought about desired agrarian transformation. (2022/20 m)
- iv. Examine the changing initiatives of the land tenure systems in India. (2019/10 m)
- v. Analyse the major components of Land Reforms Act. Show their effectiveness in curbing rural inequality. (2016/10 m)
- vi. Describe the impact of land reforms on the peasants of Indian society. (2014/20 m)
- vii. What is the idea of 'Indian village'? Explain (2014/10 m)

CHAPTER 4: CASTE SYSTEM

I. PERSPECTIVE ON THE STUDY OF CASTE SYSTEMS:

MN Srinivas

- i. Critically examine the concept of Sanskritization with suitable illustrations (2023/10 m)
- ii. Caste system studies in India have been dominated by the "book-view" initially. How did the entry of "field view" bring about a balance in the study of Indian caste system? Discuss (2021/10 m)
- iii. How far Srinivas Sanskritization is modernizing force or traditionalizing force in understanding the changes in caste system? (2015/10 m)
- iv. What are the features of M N Srinivas concept of Dominant caste? How effective is it in understanding today's reality? (2013/10 m)
- v. Distinguish between positional change and structural change. (2012/12 m)
- vi. Write short note on the book-view and the field-view in Indian sociology with sociological perspective. (2011/15 m)

GS Ghurye

- i. Write a note on Ghurye's conception of caste in India. (2019/10 m)

Louis Dumont

- i. Contextualize Louis Dumont's concept of 'binary opposition' with reference to caste system in India (2023/20 m)
- ii. How do you justify Dumont's deliberate stress on ideology that produced intellectualized account of Indian society. (2020/10 m)
- iii. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Louis Dumont's perspective on Indian caste system. (2015/10 m)
- iv. Critically evaluate Louis Dumont's Homo Hierarchicus. (2013/20 m)
- v. 'Indian society may be understood as system of cognitive structures. How far do you agree with this statement? (2012/30 m)



Andre Beteille

- i. In the context of the changing Indian society, do you view Andre Beteille's conceptions of harmonic and disharmonic social structures? (2022/10 m)
- ii. Is Indian society moving from "Hierarchy" towards "differentiation"? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. (2021/20 m)
- iii. Discuss Andre Beteille's account of the relationship between caste, class and power as a change from symmetrical to asymmetrical one. (2016/20 m)



how

with

B.R Ambedkar

- i. What does DR. B.R Ambedkar mean by the concept of "Annihilation of caste"? (2021/10 m)
- ii. How has B.R Ambedkar identified the features of caste system? How is it different from the mainstream treatment of caste features? (2016/20 m)
- iii. Discuss B.R Ambedkar as wise Democrat. (2015/20 m)
- iv. What are the main features of DR. B.R Ambedkar's views on annihilation of caste? (2013/20 m)



- i. What do you understand by discrete castes and muddled hierarchies? (2018/20 m)
- ii. Which is more significant, the principle of 'hierarchy' or the principle of 'difference', in inter-caste relations in the present day? (2017/10 m)



II. Features of caste system

- i. What, according to you, are the factors responsible for the continuance of caste system in India? Explain (2024/10m)
- ii. Analyse the difference between the attributional and interactional approach in studying the caste system (2023/10 m)
- iii. elaborate on changing nature of caste system with suitable illustrations. (2022/20 m)
- iv. Indian caste system is unique and has been unhealthy for the growth of sociology of India". How far do you agree with this view? (2020/20 m)
- v. What are the changes in cultural and structural aspects of the caste system since independence. (2017/10 m)
- vi. Is caste system changing, weakening or disintegrating in India? (2015/20 m)
- vii. Write short notes with sociological perspective: Features of caste system. (2014/10 m)
- viii. How do caste and class come together in creating the category of extreme poor? (2014/10m)
- ix. Examine the influence of Industrialization on caste. (2013/15 m)

III. Untouchability- Forms and perspectives

- i. What are the different forms of untouchability still practiced in India? Discuss with suitable illustrations. (2024/10m)
- ii. Explain different forms of untouchability in India. (2022/10 m)
- iii. What are various forms of untouchability in India? Critically examine. (2021/10 m)
- iv. How have the struggles against untouchability changed their forms and perspectives from Gandhian to Ambedkarite positions? (2017/10 m)
- v. Write short notes: how far Gandhi was trusted by the untouchables? (2015/10 m)
- vi. Write some of the important social reforms in India for the removal of untouchability. (2014/10 m)

IV. Caste and Politics

- i. What is caste politics? Substantiate your answer with examples of how identities are defined by caste dynamics. (2019/20 m)

- ii. Has caste system hindered democracy and adult franchise in India? Discuss. (2018/20 m)
- iii. Comment on the increasing significance of caste in politics. (2016/10 m)

V. Caste and Religion

- i. Caste like formations is present in non-Hindu religious communities as well. Discuss with examples. (2021/10 m)
- ii. Write short note: caste among Muslims. (2003/20 m)
- iii. Write short note: caste among Indian Christians. (2000/20 m)

CHAPTER 5: TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN INDIA

I. Definitional problems.

- i. What are the definitional problems involved in identifying tribes in India? Discuss the main obstacles to tribal development in India (2024/20m)
- ii. Explain the definitional problems concerning the tribal communities in India. (2020/10 m)
- iii. Why have we started using another category of tribes called the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)? Why are they so called? (2017/10 m)
- iv. What are the features that distinguish tribes from the rest of the population? (2013/20 m).

II. Geographical spread.

- i. Write short note: Migration and tribal communities. (2004/20 m)

III. Colonial policies and tribes.

- i. How did Colonial Policies for the tribes affected their socio-economic conditions in India? Discuss. (2025/10m)
- ii. Analyze the perspectives of Isolation, Assimilation and Integration in understanding the trajectories of Indian Tribal development (2023/20 m).
- iii. Examine the colonial policy of segregation of tribes under the government of India Act, 1935. (2020/20 m)
- iv. Write short note with a sociological perspective: 'isolationism' as a dominant feature of colonial tribal policy. (2016/10 m)
- v. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Main objective of Tribal sub plan (TSP). (2015/10 m)
- vi. How does the new forest Act affect tribals? (2013/10 m)

IV. *Issues of integration and autonomy.*

- i. Elucidate the challenges of integration for tribal communities in India. (2022/10 m).
- ii. Discuss the main features of the debate between G.S Ghurye and V. Elwin on tribal development. (2021/20 m)
- iii. Comment on the growing assertion of tribal community for autonomy in India. (2019/10 m)
- iv. What is ethno-nationalism? Examine the critical factors responsible for tribal discontent in India. (2019/20 m)
- v. What is the nature of religious change among tribal communities? Illustrate with two examples from colonial and post-independence times. (2017/20 m)
- vi. How is tribal question related with the issues of integration and autonomy in modern India? (2016/20 m)
- vii. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Verrier Elwin's views on freedom for the tribals. (2015/10 m)
- viii. Analyse the different views on integration and autonomy of tribes in India. (2014/20 m)
- ix. Write a note on ethnicity and integration in the context of tribes. (2013/20 m)

CHAPTER 6: SOCIAL CLASSES IN INDIA

I. Agrarian class structure

- i. 'Agrarian class structure has been undergoing changes due to modern forces.' Critically examine. (2025/20m)
- ii. What, according to Andre Beteille, are the bases of agrarian class structure in India? Analyze. (2024/10m)
- iii. Explain the implications and the impact of globalization in situating the changing agrarian class structure in India (2023/20 m).
- iv. Do you agree that the agrarian class structure in India is changing? Justify your answer with illustrations. (2022/10 m)
- v. Write short note with sociological perspective: classes in agrarian society in India. (2013/10 m)
- vi. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Andre Beteille's definition of Class. (2013/10 m)

II. Industrial class structure

- i. "Industrial class structure is a function of social structure of Indian society." Do you agree with this statement? Analyze (2025/20m)
- ii. Discuss the changes taking place in the Industrial class structure in India (2024/10m)
- iii. Write short note: Industrial class structure. (1997/20 m)

III. Middle classes in India

- i. Describe the main features of Indian new middle class. How is it different from the old middle class? (2025/10m)
- ii. Elaborate the salient features and the role of middle class in India's democracy and development (2023/20 m)
- iii. Discuss the salient features of 'new middle classes' in India. (2021/10 m)
- iv. How does Andre Beteille justify 'middle class in India'? (2020/10m)
- v. Write a note on the changing roles of middle-class women in India. (2018/10 m)
- vi. How has New Economic Policy (1991) affected the lifestyle and life-chances of new middle class in India? (2018/20 m)
- vii. What accounts for growth and consolidation of middle classes in modern India. Elucidate. (2016/10 m)
- viii. Discuss the status of women among the emerging urban middle class. (2014/20 m).
- ix. Discuss the salient features of Indian middle class. (2013/15 m)

CHAPTER 7: SYSTEM OF KINSHIP IN INDIA

I. Lineage and descent in India

- i. Discuss the conceptual issues about lineage and descent in India. Give suitable illustrations. (2020/20 m)

II. Types of kinship systems.

- i. What is kinship? Briefly explain G. P. Murdock's contribution to the study of the kinship system. (2025/10m)
- ii. Define the concepts of 'Descent' and 'Alliance'. Differentiate between North Indian and South Indian Kinship systems with examples (2023/20 m)
- iii. Discuss different form of kinship system in India. (2021/10 m)
- iv. Compare the north Indian kinship system with the south Indian kinship system. (2017/10 m)
- v. Broadly compare the kinship system of North and South India. (2015/10 m)

- vi. Write a short note on: Types of kinship systems in India. (2014/10 m)

III. Family and marriage in India

- i. Why is the study of marriage important in sociology? Analyze the implications of changing marriage patterns for Indian society. (2024/20m)
- ii. Do you think that family bondings are being affected by the changing kinship patterns in India? Comment (2024/10m)
- iii. Analyze the role of market and modern forces in understanding the changing trends in marriage systems in India (2023/10 m)
- iv. Discuss the changing dimensions of family structure in urban India. (2021/10 m)
- v. What do you understand by LGBTQ? Comment on the issues concerning their marriage rights. (2019/10 m)
- vi. Illustrate the importance of 'Kanyadan' and 'Kulabadhu' in changing institutions of marriage and family. (2018/10 m)
- vii. Examine the impact of industrialization and urbanization on family structure. (2016/20 m)
- viii. Give some important studies relating to the structural changes in the Indian family system. (2015/20 m)

IV. Household dimensions of the family

- i. Analyse household dimensions of family in India. (2020/20 m)
- ii. Clarify the distinction between 'Household' and 'Family' and evaluate whether joint families have completely disintegrated. (2017/20 m)
- iii. Bring out the significance of the difference between family and household. (2016/20 m)

V. Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour

- i. Is patriarchy a key to understanding different forms of inequalities in Indian society? Elaborate. (2024/10m)
- ii. Explain the thematic linkages between 'Patriarchy' and 'Honor Killing' in India, citing some recent cases (2023/20 m).
- iii. Explain Leela Dube's concept of "seed and Earth". (2022/10 m)
- iv. Discuss the material basis of patriarchy as an ideological system. (2021/10 m)
- v. Define patriarchy. Does it have bearings on women's entitlement in Indian family? Explain. (2019/20 m)
- vi. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Patriarchy as a form of dominance. (2016/10 m)
- vii. What is patriarchy? How does it affect the child socialization pattern in India? (2015/20 m)

- viii. Define patriarchy. How does it impact the overall entitlement of a girl child in India?
(2014/10 m)

R 8: RELIGION AND SOCIETY

I. Religious communities in India.

- i. How do religious communities contribute to the cultural diversity of India?
(2024/20m)
- ii. Examine the concept of 'Cultural Pluralism' in the context of India's Unity in Diversity (2023/10 m).
- iii. Write a note on 'cultural pluralism' in multi religious society like India. (2020/10 m)
- iv. Discuss the growth of religious sects in India. (2018/10 m)
- v. What are the distinct features of Islam as practised in India, and how have they changed over time? (2017/10 m)
- vi. What are the basic tenets of Hindu religion? Is Hinduism based on monotheism or polytheism? (2015/20 m)
- vii. Describe the major aspects of traditional Hindu Social organizations. How far are they relevant for present day Indian society. (2006/60 m)

II. Problems of religious minorities.

- i. Discuss the problems of religious minorities in India and suggest measures to solve them.
(2022/10 m)
- ii. How do you understand the 'minority' question? Examine the violence and discrimination against the religious minorities in India. (2019/20 m)
- iii. Write a critical narrative on the concern of religious minorities in India. (2018/20 m)
- iv. Assess the impact of ban on 'Triple Talaq' on marriage and divorce among the Muslim community in India. (2018/10 m).
- v. Elucidate the concepts of 'majoritarianism' and 'minoritarianism' in accentuating communal tensions in India. (2016/20 m)
- vi. What are the major concerns of ethnic identity and religious identity in India? (2015/20 m)
- vii. Discuss the problems of religious minorities in India. (2014/20 m)

PART C: SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA

CHAPTER 9: VISIONS OF SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA

I. Idea of development planning and mixed economy

- i. Critically examine the relevance of developmental planning in India (2024/10m)
- ii. Analyse the idea of developmental planning in India. (2021/10 m)
- iii. Discuss in detail the main issues of development planning in mixed economy like India? (2020/20 m)
- iv. How can skill development programme induce social change? Illustrate. (2020/10 m)
- v. Examine the importance of development planning in India mixed economy and analyse its problems and prospects. (2019/20 m)
- vi. Do you think that 'demonetization' has accelerated the economic growth in India? How do you understand the informalization of labour, underemployment and gender discrimination in this context? (2019/20 m)
- vii. Write short note with sociological perspective: Five-year plans. (2013/10 m)

II. Constitution, Law and social change

- i. In what respects have the constitutional provisions changed the socio-economic and political conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India? Critically examine. (2025/20m)
- ii. Discuss law as an important instrument for women's empowerment. (2022/10 m)
- iii. Elaborate the concept of constitutional morality as given by B.R Ambedkar. (2018/10 m)
- iv. Write a brief note on freedom of press. (2015/10 m)

III. Education and social change

- i. "Educational development is the only Panacea for country's all ills and evils." Critically examine the above statement with reference to NEP-2020. (2025/20m)
- ii. Education is a key to social development. Elucidate. (2024/10m)
- iii. Highlight the salient features of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 (2023/10 m).
- iv. "Instead of promoting equality in society, the present system of education itself has contributed to increased socio-economic disparities". Comment. (2022/20 m)
- v. Explain the sociological significance of the New Education Policy and its thrust on vocationalization and skill development. (2021/20 m)
- vi. How does the New Education Policy, 2020 aim to eradicate disparities in the system of education in India? (2020/10 m)

- vii. Comment on the critical issues of commercialization of higher education in India. (2019/10 m)
- viii. Assess the role of state in promoting education of girl child. (2018/10 m)
- ix. Write a note on education and equality in India. (2017/10 m)
- x. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Privatization of education and increasing inequalities. (2016/10 m)
- xi. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Empowerment through 'Right to Education' (2016/10 m)
- xii. Write short note: important components of National Education policy in India. (2015/10 m)
- xiii. Write short notes: Impact of privatisation on education disparities. (2014/10 m)
- xiv. Discuss the salient features of Right to education. (2013/15 m)

CHAPTER 10: RURAL AND AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA.

I. Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, Cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.

- i. Discuss the challenges faced by the cooperative movements in India. Suggest measures to strengthen the movement at the grass-roots level (2023/20 m)
- ii. What role do co-operatives play in poverty alleviation in rural India? (2022/10 m)
- iii. Comment on the role of co-operatives in rural development. (2021/10 m).
- iv. Do you think MSP (Minimum Support Price) scheme for agricultural produce can help in rural development? Elaborate your response with suitable examples. (2020/20 m)
- v. Discuss the challenges in implementing the Rural Development Programmes in India. (2019/10 m)
- vi. Write short note with a sociological perspective: MGNREGA for rural Development. (2016/10 m)
- vii. Write a note on the uneven impact of 'Green Revolution' on rural society. (2016/20 m)
- viii. Write short note with a sociological perspective: MGNREGA. (2013/10 m)

II. Green revolution and social change.

- i. Critique the victory narratives of Green revolution in the context of Indian society (2023/10 m).
- ii. Discuss the role of technology in agrarian change in India. (2021/10 m)
- iii. Point out the benefits of 'green chemistry' for agrarian transformation in India. (2020/10 m)

- iv. Highlight the main features of the 'Inter-linking of Rivers' project in India. What could be its probable advantages to Indian agriculture? (2019/20 m)
- v. How do the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission ensure food and nutrition security for the Indian masses? (2018/10 m)
- vi. Has 'Green Revolution' led to the formation of new power elite in rural India? Elaborate your answer. (2018/20 m)
- vii. Write short note with a sociological perspective on Green Revolution. (2013/10 m).

III. Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.

- i. Write a short note on 'changing means of production and increased rural poverty.' (2017/10 m)

IV. Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration

- i. Despite the efforts of the government, bonded labor still continues in India. Discuss (2024/10m)
- ii. Examine whether rural bondage still continues to be a social reality. Give your argument. (2022/20 m)
- iii. Discuss the dynamics of 'migrant workers' in India in the context of corona pandemic. (2020/20 m)
- iv. Bring out the impact of the declining significance of the agrarian economy. (2016/20 m)

CHAPTER 11: INDUSTRIALISATION AND URBANISATION IN INDIA

I. Evolution of modern industry in India.

- i. Bring out various factors responsible for declining of village Industries in India.(2025/10m)
- ii. Is industrial development in India a bane or a boon to agrarian class structure? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (2019/20 m)

II. Growth of urban settlements in India.

- i. Discuss the trend of urbanization in India. Do you think that Industrialization is the only precondition of urbanization? Give you arguments.(2025/20m)
- ii. Examine with suitable examples the recent trends in the growth of urban settlements in India (2024/10m)

- iii. Describe the phenomenon of rural-urban continuum with suitable examples (2023/10 m)
- iv. Urban settlements in India tend to replicate its rural caste-kinship imprints. Discuss the main reasons. (2021/20 m)
- v. Elaborate the causes, consequences and other concerns of growth of urban settlements in India. (2020/20 m)
- vi. Elaborate urbanism as a way of life in India. (2019/10 m)
- vii. Elucidate the concerns of growing urban displacement dynamism in India. (2019/10 m)
- viii. How do you relate the growing development of metropolis and its impact on the mental and social life of people in India? (2018/20 m)
- ix. Examine the impact of heritage tourism on urban socio-spatial patterns in India. (2017/20 m)

III. Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.

- i. Discuss the changing nature of industrial working class. (2022/10 m)
- ii. Human development approach affirms that education and health-care growth are more important than economic growth. Discuss this issue in the light of post-liberalized Indian society. (2015/20 m)

IV. Informal sector, child labour

- i. Do you think that law has been able to abolish child labour in India? Comment. (2025/10m)
- ii. What are the major problems faced by the labour migrants while working in informal sectors of Indian States? Discuss. (2025/10m)
- iii. Is there a connection between labour migration and informal sector? Justify your answer with reference to Indian context. (2024/10m)
- iv. What actionable measures would you suggest to curb the recurrent child labor menace in India? (2023/10 m)
- v. How do you view the growth of informal sector in India? (2022/10 m)
- vi. Point out the main causes of 'child labour' in India. How far the state policies have succeeded in its elimination? (2020/10 m)
- vii. Construct a sociological narrative on the increasing trend of child abuse in India. (2018/10 m)
- viii. Discuss the changing nature of the problems of working class in the informal sector of the economy. (2016/20 m)
- ix. Do you agree that the issue of child labour raises questions about and beyond the informal sector? Give reasons. (2017/10 m)
- x. Discuss the changing nature of the problems of working class in the informal sector of the economy. (2016/20 m)
- xi. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Issues relating to the informal labour market in urban India. (2015/10 m)

- xii. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Issues relating to the informal labour market in urban India. (2015/15 m)
- xiii. Discuss the impact of Globalisation on the workers in the informal sector. (2014/10 m)
- xiv. Distinguish between formal and informal sectors in India. (2013/20 m)
- xv. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Child Labour. (2013/10 m)

V. Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

- i. Are slums the manifestations of industrialisation and urbanisation in India ? Explain (2024/10m)
- ii. Discuss different forms of deprivation associated with slums. (2022/10 m)
- iii. Urban slums are sites of social exclusion- explain. (2021/10 m)
- iv. Write a note on Basic services to Urban poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing Slum Development (IHSD) programmes provided for the urban poor. (2018/10 m)
- v. Compare the pressing problems of a Dalit poor family living in an urban slum with a similar type of family living in a rural setting. (2017/10 m)
- vi. Write a detailed note on the effects of growing slums in urban areas. (2016/20 m)
- vii. Give a sociological analysis of the problems of migrant urban poor. (2014/20 m)
- viii. Write an analytical note on slums in cities. (2013/15 m)

CHAPTER 12: POLITICS AND SOCIETY

I. Nation, Democracy and citizenship

- i. What do you mean by nation building? What is the role of religion in nation building? Elaborate your answer. (2025/10m)
- ii. Is social democracy a precondition for political democracy? Comment. (2021/10 m).
- iii. Analyse the issues related to the citizenship in contemporary India. Give suitable examples. (2020/10 m)
- iv. Comment on the changing democratic profile of India. (2019/10 m)
- v. Discuss the implications of 'Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan'. Do you think that civil society has a role to play here? Substantiate your answer with examples. (2019/20 m)
- vi. Media is the fourth pillar of Democracy. Discuss (2018/10 m)
- vii. To what extent does nation building depend on strengthening of pluralities in Indian society. (2017/20 m)
- viii. Explain concepts of 'dominant caste' and 'vote bank', giving examples from specific regions. (2017/20 m)
- ix. Comment on the increasing significance of caste on politics. (2016/10 m)

II. Political Parties, Pressure Group, Social and Political Elite.

- i. Discuss the social bases of political mobilization in Independent India. Has some change occurred in these during the last 60-70 years ? (2025/10m)
- ii. What are pressure groups? Discuss their role in decision-making in democracy (2024/10m)
- iii. Discuss the changing nature of political elites in India (2024/10m)
- iv. Discuss the role of Pressure Groups in strengthening democracy. (2022/10 m)
- v. Discuss the changing nature of structure of political elites. (2022/10 m)
- vi. Give an account of the problems relating to the “creamy layer”. (2017/10 m)
- vii. Who are elites? Discuss their roles in bringing social transformation. (2014/10 m)

III. Regionalism and Decentralisation of Power.

- i. What do you understand by decentralisation of power? What is its role in strengthening the roots of democracy in India? Elaborate (2024/20m)
- ii. Does regionalism essentially lead to decentralization of power? Substantiate your answer with relevant examples. (2021/10 m)
- iii. What do you understand by democratic federalism? How does it promote decentralization of power in India? (2020/10 m)

IV. Secularization

- i. How do you account for the increasing significance of religion in public and personal spheres in the context of secularization thesis in India? Explain (2023/20 m).
- ii. Examine different understandings of secularisation in India. (2022/10 m)
- iii. ‘Secularism was an outcome of 20th century humanistic radicalism’. Comment on this statement. (2020/10 m)
- iv. With increase in education and economic development, is Indian society becoming more secular? (2018/10 m)

CHAPTER 13: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN MODERN INDIA

I. Peasants and Farmers movements

- i. What is your assessment about the recent farmers’ movement in India? Elaborate. (2024/10m)
- ii. Are the contemporary farmers’ movements in India changing their course? Discuss. (2020/10 m)
- iii. Illustrate the contributions of the Tebhaga Movement to the peasant struggle in India. (2019/10 m)

- iv. Explain the dynamics of neo-farmers' movement in contemporary India. (2018/10 m)
- v. Indebtedness is one of the serious issues leading to farmers' suicides. Discuss reasons and suggest solutions. (2017/20 m)
- vi. Discuss the main features of farmers' movements in Independent India. (2015/20 m)
- vii. Bring out the main features of farmers' movements in modern India. (2013/20 m)

II. Women's movement

- i. Despite gains from the Women's movement and state policy of women empowerment, gender equality is far from achieved. Identify two major challenges that prevent this goal from being reached. (2017/20 m)
- ii. Elaborate the 'Me Too' movement and its impact in India. (2018/10 m)
- iii. Discuss the impact of post-1970 feminist movement on Indian middle class. (2015/20 m)
- iv. What are the main features of the second wave of women's movement in the Indian context? (2014/20 m)

III. Backward class and Dalit movement

- i. How Dalit movements in India have facilitated their Identity formation? Analyze. (2025/10m)
- ii. Trace the social and historical origins of Dalit movements in modern India (2024/10m)
- iii. Do you think that the decades of Dalit political mobilizations and movements have helped in strengthening India's democracy? Substantiate your arguments with facts (2023/20 m)
- iv. Bring out the various issues involved in Dalit movements in India. (2022/20 m)
- v. What is identity politics? Discuss the main trends in Dalit movements in India. (2021/20 m)
- vi. Elaborate various forms of Dalit assertions in contemporary India? What are its implications on the Indian political systems? (2018/20 m)
- vii. Give an account of the problems relating to the "creamy layer". (2017/10 m)
- viii. Write short note: Different forms of Dalit assertion. (2016/10 m)
- ix. Write short note: Dynamics of contemporary Dalit movements. (2014/10 m)
- x. Write short note: Satya shodhak movement of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule. (2013/10 m)
- xi. Write short note with a sociological perspective: Other Backward Classes. (2013/10 m)
- xii. What is Dalit movement? Examine the issues highlighted by it. (2013/20 m)

IV. Environmental movements

- i. Is it possible to have sustainable development in India? Cite major environmental issues and suggest a few measures to achieve the sustainability. (2025/20m)
- ii. In the face of rising global climatic concerns, how do you contextualize the relevance of Chipko movement and its Gandhian tone? Answer analytically (2023/20 m)
- iii. Evaluate the nature and scope of anthropogenic influence on climate in India and also analyse the environmental movements arising out of it. (2020/20 m)
- iv. How reduction of green cover affecting ecological degradation leading to global warming? Elaborate your answers with illustrations. (2019/10 m)
- v. Western patriarchy which surrenders feminine principles is the new development project in India. Do you agree with this view? Why? (2018/20 m)
- vi. Discuss the various forms environmental movements started in India. (2016/10 m).
- vii. Discuss the 'Chipko movement' as an example of Eco-feminism. (2014/20 m)

V. Ethnicity and identity movements.

- i. Analyse the trilogy between environmental movement, development and tribal identity (2024/20m)
- ii. Define ethnicity. Discuss the factors responsible for the growth of ethnic movements in India. (2022/20 m)
- iii. Discuss the sociological aspects of movements for separate states. (2013/15 m)

CHAPTER 14: POPULATION DYNAMICS

I. Population size, composition and distribution.

NO QUESTION ASKED

II. Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.

- i. What is 'reverse migration'? Discuss its features, causes and consequences in India (2023/20 m).
- ii. Discuss the recent trends in structure of migration. (2022/20 m)
- iii. What are sociological reasons and implication of "reverse migration" during the recent pandemic in India? (2021/20 m)
- iv. What are the issues relating to male migration and its impact on birth rate? Does it necessarily result in skewed sex ratio? (2018/20 m)

III. Population policy and family planning.

- i. What were salient features of India's population policy (2000)? How far its goal has been achieved? (2020/20 m)

IV. Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

- i. What are the Private and Public network and support systems operative in Indian society for the aged? Suggest measures to curb down the challenges before care givers of the aged. (2025/20m)
- ii. How same sex marriages are responsible for population dynamics in India? Discuss. (2025/10m)
- iii. Discuss the major challenges related to women's reproductive health in India. What measures would you suggest to overcome these challenges? (2024/20m)
- iv. What is 'Ageing'? Discuss the major problems of aged people in India (2023/10 m)
- v. Discuss the nature of regional variations in sex ratio in India, stating reasons thereof (2023/10 m).
- vi. Is ageing an emerging issue in Indian society? Discuss the major problems of the old age people in India? (2021/20 m)
- vii. Underline the socio-cultural factors responsible for India's skewed sex ratio. (2021/10 m)
- viii. Give an account of the consequences and remedies of chronic malnutrition in India. (2020/10 m)
- ix. Why has 'active ageing' become a global goal? Do you agree that the role of elderly care-giving is disproportionately gendered in developing countries? Why? (2019/10 m)
- x. What are the emerging concerns on women's reproductive health? (2017/10 m)
- xi. What are the causes and solutions for the low female sex-ratio in the DEMARU states of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Gujarat? (2017/10 m)
- xii. Write short note with a sociological perspective: differential sex ratio and its implications.
- xiii. How is ageing becoming an emerging issue in Indian society? (2016/10 m)
- xiv. Discuss the problems of elderly in India. What is the different perspective to solve their problems? (2015/10 m)
- xv. Why is it necessary to implement PCPNDT Act in India? (2015/10 m)
- xvi. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Trends of infant mortality rate among females. (2014/10 m)
- xvii. What are the demographic projections for the ageing population (60+) for the next decade? What are the implications for formulating policy for them? (2014/20 m)
- xviii. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Sex Ratio (2013/10 m)
- xix. What are the main causes of female mortality in India. (2013/15 m)

CHAPTER 15: CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

***I.* Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.**

- i. What is sustainable development? How can sustainability be achieved in India where livelihood needs conflict with environmental protection? (2024/20m)
- ii. Citing some case studies, expand the concept of 'Development-induced Displacement' (2023/10 m)
- iii. Critically examine the dialectics between 'Development and Environment' (2022/20 m)
- iv. The problem of displacement is inherent in the idea of development. Analyse the statement critically. (2021/20 m)
- v. Discuss development-induced displacement in the context of tribal uprising in India. Substantiate your answer with any one detailed illustration from India. (2018/20 m)
- vi. Discuss some of the striking issues of development induced imbalances that need urgent attention. (2017/20 m)
- vii. Write short note with a sociological perspective: effect of displacement through development on the rural landless and marginal farmers. (2015/10 m)
- viii. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Rural Landless labourers and development induced displacement. (2014/10 m)

***II.* Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.**

- i. What are the Indian government's schemes launched for poverty alleviation after the United Nation's Declaration of 'Sustainable Development Goals - 2015' ? Briefly describe.(2025/10m)
- ii. Do you think that forced displacement of labourers has caused their deprivation and resultant inequalities during the recent past years? Elaborate.(2025/20m)
- iii. Identify different forms of inequalities associated with agrarian social structure in India (2024/20m)
- iv. Discuss the emerging form of 'inequalities' and 'acute poverty' as major challenges of social transformation in India. (2016/20 m)
- v. Write short note: Feminization of poverty. (2015/10 m)
- vi. Explain the inter-linkage between poverty, deprivation and inequality. (2013/15 m)

***III.* Violence against women**

- i. To what extent have the legal provisions been effective in curbing violence against women in India? Give your argument. (2024/20m)
- ii. What is POSH Act? "Identification of tormentor by women at workplace does not come easily even today." Examine the statement with substantive examples from India. (2019/20 m)
- iii. What are the reasons for the escalation of violence against women in the public domain? (2017/10 m)

- iv. How serious is the problem of trafficking against women and children in India? (2015/10 m)
- v. To what extent the Muslim Personal Law Board is in agreement with Islamic feminist agenda? (2015/10 m)
- vi. Write short notes with sociological perspective: domestic Violence Act, 2005 (2014/10 m)
- vii. What are the possible underlying causes of the spurt of increased violence against women in public spaces in the last decade? (2014/20 m)
- viii. Discuss the problems of working women in India. (2013/20 m)

IV. Caste conflicts

- i. Which measures would you suggest for preventing caste conflicts in India? Justify your argument. (2025/10m)
- ii. 'Many caste conflicts are between castes which are close to each other on the hierarchical scale'. Give a sociological explanation for this phenomenon. (2014/20 m)

V. Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism

- i. Analyze the sociological interconnection between Social media and Mass Mobilization in India (2023/10 m).
- ii. Rising 'ethnocentrism' is leading to conflict in our society. Assess this statement with appropriate reasons. (2021/20 m)
- iii. Discuss the role of social media in communal polarisation. Suggest ways to combat it. (2021/20 m)
- iv. What is ethno-nationalism? Examine the critical factors responsible for tribal discontent in India. (2019/20 m)
- v. Explain the issues relating to ethnicity and sub-ethnicity. (2017/20 m)
- vi. What is cultural revivalism? Give some examples from performing arts, language dissemination and arts and crafts in recent times. (2017/20 m)
- vii. What are the factors accounting for the resurgence of ethnic identity movements in India? (2016/10 m)
- viii. Tribal conflicts based on ethnic differences often camouflage a struggle for political and economic advantage.' Substantiate with examples. (2014/20 m)
- ix. Write short notes with a sociological perspective: Gandhi's efforts on communal harmony. (2014/10 m)
- x. Analyse the role of communalism in undermining democracy in India. (2013/15 m).

VI. Illiteracy and disparities in education.

No separate trend; refer related PYQs in Education chapter

VII. Women Empowerment

- i. Do you think that the constitutional provisions for women have led to their uplift? Give reasons for your answer (2024/20m)
- ii. Does “Economic empowerment” automatically bring about “substantive empowerment” for women? Briefly describe the main issues in women empowerment in India. (2021/10 m)
- iii. Comment on the factors behind the changing status of women in Urban India. (2016/20 m)