



# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

J

## SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 820)

Name of Candidate	Benson		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	11995
Center	Jamia Millia Islamia	Date	24-10-16

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	50	
2 (a)	25	
(b)	25	
3 (a)	25	
(b)	25	
4 (a)	20	
(b)	15	
(c)	15	
5	50	
6 (a)	25	
(b)	25	
7 (a)	20	
(b)	15	
(c)	15	
8 (a)	20	
(b)	15	
(c)	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. Candidate should attempt FIVE Questions out of EIGHT questions strictly in accordance with the instructions given under each question printed in ENGLISH.
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

# EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

12.5 x 4 = 50

1. (a) Idiographic and nomothetic approach

These methods were of debate among <sup>early</sup> sociologists

Idiographic approach is based on analysis of particular aspects of social life. It uses deductive method and considers society as unique. The philosophy behind it is that social life is varied and diverse, hence no generalizations are possible. ex - Brahmanization concept of Srinivas.

In contrast, nomothetic (nomos = laws) looks to study general aspects (holistic) of social life. It is based on inductive approach so as to arrive at generalizations. Small scale conclusions are believed to be valid at societal level. ex: Brahmanization modified to Sanskritization (Srinivas)

Weber used specific historical events (idiographic) to produce generalizations (nomothetic) e.g. Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism - comparative study of societies.

Yet we see society as diverse with no one method being final and absolute. Pluralistic approach is used to enrich social understanding of society.

1. (b) Briefly discuss "Social Capital theory" of Robert D. Putnam

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

## 1. (c) Bureaucracy and Rational Action

Weber believed that society was moving towards increasing rationalisation. The best organisation to deal with this was Bureaucracy.

It is a body of experts, rationally organised, in pursuit of organizational goals.

Weber delineated how different types of action give rise to various authorities.

Traditional Action → Traditional Authority  
 ex: Queen of England

Charismatic Action → Charismatic Authority  
 ex: Guru Nanak

Rational legal Action → Bureaucracy.

Industrial and Capitalism needs large scale organization of work to meet objective of profit. This is only possible by - clear command structure and hierarchy, authority legalised.

- legal rules and esp. rule
- vocation based on impersonal rules
- clear separation of personal professional work.

These are features of bureaucracy coupled due to large scale rational action being institutionalised

Yet Weber was critical of bureaucracy - limits human freedom, cannot respond to crisis while Merton discussed its dysfunctions.

Hence while being important component of society it was not without flaws.

1. (d) Analyze Durkheim's concept of "Moral Individualism"

Durkheim ~~was~~ in his analysis of society put social before self.

He believed that man is a passive actor guided by values and collective conscience and collective representations.

In preindustrial society, the collective conscience is strong, less technology, low

and simple division of labour with mechanical solidarity due to similarities.

In contrast, industrial society was differentiated, complex division of labour, specialisation leading organic solidarity of ~~and~~ interdependence among individualism.

Therefore man was bound to society due to

- moral (values)
- need to meet basic essentials.

This commitment to values however would not be absolute and would vary leading to anomie (lacked on integration and regulation in society). Its consequence was disorder and suicide.

Value and moral consensus would be achieved via religion and education.

2. (a) Critically analyze the contribution of Sociology as a "scientific study of society" to the rational understanding of the social world around us. 25



820

# VISION IAS™

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

820

**VISION IAS™**

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

2. (b) Talcott parson's understanding of the social system is high on technical virtuosity but low in grounded research. Analyze 25



820

**VISION IAS™**

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)



3. (a) Emile Durkheim had argued that the function of division of labour in society is that of the promotion of social solidarity. Discuss the statement and critically analyze Durkheim's Division of Labour theory, with reference to contemporary trends. 25

Durkheim studied societies and was seeking to explain how order is maintained in society.

He studied preliterate societies as being low on technology, simple division of labour, strong collective conscience, similarity of occupation and so mechanically linked.

The violations were severely condemned by ~~not~~ repressive laws.

The similarity was hence cause of solidarity, as each produced and worked for group.

Similarly in medium industrial society, it was based on high technological, complex division of labour as society was further

differentiated, specialisation of occupation and hence organically linked. The differences and specialisation made each person dependent on other to fulfill their needs. As a result a new solidarity developed due to value consensus and interdependence, which held society together.

The collective conscience was not so strong as religion was overtaken by education in promoting generalised values. Hence deviation was met with ~~not~~ restitutive law, as collective conscience was not ~~not~~ bent.

Durkheim however fails to account for how values are generated. It could be ruling class ideology.

Also industrial society has seen many conflicts between workers, owners etc showing the value consensus does not exist.

Moreover social change has been projected as orderly but we see from French Revolution it wasn't.

Contemporary trends in labour (Post Industrial Society - Daniel Bell) show growth of services, in India and neglect of agriculture. As a result there is rural, urban labourer conflict and stress (farmer suicides).

Moreover lack of skill has made worker unemployable, creating poverty and social strife.

There is no value consensus on labour issues as seen in recent Brexit and Sows of Soil Movement in Assam, Maharashtra, negating organic solidarity.

Gender as a dimension has also been ignored in Durkheim's

theory. This becomes more relevant as democracies ensure women's equal rights.

Women are entering the workforce in large numbers and many view it as threat to family and male jobs. (Margaret Benson)

Apart from class divide, race and caste are categories that prevent solidarity. ex: Black lives Matter and Dalit massacre at Kheirlanji.

Increasing differentiation has led to social conflict rather than disintegration as seen by OBC status demand by Jats, Marathas etc.

However Durkheim's insight is valuable in understanding cohesion in industrial society.

3. (b) "Sociology and political science are so closely and deeply related to each other that one becomes meaningless without the other". Analyze 25

Sociology and political science share similarities and differences.

~~They are~~

### Sociology

- Young discipline
- General study of society - all aspects of social life, institutions etc.
- Wide scope in subject matter

### Political Science

- Old discipline
- Particular study of society - state government, power and power
- Narrow scope in subject matter.

• Yet sociology first evolved from political science as seen in Kautilya's Arthashastra, Plato's ~~Atat~~ Republic etc.

Sociology studies political institutions and its relation to other institutions, hence needs data and literature from political science books.

Power is a relational aspect and not held in isolation. Therefore it has a social aspect and is linked to sociology -

Moreover Marx showed the ~~re~~ how economic aspects of society are basis of political power.

Weber via bureaucracy and authority ~~showed~~ exemplified how institutionalised power is rational legal action and which is basis to industrial society.

Political sociology is the meeting point of the two disciplines and we see how psephologists study election voting patterns based on social aspects of caste, gender and tribe.

Political Science analyses how social change gave rise to state etc: Communist Russia and vice versa in Islamic Iran. where state has theological basis.

Therefore the two sciences in spite of being separate disciplines impact and exchange and borrow from each other.

This makes it all the more relevant in today's world as globalization increases, forms of power are changing and they impact far off areas.



4. (a) "The theory of stratification by Davis and Moore was (and remains) highly influential, but has generated enormous controversy". In this context, give a brief overview of its criticism. 20



820

# VISION IAS™

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

4. (b) Critically examine the "Nature and scope of feminist method" in social science research. 15

820

# VISION IAS™

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

4. (c) Write a short note on "resource mobilization theory" in context of study of social movements.

15

820

# VISION IAS™

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

12.5 x 4 = 50

5. (a) Gender and social mobility

Gender is a social construction based on biological differences between man and women.

It carries along with specific roles, stereotypes, expectation and status. ~~ex:~~ Pink is seen as girl colour ~~and~~ Women seen as housekeepers.

It is an aspect of stratification system where due to patriarchal norms, women ~~are~~ are graded lower than men (S. Walby, Finestone)

Mobility is the movement of a social unit from one social status/position to another. It can be horizontal or vertical.

The status of women in society has largely been backward due gender expectations and limit/no access to resources. Kathleen Gough describes how

women's lack of property made them subservient to men's interest.

Yet gender <sup>issues and</sup> mobility was further elaborated as being different for white women, black women, lesbian women ~~and~~ and <sup>that</sup> women

Recent legislations to promote gender equality like RTE 2009, Equal Work and Pay Act and political reservations at Panchayat have enabled women to become upward mobile.

5. (b) Impact of "modernization" on the "institution of marriage".

Modernization is the process whereby actions/decisions are taken based on rationality and reason and not due to tradition.

Marriage has been impacted as

- Change in object of marriage from social duty to choice or personal commitment  
ex: Hinduism it is a social religious duty (Dharma - Dharma - Karma)

- Delay in age of marriage especially for girls as they pursue education

- Divorce is acceptable in western societies, no longer a taboo. Trend is catching up in Indian cities

- Widow remarriage is acceptable and legally permitted, women have equal property rights

- Gay and Lesbian marriages accepted in some countries.

- Neolocal residence

- Relations between spouses is more egalitarian, with sharing of responsibilities

- Growing disbelief in institution of marriage leading to live in or cohabitation, out of wedlock children.

Hence the impact has been in change of values, custom and need of marriage.

## 5. (c) Social composition and policies for informal sector

The informal sector was recognised early in Ghana by Keith Hart where he defined it in terms of being outside formal employment avenues and mostly held by migrants.

This sector is varied and diverse as we have agricultural labourers, construction workers, houseworkers, drivers etc.

Therefore their needs and policies for them must also be different.

At basic level social policies must try to ensure

- Minimum Wage (Act is enacted)
  - Social Security and better work conditions (WREGA, Atal Pension Yojana)
  - job fairs and skill training (Skill India Mission)
- However since the sector is

diverse and includes dalits, STs and women also specialised norms could be evolved to tackle group needs.

The focus on economic and education policies (Amartya Sen) must be paramount for these sections to achieve better livelihood, skills and empowerment.

5. (d) Critically evaluate the concept of "elite exclusion".

Elite are those who occupy prime positions in their respective fields either due to personal talent (Tendulkar), family wealth (Ambanis) or structural dynamics (caste in political India).

The elite seek to create distance between them and rest of society. This could be done via ritual practices like

sacred thread, avoiding non veg food (Brahmins) or via their associations.

Hence they become reference groups to others who seek to emulate them (Sanskritisation).

Religion has often been used and abused to justify elite exclusion.

Moreover in modern democratic society, organised politics has created institutions of elite as pointed by C Wright Mills.

It is based on unequal access to resources, compounded by permeation of false ideology (Marx) via media, instrument of state.

Hence inequalities continue to persist as policies favour rich over poor.

Yet elite exclusion is a status marker and source of motivation for many groups.

6. (a) Secularization as a social process has its challenges in the form of religious fundamentalism in the contemporary society. Critically examine.

25

Secularization is the phenomenon whereby religious thinking, belief, customs practice lose their social significance (Steve Bruce).

It is an outcome of renaissance and reformation in 15-16<sup>th</sup> century Europe which led to separation of state from church.

Secularization is often measured by

- decline in church attendance
- disengagement of church from society
- acceptance of religious pluralism
- increased differentiation of society
- secular education and laws

In contrast, religious fundamentalism seek absolute revival of religion to

its pristine form. It is based on

- belief in absolute truth of scripture
- need to restore society to old order as it is in decay
- intolerance of other faiths
- seek to impose religious doctrine in every sphere of life.

Therefore we see how it is ~~entirely~~ antithetical to secularization.

While secularization doesn't mean absence of religion, fundamentalism implies need to abolish all secular practices.

~~Therefore~~ This can be seen via examples in Middle east where ISIS aims to setup an Islamic Caliphate and subjugated the entire world.

Similarly religious fundamentalism

grew as a reaction Shah Reza Pahlavi of Iran, westernizing Iran against interests of Shia clerics. They denounced it as unislamic, used it to mobilise people and establish Islamic Republic of Iran.

In India, green revolution led to increase in wealth among landed Punjabi Sikhs.

This gave way to hedonistic living - drugs, alcoholism and dilution of religious identity.

Coupled with socioeconomic grievances, Khalistan movement was launched, seeking revival of Sikhs as a separate state.

∴ Hence secularization is often at extreme to religion.

fundamentalism.

However we are witnessing coexistence of democracy (secular) with religious ideology, esp: Hindutva politics ~~or~~ where secular ideals of equality, voting, democracy are being used to push a particular ideology.

Hence the two coexist with each benefiting from other. Ways to address fundamentalism would be

- education and moral values being spread.
- socioeconomic change.

6. (b) "In the sociology of deviance, no single theory has emerged as dominant." Discuss 25

Deviance is a sociological term used to denote alteration from an established standard. Functionalists like Durkheim view deviance (in limit) as healthy to society as it

- is impossible for all to adhere equally to values of society
- is source of change and helps reinforce values

Durkheim saw deviance as a marked feature of industrial society. He termed it as anomie with its increasing effects being pathological to society.

Anomie could be caused due to economic booms, busts, marital status, religion etc.

This was an outcome due to level of integration and regulation in society. As a result various types of suicide occur (altruistic, fatalistic, etc).

Yet Merton saw deviance as a product of differences in a person's structural position and societal goals. Since people are placed differently, the means and goals may not always be in synchronization.

The structure of society hence forces people to deviate.

	<u>Means</u>	<u>Goals</u>
Conformist	+	+
Innovator	-	+
Ritualist	+	-
Retreatist	-	-
Rebel	-	own goals

Merton's concept of Reference Groups also shows us how ~~members~~ <sup>non members</sup> of a ~~reference~~ group seek to become members of former. (Anticipatory socialisation)  
This has profound implications for both membership and non membership group and society as whole.

ex: Dalits are attacked by upper castes as they seek equality, gain power or become wealthy.

Weber in Protestant Ethic also showed how one particular form of Calvinists were able to change their economic status.

Therefore we see there is no single dominant theory to.

explain deviance as social life is diverse, people experience different cultures, are placed differently, dialectics of caste, class, gender and race come into play.

Yet deviance theories are attacked by Marxists as being status quoists, ignoring role of social conflict and change, imposing ruling class ideas as standards for entire society.

It is also a rejection of heterogeneous cultures - tribes, poor, etc seeking to be measured homogeneously.

7. (a) Compare and contrast Parson's and Pluralist perspective in context of "Power". 20

Parson's concept of power is known as Variable Sum, since it is based on <sup>the</sup> idea that ~~is~~ the society that realises its goals has more power.

Society is held by value consensus from which derive shared goals. Power is used to further these goals and benefit all. So some groups have more power as their function to coordinate and direct work places them as powerful.

He compares it to bank deposit, which gives interest and ~~can~~ can be withdrawn (elections).  
~~and~~

~~The state~~

The Pluralist perspective views power as being held by all groups (not few) and dispersed in society.

All are able to compete and further their interests and state is neutral arbiter evolving consensus among groups.

No single group has a monopoly or control of power resources. It is used for everyone's benefit.

Yet in contrast to Pluralism, Parsons sees power among few only, assumes they know what's best for all and ~~confuses~~ ~~potenti~~ fails to see how those some groups will always

monopolize power, rig the system to favour their systems and promote false value ideology. It excludes groups from letting their voice being heard. ~~and~~

Pluralists however sees inclusion of all groups in power matrix, they see how unpopular policies will be prevented as consensus will not develop due to differences. (pressure groups)

Panson's view promotes exclusive society of few while Pluralism is basis for democracy.

Both perspective help enrich our sociological understanding of power.

7. (b) Briefly analyze the role of "political parties" in strengthening of democracy. 15

Political parties are aspects of modern day democracy. They are legally recognised organizations that seek to capture political power and further their programme.

Weber described parties as a form of stratification in society.

Their role in strengthening democracy

① Provide avenue to common man to participate in political process

② Political training to future leaders

③ Critique government policies, provide alternative policies

④ Ensure informed debate of issues, scrutiny of government program, make the government

answerable for their actions, reflect pulse of nation and issues of people.

This can be seen in how Indian Democracy has multiple competing ideologies - communists, ~~left~~ rightists, centrists etc reflecting the diversity of India.

It also shows how authoritarianism and corrupt regimes will not persist, democracy shall always persist. ex: 1975 emergency.

Yet they suffer from shortcomings

- corporate-crime-political nexus
- non transparency in funds
- nepotism and lack of internal democracy.

However they play a vital role in keeping democratic spirit alive.

7. (c) "Globalization leads to homogenization of culture". Critically Comment

15

Globalization is the process of growing interconnectedness among states due to spread of technology, transport and communication. It has political, economic, and technological and social facets.

### Politically (Culture).

- It seeks to ensure a particular form of government as dictated by west, with outside intervention. This has affected Middle East and surrounding regions - Arab Spring, Syrian conflict in name of democracy but support Saudi monarchy.
- China is often accused of human rights violations

### Economic Culture

- World Bank aid was based on 3<sup>rd</sup> world reforming their markets and opening up economies

leading to perpetual dependency,  
underdevelopment (Wallerstein)

- Similarly WTO has been promoting strict intellectual right affecting medicines flow in 3<sup>rd</sup> world.

### Technology culture

- loss of khadi and cottage industries due to machine made goods which are cheaper.

- traditional earthen pot is replaced by fridge to cool water, affecting climate and health.

### Social Culture

- Tribes are being displaced, they are adopting jeans, shirts etc instead of own clothing

- English as language causing loss of traditional dialects

- Fast food is being promoted over healthy eating

Thus globalization has not been able to address differences in culture but is causing its homogenization

8. (a) Critically examine the "conflict theory" of social change.

20

*Conflict theory of social*



820

# VISION IAS™

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

8. (b) Write a short note on "Social consequences of science and technology".

15

820

# VISION IAS™

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ न लिखें)

8. (c) "Family diversity has emerged as a global trend". Substantiate

15

820

**VISION IAS™**

Don't write  
anything this  
margin  
(इस भाग में  
कुछ ना लिखें)

