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SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 820)

Name of Candidate	SATYAM		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1536
Center	ORN	Date	7-10-16

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 that 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

Ans) During the initial days of sociology, there was a debate among sociologists as to which approach should be followed in this discipline. On one hand was the idiographic approach which is based on creation of ideology-based theories. In this sense, there was lesser focus on facts and objectivity and more focus on studying social ideas, values, et al. On the other hand were those who wanted sociology to be more scientific - factual and objective - or nomothetic.

Idiographic approach saw sociology as a discipline closer to arts (like history) whereas nomothetic approach saw sociology different from history and related disciplines.

Critics argued that such compartmentalization is meaningless because, as per T.B. Bottomore, Sociology like all other social sciences is a

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mixture of science and ideology.

Max weber tried creating a bridge between the two saying that though reality is subjective, it can be studied objectively by the use of 'ideal types'. These ideal types could make use of historical texts and contexts to analyze social actions.

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

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1. (c) Bureaucracy and Rational Action

→ ~~Rational action is one in which~~

A social action, as per weber, is one which is meaningful and directed towards others. A rational action is one in which there is a rational culcation of means and ends. Rational action can be Zweckrational (goals and means are determined rationally) or wertrational (~~tradition~~ value determines means and ends).

Weber believes that in a modern rational society, the epitome of rationalization in political sphere is bureaucracy. In a bureaucracy, the officials are recruited and promoted on the basis of set criteria. They ~~are~~ have to follow given code of conduct and their interpersonal interactions are predictable and impersonal. That means every actor in a bureaucratic (hierarchical and organized) structure does a rational Calculation of means and ends.

On the other side, further bureaucratization would also increase the rationalization of actions.

Critics argue that bureaucracy may also have a number of flaws. First, it may lead to corruption and development of personality cult. Burns and Stalker argue that in modern days, opting for more dynamic structures (Organistic) & with less hierarchy and more horizontal power distribution is more rational because of changing times.

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

→ In his ~~Do~~ Homo-Duplex Model of Man, Durkheim points out that human beings have both the selfish and the moral sides in their personality. In an anomic situation, like in a society which is in 'transition', people are more prone to showing their selfish behaviour. This is due to the weakening of collective conscience (or social control on individuals).

~~Ex~~ As a society modernizes, there are chances that individuals, free from excessive social control, would display higher levels of 'individualism' or self-orientation. However, as per Durkheim, even this individualism can be 'moral' in the sense that people's individuality is being celebrated. Besides, in such societies, people don't need the presence of ~~strong~~ repressive laws to make them abide by the norms. The deviants just need to be reformed because in the organic set-up so created, there is ~~value~~ focus on inter-dependence among people

Any hitches in solidarity due to people pursuing their selfish goals can be taken care of by good education, creation of equality of opportunities and professional associations.

Today, as we can see, individualism is rising but also there is rise in women's freedom, rise of Dalits, so on.

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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

Ans) Sociology, as a child of European modernity, was founded as a separate discipline by the likes of Auguste Comte and Herbert Spencer. Comte believed that sociology should develop 'universal laws of human behaviour' emerging as the 'queen of all sciences'. His follower, Durkheim, also believed that sociology should restrict itself to studying social facts objectively. The 'scientific study of society' is exemplified by Durkheim's study of 'Suicide' which had the following features –

(a) Need to collect statistical data

(b) Need to establish correlations

(c) Need to do ~~a~~ multivariate analysis

(d) Need to ~~do~~ create universally acceptable laws through generalization

(e) Need to give ~~functional~~ causal explanations of the generalization.

All these steps when followed would lead to objective and value-neutral study of social reality, which itself is objective.

Such an approach tried ~~a~~ taking an infant sociology closer to science because scientific orientation was much valued in those days.

However, such an approach needs to be analyzed part by part to understand its short-comings.

First, the very idea that social reality is 'objective' (Durkheim said: 'Treat social facts as 'things') is under question. Social action theorists blieve that reality is subjective and actively created and modified by individuals. In fact, ~~any~~ often social reality, ~~(say~~ say ~~S~~someone's religious values, ~~reco~~ may be difficult to define objectively. A person

may not regularly attend Church but may ~~be~~ espouse strong religious values at an individual ~~basis~~. level.

Second, scientific study is based on collection and analysis of statistical data. However, this data, as Douglas mentions, is also often value-driven. For example, in India there could be under-reporting of 'Suicides' ~~because~~ to the Police because of the social stigma attached to suicides.

Third, Alan Bryman challenges the virtue of correlation establishment saying that often such correlations may not be valid (lack of internal validity). This becomes specially important when in order to prove his idea, forced correlations are attempted at by the researcher.

Fourth, as Karl Popper points out, real

Science doesn't attempt at generalizations. Rather, there should be creation of hypothesis which should be subjected to 'falsification' in the light of new data.

Fifth, 'universal laws of human behaviour' aren't possible because as Max Weber points out, human's social world is very complex, ~~w~~ chaotic and dichotomous. The best a sociologist can do is to study a part of social reality.

Sixth, in creation of these universal or 'grand' laws, there are high chances that the values of the researcher would creep in. So, value neutrality is a myth. Therefore, Gouldner points out that it is best to openly declare the values.

Lastly, the various quantitative tools employed to study social reality in a scientific manner may not be valid enough because of lack of ~~ecological~~ measurement and ecological validity too.

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

→ Talcott Parsons created a 'grand' theory in his study of 'Social System'. He defines a social system as an autonomous, orderly and stable social reality which interacts with the outer world in a ~~pr~~ defined fashion. The various characteristics of his social system are:-

(a) Social system is a sum of functional sub-parts, all of which contribute to the maintenance of social order and stability.

(b) Social system in order to survive needs to fulfill 4 functional prerequisites - Adaptation (done by economic system), Goal-Attainment (done by political system), Integration (done by law and police), and Latency (done by cultural sub-system including religion).

(c) The cultural sub-system ~~creates~~ is the source

of values and ideas (source of value consensus), the social sub-system exercises control (socialization and social control), ~~whereas the~~ so on.

(d) Whenever there is a change induced in society, it moves from one state of equilibrium (harmonious interactions among parts and ~~to~~ with the society of each part) to a new state of equilibrium. So, his equilibrium's concept is one which is dynamic.

As is clear, Parsons had created a complex theory to analyze society. Merton says that Parsons had created this theory of Social ~~It~~ System as a reaction against the grand 'Conflict theory' of Marx. But Parsons ended up creating another grand theory with little practical significance.

~~At~~ Merton explains how ~~Parsons~~ Parsonian

idea of functional unity may be misplaced. There are chances that one sub-part may be 'functionally autonomous' from others. Besides, there could also be 'alternatives' to the so-called 'functionally indispensable' sub-parts like 'religion'. For example, USSR had no religion and still it worked. Besides, most importantly, some ~~p~~ parts could be functional, dysfunctional or non-functional to the society or to other parts. For example, in multi-ethnic society, religion can also lead to communal riots. (Muzaffarnagar riots in Western U.P, 2013)

Next, the very idea of 'value consensus' in the social system is not without its strong critics.

First, value consensus may be an exaggeration. Second, as Mann points out, it is lack of value consensus which leads to social order sometimes. For example, in a highly unequal society like that of US where ~~p~~ wealth remains

Concentrated in a few hands, it is lack of the Consensus among the poor about the 'need for material success' that prevents them from rising up against the unequal social order.

Third, the content of value consensus is equally important. For example, consensus on 'treachery' and 'deceit' will only lead to instability.

Besides, some ~~critical~~ conflict theorists believe that even conflicts can be functional in the sense that they expose the underlying grievances and reduce the social tension. For example, in a democracy like India conflicts for language rights led to strengthening of democracy in the long run.

Lastly, it is also alleged that Parsonian idea of 'moving equilibrium' is veiled status quoist which is obsessed with stability and order.

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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

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

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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

→ Davis and Moore saw ~~for~~ social stratification as a 'functionally indispensable' social reality. They believed that every society, in order to survive, needs to differentiate the various roles performed by various individuals. Some roles are graded high because they are functionally more important. These roles, in order to attract best talent, must be highly rewarded. Individuals need to go through rigorous training in order to fulfill the roles at the top of the stratification. This training demands sacrifices.

Therefore, they said, social stratification is a necessary and functional social reality.

Tumin, another functionalist, says that Davis & Moore committed quite a few flaws in their analysis.

First, how do we decide which roles are

more important?

To this, Davis and Moore say that those roles on which more people are 'dependent' should be treated more important. (like ~~a~~ doctors are few but nurses are many).

But Tumin further argues that more people may be dependent on a 'plumber' or a 'carpenter' and still they are paid low. The real reason, therefore, is the capacity to bargain for higher status in society.

As we can see today, workers in informal sector – who can't form trade unions – ~~have~~ are lowly paid with no or little job security.

Tumin further argues that high rewards ~~are~~ attached to certain positions are not only the result of bargaining capacity but they also lead to demotivation of others who couldn't receive the award.

So, ~~even~~ 'meritocracy' – as argued by Michael Young – can lead to conflict between those who are perceived to be meritorious and those who are not.

Besides, the benefits accrued by the higher-ranked people by far outweigh the small sacrifices undergone ~~to~~ during training.

T.B. Bottomore while studying the 'civil servants' in UK acknowledged that most civil servants were children of ex-civil servants only. So, often the upper class 'self-recruits' itself.

Marxists opine that social stratification creates oppression in society. A few dominant people subjugate the masses by use of their control over means of production and ideology. Therefore, Marx says, in a Communist Society, all people would be equal and satisfied.

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

→ Feminists are a type of 'conflict theorists' who view conflict as a reality arising out of male-domination in society.

Nature of Feminist method

- looking at society from the perspective of patriarchy
- ~~Society~~ 'Gender' would be the core of their inquiry which manifests itself at 3 levels —
  - as an identity
  - as a ~~socio~~ cultural dominance of men
  - as a structural reality (gendered division of labour)

Scope of Feminist Method

- It is a type of critical social approach aimed at improving the society too.

Therefore, ~~An~~ sociologists like Ann Oakley while studying the plight of 40 housewives also tried to inculcate values of personal freedom and equality among housewives.

Critics, however, argue that looking at society as a stage of 'male-domination' may be an exaggerated concept. Women often are not 'passive recipients' of the patriarchal set-up. History has proved how women have risen up against atrocities or sometimes have even been themselves oppressive. Besides, what about those women who constantly ~~nag~~ nag their husbands?

Therefore
~~Besides~~, feminists are alleged to be value-biased and ideology-driven. Positivists believe that there should not be a place of ideology in sociology.

Lastly, seldom do feminists come up with practical and constructive solutions to the problem of patriarchy.

4. (c) Write a short note on "resource mobilization theory" in context of study of social movements. 15

→ ~~As a~~ 'Relative Deprivation' theory of social movements said that social movements – or Concerted, collective social actions driven by a well-defined goal – are the results of the feeling of relative deprivation among individuals. 'Resource Mobilization' theory refutes this saying that relative deprivation is not enough. ~~The~~ A social movement in order to be successful needs to gather enough resources – money, people, institutional support, so on.

This theory (by McCarthy and Zeld) believes that various social movements compete for the limited resources in society. Those which are able to outdo others in this race are successful.

The theory ~~also~~ therefore believes that actors in a social movement are 'Rational', actively

calculating their selfish interests.
However, it is argued that resource mobilization theory over-emphasizes the importance of resources. There have been movements (like of poor Black people in the US, or the Chipko movement in India) which were started by common ~~p~~ resourceless people but as the movements progressed, resources got added.

Second, there have been many social movements - like the Indian Struggle for Independence - in which actors rising above selfish interests made tremendous sacrifices. Besides, such movements are 'collective actions' ~~aimed at~~ driven by deeply emotive ~~interests~~ feelings (and not rational calculations!)

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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

→ Social mobility is defined as the measure of the relative openness or closeness of a society.

Gender, as the socio-cultural manifestation of the differences between man and woman, is often one of the key factors determining the nature and extent of social mobility.

Women have traditionally been seen as 'dependent on men'. So, their social mobility has been seen in terms of the social mobility of their men.

However, in 2012 when a group of Dalit women in Bundelkhand decided to put an end to the discriminatory practice of not wearing their footwear in front of the houses of upper castes, they decided to do this despite their men not agreeing to it. They broke the idea that social mobility of women is tied to their men.

~~Gender~~ Today, women are often exposed to 'dual burden' of outside and domestic work. They are concentrated in some informal jobs or stereotyped into some 'pink jobs' which prevent their upward mobility.

Besides, social mobility of a group, on the flip side, can also be determined by the extent to which both men and women are treated in the group itself. For instance, 'land grab' movement among Telangana's landless was successful because of women's participation too. ~~part~~

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

→ Modernization is difficult to define in clear-cut terms. However, we may look at modernization in terms of rising levels of industrialisation, urbanization, individualism, universalism, political participation, literacy rates, so forth.

It is said that modern values have ~~on one hand~~ decreased the sanctity of marriage. Rising level of 'economic independence' among

women, as per Jennifer Sommerville, has reduced their need for a husband. Now she can take her own decision based on her 'choice'.

~~Women~~
Men and women are slowly breaking down the 'heteronorm' which defined marriages (Roselein) and, therefore, there has been proliferation of co-habitation and gay and lesbian relationships which don't need marital sanction.

In India, reports have shown that although 'divorce' rates are low but the 'separation' rates are higher as divorces are stigmatized and are legally time-taking.

However, functionalists like Parsons and Fletcher believe that ~~to~~ marriages are still important otherwise we wouldn't have seen people remarrying after failed marriages.

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

→ Informal sector comprises contract-based and temporary relationships between the employer and the employee. For example, an Indian woman might be given the contract of making 'bangles' on a piece-rate basis ~~at~~. She works from her home. She has no job security and is usually lowly paid.

Informal sector also comprises, to a great extent, self-employed workers, like farmers working with their families in their own fields or a street vendor selling fruits or vegetables.

Informal sector in India gives employment to about 89% of the population. Generally unskilled or semi-skilled rural and urban poor, specially women, are present in this sector.

Policies for the informal sector are being created

with an aim at their welfare. On one hand, we are aiming at skilling several self-employed artisans and workers through 'Skill India' and, on the other, we are trying to provide enough resources through 'Mudra Yojana' and 'Priority Sector Lending'.

However, we need to recognize & deal with ~~the~~ also the reasons why feminization of agriculture (migration) and informalization of organized sector are taking place.

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

→ C.W. Mills gave the idea of 'power elites' who ~~it had~~ have risen to prominence in the US because of the structural change there. The top-level managers, military officials and politicians, backed by the media, are able to ~~are~~ dominate the society in the US. They actively self-recruit themselves and exclude others from joining this elite club. The masses are seldom taken into confidence when the fate of the nation is being decided.

~~Elites~~ David Glass while studying the British social mobility concluded that the rich elite class 'self-recruits' itself. So, it excludes itself from the wider society.

Mosca and Pareto believed that elites have 'superior qualities' and that's why they deserve a superior position in society.

However, 'qualities' are often culturally defined. Often the dominant sections consider their own qualities as superior and perpetuate this ideology among masses.

Next, elites ~~are~~ also exclude themselves because they are 'insecure' about losing their primacy in the social order. For example, the Church officials in certain Catholic societies may exclude themselves from social changes and social gatherings and interactions because they wish to maintain that 'aura' of superiority.

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6. (a) Secularization as a social process has its challenges in the form of religious fundamentalism in the contemporary society. Critically examine. 25

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

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

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

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7. (c) "Globalization leads to homogenization of culture". Critically Comment 15

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8. (a) Critically examine the "conflict theory " of social change. 20

→ Conflict theory of Social change believes that Social change, or the change in the culture and structure of society, is a result of 'social conflict' between groups.

Karl Marx believes that the progress of history is a result of conflict between antagonistic classes in different ages. In a capitalist society, there is a conflict between the 'bourgeoisie' and the 'proletariat' who are the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' respectively. When the proletariats would develop true class consciousness, they would overthrow the exploitative capitalist structure ~~creati~~ thereby creating an egalitarian, classless (Communist) society.

Ralf Dahrendorf, another conflict theorist, sees conflict in the 'authority' structure in society.

Feminists are those conflict theorists who believe that society is subjected to male-domination.

Critics like functionalists argue that society collectively changes to a new 'equilibrium' (Parsons) by harmoniously integrating the external pressures on the society.

On the other hand, Weber opines that sources of conflict could be many (multi-causal) and trying to look at conflicts from only one perspective is not totally valid.

For example, a Marxist would look at women's suppression in society from the viewpoint of only 'inadequacy in property holding under capitalism'. And, a radical feminist ~~would~~ ~~as~~ like Firestone might look at it only from the perspective of reproductive roles of women. In reality, both

might lead to women's suppression.

Nesct, conflict theorists believe that 'conflicts produce social change'. However, history has often proved that social change produces conflicts between the 'older elites' and the 'new aristocracy'.

~~Besid~~ Moreover, certain conflicts may even prohibit social change.
For example, when the Chamars in western U.P. tried 'Sanskritizing' to the customs of the Thakurs, they had to face a strong backlash, like boycott and beatings, from the Thakurs initially. This prevented them from uplifting their ritual status initially.

Lastly, conflict theorists like feminists often fail to offer practical and constructive alternatives to the present exploitative systems.

8. **(b)** Write a short note on "Social consequences of science and technology". 15

→ When under the influence of scientific & technological developments ~~at~~ factory-based production surpassed and outdid the home-based production, a new European society was born. Such a society not only was hopeful ~~among~~ about increasing 'freedom' and 'occupational mobility' and creation of 'nuclear families' but was also despondent about the 'haphazard urbanization with proliferation of slums', 'long working hours in factories', so forth.

Science and technology progressed to reduce human's suffering (like developments in treating diseases) and making life more predictable and calculable and rational for people. On the other side, it also broke open the horrors of the world wars which

led some sociologists like Sorokin and Mannheim to equate modernity with fall of humanity.

In today's age of globalization, technology has become significant and, therefore, the 'dependence' of the poorer countries on richer countries for technological transfer (say for meeting the demands of Paris Climate Deal) has increased. At the same time, 'new risks' in the society have been introduced due to 'disengagement between space and time' and 'tradition and modernity'. (For example, the risk of 'a nuclear war').

Anthony Giddens equates the impact of science & technology with late modernity. The juggernaut of modernity is difficult to control (like Social Media) and can go out of our control.

8. (c) "Family diversity has emerged as a global trend". Substantiate 15

→ Parsons believed that the 'isolated nuclear family' is the most suited for industrial societies. However, the increasing diversity of families shows that there is no single family form which can remain ever-dominant.

There are 4 forms of family which have emerged of late :-

(a) Co-habitation → Couples decide to live together without marrying.

Allan & Crow believe that such arrangements are the result of 'increasing dissociation between marriage, sex and parenthood'. They studied the British society in 1990s and concluded that alternative family forms are fast emerging.

(b) Single parent households ~~and~~ →
Due to increasing rates of divorce,

there are several European ~~famil~~ households with single parents today.

One of the reasons why Britain opted for Brescit was the challenge to offer 'social security' to single mothers migrating from Eastern Europe.

(c) Single person households

(d) Gay and Lesbian households – Gays and lesbians actively interact with 'friends' and 'colleagues' whom they consider as family.

As per National Family Survey, in India the ~~number~~ rate of separation is almost thrice the rate of divorce with Gujarat ranking the highest in separated/divorced couples. States like Bihar and U.P. are still ~~low~~ not opting for breakdown of families to that extent.

As US, Spain, Britain, etc. have accepted gay legal unions, several gay households are now seen.