Name - Neeta Agrawal

Registration No. - 636519

Date - 11 July, 2023

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।

Only write question number in this margin

*Specimen Booklet*

# UPSC

*For Practice Purpose Only*

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

Candidates must not write on this margin.

1 (a) Symbolic interactionism as a concept refers to usage of interpretivist approach in which individuals are seen as a thinking self and discovering and interpreting their own meanings in a social interaction.

Significance of Symbols -

→ Symbols are the form of significant language which individuals use to convey their meaning in a social interaction.

→ Social life is possible due to symbols only. Animals don't have capacity to use and understand symbols.

→ Via symbols, meanings are imposed in the social interaction.

→ Even when we are thinking, we are talking with ourselves using these significant symbols.

Criticism -

1) Limited to small scale, face to face interactions and thus can not be generalized.

2) Observer bias in understanding the symbols may degrade validity of study.

3) Poor reliability of approach.

However, symbolic interaction opened up the individual arena in interaction which was earlier caught up in over generalised and predictable fashion.

4b) Poverty as per Ruth Lister refers to the scarcity of resources to lead a meaningful life.

While exclusion is a broader term in which an individual / social group is not allowed to engage / participate in wide social process.

Poverty ⟺ Exclusion

Both mutually reinforce each other in following manner -

1. Exclusion from economic process → Such as Dalits → leads to poverty.
2. Exclusion from educational institutions ↳ Due to language barriers, accessibility ⇒ Low skills and employability ⇒ Poverty.
3. Ferdinand Toennis held that Poverty should be understood in contextual and cultural understanding.

(4) Exclusion from using digital resources ⇒ Digital poverty ⟹ Poor educational levels

Ex - Only 29% of Indian women use Internet.

(5) During colonial rule, tribals were excluded from using forest resources leading to deprivation and poverty.

Government's efforts in this regard

1) Removing access barriers by providing equality of opportunity.

2) Laws such as SC/ST (Prevention of atrocities) Act.

3) Prevention of Sexual harassment at Workplace Act leading to women enter the workplace.

Thus, exclusion & poverty are twin evils which should be addressed complementarily.

1(c) Weber defined Bureaucracy as the rationalisation of public life having tight rules of functioning, enhancement of productivity and achievement of collective goals.

Benefits
- Impartial and Innovative
- Efficient & economic
- Proactive and Productive
- Facilitator of social change
- Problem solvers
- Separate public-private life leading to transparency and accountability.

However, there are challenges too.

1. Red Tapism → Delay in policy implementation.
2. Corruption → eroding the Preamble's values of Social, economic, political justice.

(3) Law being used as an end in itself rather than means to achieve common social good.

(4) Weber himself argued that Bureaucracy would lead to over rationalisation and thus Alienation. Also, termed it as an Iron cage of rationality.

(5) Roberto Michels → Bureaucracy as an 'Iron law of oligarchy'.

(6) Bureaucrats mainly trained to do routine work, leaving no room for uncertainty. induced innovative work.

However, capacity building mission like Mission Karmyogi and empathetic training are here to revive the Steel Frame of India.

1 (d) As per Einstein - "Religion without Science is blind and science without Religion is lame".

Similarities between Religion and Science -

(1) Stephen J. Gould held that both deal with different aspects of human life, thus compatible.

(2) Weber argued how religious ideas led to Scientific rationality in Capitalism.

(3) With crisis of Modernity, Religion answers those questions with Science is unable to answer.

(4) Scientology - where Religion & Science combines.

(5) Religion provides raw material to Scientific studies.

(6) Both provides Intellectual comfort to people.

Incompatability

| Religion | Science |
| --- | --- |
| • Descriptive | • Analytical and Empirical. |
| • Status quoist. | • Based on verifiable and tested knowledge |
| • Collective orientation. | • Generally Individualistic in nature. |
| • Explains about supernatural powers. | • Explains about mundane activities. |

However, complete compartmentalisation is not possible between the two. With rise of Modernisation, there is mutual reinforcement of both.

1(e) Ideology refers to the set of beliefs, perspectives that a leader/nation may have.

Nation refers to the community of communities.

Significance of an Ideology for a nation -

(1) Guides its social change direction - Indian ideology of inclusivity, pluralism, accomodation of diversity decided the course of Constitution making.

(2) Important for Inter-countries relations - such as NAM which held ideology of non interference and principled distance.

(3) Public welfare - Ideology of Democratic socialism led to mixed economy.

(4) Psychological and Cultural unity - Indian Ideology of assimilation of diversity along with protection of uniqueness.

(f)

Critique -

(1) Marx held that ideology is mainly shaped by dominant class and is thus exploitative.

(2) Ideology sometimes leads to strict goals and harms public interests.

Ex - Hitler's ideology against Jews.

(3) Pluralist theorists argued that ideology is multiple in today's world.

Ans 3(a) Social stratification refers to the existence of structured hierarchies in the society where individuals & groups have differential access to material resources and symbolic rewards.

Marx and Weber gave theories based upon their respective perspectives i.e. conflict and Interpretivist.

Similarities in their theories -

1) Held that stratification is inherent in capitalist societies. Which leads to inequalities

2) Both saw class in terms of economic forces.

3) Argued that class division is due to differing interests between who control economic processes and those who don't.

However, both ~~so~~ diverged on following points

1) While Marx argued that dialectic materialism is the root cause of stratification, Weber argued that rationality of public life leads to inherent stratification.

2) Marx advocated total revolution which would lead to communism and stateless society, ending the stratification. Weber argued that other modes of protest against stratification would weaken this.

3) Marx in his study of class held that class refers to the group of people having similar position wrt process of production. Weber on the other hand gave three dimensions of stratification → economic, status and power.

4) While Marx held that society would polarise between two classes (Bourgeoisie and Proletariat), Weber argued that Middle class

would rise leading to diamond shaped class structure.

5) While Marx advocated that Alienation is due to stratification, Weber argued that this is due to rationality of public life.

6) While Marx focussed upon production process, Weber held that stratification also considers consumption perspective.

7) Marx's conception of class → Haves and Have nots. ; while Weber saw 4 classes –

a) Propertied upper class
b) White colored middle class
c) Petty Bourgeoisie
d) Manual working class.

Thus, both gave stratification theory on the basis of their limited knowledge. Post Modernists however argues that in modern times, stratification is individualised, rather than social.

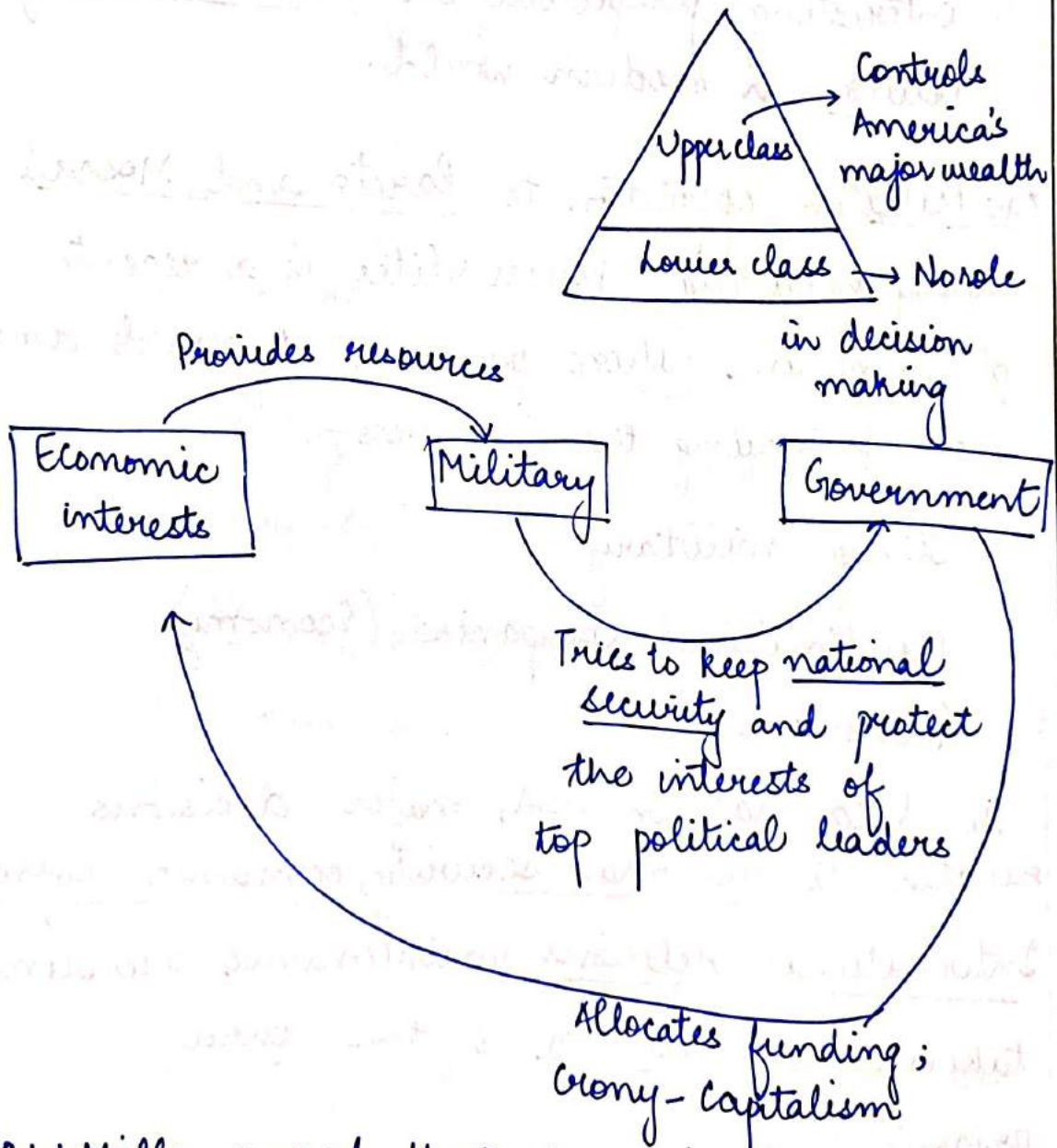
3(b) Power elites refers to those who wield power to influence decision making in a society. CW Mills theory gives a interesting perspective on distribution of power in modern world.

CW Mills in opposition to Pareto and Mosca's theory held that Power elites is a recent phenomenon. where power is dispersed among the following three spheres-

1) Strong military
2) Multinational Companies (Economy)
3) Government

He held that in USA, major decisions related to national security, economic reforms, International relations maintenance are being taken by the collusion of these three organisations.

He exemplified by citing how 9/11 attacks were influenced by these three organisations.




CW Mills argued that there is no power sharing with the lower classes and thus democracy degrades.

However, his theory was criticised due to -

1) Ignored the role of Pressure Groups, NGOs as argued by Robert Dahl (pluralist theory of power)

2) Role of media is increasing day by day to keep a surveillance on Government activities as held by Foucault.

3) Mass mobilization in the form of protests such as against George Floyd killing.

4) Globalisation leading to make political leaders accountable for their actions.

Thus CW Mills though tries to capture the process of decision making in USA, ignores the role and power of common masses in shaping the policies.

3(c) Durkheim's concepts of collective conscience, solidarity, religion highlights that he was concerned with the degrading morality in modern society.

→ According to Durkheim, morality formed the basis of human life.

→ In his concept of collective conscience, he argued how primitive socities were held together by shared values and morals.

→ In his study of Totemism, he argued that whole society is divinised due to moral force which later termed as Religion.

→ In Organic solidarity concept in Modern division of labour, Durkheim held how people are interdependent on each other and how moral conscience is kept intact by restitutive laws.

⇒ In his study of suicide, Durkheim held concept of morality in the form of social integration & regulation.

However, morality being a value loaded term, Durkheim used positivist methods (theory of suicide), factual data in his theory of solidarity.

Ans 4 (a) Religion refers to the unified set of beliefs and practices in which sacred and profane are kept apart (Durkheim).
It is not only the religious dogmas and doctrines but also provides meaning to life as held by Turner.

| Max Weber | Marx |
| --- | --- |
| • Held that Religion plays an important social role. | Referred to Religion as the opium of masses |
| • Argued in his theory of Protestant ethic and Spirit of Capitalism, how religious beliefs of Protestants led to emergence of Capitalism. | Marx argued that Religion form the structure which is influenced by prevailing economic superstructure in society. |

- Believed that religion provides binding principles and consciousness to society.

Held that religion provides false consciousness and fake hope to people which legitimises their current social position and hinders them to protest against their exploitative conditions.

- Argued that religious beliefs of Protestants pushes them to pursue ascetic life and remain true to their work.

- Held that due to inner ~~conds~~ contradictions in capitalist society, there will be class struggle and ultimately social revolution.

However, there were some similarities too -

1) Both highlighted that religion and science are incompatible as the former is not empirical while Science is based on empiricism and rationality.

(2) Both held that Technological advancements were the main reason behind the growth of capitalism.

(3) Weber even argued that only religious beliefs are not enough for capitalism, it needs to be backed with material resources.

Thus, Marx's and Weber's theory of Religion and capitalism gives differing opinions. While Marx held that capitalism is the historical stage in the process of production, Weber linked capitalism with the idea of Protestant ethics.

4(b) Talcott Parsons tried to combine both the Micro and Macro perspective to understand the society. His social systems (Macro) and Social action (Micro) approach is a testimony to this fact.

In his study of stratification, Parsons argued how stratification leads to social integration & thus maintains the social order.

Theory.

- Parsons held that there are certain needs (functional prerequisites) of society and to maintain it, there are certain values which are shared in common to all the members of society, which are termed as Value consensus.
- The goals and social positions are created in such a manner that whoever conforms to these value consensus, will get the greatest rewards.

Greater conformity to goals provided by value consensus → Greater rewards → Increased stability and social solidarity.

Example → American society → Goal: Excellence and success. This value consensus is shared by all and when members adhere to this, they achieve greater rewards.

- Parsons argued that in achieving these goals, people have differential skills which leads to social stratification.
- And those who perform successfully will get greater rewards.

However, Parsons theory was critiqued on following grounds -

1) Value consensus is not possible in modern times where there are multiple values.

2) Merton's theory of deviance argued how structural goals and cultural means incongruency leads to Anomie.

3) Societal values have been replaced by Individual values. (Jean Baudrillard)

4) Marx argued how stratification leads to polarization of classes and ultimately conflict and class struggle.

5) Feminists criticised Parsons for promoting the status quoist tendency as values of women are different from that of man. (Ann Oakley)

6) Indologists held that values of upper castes comes into conflict with that of lower castes leading into unequal stratification.

7) Black sociological thinkers argued that how white people's values subdued their interests leading to injustice and inequality.

Thus, Parsons' over reliance on value consensus landed up him being status quoist. He failed to see the dysfunctions of stratification.

4(c) Citizenship, as per TH Marshall theory refers to bestowing of various rights such as civil, economic, political to fulfill man's realisation of his potential.

Rights

Civic rights
- Right to form Trade Unions,
- Right to free speech & expressions.

Economic rights
- Right to carry out one's profession
- Equal pay.
- Right against exploitation

Political rights
- Right to vote
- Right to contest election

However, TH Marshall ignored other form of emerging rights such as Environmental rights, concept of global citizenship & the associated rights.

- Also he ignored the wave of movements that led to emergence of these rights.

5 (a) Bourgeoisie was the term given by Marx to those who have control over the forces of production. (They are 'haves').

Marx held that in his historical materialism concept, Bourgeoisie (capitalists) produces its own grave diggers.

→ Argued that when exploitation of proletariats by Bourgeoisie reaches its peak, there is subjective consciousness of common grievances.

→ Class in itself becomes class for themselves and thus there is polarization of society in two groups- Haves and Have nots.

→ Inherent contradictions in production process leads to Alienation and thus class struggle happens leading to Revolution and throwing away of Bourgeoisie rule by Proletariat.

Arguments against this statement -

1) Weber held that there would be trade unions to solve the workers' grievances.

2) Decentralised & flexible work reducing chances of exploitation and capitalist rule.

3) Karl Popper held that there are other avenues for workers to showcase their frustation.

Thus, Marx's theory seem to be impractical

5 (b) Social mobility refers to the movement of individual / group from one stratum to other [~~bad~~ horizontal or vertical]

Barriers to Social Mobility of Women -

(1) Patriarchy as held by Ann Oakley leading to confinement of women in low paid, informal jobs.

(2) Religious scriptures such as Menstrual taboo in Hinduism; no entry in mosques in Islam.

(3) Structural conditions such as gig economy, STEM.

(4) Marriage and familial responsibilities as argued by Sylvia Walby as double patriarchy.

(5) Crimes against women has held women confined to households [NCRB data]

(6) Caste and women - As argued by Gail Omvedt how lower caste woman is at disadvantageous position.

(7) Political factors such as Sarpanch Pati, low political socialization.

However, with new social movements, role of media and affirmative actions in the form of laws and policies have led to improvement in status of women.

5(c). New Age Movements refers to those collective mobilization which are outside the traditional institutions, use innovative methods and target hitherto untouched marginalised sections of society.

New Age Movements growth

1) LGBTQ rights ⇒ with the SC decriminalising homosexuality (sec 377), media, queerphobic cinema are bringing LGBTQ rights in mainstream.

2) Sex workers - Movies such as Gangubai, publishing of novels, plays, drama are exposing their plight

3) Environment movements such as Aarey Movement in Mumbai, Save Yamuna.

4) Domestic violence → Bell Bajao Campaign, NGO by Anuradha Kapoor on Domestic violence etc are highlighting the invisible pain of women.

(5) Sexual harrasment at workplace - Wrestlers movement is an perfect example.

Reasons for growth of New Age Movements

- Growth of social Media
- Cultural diffusion
- Rights expansion
- Supreme Court's intervention
- Economic / financial independence
- Political support

However, New age movements are often urban biased, elitist in nature which defeats the larger purpose of inclusivity and representation

5 (d) Collective conscience as defined by Durkheim refers to sets of beliefs, practices, sentiments shared by average members of the community.

Collective conscience as cult of individual

→ With increase in population (moral density) → shared values tend to decrease.

→ His theory of suicide showcased how low integration, poor regulation are due to degradation of collective conscience.

→ In traditional society, laws were reformative so that there is no deviation from the established collective conscience. While modern society is characterised by restitutive laws.

– Argued that cult of the individual is the new religion.

Thus, Durkheim was more concerned with moral integration by equating it with conscience.

5(e). Pluralists such as Robert Dahl, Downs, considered that in democracy, power is dispersed within many social groups. They considered that Pressure Groups play vital role in deepening and enhancing democracy.

→ Maurice and Duverger Classification of ~~Rx~~ Interest groups as Promotive (promote the cause of particular section), protective (protect the interest of specific group). such as Trade Unions, environmental groups, etc.

→ Gabriel A Powell: Institutional, Non-Institution, Atomic Pressure Groups.

Role of Interest Groups.

1) Act as bridge between citizens and Governments.

2) Provide policy inputs to Government regarding governance lapses.

3) Outside the traditional sphere, thus impartial and apolitical.

4) Enhances people's rights.

5) Makes government accountable and responsive to people's needs.

6) Fill the gap in governance process.

However, there are issues →

1) Sectional in nature

2) Power asymmetry

3) No accountability.

Despite these shortcomings, Pressure Groups have filled the void that is left by Government agencies & have expanded the arena of participative democracy.

Ans 8(a) Durkheim's study of division of labour is his experiment to showcase how despite being heterogeneity in tasks and Modernisation, there is interdependence between people and social solidarity.

Durkheim's concept of Organic Solidarity:

1) Argued that with specialised division of labour, there is loss of likeness of parts.

2) Increase in moral volume (increase in population), moral intensity (increase in interaction).

3) Held that earlier, parts were similar and work was simple. Now, people need each other to complement their specialised skill → Leading to Interdependence and hence organic solidarity as opposed to Mechanical solidarity which was found earlier.

4) Argues that loss of collective conscience leads to dominance of individual values.

5) Holds that there is room for mistakes now, which leads to restitutive laws against repressive laws which were found earlier.

6) There is complementarity, cooperation so as to undertake the work efficiently and productively.

7) Structural differentiation have to specialised division of labour where role of family have degraded and other specialised organisations such as schools, hospitals, ~~edu~~ economic organisations have come up.

However, Durkheim over relied on functional aspect of Division of labour which was critiised by -

a) Karl Marx held that specialised division of labour leads to polarisation of classes into antagonistic groups leading to conflict ultimately.

b) Robert Blaumer held how complex division of labour and automation leads to alienation.

c) Structural differentiation have negatively impacted the role of family which is now fragmented and non integrative.

d) With rise of Globalisation, MNCs have greater hold over the economy whose policies often come in conflict with human progress such as layoffs, poor wages etc.

Thus, Durkheim's integrative perspective ignored the complexity of modern life.

8(b) Bryan Wilson argued that with rise of Modernisation, there would be growth of sects and cults which highlights Religious Pluralism.

Decline of conventional Religion

1) Decrease in the church going participants in the past few years.

2) Disengagement of religion with other social institutions such as family, education, ~~ed~~ economic sphere as highlighted by Steve Bruce.

3) Comte argued that with evolution of human progress, religion will lose its significance.

4) Secularization of Religion as highlighted in many activities of Religious institutes such as schools and college maintenance, hospitals building etc.

However, as Alvin Toffler argued that with increasing pace of modernity, man would feel helpless and alienated, religion come to rescue in the form of sects and cults.

- As Weber said — Sect is the Theodicy of disprivileged.

Sects, Cults and Modernity -

1) Sect is an offshoot of mainstream religion, having strict rules of membership. It provides alternate avenue for solidarity to people.

2) Cult is centred around a leader who is argued to possess miraculous powers and helps people in relieving their mundane problems.

3) Modernity in India as argued by Dipankar Gupta is Mistaken modernity where tradition is also modernised and it has not provided what it had promised. In such case, sects and cults come to rescue.

(4) Sects, cults → Easily approachable, people from similar socio-economic background can join voluntarily.

5) Stark and Bainbridge held that Relative deprivation led to emergence of sects & cults.

6) Andrew Dawson linked rapid urbanisation with emergence of sects & cults.

Critique :-

1) Sects and cults tend to lose its sheen and convert into denomination and ultimately mainstream religion.

2) The recent rape cases against self acclaimed religious gurus in India takes away people's trust.

3) Thomas Luckmann held that religion has changed it's form from public to private.

Thus, sects and cults although provide alternative to conventional religion, suffer from problems of legitimacy and greater acceptance.

8 (c) Reference Group Theory was given by Merton in which an individual / social group tries to emulates the practices and life style of another group which is seem to be superior.

New Middle classes and Reference Group Theory -

1) Sanskritisation as argued by MN Srinivas have led to emergence of classes which tries to emulate the beliefs, practices of higher castes.

2) Economic conditions → After LPG reforms, Globalisation & consumerism have led to cultural diffusion, making lower classes emulate and adopt the lifestyle of high class.

3) Panchayati Raj Reforms have led to transferring of power to lower classes.

4) Anticipatory Socialization.

5) Role of Media in highlighting the life choices and practices of upper classes.

However, Middle class is quite vague, fragmented and undefined in Indian context. They cut across classes, castes and religion.