

Name - PAWAN KUMAR GOEL

Roll no - 104395

Subject - Sociology optional [Test 1]

Test code : 2295

Date : 27/7/2023

Name - JAWAHAR KUMAR GOEL

Roll no - 104892

Subject - Chemistry practical I Test 17

Test code: 2212

Date: 24/11/2023

Section - A

Q1) a) Discuss the significance of symbols in symbolic interactionism approach of G.H. Mead?

Ans) G.H. Mead belongs to chicago school of sociology & gave socio-psychological explanation to study symbolic interactionism.

Mead gave importance to symbols in his study of "Mind, self & society".

According to him, human behaviour isn't normative as explained by Durkheim and nor is completely instinctive as put forth by Sigmund Freud.

Neither is human behaviour completely materialistic as defined by Marxist. As according to him, human behaviour is reflexive, reflective and comes out of development of self through the process

of interaction, and humans according to him interact with the help of symbols.

According to Mead, ~~say~~ humans are different from animals as they interact through significant symbols such as "language".

Symbols are gestures whose meaning is shared by the person doing it & the person towards whom it has been directed. Thus significant symbols allows humans to interact and

lead to development of mind, self & human thinking. These significant symbols, interaction

separates humans from animals that perform just basic gestures.

Thus symbols, play an integral role in the Symbolic Interactionism approach of G.H. Mead.

b) Discuss the relationship between poverty & social exclusion?

Ans) Haralambos defines social exclusion, as a situation of multiple deprivation which prevents an individual from participating in social life.

On the other hand, though there is no consensus on definition of poverty, however poverty can be generally defined in terms of lack of economic resources [Absolute Poverty] or in terms of relative deprivation [Peter Townsend].

There can be many reasons for social exclusion and poverty is one of them :-

1) Poverty leads to multiple deprivation which leads to social exclusion Eg) Beggars

2) Poverty leads to homelessness, which as per Anthony Giddens is the worst form of social exclusion.

3) Poverty, often leads to demand as structural means to achieve culturally desirable goals becomes severely limited. Deviant group becomes socially excluded.
Eg) Criminals, Mafia etc.

However, poverty isn't the only reason behind social exclusion & social exclusion can also exist because of:-

1) Culture based discrimination: such as untouchables in Caste system in India, blacks in Apartheid regime of South Africa etc.

2) voluntary social exclusion such as:-

- 1) Status Groups [Webers]: Brahmins in Ancient India
- 2) Rich & Elite of society can go for voluntary exclusion
- 3) Exclusive clubs & gated community
- 4) Hikikomori: Japanese youth voluntarily withdrawing from society.

Thus social exclusion is a broader concept than poverty as it also includes inequality, access to service & voluntary exclusion.

c) Formal Bureaucratic structure offers a dichotomy of benefits & challenges for a diverse country like India. Discuss.

Ans) Weber defines bureaucracy as a rule based hierarchical system. Formal bureaucratic

structure offers both benefits & challenges for a diverse country like India :-

I) Benefits

- 1) Recruitment on basis of merit and not caste, class, ethnicity, religion etc. Thus no discrimination in employment on the basis of Identity
- 2) Rule based system \Rightarrow Less discretion \Rightarrow less corruption
more objectivity
- 3) Politically Neutral system of governance
- 4) Promotes Inclusive Development in a diverse country like India
- 5) Source of Legal-Rational Authority as governed by rules
- 6) Promotes Wert-Rational Action in the society \Rightarrow Due Process of Law

II) Challenges

- 7) Leads to Red Taperism ⇒ As "too much Rule oriented"
- 8) Despite no discrimination in ~~an~~ appointment on the basis of Identity, officials found susceptible to be supporting members of their own community.
Eg) In recent Manupia clash, Kuki officials supporting Kuki & Metie officials supporting Metie
- 9) Under representation of marginalised sections in bureaucracy leads to lack of empathy for the poor & the marginalised.
- 10) Latif Chaudhary said lower level bureaucracy are "rent seekers" & high level are law makers.

Thus lack of coordination among different levels.

Thus bureaucracy provides a rational basis of highly specialised division of labour, it should ~~be~~ function with empathy, so that it doesn't lead of alienation & dictatorship of officials as anticipated by Weber himself

d) To what extent, in your opinion are religion & science compatible?

Ans) Historically, in the west religion & science aren't found to be compatible, as both of them have been defined as opposite of each other:-

Religion

1) Durkheim defined it as a set of beliefs & moral values regarding sacred that binds its followers in a moral community

2) Provides supernatural explanation to phenomena

Eg) Animism, disaster a result of wrath of god

3) Evolutionary thinkers like Comte, Taylor, Spencer thought science will replace religion. Even Weber treated religion & science to be incompatible.

He said that with rationalisation, secularisation & modernisation role of science will increase & that of religion will decline.

Science

Whereas science has been defined as a rational pursuit based on quantitative evidence supported by empiricism unlike religion.

2) Provides explanation on the basis of laws of universe;

gives logic behind occurrence of any phenomenon

Eg) Earthquake due to movement of Tectonic Plates etc

However, religion & science are also compatible :-

- 1) Albert Einstein, the great scientist himself said that "Religion without Science is blind & Science without religion is lame".
- 2) Aryabhatta was a brahmin (priest) but he was a great mathematician too.
- 3) Even ISRO chief visited temples, before launch of Chandrayaan-3 \Rightarrow Thus Scientist also believe in god
- 4) Both religion & science try to offer solution to problems.
- 5) Emergence of new religion like Scientology which profess to be only in tune with the Science.
- 6) As we are moving towards the age of technology religion itself is becoming a new religion [As Durkheim said sacred is something that collective conscience deems to be sacred] Steve Bruce
Thus as Vivekananda said we need to combine Eastern science and religion go hand in hand.

e) Discuss the significance of Ideology of for a Nation?

Ans) Ideology refers to set of beliefs and values which are followed & abided by a section of society.

Significance of Ideology for a Nation

1) Ideology can form basis of formation of a Nation.

Eg) Two Nation Theory is basis of formation of Pakistan

2) Ideology ~~as~~ helps in maintaining ecle of the elite & bourg the state Eg) Louis Althusser

talks of Ideological state Apparatus & Repressive state Apparatus

3) Ideology helps in maintaining status-quo.

Eg) Communist Party of China spreads its ideology or through mass indoctrination of the Chinese public

- 4) Ideology can also threaten existence of Nation, cause revolution & social change
- Eg) Ideology of democracy led to Arab Spring, French Revolution based on Ideology of liberty, equality & fraternity.
- 5) Ideology helps nation to impart its value to the masses and align them to a particular goal. Eg) Jean Baudrillard said that society increasingly controlled by signs & images [carrier of Ideology] than by control over economic superstructure [Marxist idea]
- 6) Ideology can lead to National development.
- Eg) Nationalist Ideology in Japan post world war 2
- 7) Imperialist Ideology can lead to Imperialism
- Eg) White Man's Burden by Rudyard Kipling justified colonialisation of philippines by USA

Thus Ideology can play an important role for a Nation both for pursuance of its goal & for ushering revolution & social change.

Q3a) Compare & contrast the contributions of Karl Marx and Max Weber on social stratification in capitalist society?

Ans) Karl Marx focussed more on inequality in society due to inequality in economic base.

Hence he was more concerned about studying inequality than stratification itself.

Whereas, Max Weber made study of social stratification popular in sociology.

Comparison of Contribution of Marx & Weber

1) Marx considered class as the basis of stratification. So did Weber who also considered class as one of the three basis of social stratification.

2) Both believed that capitalist society isn't egalitarian & stratification exists in the

capitalist society.

Contrast between Marx & Weber

Marx

1) Marx gives economic class as the sole basis of stratification

2) Marx defines class as a group of people having similar control over factors of production

3) Marx defined 2 classes:-
1) Haves [bourgeoisie]

2) Have Not [Proletariates]

Weber

1) Weber gives multi-dimensional basis of stratification i.e.

-) Class → In economic sphere
-) status → In social sphere
-) party → In power sphere.

2) Defines class as a group of people having similar position in the market

3) Weber defined 4 classes

1) Propertied Upper class
↳ businessman

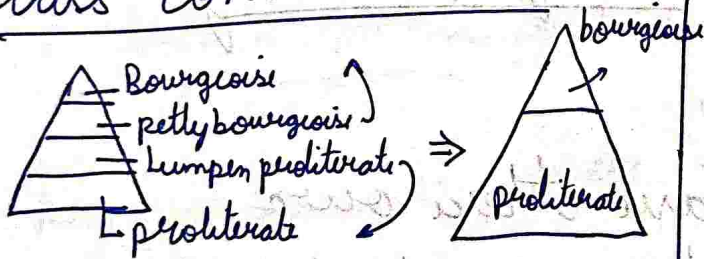
2) Propertyless white collar worker

3) Petty bourgeoisie

4) working class

Marx

4) Believed that social stratification will lead to polarisation and petty bourgeoisie & lumpen proletariate will squeeze out due to the process of proletarianisation & bourgeoisisation. Thereby leading to class Antagonism & development of true class consciousness.

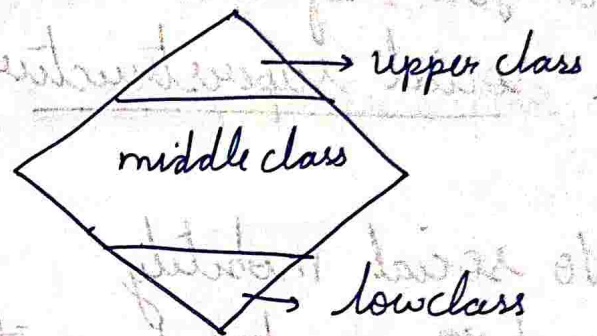


5) Believed that revolution will occur in capitalist society leading to socialism first & then communism.

6) Believed stratification will seize to exist in communism.

Weber

4) Believed that instead of polarisation of classes rather proliferation of middle class will happen.



Thus Weber believed that the class positions are dynamic & class mobility exists in the society.

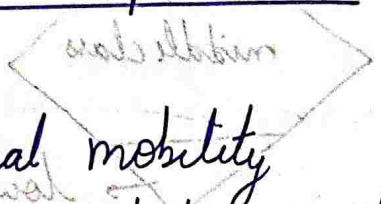
5) Didn't believe that revolution will happen as a result of social stratification.

6) Believed that stratification is a universal phenomenon & present in all the societies.

Marrx

7) Believed that in capitalist society due to unequal control over factors of production, unequal relation of production exist in economic base which gets reflected in the social superstructure

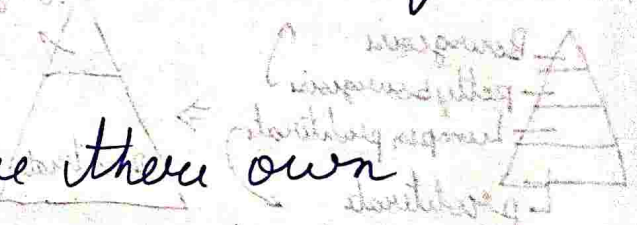
8) No social mobility exists ⁱⁿ a capitalist society as it is a closed society



Weber

7) Believed that un due to unequal life chances (class), unequal social honour/lifestyle [status group] & unequal access to power [political party], stratification exists. ⇒ Triniterian View

8) Social mobility exists in the un intermediate level. Thus Capitalist society is partially open society



Thus both Marx & Weber gave their own understanding about existence of stratification in society. Though in today's world, Weberian idea looks more relatable due to its multidimensional approach to study stratification, however at the same time Marxian view also can't be neglected especially while talking about stratification at a global level.

b) occupying positions at the very apex of our society, elites use the language of national interest, valour and endeavour in order to keep themselves in power. Discuss in context of theory of Power Elites by CW Mills?

Ans) CW Mills in his theory of power elite, gave an institutional approach to study distribution of power in the society.

According to him, power lies with the institutions of federal government, corporates & Armed forces and hence people occupying key positions in these institutions wield power.

The above quote that, elites occupying the very apex of our society, use the language of national interest, valour & endeavour

shows the ungenerous language used by people at the top of federal government,

corporate & Armed forces to perpetuate

their power.

We often, hear, politicians talking about National Interest to push their Agenda.

Eg) Vladimir Putin talking of National Interest to Innude Ukraine. Or of Armed forces

talking of valour to keep them in power.

Eg) Pakistan Army using propaganda to show

their valour against ~~us~~ India.

Or big corporates ~~so~~ talking of endeavour to serve people & in guise of that earning

more profit. Eg) Big pharmas talking about

stricter Patent Rules so that they can carry

on their endeavours of ~~also~~ researching on new drug. whereas in reality they want to earn more profits for themselves.

However, the interest of ^{all 3} power elites are compatible and hence they support each other in order to maintain their dominance in power structure thereby leading to elite self-recruitment.

Thus circulation of elite happens between government, corporation & armed forces. Eg) Army general joining politics after retirement or Big corporates funding political parties. Hence, they together form a single unified elite going for self aggrandisement.

Further, they use ~~no~~ language of national interest, valour & endeavour in order to misguide masses into thinking that

they are working for the welfare of the masses. However, in reality they are working for their own interest behind the scenes.

Eg) Xi Jinping in the name of eradicating corruption crackdown on his political opponents within the Chinese Communist Party.

However, this theory of CW Mills, ^{has} ~~has~~ also been subjected to criticism as Robert Dahl says that power is distributed in society & Elite Pluralism exists instead of Power Elite. Further, in today's day & age public opinion also matters & elites have to also work for the public & be sensitive about their wishes. However, despite these criticisms, Power Elite theory provides an insight ~~so~~ of how ~~power~~ Elite maintains status quo in the society.

c) Durkheim's society is merely a by-product of his concern with moral issues. Discuss?

Ans) Durkheim being one of the earliest sociologists studied society from functional perspective using positivist methodology.

It is said that his sociology is a byproduct of his concerns with moral issues, which can be seen in :-

- 1) His focus on maintaining solidarity & continuity in society, can be reflected in the concept of mechanical & organic solidarity & division of labour being a source of integration.
- 2) Further, his study of primitive religion such as Totemism of Arunta tribe to show that supremacy of society or over individual, where he said that religion is nothing but worship of society.

3) He wanted to make ~~social~~ sociology a scientific pursuit. So he collected quantitative data to study "Suicide". Hence he gave different suicidogenic impulses depending on integration & Regulation [organisational character of society] to be reason behind suicide.

4) Further, he studied "social facts as things" to show how society ~~exerts~~ wields coercive power over individual. Thereby studying society from macro perspective.

Durkheim has been criticised for overly focussing only on functional, macro & quantitative perspective with excessive focus on status-quo & stability by various sociologists such as Weber, Merton etc.

However, Durkheim's contribution laid foundation of sociology as a distinct subject.

Section - B

Q.5) a) Do you agree with the statement that the bourgeoisie produces its own grave-diggers. Give supporting arguments to your answer.

Ans) Karl Marx suggested that Capitalism bores seeds of its own destruction, thereby propounding that bourgeoisie produces its own grave diggers.

By this statement it means that capitalist system is highly unstable as it suffers from class conflict & class contradictions.

In capitalism, bourgeoisie hoard the "surplus value" generated out of the variable capital i.e. the labour of the proletariate.

Further, bourgeoisie go for individualistic ownership whereas the means of production is social i.e. out of cumulative effort of proletariate.

Since, bourgeoisie calls the shots in the production process, it leads to Alienation & commodification of labour.

All these factors together, leads to: pauperisation
pauperisation → Homogenisation → polarisation → development of True class consciousness → Revolution

Thus, this exploitative behaviour of bourgeoisie ultimately leads to formation of "class for itself" & proletarian revolution, thereby opening doors for communism & the dictatorship of proletariat.

However, though this theory of Marx hasn't come true yet, as capitalism has continued to survive. Further even in communist society class exists eg) Politburo in USSR & China.

Thus as Ralf Dahrendorf said, even communist society has class. Further, we instead of revolution we can see proliferation of middle class as espoused by Weber

b) Discuss the factors acting as barriers to social mobility of women?

Ans) Sorokin defines social mobility as movement from one strata of society to another.

* Women being a class in itself [gender class] face barriers in social mobility such as :-

- 1) Patriarchy: Sylvia Walby defines patriarchy as a social system & practice in which men dominate, oppress & exploit women.
- 2) Pink Collar Jobs: Women have been kept reduced to doing pink collar jobs, which further leads to occupational segregation. [Blackburn & Stewart]
- 3) Sexual Division of Labour → Women has to do household work on some specific occupation, Eg Nurses.
- 4) Wage Gap: Women get paid lesser for the same work as men. Also there exists Glass Ceiling for women.

5) Sexual Violence: Veena Das has said that rape & sexual violence are a show of masculinity

Eg) Horrific video of 2 Manipuri women paraded naked by mob

6) Double Burden - Women face double burden of doing both household work & official work.

7) Maternity: often employers don't want to hire women, as they don't want to pay them during maternity.

8) Lack of Political Representation: Women MP constitute only 14.47% of the total MPs in present Lok Sabha

However, in recent times, we have seen women breaking the glass ceiling and making a mark for themselves in various sector be it sports, corporate, government, Judiciary etc. However, more steps needs to be taken to bridge the global gender gap between men & women

c) Define New Age Movement & explain the growth of new age movement with few exs?

Ans) New Age movements refer to the social movement arising post 1960s. These include women suffrage movement, feminist movement, environmental movements, LGBTQI movements etc.

~~Growth of new~~ These movements are different from old age movements like Indian Independence movement, as they don't seek to redistribute power within the state. Regarding than capturing political power, it looks at human right, environmental right etc. Thus these are rights based movement.

Growth of New Age Movements :-

1) Rise of civil society, NGOs, pressure groups have led to growth of such movement.

Eg) Chipko Movement, Narmada Bachao Andolan

- 2) Rise of active citizenry & spread of democracy has led to non-violent public led movement Eg) Nirbhaya movement
- 3) Increase in consciousness amongst public about their rights Eg) Black life Matters movement
- 4) spread of social media has democratised mass public communication. Use of hashtags on social media to bring change Eg) #MeToo movement, petition of change.org, Crowd funding of movement [Resource Mobilisation theory of social movement]
- 5) greater social mobility & openness in society & heightened sensitivity about human rights
Eg) Pride marches, movies about gay relationships such as Bachai Aagah.

Thus rise of educated middle class, social media, civil society groups have led to growth of new age social movements.

d) Durkheim labelled the modern form of collective conscience as the cult of the Individual. Discuss?

Ans) Durkheim defined collective conscience as set of morals, values & way of thinking which is shared by members of a particular society.

In his study of Division of labour, he stated that :-

- 1) In modern society, due to rise in material, dynamic & moral density, organic solidarity exists.
- 2) This organic solidarity due to highly specialised division of labour leads to development of a new kind of collective conscience.
- 3) This new collective conscience in modern society vis-a-vis traditional society, ^{focuses} depends on Individualism.
- 4) According to Durkheim, as society becomes modern

and complex, people tend to be more Individualistic.

5) This Individualism arises because now, everyone is doing a highly specialised job & people now interact with each other only when they have some kind of work, which the other person specialises in.

Eg) Patient Interacting with Doctor In modern society

Eg) People sitting at Tea shop & discussing / gossiping with each other in a traditional society.

6) In modern society, people prefer "Me time" & value "personal space" of others. All this is leading to a cult of Individualism.

However, still collective conscience in modern society isn't completely Individualistic as in to watch sports events like Cricket, football thousands to people come to stadium & millions watch on their TVs or mobiles. Or during festival like Kumbh Mela or Haj etc millions of devotees come together. Hence collective conscience of modern society has elements of both Individualism & collectivism

e) Discuss why pluralists consider interest groups as necessary elements in a democratic system?

Ans] Pluralists believe that power isn't concentrated in the hands of the few, but rather is distributed amongst the members of the society & thus interest groups play an important role in a democratic society.

1) Robert Dahl in his work "Who governs?" found out that local politics is a business of compromise between trade unions, local interests, universities etc. Thus Interest groups represents interest of different sections in a democracy.

2) Karl Mannheim says that policy may be made by elites, however in a democracy there are various pull & pushes of public aspirations. Thus interest groups express opinion of public & play role in policy formulation.

3) Safeguards Interest of various electo sections

of society. Eg) ASSOCHAM, FICCI etc.

4) They act as power brokers in democracy.

Eg) Interest groups negotiating with political parties to extend their interest on behalf of the vote.

5) They have subject expertise & provide feedback to government. Eg) Think tanks like PRS, ADR, CPR coming out with research papers

6) Provide platform to general citizenry to express their opinion \Rightarrow Platform for active citizenry

7) Arnold M Rose said that there is no single unified elite, rather power is dispersed within numerically small groups in different spheres of life such as business, politics, bureaucracy, civil society etc. Thus Interest groups control power in society as per pluralists and provide a platform for democracy to operate at the "grassroot level"

Q6a) Parsonian combined the Weberian notion of subjective aspect of social action with the Durkheimian notion of objective contents of social facts. Explain.

Ans) Parsons bridged the gap between the macro perspective of Durkheim and the micro perspective of Weber.

- 1) Parsons defines social action, as any act which is consciously done. Weber also defines social action as action which is directed / oriented towards other & has got meaning attached to it.
- 2) Parsons, just like Durkheim studied sociology from functional stand point. He tried to create a universalistic framework to study social action. Thus tried to quantify it.
- 3) Parsons said that social action is derived from behaviour of a person & this behaviour

is shaped by interaction of humans with others in society [similar to social facts of Durkheim] & interaction of human within his own mind [similar to interpretation of meaning & motives of social action as suggested by Weber]

4) According to Parsons, human action are determined to achieve goals which untwain are defined by:-

- a) motivational orientation: To satisfy personal needs of the actor \Rightarrow Thus focus on micro perspective [Weberian]
- b) value orientation \rightarrow Influence of norms & value of society on the actor \Rightarrow focus on macro perspective [Durkheim]

5) Parson combined subjectivity of social action of Weber with objectivity of social fact of Durkheim in his study of "social system"

Just like Durkheim, he focussed on maintaining stability & continuity in society through value

consensus [on the same lines of collective conscience used as Durkheim as social fact]

6) on the same lines, of weber, parsons also focused on roles & roles expectations.

According to him, institutionalisation of roles is important for maintainence of equilibrium in the society.

7) Like Durkheim, he gave primacy to society or individual in his study of social

system & just like weber also gave importance

to problem of motivation of individual as

a source of social change

8) Just like Durkheim, in his theory of

"cybernetic hierarchy of control" treated

society like an organism while giving the concept of homeostasis & moving equilibrium.

9) At the same time, in his work of Pattern Variable, tried to make Pattern Variable A & B on the lines of "ideal type of Weber" to define modern & traditional societies.

10) In his concept of functional - prerequisites of AGIL, he gives importance to quantifiable social facts such as environment [Adaptation] & qualitative & subjective aspects of Integration & latency through pattern maintenance.

Thus Parsons tried to bridge the gap between subjective approach of Weber & objective approach of Durkheim. He was also criticised by Merton to focus only on functionalism. However, his theory gave a new perspective to study sociology.

b) How far do you agree with the view that globalisation has eroded power of Nation ~~States~~ States?

Ans) Nation - states as a concept emerged out to Nationalism in 19th & 20th Century Europe. It refers to a political system where boundary of state & Nation coincide.

Here people having a feeling of oneness & emotional connect with a piece of land come together on the basis of shared culture, value, ethnicity, language to form a Political entity called Nation state.

Modern Concept of Nation State is based on 3 pillars of:-

- 1) Nationalism
- 2) Citizenship
- 3) Sovereignty

All these 3 pillars have been impacted with the advent of globalisation, which has eroded the power of Nation - states :-

- 1) globalisation has led to exchange of ideas,

values, people between the nations thereby weakening idea of common single ~~and~~ identity to form a Nation - state.

2) Weakening of National Boundaries with advent of Supra National organisations such as EU.

Eg) One can travel between different countries of EU freely

3) Free trade Agreement such as RCEP, BIT, CEPA etc are removing barriers for trade. Thus Internationalisation of supply chains.

4) Emergence of global organisations such as World Bank, IMF, WTO, UN framing

laws for globe and countries Eg) IMF dictating terms to Pakistan for economic reform in exchange of bail out package

5) World has become a single market. So economy of Nation depends on global head/tail winds - Eg) Russia - Ukraine war leading to rise in inflation globally.

6) Globalisation has also give rise to global challenges like climate change, spread of COVID-19 from Wuhan to entire world. Hence, no single Nation-State can solve these problems alone.

But However, globalisation has also lead to strengthening of Nation-states :-

- 7) Rise of far Right Nationalist Parties such as in Italy in response to immigration
- 8) BREXIT, Election of Donald Trump as President examples of rise of Nationalism
- 9) Eurodollar & de-globalisation of supply chains.
Concept of self-Reliance in economic sphere shows rise of economic nationalism
- 10) Trade & Technology war between USA & China shows Nation-state still very much exist in a globalised world.
- 11) As Andre Gunner Frank in his study of "development of underdevelopment" said 1st

world Nation-states using global institutions to create dependency of 3rd world Nation states on them. Thus globalisation strengthening few countries through neoliberalism

12) Immanuel Wallerstein in his theory of "World system theory" suggests that countries at the core of the global order are more powerful than country at semi periphery & the periphery.

13) P-5 nations ^{of UNSC} using veto power to maintain their dominance in the globalised world.

Thus in some aspects globalisation is leading to creation of a "global village", however which has erosion of power of Nation states. At the same time there is backlash in the west against globalisation & they are again trying to assert their power as Nation state. However in reality, globalisation has eroded power of some Nation states & increased power of others (US, china). Thus impact of globalisation has been uneven on Nation states' power.

c) ' Sociology is a science which attempts interpretivist understanding of social action. Explain the interpretative understanding of Max Weber.

Ans.) Max Weber says subject matter of sociology is interpretivist understanding of social action i.e. researcher should study meanings & motives behind social action of the actor.

For doing so, Weber gives various tools such as :-

1) Ideal Type : Creation of framework by the researcher to study a particular phenomenon. Eg) Social Actions can be

- of 4 Ideal Types
- 1) Traditional
 - 2) Emotional / Affective
 - 3) Zweck Rational
 - 4) Wert Rational

2) According to him, researcher should go for causal pluralism to understand & interpret social actions & social phenomenon. Eg)

He gave tertitarian view of stratification
i.e. class, status & party.

3) Verstehen: Refers to "understanding" i.e. research should go for subjective analysis for meanings & motives & not focus simply on quantitative aspects as espoused by the positivist.

4) Comparative Analysis: He did comparative analysis of different religions in the growth of capitalism [Protestant Ethics & the spirit of Capitalism].

He was criticised for this approach by positivist, phenomenologists etc. However, Weber tried to bridge the gap between the nomothetic & the idiographic school.

For him science was a "vocation" and he focused on value neutrality & value relevance by taking subject matter from Idealist & methodology from positivist. Thus he could go for subjective understanding of the objective reality of the society.

Q7a) The issue of fundamentalism illustrates that religion appears to be associated with conflict in many parts of the world. Critically discuss.

Ans) Fundamentalism refers to literal interpretation of religious text & to follow the ^{tenants of} text in all the spheres of life.

Fundamentalist considers the text to be word of god i.e. infallible and promises to take back to the society to its imagined golden past.

Rise of fundamentalism shows that religion unlike to what Durkheim believed as source of integration, can also be the source of conflict. This can be seen in many parts of the world today :-

1) Taliban using religious fundamentalism to get

legitimacy to rule Afghanistan. They want to take back Afghanistan back to its golden age. Eg) Taliban banning beauty parlours in Afghanistan

2) Fundamentalism as per Steve Bruce has emerged as a reaction to secularisation & modernisation. Eg) Iranian Revolution (1979) as a result of westernisation of Iranian society & the influence of USA on Iran

3) Persecution of Shais, Ahmaddiyas in Pakistan.

Eg) Attack on Ahmaddiya Mosque in Pakistan Shows religious conflict within different sects of a religion.

4) Protest by ultra orthodox Jews against mandatory conscription in Israeli armed forces

5) Burning of Quran by Irqi Christian Immigrant in Sweden leading to widespread protest in Islamic world

6) Terrorist organisation such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda wanting to establish a global Islamic Caliphate. Thus misusing religion to spread terrorism & violence.

However, though religions are fundamentalism might look as the main reason behind growth of fundamentalism, however on deeper analysis one can find different reasons for actual growth of fundamentalism:-

7) Gabriel Almond gave 3 reasons for growth of fundamentalism

- 1) unemployment
- 2) persecuted ethnic group
- 3) Rapid social change

Thus religion, not the core reason for growth of fundamentalism.

8) Fundamentalism is supported to achieve political objective Eg) Pakistan using Madarsas as state policy to nurture state sponsorship of terrorism in India & Afghanistan

... fundamentalism grows in periods of social change, as social change leads to rootlessness & loss of identity & religion provides solace in such instances.

10) Religious fundamentalism can also be used for inculcating Nationalism. Eg) Religious fundamentalism led to creation of Pakistan.

However, fundamentalism can also arise out of ethnicity like ethnic violence in Manipur, or feeling of Nationality & like Kurds fighting for a separate state. Further religion not only fans conflict, but can also bring unity amongst people. Eg) Practice of Langar in Gurdwaras.

Religion is like fire it can light the world and as well as burn it.

Thus religion can lead to fundamentalism & cause conflict or it can show direction of peace. Further religion might be seen at manifest level of fundamentalism but at latent level it is desire to capture political power that drives it.

(b) Merton's critique to conventional structural functionalism provided new conceptual insights which helped to give structural functionalism a continuing usefulness. Discuss.

Ans) Conventional structural functions, divides society into multiple structures (such as religion, family, gender, education, economic base etc) and states that every structure exists as it performs a function. Thus it talks of indispensability of structures & their universal functionality in the society.

This aspect of conventional structural functionalism was critiqued by RK Merton as follows:-

1) Criticised functional unity postulate: He said that earlier structural functionalist only looked at functionalism & not dysfunctions & non-functions. Eg) Deviance can be

both functional [Innovator] & dysfunctional
[Retreatist - Red tapism in bureaucracy]

2) Criticised functional dispensibility postulate
i.e. every structure performs performs
an indispensable function. However, in
reality no ^{single} structure is indispensible as
~~see~~ multiple structures might perform
single function [Eg] family, school both performing
function of socialisation] & one structure
might be performing many functions [Eg]
religion binding society (Durkheim), reducing
anxiety in Trobrianders before going to sea
(Malinowski)]

3) Criticised universal functionalism postulate
i.e. same structure might be functional or
some & ~~desa~~ dysfunctional for others.
Eg) slavery { functional for masters
dysfunctional for slaves }

4) Criticised grand theories developed by sociologists like Talcott Parsons. He suggested to go for middle range theories, which were based on limited assumptions & covered both micro & macro sociological aspects. Eg) Merton's theory on Deviance

5) Merton expanded the scope of structural functionalism by studying not only manifest functions (as done by earlier sociologist) but also the latent functions.

Eg) In his study of Hopi Tribe says that manifest function behind rain dance is appeasement of god but latent function is increasing solidarity between tribals.

6) Merton also made sociology much more inter-disciplinary than conventional functionalists and gave new conceptual insights in the form

of his study of "Reference Group". His concept of anticipatory socialization, marginal man became important concepts for other fields of social science.

7) He gave new conceptual insight into the concept of Deviance. He explained deviance as a result of relative deprivation coming out because of mismatch between culturally desirable goals & structurally available means [His study of "American Dream"]
 Thus he categorised deviance into :-

		structurally available means	
		Accept	Reject
culturally desirable goals	Accept	Conformist	Innovator
	Reject	Ritualist	Retreatist
		new goal	Rebel

This approach of Merton towards structural functional by Chicago school which gave ecological approach to deviance.

However, Merton by providing new conceptual insights helped in keeping structural functionalism useful.

c) 'I' & 'Me' are central terms in Mead's work.
Critically analyse?

Ans) GM Mead • studied sociologically from the perspective of symbolic interactionism i.e. he looked into how humans develop self, mind through the interaction of significant symbols.

According to Mead, I & Me are 2 components of self.

'I'

1) Refers to unmediated response of the self

2) It is a repository of creativity & individual identity.

3) It initiates change

4) It is unpredictable response to stimuli

'Me'

1) Refers to response on the basis of socialisation of an individual.

2) It is a storehouse of customs & values of a society.

3) It promotes status quo

4) It is conventional & habitual response to stimuli.

5) Helps in development of a unique personality

5) Leads to order & predictability in the society.

6) Consists of values of an individual

6) Consists of values of a society.

Thus when 'Me' dominates over 'I' it leads to social control & when 'I' dominates it leads to social change.

~~Thus~~ However, this concept of 'I' & 'Me' by Mead has also been subjected to criticism as:-

- 1) Mead ignores impact of biology & genes on human attitude.
- 2) He sees social life as too consensual, whereas it also has significant conflict in it.
- 3) His concept of 'Me' & 'I' are completely subjective.
No empirical way to measure Me & I.

However, Mead's concept of Me & I gave a socio-psychological perspective of understanding social life & how 'self' gets formed in a society.