

# VISION IAS

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## SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 1532)

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Center	online	Date	8 Dec 2020.

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
1 (a)	10		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).</li><li>2. The Candidate should attempt FIVE Questions out of EIGHT questions strictly in accordance with the instructions given under each question printed in ENGLISH &amp; HINDI</li><li>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</li><li>4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.</li><li>5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</li><li>6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</li></ol>
(b)	10		
(c)	10		
(d)	10		
(e)	10		
2 (a)	20		
(b)	20		
(c)	10		
3 (a)	20		
(b)	20		
(c)	10		
4 (a)	20		
(b)	20		
(c)	10		
5 (a)	10		
(b)	10		
(c)	10		
(d)	10		
(e)	10		
6 (a)	20		
(b)	20		
(c)	10		
7 (a)	20		
(b)	20		
(c)	10		
8 (a)	20		
(b)	20		
(c)	10		
Total Marks Obtained:			

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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All the Best

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

10 x 5 = 50

(a) Discuss Merton's four institutional imperatives of science.

Institutional imperatives are those functions which are satisfied by parts by its very definition. In this context of science, Merton identifies four institutional imperatives that define science.

→ UNIVERSALISM:

Science should be universal in its approach rather than focus on certain particularistic aspects of society e.g. science moves from particular to general as Cooley study gave idea of dominant caste - (M.N. Srinivas)

→ Communism:

Science should have an orientation of communism by which

different theories could be accommodated and debated eg: conflict v/s consensus view of society.

→ Disinterestedness: The researcher should not have a particular value or personal interest in research eg: James Mill's Communal history of India and divide and rule of British.

→ Organized skepticism is the hallmark of research where science looks beyond self evident view eg: study in Britain showed watching TV improved children's communication than make them dumb as per popular belief.

This notion rightly identifies the four essence of science.

## 1. (b) Idiographic and nomothetic approach.

'History is idiographic while sociology is nomothetic' - Radcliffe Brown.

The distinction between the two approaches depend upon their features:

<u>Idiographic</u>	V/s	<u>Nomothetic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Merely <u>descriptive</u> in nature e.g. historical account of Peasants by Thomas Zannechi</li> <li>→ Objective description without analysis e.g. N.K Singh's approach</li> <li>→ Limited use of data and analysis.</li> <li>→ Used in History</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Attempts to <u>analyze and categorize</u> content e.g. <u>R.H Lawney's</u> works</li> <li>→ Use of scientific method of enquiry e.g. <u>M.N Sriniva's</u> works</li> <li>→ May utilize data and analysis</li> <li>→ Sociology uses this approach.</li> </ul>

→ Similarities:

→ In practice, sociologists and historians use a combination of the two e.g. Marx uses idiographic approach, Romila Thapar (historian) uses nomothetic approaches.

→ Both aspects are needed for descriptive research of phenomena e.g. R.C Dutt's Economic History of India

→ Value neutrality cannot be maintained in both forms e.g. 'History written by winners'

Thus both approaches are utilized in sociology as per the need as strict separation is counterproductive.

1. (c) Economics must be made the handmaid of sociology. Critically analyse.

Economics and sociology has had different origins but their pathways have often overlapped. Pursuing the ideas of Comte, Durkheim, Parsons

→ Economics as a handmaid to  
Sociology

↳ Economic view is limited in terms of societal impacts - Durkheim.

Parsons suggests only a holistic theory can explain differentiation.

↳ Marx uses economic substructure and mode of production to explain other aspects of society.

→ Data from economy is used for social policy e.g. S.C Dube's study on Community Development Programs,

→ Policy formulation like Planning relies on social research than mere economics.

→ Need for divergence:

However economics is dyserent

→ uses more statistical analysis and is data driven e.g. inflation, GDP etc

→ has more definitive laws e.g. law of supply and demand.

→ focus is on predictions for policy making e.g. Monetary Policy Committee of RBI.

There is more convergence

nowadays with behavioural economics like Richard Thaler which shows overlap

They rather than be a handmaid, both disciplines can have a give and take relation.

1. (d) Critically assess R. K. Merton's views on the contributions of research to the development of sociological theory.

Merton's essay 'Bearings of Theory on Research' deals with the fact how research leads to theory formation rather than play a passive role.

→ Research can trigger new theories with new strategic data e.g. Hawthorne studies started as enquiry into illumination but founded human relation approach.

→ Research can reformulate existing theories e.g. Durkheim's views on religion as society divinized man supernatural worship.

→ Research can broaden the area of theory into uncharted areas e.g. rise of personalities role through inkblot test etc in social research.

→ Research can clarify existing theories  
 e.g. Goldthorpe and Lockwood's study  
 confirmed Jesse Bernard & Clark Kaus  
embourgeoisement theory

→ LIMITATIONS

↳ Research usually plays a passive  
 role in proving theories e.g. Merton  
 or functionalist views (Parsons)

→ Deductive logic is mostly used  
 in social science where theory building  
 comes first than research.

→ Research could be limited through  
field limitations, navvization bias,  
ethnocentrism etc affecting theories  
 e.g. Srinivas' views are Brahmanical  
 due to fieldwork.

But as Merton proved, research  
 and theory building go hand in hand.

1. (e) How Durkheim's idea of Sacred and profane be used to understand the contemporary society?

Durkheim, based on 'homoduplex' idea said that human beings saw all things as sacred or profane and religion consists of all that is sacred.

→ Understanding contemporary times.

↳ Use of sacred as an excuse for certain rituals e.g. women's entry prohibited in Sabarimala.

↳ sacred symbols are often used in civic religion (Robert Bellah) e.g. standing up for national anthem, profanity to disrespect the flag etc.

↳ The working of religion through social control and solidarity e.g. personal laws of religions in India.

↳ Caste system survives even today due to purity pollution and notions of sacredness - Dumont

→ Religion provides solidarity due to identity loss in globalization - Bryan Wilson

→ Limitations:

↳ Durkheim failed to see divisive role of religion in plural societies - Merton

↳ Religion is used as a protest ideology in Third world countries  
eg: Iranian Revolution

↳ Things can be mundane, instead of just sacred and profane.

↳ Weber pointed out rationalizing ways of religion.

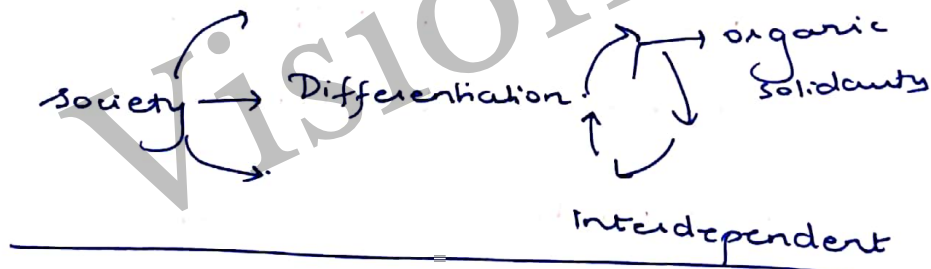
→ Marx shows how religion can be used for oppression.

Thus, Durkheim's views are partially relevant in contemporary times.

2. (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 analyse Durkheim Division of Labour theory, with reference to contemporary trends. 20

Durkheim's studies on division of labour views it favourably. As material and moral densities of societies increase, they become more differentiated (Spencerian view), and hence division of labour occurs.

→ Function of division of labour:



Unlike simple societies where likeness of parts gave rise to mechanistic solidarity, in complex industrial societies parts differentiate

eg: bureaucracy, police, schools etc  
instead of caste councils.

At This point, division of labour  
creates a need for interdependence  
of different parts, relating to  
an organic solidarity of parts  
eg: police relies on civil administration  
and vice versa.

### CRITICAL EVALUATION

In contemporary societies, some  
aspects of the theory holds true:

- more differentiation and organic  
solidarity. eg: Rise of global supply  
chains and global trade regimes  
like WTO → more solidarity.
- high degree of interdependence

in complex societies e.g. breakdown  
of society during covid lockdown  
shows degree of integration of parts

→ Division of labour creates more  
solidarity through changes e.g.  
internal secularization of religion  
according to Herberg

→ LIMITATIONS:

→ Rise in competition due to  
materialism and capitalism leading  
to poor solidarity.

→ Durkheim confuses societal  
integration with social integration

→ low social integration in  
complex societies e.g. breakdown  
of community life

→ Marx shows how division of labour  
causes alienation.

→ Division of labour can also create structural strains and create conflicts as well eg: jajmani system of division of labour based on caste.

Thus Durkheim's views are limited as it fails to explain the conflict positions arising from division of labour.

2. (b) Examine how Weber characterization of capitalism is different from those of Marx. 20

In a broad sense, Marx takes a more critical view of capitalism while Weber points out the distortions of Marxian view:

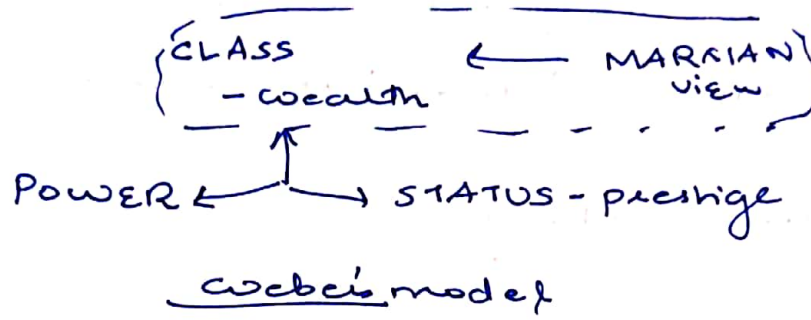
→ Views on class:

Marx uses class as an analytical tool and defines them as those who share similar relations with forces of production.

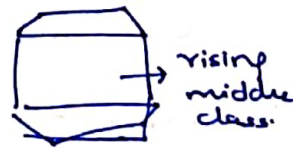
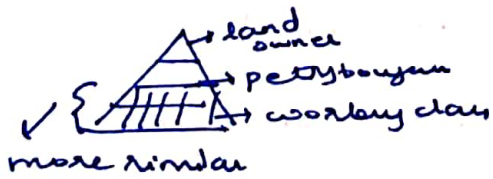
Class → Class for itself: subjective disposition.  
→ Class in itself: objective view

Weber views class as based on 'estimation of wealth', those sharing similar material situations that determine life chances.

→ Stratification: Marx uses wealth as single dimension of classification while Weber uses trinitarian model.



→ Marx uses Theories of polarization to explain the inevitable homogenization of society into bourgeoisie and proletariat. Weber shows there is proliferation of class ej: Jesse Bernard and Clark Kerr's study on embourgeoisment.



Weber's view

High degree of automation is reducing manual workforce.

→ Pauperization Thesis of Marx shows that capitalism being a greed based system would only make poor poorer. Weber says this goes against logic of capitalism as demand is needed e.g.: Goldthorpe and Lockwood's study showed rise of 'affluent worker'

→ No inevitable revolution should occur in capitalist society according to Weber. Marx says proletariat could ultimately capture power after becoming a class in itself e.g.: Crain Brinton's study showed revolutionary potential depends on many factors and (Dahrendoff) says conflict is now ensulated and institutionalized.

→ Marx says communist society would be one with no inequality due to absence of private property. But Weber rightly points out inequality of power in communist societies as seen in dictatorial regimes of USSR.

Religion:  
→ ~~Marx~~ Marx says religion is false consciousness while Weber shows its rationalizing role: Protestant Ethics.  
→ Alienation: Marx says alienation occurs due to economic inequality but Weber says it is formalistic and substantial rationality that causes it.

Thus Marx and Weber widely differ in their analysis but both are comprehensive in their own rights.

2. (c) What is the importance of Merton's Middle Range Theory in sociology?  
Discuss critically. 10

Unlike the 'grand theories' of Parsons, Merton believed sociology at its present form of development should focus on middle range theories rooted in empirical reality.

IMPORTANCE:

- Refocus sociology from macro theories of Parsonians.
- Acts as a bridge between micro and macro research e.g. La suicide of Durkheim.
- Emphasizes on needs of empiricism as functionalism was criticized as mere ideology
- Avoid status quoist bias by investigating conflict views e.g. Merton's study on deviance.

- Further hypotheses can be formulated from a middle range theory e.g. Merton's study on reference groups.
- Triggers further research by providing new ideas e.g. Weber's theory led to Schutz's views.
- Limitations:

Merton was criticized to present an 'anaemic ambition' by searching for middle range theories.

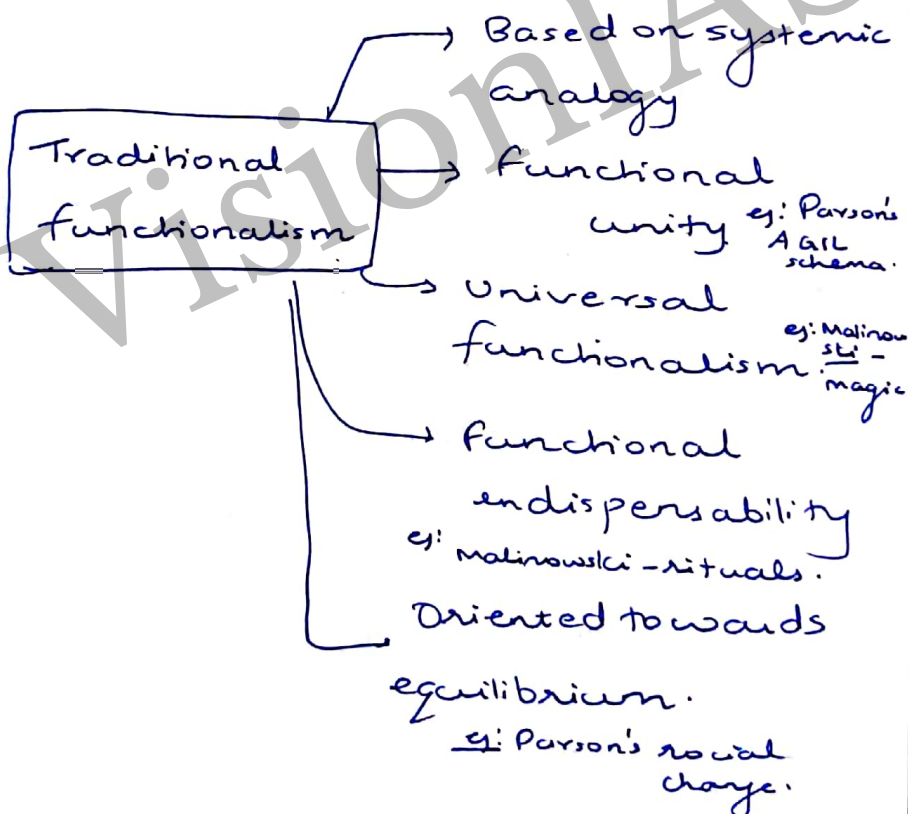
No holistic approach to explain societal systems e.g. State, nation as concepts

Merton combated these arguments saying that middle range theories rooted in reality can widen social imagination and build holistic theories in time.

3. (a) Robert Merton goes beyond the boundaries of traditional functionalism, and added to traditional ones his new insights. Elaborate. 20

Merton arrived on the scene while functionalism was under severe criticism for being a 'conservative teleology'. and he saw himself as an insider who had to set the house in order.

→ Beyond Traditional Views:



- Accommodating the postulates, Merton says that functional paradigms should:
- find degrees of functional unity than assume it e.g. divisive role of religions.
  - ~~find~~ universal functionalism should not be assumed.
  - functional indispensability would imply no need for change.
  - Levels of Enquiry: Borrowing from Durkheim, functionalism should examine
    - Individual level
    - Subsystem level
    - Societal level.
  - Functions can be latent or manifest.
  - Functionality can be:
    - Eufunction
    - Dysfunction
    - Nonfunction.

→ Accounting for change:

Dysfunctional aspects of society creates structural strain, triggering the need for social change.

→ Functional Alternatives can be used to bring about change e.g. secularism instead of religion for solidarity - Civic religion (Nisbet)

Limitations:

→ Despite his new additions, Merton's views are still oriented towards equilibrium.

→ Marxists show how some societies legitimize exploitation covertly e.g. capitalism, caste system etc.

↳ status quo bias not eliminated.

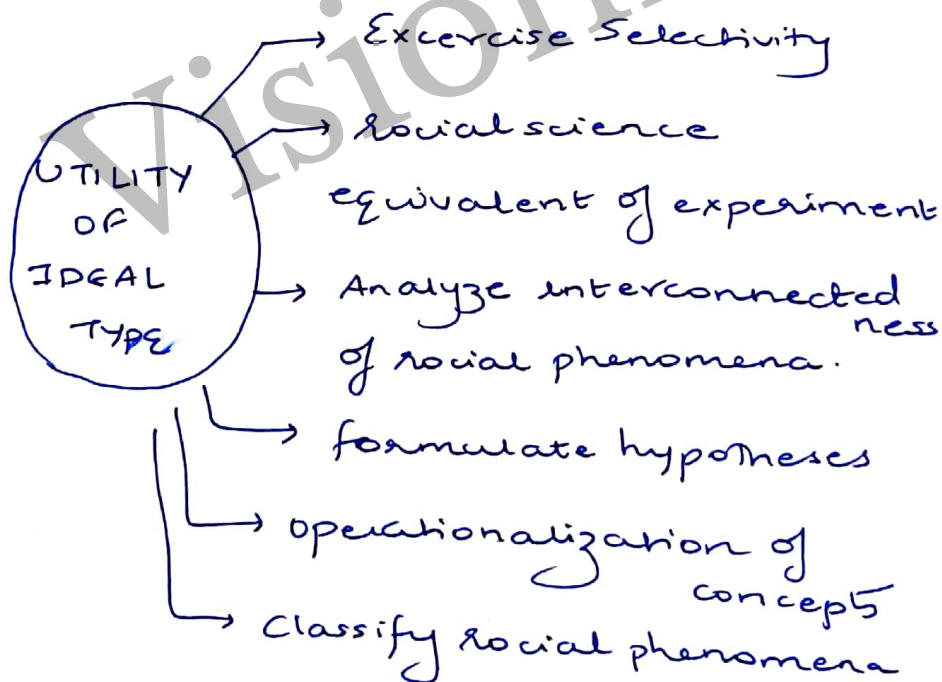
→ Functional alternatives are merely structural alternatives in practice eg: kingdom replaced by nation state - only structural difference

Morton succeeded to an extent in reviving and refocusing functionalism but his approach could not eliminate the inbuilt assumptions of consensus in functionalism.

3. (b) "The ideal type is one of Weber's best known contribution to contemporary sociology". Critically examine. 20

Weber's methodology of *Verstehen* utilizes the concept of 'ideal type'. An ideal type is a one-sided accentuation of many discrete, individual phenomena arranged to form a unified analytical construct. It is a mirror to reality.

FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS



Applications:

Weber uses ideal type to explain various phenomena:

→ Social Action: Ideal type:

↳ Goal oriented    ↳ Traditional  
↳ Value oriented   ↳ Affective.

→ Protestant ethics based on Calvinism to study impact of religion on capitalism.

→ Power: → Legal-rational authority is explained using bureaucracy as ideal type.

Thus almost all application of Weber's studies utilize the framework of ideal types which shows its utility, making

it a significant contribution. Weber is best known for his combination of positive and interpretative approaches and his views on the actor as a reflecting being. This perspective of Weber spawned phenomenology, ethnomethodology, interactionism etc than his finding of ideal type.

### DYSFUNCTIONAL & NON FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS.

- Not a faithful mirror of reality distorting truth.
- Could be deliberately created for malintention e.g. Aryan theory of Hitler.
- Ideal types if erroneously

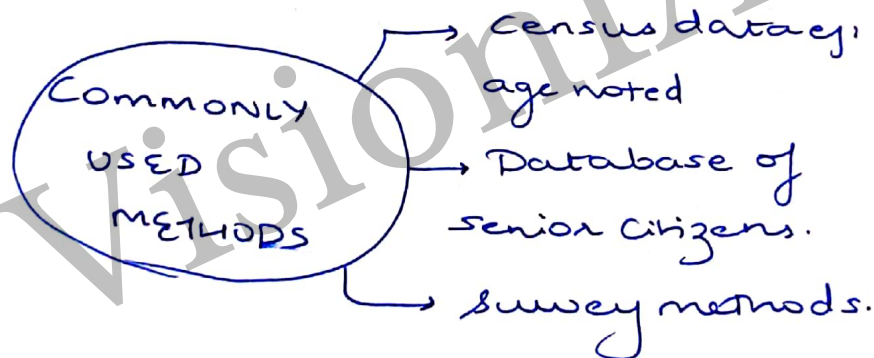
constructed can bring compromised results e.g. assuming 'Sanskritization' as universal (Srinivas) - P.W. Majumdar points desanskritization trends.

→ Interpretive approaches result in different results  
↓  
Low Reliability and validity.

Thus ideal type remains one of Weber's important contribution to sociology but it cannot be marked as his best contribution.

3. (c) Ageing is a demographic reality for many countries including India." Which method of data collection is suitable for understanding the situation of elderly population. Critically examine. 10

Ageing as a phenomenon is studied sociologically based on resource theory, social roles, religious views etc. For countries like India, it is a demographic (30% by 2050) reality which needs objective data collection to be studied.



Suitable methods:

→ Quantitative Methods like Census, survey etc is used in India. while

it provides concrete data for social welfare, policies, schemes etc, it is limited in sociological understanding

→ Need for Qualitative methods:

→ use of participant observation, unstructured interviews, conversation analysis, media survey

↳ understand social role of ageing

↳ identify psychological insecurities.

↳ studies on generation gap.

↳ insights on health issues especially mental states.

Thus a combination of methods as suggested by Rogendra Singh - (integrationist) approach is needed to study ageing in India.

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

10 x 5 = 50

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

Resource mobilization theory seeks to explain how social movements come into being by utilizing various resources at their disposal.

### Types of Resources

→ Economic Resources:

funding and economic needs for sustaining movements e.g. royal patronage for Buddhist/Jain movements by Nandas, Mauryas etc.

→ Political resources in terms of political climate and structural conduciveness (Smelser). e.g. open society

→ Human resources:

To look into the various functions and fill the roles of Congress was led by all sections, primarily upper class.

→ Moral resources

Depends on the kind of leadership, authority and social and moral capital of communal motivations are emotionally charged causing high intensity.

Resource mobilization theory fails to explain why movements take place and how they disintegrate. But it is useful in understanding how social movements are carried out and sustained.

5. (b) Human Relation school of thought by Elton Mayo.

Elton Mayo's Human Relation Approach, popularly known as The Hawthorne studies was a pioneering research in industrial sociology and workplace research.

→ Unlike Taylor's work piece related studies, Mayo's studies showed that subjects should be seen as humans with social bonds and motivations.

→ changed the approach towards worker motivation and leadership.

→ showed that humans are not driven by economic means or monetary concerns alone.

→ Emphasized on concepts of Emotional intelligence in workplace, triggering works of Goleman.

→ Shows how research can lead to completely new theories.

Merton. study was aimed at finding significance of illumination.

The Human Relations approach revolutionized management approaches. Today, Human Resources is a uninstitutionalized career. Though it ignores economic motivation and is at micro level, the theory was a pioneering work.

5. (c) Critically examine the features of 'critical social research'.

Critical social research is one which looks at the various aspects of society, finds out functional and dysfunctional aspects to guide social change.

### CRITICAL EVALUATION

→ Critical social research often aids in social change by finding dysfunctions e.g.:  
S.C Dube on Panchayati Raj.

→ At the same time, it can be value loaded and misguided as well e.g.: conflict perspectives without solutions (A.R. Desai).

→ Critical social research often ignores functional aspects

eg: Desai's criticism of nation state.

→ critical social research has  
revolutionary potential eg: Marxism.

But it can be used as a legitimizing  
ideology for authoritarianism,  
social disruption eg: Maoism.

→ It ignores latent functions  
of social phenomena eg: Merton  
explaining latent function of  
Corruption in USA.

While critical social research  
plays a valuable role in  
social change, it can be hijacked  
for antisocial purposes as well.  
It must be used judiciously.

5. (d) Write a short note on "Industrial conflicts and strikes".

Industrial conflicts and strikes were frequent in Indian national movement and are often symptoms of uneven modernization of economy - T.K. Oommen

→ Marx suggests that industrial conflicts and strikes are a result of rising class consciousness of workers and would eventually result in a proletariat revolution.

→ Berensman also points out how exploitation of working class often leads to instability and conflicts.

→ Dahrendorf shows how in modern societies workers

collectivism is declining, leading to institutionalization of conflict:

→ Industrial strikes could also be associated with other social grievances e.g. Railway strikes during National movement, Quit India movement etc.

Thus industrial strikes and conflicts can be viewed via different theoretical viewpoints. While Durkheim would say some amount is normal in a free society, they also point to some form of structural strain (Merton)

5. (e) Discuss the importance of 'Pilot Studies' in sociological research.

Sociological research often utilizes pilot studies to understand the importance of research question and modify the research suitably.

### IMPORTANCE:

- Formulate a proper research design e.g.: find the correct order of doing things.
- Understand expected difficulties in conducting research. e.g.: <sup>In first census,</sup> women were <sup>hesitant</sup>
- Test the suitability of research methods
- Understand field limitations and other constraints e.g.: language barrier, cultural issues etc.

- Cost effective in conducting a proper research in full scale.
- Understand the population samples
- Operationalization of concepts
- Identify suitable data analysis methods.

Pilot studies cannot always be conducted in social research e.g.: phenomenological approach, interactionist perspective etc. It is also time consuming affair.

But in positive, data oriented social research pilot studies are very useful.

7. (a) In India's cultural landscape, cults and sects professing a common way of life and shared ideals arose as an alternative to the discrimination perpetuated by traditional religious hierarchies. Discuss. 20

India is home to more than a dozen religions and in its cultural landscapes many cults and sects have blossomed turning into mainstream religions or joining other 'churches'.

→ AS AN ALTERNATIVE:

Traditional Brahmanical faith had become rigid by the Gupta times (D.D Kosambi) and had:

- rigid caste system
- low avenues of social mobility.
- untouchability.
- exploitation

Thus as an alternative to this new sects and cults emerged from the deprived sections (Weber).

→ RISE OF NEW SECTS:

→ Rise of Upanishadic school of thought by Kshatriyas questioning Brahmanical ritual domination  
- (Romila Thapar)

→ Rise of Buddhism and Jainism as new avenues for deprived sections, Jainism for traders etc.  
(R.S Sharma)

→ Rise of new Bhakti movements in medieval times against rigid caste domination. e.g. Mira, Mandevan.

→ Rise of syncretic sects due to

communal tensions between  
Hindus and Muslims e.g. Sikhs,  
Kabirpanthi

→ Rise of new philosophy due to  
cultural contact with west e.g.  
Brahmo samaj of Rajaram Mohun  
Roy

→ CULTS: cults were formed as  
a new cultural renovation  
rebeling against traditionalism  
e.g. Osho's cult, Ajevikas, Lokayata  
etc.

Over time many of the sects  
turned into denominations and  
became institutionalized  
religion e.g. Sikhism.

→ some assimilated into  
Hinduism e.g. Buddhism.

Thus, adopting Roy wallis's stance, almost all types of world affirming, rejecting and representative cults came into India's cultural landscape as a means of alternative to dominant religion.

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7. (b) The institution of family, despite its 'functionality' has not been positively evaluated by many. Discuss. 20

Murdock in his survey of many societies found that family was a universal institution and hence it must have a lot of functionalities. But many scholars reflect on its functionality poorly.

→ CRITICAL EVALUATION:

→ FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS:

→ Parsons says the role of a family in industrial society is to provide nurturing care and for adult personality stabilization.

→ Role of family in which people

are valued in terms of Gemeinschaft  
according to Simmel.

### DYSFUNCTIONAL ASPECTS.

→ Jesse Bernard talks about how  
family labour provides stability  
only for male personalities, at  
the cost of female health.

→ Ann Oakley points out covert  
exploitation of women in terms  
of unpaid domestic labour.

→ Family can at times lead to  
emotionally traumatized  
children - Bell and Vogel

→ Edmund Leach shows how  
familial ties are under strain

in nuclear families due to lack of vast network of kin and high expectations.

→ Household dimensions are also bastions of patriarchy in India leading to:

- gender violence
- ↳ patriarchal attitudes.
- ↳ domestic violence.
- abuse
- emotional trauma.

Family as a system is thus seen favourably by ~~conf~~ functionalists who highlight the positive aspects of familial relations.

At the same time, family being a close institution with high degree of membership (Merton), it also becomes an arena for dysfunctions, origin of deviance etc

Thus many scholars have reflected on these dynamic and latent aspects than the widely known functionalities of family.

7. (c) Briefly analyse the role of ideology as an essential component of social movement. 10

Ideology according to Carl  
Marx, when used as a  
'utopian' ideology by deprived  
sections, it plays an important  
role in social movement.

Role of Ideology:

- Provides a basis for integration  
and consensus e.g. a common 'other'  
is a feature of communalist  
ideology.
- Provides unity of action and  
co-ordination e.g. Gandhian call  
for ahimsa as an ideology.
- Enlightening and educative role.

eg: role of intelligentsia in building  
class consciousness (Marxism)

→ Provides an alternative vision  
of society eg: communist utopia.

→ Legitimacy for authority and  
leadership eg: millenarian  
movements like Santal's rebellion.

Ideology by itself has limited  
role to initiate social movement.  
eg: Marxism is widely accepted but  
becomes revolutionary (radicalist)  
due to other conditions of class  
antagonism, political bankruptcy  
(Cain Britain) etc.