

Question No.  
आशन संख्या

# U.P.S.C

For Practice  
USE Only  
सिर्फ अभ्यास  
के लिए

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Date - 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

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(a)

Religion is source of consensus & conflict. Discuss.  
Durkheim in his work - 'elementary forms of religious life' described it as unified system of belief and practices, relative to sacred i.e. to say things set apart and forbidden. Beliefs and practices unite into single community called church.

## Religion as source of consensus

- ① Durkheim argued that religions promote solidarity and interdependence
- ② socialize people into accepted norms and values
- ③ Parsons argued that religion perform function of personality stabilization that helps to build consensus.
- ④ Durkheim further added, religion is nothing but a collective consensus of society. While worshipping religion,

society worship itself.

## Religion as source of conflict

- ① Jean Halmes argued that all world religions legitimise exploitative notions of patriarchy.
- ② Marx argued religion as manifestation of alienation, which act as pankilla and mask the disease of inequality to legitimise the conflict.
- ③ Althusser view religion as ideological state apparatus in hand of have class to exploit have not.
- ④ Gramsci argued that religion asserts hegemony of have class.
- ⑤ Religion as cause of backwardness.  
(Eg) Rise of Taliban in Afghanistan.  
Despite above criticism, rise of religion in form of crisis religion i.e. celebration of independence day promote solidarity.

1(b) distinguish between 'mechanical solidarity' and 'organic solidarity' in Durkheim's analysis of division of labour

Durkheim defined division of labour as division of complex tasks into simpler ones to perform it efficiently and effectively.

Difference between mechanical & organic solidarity

<u>Mechanical Solidarity</u>	<u>Organic Solidarity</u>
① involves <u>homogeneous</u> <u>task</u> that requires no special skills.	① involves <u>heterogeneity</u> of tasks with requirement of special skills.
② solidarity based on <u>similarity</u> of <u>occupation</u>	② solidarity based on <u>interdependence</u> and <u>co-operation</u>
③ involves use of	③ involves use of

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expressive law i.e.  
anyone who deviates,  
is punished by  
collectivity

④ Present in  
primitive society

⑤ No special skills  
required for  
task completion

restitute law.

④ with advancement  
in society and  
structural differentiation,  
organic solidarity  
emerged.

⑤ Principle of  
meritocracy - skill  
based tasks

however, there exists certain  
similarity that both aim to create  
or highlight co-operative relationship  
thereby creating stability and solidarity.  
its current relevance is highlighted  
in highly skilled engineers of India  
working abroad promoting organic  
solidarity through specialised skills.

10)

origins of symbolic interactionism can be traced back to Weber. discuss.

Symbolic interactionist argued for understanding sociological phenomenon through interpretation of meanings and symbols involved in an interaction situation.

### Weber's Role

- ① Weber propounded use of verstehen methodology to study subjective reality objectively.
  - ② Weber argued that social reality is too chaotic, infinite and complex to study from objective perspective and hence used symbolic interactionist view to study sociology.
- (Eg) → In protestant ethics and spirit capitalism → how interaction between

saint lazar and his followers changed their orientation.

However, not only weber, other sociologist has also prominent role  $\Rightarrow$

① Gr.H. Mead  $\rightarrow$  'Father of symbolic interactionism'  $\rightarrow$  highlight use of symbols i.e. meanings in socialization of children.

② Howard Becker in his labelling approach highlight the change in behaviour on basis of symbol attach to individual.

③ Erving Goffman in dramaturgical analysis argued how different individual act in certain interaction situation to present themselves best.

Therefore, symbolic interactionism has contributions from many prominent sociologist which aids government in policy making & implementation

1(a)

Bureaucracy is a rational form of organization. discuss.

Max Weber described bureaucracy as hierarchical formal organizations designed legally rationally to co-ordinate complex task in pursuit of organizational goals.

Bureaucracy as rational form of organization

- ① works on basis of written rules and regulations i.e. legal rationality.
- ② Principle of Hierarchy → works on principle of subordination and superordination.
- ③ Spirit of impersonality → remains impartial to all.
- ④ Division of labour → work is rationally divided among bureaucrats.

However at certain instances it exhibit or act as unofficial form of organizations.

- ① Red tapism - Deliberate delay in execution of tasks.
- ② Michael Reed describe it as iron cage of bureaucracy where bureaucrat has no freedom to display creativity and innovation.
- ③ Lipset in his study of conformism James highlighted how bureaucracy served the interest of capitalists.
- ④ Milton Dylas in his study and of socialist & communist regime of China highlighted links between bureaucracy and political structure.  
Despite above facts, bureaucracy is one of the important pillar of democracy that acts rationally to uphold public welfare.

1e)

distinguish between 'sacred' and 'profane' in Durkheim's study of religion.

Durkheim in his work 'elementary forms of religious life' described religion as unified system of belief and practices relative to sacred i.e. to set apart things and forbidden. Such belief and practices unite themselves into single community called church.

Durkheim described essence of religion as 'sacred and profane'.

sacred → refer to the things that belongs to other world i.e. transcendental things.

→ used to experience collective sacred frenzy is state of collective exaltation.

→ Durkheim described 'totem' considered sacred by acculturates.

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Purgane → refers to 'mundane' or  
this worldly things which are  
used in daily life of human.

Durkheim used this concept of  
'sacred' and 'purgane' to highlight  
the religious existence and  
explanations.

However, Edmund leach criticised  
durkheim for dichotomy of  
sacred and purgane & argued  
there are many things which  
falls between these two.

despite above criticisms, importance  
of durkheim's view of sacred and  
purgane lies in rites and rituals  
performed as sacred things like  
and down.

2ca) "Authority is based on legitimate domination".  
Explain Weber's typology of authority  
with suitable examples.

Weber described authority as 'Herrschaft'  
which includes ability to gain  
legitimate domination and exercise  
the power over masses.

## Weber's typology of authority

① Traditional rational authority →

a) Weber described that such authority  
are organised on basis of  
traditional rules of religious

leaders

b) such authority gains legitimacy  
on basis of traditional rational  
actions.

c) It involves transfer of authority  
from one generation to another  
on basis of hierarchy

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(Eg) Traditional national authority  
of patriarchy legitimised by  
family members.

(2) Charismatic national authority

a) Such authority are organised  
on basis of special personality  
dispositions of an individual

b) It is based on emotional  
national action.

c) After such authority, after  
death of charismatic individual  
convert into organisations, called  
as continuation of charisma.

(Eg) Mahatma Gandhi → charismatic

personality, who organised  
masses for Indian freedom  
struggle and later after his  
death, his values and ideals  
repropagated through Gandhi foundation

## ③ Legal rational authority

a) we've argued that such authorities are organised on basis of written rules and regulations

b) nature of such authority is based on legal rational action

c) membership to such authority is based on principle of meritocracy

(Eg) Bureaucracy act as legal rational authority working on written rules and regulations.

We've also argued for limitation of such authority like superstitions by charismatic authority, iron cage of bureaucracy in legal rational authority etc. Despite

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such fact, webers' classification  
of authorities is contemporary  
well expected in case of sects  
like Narmal Dauban under  
dramatic sectional authority etc

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2(b)

Distinguish between people being socially excluded and people including themselves socially in societies.

Exclusion → It refers to relative deprivation of social, political, economic etc resource, essential for realising full potential and for fuller participation in society.

There are two dimensions where people are either socially excluded or people deliberately exclude themselves.

Deliberate exclusion of people by themselves

① Perceived exclusion of people motivates them to not join the group. (Eg) Tribal people who deliberately exclude themselves unless fear of loss of their traditions.

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- ② deliberate exclusion of celebrities  
by themselves from common masses.
- ③ Exclusion of high class women  
by their families from education.  
But this doesn't mean they lack  
resources for development.
- ④ Gramsci → added inclusion  
of have class to assert their  
ideological hegemony.

## Social exclusion of people

- ① Radical feminist - Sylvia Walby  
in work - 'Theorizing patriarchy'  
highlights how patriarchy forces  
exclusion of women to realise  
their potential.
- ② Lack of equitable distribution  
of resources prevent them for  
fuller participation (eg) Oxfam

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report, 2023 → Top 1% hold 40% of wealth.

③ Oral contract → highlights marginalisation of under-represented sections contributing to their exclusion.

④ Merton also highlighted lack of institutional means to achieve their cultural goals lead to social exclusion of people. (Eg) Black people in America.

However, exclusion doesn't always mean deprivation of resources as seen in such class women exclusion. And inclusion doesn't always lead to betterment as visible in exploitation of women at workplaces.

Despite above fact, government policies like Forest rights act, 2006 are highly oriented towards unwise growth of 'sabka sath sabka ukas'.

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2(c)

compare meerton's concept of deviance with that of durkheim's idea of anomie? how do they differ in explaining deviant behaviour? meerton accepted the durkheim's idea of anomie as result of structural causes and further added to it by propounding concept of deviance.

meerton's Deviance	Durkheim's Anomie
① <u>cause</u> - lag of institutional means to achieve cultural goals.	① <u>cause</u> → lack of rules and regulations during the transitional phase of development
② <u>consequence</u> → leads to <u>deviant acts</u> like <u>criminal activities</u> to achieve goals.	② <u>consequence</u> → may lead to anomic suicide or exploitation of workers in form of over work.
③ <u>solution</u> - appropriate	③ <u>solution</u> - Temporary

institutional means  
through government  
intervention

## ⑤ Dimensions

- a) Innovator
- b) Retreatist
- c) Rebellion
- d) Ritualist

phenomenon that will  
go away with rules  
and regulation

## ⑤ Dimensions

- a) Anomic suicide
- b) Anomic deviation  
of labour

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difference in explaining deviant behaviour

Durkheim highlighted exploitation  
or suicide of an individual as  
deviant behaviour

Merton argued four innovator  
(where individual reject means i.e.  
turns animal) or retreatist (individual  
reject both means & goals) or ritualist  
(reject goals) or rebellion (changes means  
and goals) as deviant behaviour

however both highlighted the impact  
of anomie & deviance on individual &  
society

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3ca)

How do Mead's concept of the 'I' and 'me' inform our understanding of self-identity and social interactions?

Mead is also referred as father of symbolic interactionism who

propagated use of meaning and orientation in development of self and identity of individual in course of action and interaction situation.

Mead's concept of 'I' and 'me'

① Mead highlighted component of novelty and creativity in 'I' component of self and identity

② 'I' component helps to bring change in existing notions of society.

(Eg) 'I' component in personality of Raja Ram Mohan Roy who challenged traditional notions of

sati and launched a movement  
for bar on sati.

③ 'I' component reflects novelty of  
thoughts in interaction situation.

It highlights the intellectual aspect  
of self and identity different from  
society's expectation.

'me' aspect

① mead highlight 'me' aspect as  
unchanging and stable component  
of self and identity.

② It is in consonance with  
society's norms and values

③ Appreciation and criticism  
by significant others in course  
of interaction situation shapes  
the 'me' component of self-identity

(Eg) children in orphanage have poor

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development of 'me' aspect due to lack of appreciation.

④ 'me' aspect act as mirror of social expectation and it contributes to stability.

However, Mead's concept of 'I' and 'me' was criticised for ignoring the role of social structure in shaping them by

Spickard - Mead's emphasis on individual aspect gives partial picture of reality.

Merton also criticised Mead for not analysing consequences.

Despite such criticisms, Mead's theory of self and identity bridge the gap between sociology and psychology to provide holistic overview.

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3(b)

compare Durkheim's approach to religion with that of Weber. How do their views on role of religion in social change differ?

Durkheim - structural functionalist

highlighted the functions of religions and religion as collective manifestations

Weber - socialist interactionist  
highlighted how religion shapes individual behaviour.

Difference between their viewpoints

Durkheim	Weber
① <u>work</u> - Elementary form of religious life	① <u>work</u> - protestant ethics and spirit of capitalism
② <u>cause</u> - collective sacred frenzy or collective consciousness of people	② <u>cause</u> - highlighted role of interaction situation in propagating religious beliefs.
③ <u>consequence</u> - integration, stability	③ <u>consequence</u> - Rise of capitalism

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and preys on  
identity junction  
of individual.

④ There is no  
direct relation with  
capitalism

⑤ NO belief in ancient  
texts

in society

④ well highlighted  
a direct relation  
b/w religion &  
capitalism in  
preaching of Marxism

⑤ highlighted  
importance of  
early texts

Similarities between their viewpoints

① Both highlighted the impact of  
religion on society at large.

② Both highlighted the factors of  
social change induced by  
religion.

③ Both viewed religion as force  
of individual's stability.

## Role of religion in social change

Durkheim's viewpoint → religion provides knowledge to the fact that science can't answer and also helps in socialization of individual in existing value & norms

→ Durkheim viewed religion as source of social stability, interdependence

Weber's viewpoint → highlighted rise of capitalism and social change through religious preaching of St. Caluin.

<u>St. Caluin preaching</u>	<u>social change</u>
① sign of salvation & damnation in form of success	① Orientation toward vocation
② Everyone should read their own bible	② Increase in literacy rate

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Therefore, theories of both Durkheim  
and Weber highlighted the role  
of religion in development of  
society

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8(c) To what an extent can power be viewed as constant sum game? Elucidate with suitable examples.

Marr described power as constant sum game which remains in hand of have class despite progression of society from ancient stage to medieval feudal to modern capitalist stage. Marr described economic structure control as source of power

Ulmer also highlighted power as net zero game or constant sum game which highly depends on ability to influence other in action interaction situation.

In interaction situation, individual bargains for exercise or manipulation of other to gain power

Eg of Power as constant sum game

① Capitalist using labour work in

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process of commodification and generating profit ~~etc~~, thereby decreasing power of labour and increasing power of capitalist.

② manipulations by charismatic leaders to submit the domination of people towards the leader.

However, persons rejected such idea and argued power as useable sum entity which depends on collective realisation of goals for its achievement.

Example - People gave their vote to political parties to represent collective consciousness but can withdraw anytime by defeating them by withdrawing support.

Therefore, power somewhere lies between politician and people as described Robert A. Dahl - that it is distributed in society.

5(a)

Discuss how Durkheim's study of suicide demonstrates the impact of social structures on individual behaviour.

Durkheim in his book 'Le-suicide' describe it as an act preformed directly or indirectly, positively or negatively, knowing that such action would result in death.

Durkheim rejected explanation of psychologists, climatologist and geographers and highlighted the cause of suicide as social structure.

Impact of social structure on individual

① Forces of integration by social structure

a) Altruistic suicide - guides individual behaviour towards over integration

eg) kamikaze pilot of Japan

b) Egoistic suicide - lack of integration of people leads to egoistic behaviour

eg) Black people suicide in America

## ② Forces of regulation

a) Anomic suicide - lack of regulation

impair behaviour of individual towards righteousness and think nothing can be done.

(Eg) Farmers' suicide post LPG.

b) Fatalistic suicide - over regulation resulting in loss of self of individual.

However sociologist criticised Durkheim's conception of suicide.

① Douglas → argued for individual orientation to commit such action.

② J.M. Atkinson → described certain suicides due to act of vandalism which has nothing to do with structure.

③ David Phillippe → Imitation theory - people committed suicide because of death of their role model.

However, relevance of Durkheim's theory is seen in NPA crisis, LPG crisis etc.

5(b)

what does Karl Marx mean by 'alienation'?  
How does alienation impact workers in  
capitalist mode of production.

Marx in his work - 'Economic and  
political manuscript' described

alienation as feeling of disenchantment  
and disengagement → leading to  
alienation.

Marx described four dimensions of  
alienation →

- ① Alienation from self
- ② Alienation from society
- ③ Alienation from production
- ④ Alienation from product.

Impact of Alienation on workers

- ① commodification of labour into  
wages and treatment of workers  
as animals.
- ② social isolation of workers

convert into market relation i.e.  
based on their professional position.

③ suppression of creativity and  
innovation of workers.

④ Marx described alienation as  
precipitating factor in rise of  
revolutionary urge in workers.

⑤ Alienation also impact workers  
in turning their orientation towards  
religion to stabilise their personality.

However, sociologist like Durkheim  
argued that such phenomenon is  
temporary which will go away  
with regulation and revolution  
seems to be impractical phenomenon.

Despite above criticism, relevance  
of Marxian theory of alienation is  
well visible in government  
laws like trade union act, labour  
laws to prevent such condition.

511)

"Informal sector serves as both safety net and trap in developing economies". Critically examine

Informal sector → refers to organization of work without any formal laws and regulations.

Informal sector as safety net

① Highly beneficial for women labourers who perform both expressive and instrumental role.

② Feminist argued for pink collarisation where women are employed in low paying jobs informally that benefits them because of dual burden.

③ Functionalist sociologist highlight such informalisation of work as advantageous for low skilled workers.

④ Wardner in study of crispum plant highlighted how informalisation

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of work promoted both efficiency and stability of workers.

Industrial sector as trap in developing economies

- ① Marxian sociologist view it as notion of have class to exploit have not class in gaining maximum profit.
- ② growing menace of child labour
- ② dependency theorist - A O Franko and Wallerstein highlighted it as means of developed countries to exploit developing countries.
- ③ Apple company in China → workers locked in factory for work completion.
- ③ Althusser → describe it as ideological state apparatus in hand of bourgeoisie.

Recent intervention of government in Rajasthan to regulate industrial sector - 'Cug workers' highlight its trap and exploitative consequence.

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5(d)

Examine the role of ideology in defining social transformation in democracy

Ideology → de-factly defined it as science of ideas which helps in formation of social association or organization for development.

Role of ideology in transformation of democracy

- ① Representation → propagates ideology of representation of marginalized communities  
(Eg) ideology of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, well reflected in constitution.
- ② Empowerment → of under-represented sections and helps to propagate the controversial issues.  
(Eg) ideology of equality for not just men, women rather extended to LGBTQ+

③ socialization - ideology helps to socialize into democratic ideals to bring transformation and change

(Eg) Abolition or minimising impact of ideology of patriarchy.

④ Karl Popper described ideology as an means of utopia to bring change.

⑤ Hegel propagated dialectical idealism to promote changes.

(Eg) recent SC-judict on sub categorisation of caste - involved dialectical idealism with 4-1 judict

Therefore, ideology is base of any social movement, revolution to bring any change even in democracy. This is well visible in ideologies of Indian nationalist struggle, French revolution etc.

5(c)

How does reference group lead to relative deprivation and eventually criminal behaviour?

Merton in his book - 'Social Structure and Anomie' described reference group as ~~an~~ group to which an individual aspires to become part of and adopt their ideals and values.

Reference group leading to relative deprivation and criminal behaviour

• Merton argued that in course of anticipatory socialization in closed society, an individual becomes distant from his current group in order to become part of reference group.

Failing to do so, result in deprivation i.e. exclusion from current group as well as inclusion

from reference group

This further leads to retreatist behaviour where an individual gave up his goals and means and adopt rebellion behaviour of criminal behaviour.

Sometime, Merton argued that individual might adopt innovative means through illegitimate ways achieve their goals.

(Eg) gun culture use in america.

However, in open society, individual has certain other alternatives to prevent relative deprivation.

Merton's theory of reference group is highly relevant in contemporary society to curb menace of relative deprivation.

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8(a)

As per Weber, differences in prestige and power are as important as differences in economic reward. Discuss how women are systematically disadvantaged in economic terms.  
Above statement highlights the

trinitarian approach of Weber  
to assess power in society - class  
(economic reward), ~~the~~ status (prestige)  
and party (power).

Differences in prestige and power  
are as important as economic reward

① Weber highlighted role of  
prestige in assessing the status  
and functions as per status

(Eg) in early society of India -  
Brahmins enjoyed high notions  
of respectability due to high  
status despite lack of economic  
wealth.

② Weber highlighted difference in

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party position - political party affects individual mobility and achievements.

- ① Weber highlighted how class and status position are oriented towards party position.
- ② Mills in power elite theory highlighted government institution as one of pivotal position.
- ③ Difference in class position determines the economic reward as well as life chances of individual.

Eg) Doctor's son has better chances to become doctor due to available opportunities.

Therefore, difference in any of the above - be it prestige, power or economic reward are equally important to determine individual

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position

systematic disadvantage of women in economic terms

- ① low representation of women in party position hinders the holistic development thereby reducing economic position.
- ② ceiling glass theory → where more than 80% of women are engaged in low paying positions.
- ③ Radical feminist - Sylvia Walby highlights notion of patriarchy in exploitation of women with excessive role burden.
- ④ Pink collarisation → women engaged in low paying work/jobs.
- ⑤ lower class position as well as caste position affects women economic development.

Nobel prize winner of economics 2023

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cauxia golden also highlighted systematic disadvantages faced by women in economic terms.

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8(b)

Analyse the concept of secularization and discuss how does secularization impact religious institutions and public sphere?

Rayon Wilson described secularization as independence of social structures i.e. family, polity etc from threat of religion.

Secularization in contemporary society

① Steve Bruce indicated ease of constitutional ideals and democracy contributed to ease of secularism.

(Eq) → A-25 of Indian constitution propagates freedom of religion.

② Feminist sociologist highlights secularization as means of development of women i.e. free from religious patriarchal ideals.

③ Globalisation further decreased influence of religion and promoted secularization.

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## Impact of secularization on public sphere

- ① Fostered culture of unity among diversity.
- ② Globalization further boosted and promoted hybrid identity of individuals.
- ③ secularization sometimes take form of religious radicalization under fear of loss of traditional ideas & values.
- ④ P.K. Verma concept of detraditionalization highlights amalgamation of culture and declining influence of religion in public sphere.

## Impact of secularization on religious institutions

- ① Declined the influence with increasing specialisation of

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structures as highlighted by Paissons in disengagement theory.

(Eg) Declining influence of church in marriage → being replaced by court marriage.

② Anthony Giddens highlighted rise of modern technological means to assert religious values instead of religious institutions.

(Eg) online darshan.

③ Robert Bellah → highlighted transformation of traditional religion to civic religion and religious institutions to Nationalist institutions.

(Eg) worship of Indian Flag.

Though secularization has largely been influenced through westernization and globalisation but element of traditional religious ideas is well useful in society like Hindu Kumbh Mela.

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8(c)

What is social action? And how is Parsons' social action different from Weber's social action?

Weber described social action as any act that involves the individual's meaning and orientation.

Parsons described any action as social action if it takes place under certain conditions

a) Aims toward attainment of certain goal

b) ~~motivated~~ motivation to attain goal

c) Action is performed under certain situation

d) Act must be regulated by values & ideals of society.

Parsonian social action differs from Weberian social action in

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certain way  $\Rightarrow$

① Weber ignored the role of structural situation in analysing the social action.

② Weber classified social action under 4 types - Zweck social action, Wert rational action, emotional rational action & traditional rational action.

Whereas Parsons describes social system as constellation of social action which may include different types.

③ Weber social action is guided by individual meaning & orientation whereas Parsonian social action involves motivational and value orientation behind it.

Parson bridge the gap between macro and micro sociology to develop theory of social action.

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