

SOCIOLOGY (Mains)

PAPER - I

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

1. Sociology - The Discipline:

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences
- (c) Sociology and common sense

2. Sociology as Science:

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology
- (c) Positivism and its critique
- (d) Fact value and objectivity
- (e) Non- positivist methodologies

3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

4. Sociological Thinkers:

- (a) Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle
- (b) Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society
- (c) Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism
- (d) Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables
- (e) Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups
- (f) Mead - Self and identity

5. Stratification and Mobility:

- (a) Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation
- (b) Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory
- (c) Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race
- (d) Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility

6. Works and Economic Life:

- (a) Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society
- (b) Formal and informal organization of work
- (c) Labour and society

7. Politics and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of power
- (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties
- (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology
- (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution

8. Religion and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of religion
- (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults
- (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism

9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage
- (b) Types and forms of family
- (c) Lineage and descent
- (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour
- (e) Contemporary trends

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of social change
- (b) Development and dependency
- (c) Agents of social change
- (d) Education and social change
- (e) Science, technology and social change