



**UPSC 2024 MAINS (OPTIONAL)**

**SOCIOLOGY- PAPER I**

**Q1. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:**

**(10 x 5 = 50)**

- (a) Discuss the nature of Sociology. Highlight its relationship with Social Anthropology. 10
- (b) Analyse the changing nature of caste as a status group. 10
- (c) Marriage as an institution has undergone a radical transformation from 'ritual' to 'commercial' in its outlook. Explain the factors behind this change. 10
- (d) Democracy needs a vibrant culture of civil society in order to strengthen its foundation of citizenship. Comment. 10
- (e) What are the 'basic and irreducible' functions of the family as proposed by Talcott Parsons? Explain. 10

**Q2.**

- (a) Sociology is the product of European enlightenment and renaissance. Critically examine this statement. 20
- (b) Do you think 'objectivity' is an over-hyped idea in sociological research? Discuss the merits and demerits of non-positivist methods. 20
- (c) What is social mobility? Critically examine the classification of 'closed' and 'open' models of social stratification. 10



**Q3.**

- (a) How do you view and assess the increasing trend of digital ethnography and use of visual culture in sociological research? 20
- (b) Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism' as a critique of Marxism. 20
- (c) Critically explain the salient features of 'alienation' as propounded by Karl Marx. 10

**Q4.**

- (a) What do you understand by 'mixed method'? Discuss its strengths and limitations in social research. 20
- (b) Define the concept of 'gig' economy and discuss its impact on labour market and workers' social security net. 20
- (c) Critically assess the impact of technological advancement and automation on the nature of work and employment. 10

**SECTION B**

**Q5. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each: (10 x 5 = 50)**

- (a) Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim? 10



- (b) Explain G.H.Mead's idea of development of 'self' through the 'generalised other' 10
- (c) Describe the differing principles of work organization in feudal and capitalist societies. 10
- (d) How is 'power' different from 'authority'? Discuss various types of authorities as theorized by Max Webber. 10
- (e) Critically examine the roles of science and technology in social change. What is your opinion on their increasing trend in 'online' education and teaching? 10

**Q6.**

- (a) Underline the role of social media in contemporary social movements and describe its challenges. 20
- (b) How does a multicultural society accommodate diversities of all kinds – ethnic, linguistic and religious? Discuss its major challenges. 20
- (c) Discuss the concept of animism and differentiate it from naturism. 10

**Q7.**

- (a) Do modernization and secularization necessarily go together? Give your views? 20



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- (b) How do you understand the phenomena of the mushrooming of sects and cults in contemporary society? Discuss the factors responsible for the trend. 20
- (c) Discuss the dimensions of power in the construction and maintenance of social hierarchies in a society. 10

**Q8.**

- (a) Modern families have not just become nuclear and neo-local, but also filiocentric. How do you explain this trend? 20
- (b) Discuss various theories of social change. Explain the limitations of unilinear theory of social change. 20
- (c) Critically examine the World-Systems theory of Immanuel Wallerstein in terms of development and dependency of various nations. 10