2b) The Marxist theory of alienation is about the causes of human process of alienation in the society. He was concerned with the particular form of alienation brought by capitalism where labourers become a commodity. There have been criticisms to the theory as provided by Marx, but the contemporary realities in societies somehow justify the Marxist theory of alienation.

Alienation is a state in which the environment we create takes on a real solidity and seems unchangeable. In capitalistic society work is forced on the workers in disregard to their interest and they work simply to meet their basic needs. So in the process the labourer gets alienated from the product he produces, the process his colleagues and lastly from himself.

However, it can be noted that traditional capitalism has evolved manifold in forms and manifestations over the years, since Marxist era.

According to Herbert Blumer, less technical job develops less alienation. He sees less alienation in handicraft & cottage industries as more in mechanical industries.

While C.W. Mills finds alienation in service class. In service sector rather than producing.
an object, individual earns by manipulating his intellectual capacity. The individual has the infected object. He is trained to behave in a particular way that transforms an individual from a subject to an object, which leads to alienation.

Alienation also lies in bureaucracy where there is no place for creativity but operates through particular rules & regulations. This leads to frustration and alienation from the system.

Although different studies provide that in similar working conditions not essentially all people get alienated. In modern capitalism, where human resource is precious different measures are taken to improve the working conditions like overtime, bonus, holiday packages, medical facilities, etc. Also things like trade unions, labour laws, international organisations like ILO have come into force. Some MNCs are now making their workers, shareholders of the company do that they get motivated to work hard for the organisation.

But even with the changing scenario, exploitation of workers still persists. The nature of exploitation has changed but the effective level of exploitation has remained the same, if
not increased.

The inhuman long hours of work, the enhanced level of stress and health hazards, the ·
interference of office work through mobile phones & laptops even on holidays have caused irreconcilable
in the personal life of employees like never before.

The irony remains, that even with the apparent
betterment in the working conditions of employees,
inequality—both economic & social—is only on
a steep rise.

Thus, inevitability and inseparability of
alienation from capitalist society is adequately
visible as with the new dimensions of mode
of production, mode of exploitation have also taken
a new face. And hence, Marxian interpretation
of alienation with materialistic dimension gives
direction to sociologists, political scientists &
administrators to study the existing social reality.