



"The significant problems we face can not be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." - Albert Einstein

ANALYSIS / APPROACH / SOURCE / STRATEGY: SOCIOLOGY MAINS 2012 PAPER

-Ms Smita Parashar & Team Vision IAS

Questions	Q. No.	Marks	Topic	Sub-Topic	Level	Nature	Reference	From Vision IAS Test Series (% comparison /similarity)	Comments
PAPER – I									
Interpretive Sociology	1(a)	12	Sociology as Science.	Non-Positivist Methodologies	M	F	Oxford Dictionary of Sociology. + Haralambos & Holborn; Ch: 14.	Test 1 Q7(b)	One needs to be conceptually clear with all the Perspectives and Methodologies in Sociology as they provide the very foundation of the subject and a background to the work of Sociological thinkers..
Fact Value and Objectivity	1(b)	12	Sociology as Science.	Fact, value , Objectivity.	E	F	Haralambos & Holborn; Ch: 14.		The subjectivity vs objectivity debate is one of extreme importance in establishing Sociology as a scientific discipline, therefore the topic is always very important in terms of framing questions.
Universalism vs Particularism	1(c)	12	Sociological Thinkers: Talcott Parsons.	Pattern variables.	E	F	IGNOU ESO-13, Block - 7: Unit 27 + Haralambos & Holborn; Ch: 15.		
Comparative Method	1(d)	12	Research Methods & Analysis	Qualitative & Quantitative Methods	M	F	Haralambos & Holborn; Ch: 14 + Anthony Giddens; Ch: 2 , T.B. Bottomore Ch-3: Sociological Methods.		
Sacred and Profane	1(e)	12	Sociological Thinkers: Emile Durkheim	Religion & Society	E	F	IGNOU ESO-13, Block-3; Unit - 12 , George Ritzer:Ch:3	Test 1 Q5(b)-100%	
How did the French revolution and Industrial revolution play an important role in the emergence of Sociology?	2(a)	30	Sociology- The Discipline	Modernity & Social Change in Europe and	E	F	IGNOU- ESO-13, Block 1; Unit- 1/George Ritzer: Sociological Theory; Ch: 1.		

				emergence of Sociology					
Show how Durkheim through the study of totemism demonstrates the reality of religion.	2(b)	30	Sociological Thinkers: Emile Durkheim	Religion & Society	E	F	Anthony Giddens: Ch: 16 + Haralambos & Holborn; Ch: 7 , George Ritzer:Ch:3		
'Power and authority go together.' Examine. Explain the various types of authority also.	3(a)	30	Sociological Thinkers: Max Weber	Authority	E	F	IGNOU- ESO-13, Block-4:Unit-16 + George Ritzer: Sociological Theory; Ch:4.	Test 9 Q6(a), test 1 Q1(a)- 80%	
Examine how Weber's characterization of capitalism is different from those of Marx.	3(b)	30	Sociological Thinkers		M	FA	IGNOU- ESO-13, Block-5:Unit-21.	Test 7 Q6(b)- 100%	Comparative questions with reference to the Sociological Thinkers have become the norm and one is expected to be well prepared with these .
Differentiate between the qualitative and quantitative methods in Research.	4(a)	20	Research Methods & Analysis	Qualitative and Quantitative Methods	M	F	Haralambos & Holborn; Ch: 14, Antho Giddens; Ch: 2 , IGNOU MSO-002 Block 5 & Block 7		This is an important question from Unit 3 and questions have been framed from this area in different forms ex. Nomothetic and Idiographic methods.
Sometimes workers do not feel attachment for their work. Marx formed a theory for this situation, discuss that theory.	4(b)	20	Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx	Alienation	E	F	Haralambos & Holborn (6th Edition) Ch: 10/George Ritzer: Sociological Theory; Ch: 2.		
'Social fact is to be treated as a thing.' Discuss.	4(c)	20	Sociological Thinkers: Emile Durkheim	Social Fact	E	F	George Ritzer: Sociological Theory; Ch: 3/IGNOU: ESO-13, Block-3: Unit-10.	Test 1;Q 6(b).	
Stratification of Classes	5(a)	12	Stratification & Mobility	Dimensions: Social stratification of class.	E	F	Anthony Giddens: Ch:11 , T. B. Bottomore :Ch-11		
Industrial Democracy	5(b)	12	Work and Economic Life	Labour and Society	M	U	Oxford Dictionary of Sociology.		Labour and Society is a topic of great contemporary relevance and questions are often framed in an off - beat manner or are derived questions ex: Human Relations school of thought ; Self help groups as informal organization of work.
Citizenship and Civil Society	5(c)	12	Politics and Society	Citizenship, Civil Society	M	F	IGNOU: MSO 001, Block 5, Unit 20		Civil society being of great contemporary relevance , questions have been successively framed from

									this section. Ex. Civil Society and Democracy; Social support mechanisms.
Millenarian Movements	5(d)	12	Politics and Society	Social Movement	M	U	Oxford Dictionary of Sociology , Haralambos and Heald: Ch-11		
Theory of Cultural Lag—Ogburn and Nimkoff.	5(e)	12	Social Change in Modern Society.	Sociological theories of social change.	E	F	T.B.Bottomore :Ch: 18 , ESO -11: Block 8: Unit 33.		
In our society Hierarchical relations are influenced by social mobility. Explain how?	6(a)	20	Stratification & Mobility	Social Mobility:open and closed systems.	M	FA	Ignou Eso -14.....		Social mobility as a social process is an important indicator of the structure of any society ,and therefore questions are successively framed from this section , chosing one or another sub -topic.
In Marxian classification of Society, feudal and slave societies are very important. How are they different from each other?	6(b)	20	Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx	Mode of production.	E	F	Ignou: Eso -13 ;Bloc 2 : Unit 7 , T.B. Bottomore: Ch-11.		Karl Marx is one of the most important thinkers and questions are framed alternatively ,touching upon one or the other sub topic.
Are Social movements always influenced by ideologies? Discuss.	6(c)	20	Politics and Society	Social Movements.	M	FCA	Anthony Giddens: Ch: 22/Haralambos&Holborn:Ch:9 MSO 004 : Block 8 :Unit 29.		Social Movements are an important component of the process of Social Change in any society and therefore an important area from which questions are framed.
Discuss the factors leading to growing religious revivalism in the contemporary world.	7(a)	20	Religion and Society.	Religious Revivalism.	E	FCA	Haralambos & Holborn:Ch:7	Test 3 Q2(a)-100%	
Describe the importance of lineage and descent in kinship and family.	7(b)	20	Systems of Kinship	Lineage and Descent.	M	F	IGNOU ESO 12: Block 2 :Unit 8/Majumdar &Madan:Ch:6.		Questions from Systems of Kinship have shown a general trend of being more theoretical in nature rather than applied ,as is the case with this Topic in Paper 2.
Show how family is distinct from household.	7(c)	20	Systems of Kinship	Family, Household.	E	F	IGNOU MSO 004: Block 3: Unit 9.	Test 3 Q5(d)-60%	
How do formal and informal organization of work influence labour's mobility? Explain with examples.	8(a)	20	Work and Economic Life	Formal &Informal organization of work;Labour and Society.	M	FA	Anthony Giddens : Ch: 20/ Ignou : Eso 12 :Bloc 3; Unit 10,Unit 11.		

What do you understand by nation? Is the nation same as the state? Discuss.	8(b)	20	Politics and Society	Nation , State.	M	F	Oxford Dictionary of Sociology; Igrou : Eso 11: Bloc 5 ;Unit 19 .		
'Revolutionary changes have some specific characteristics.' Discuss with examples.	8(c)	20	Politics and Society/Social change in Modern society.	Revolution / Sociological theories of social change.	M	F	Oxford Dictionary of Sociology.		
SOCIOLOGY : PAPER – II									
Limitations of the dialectical approach to the study of Indian society.	1(a)	12	Perspectives on the study of Indian society.	Marxist Sociology.	M	FA	Indian Sociological Thought: B.K.Nagla/ Yogendra Singh: Modernization of Indian Tradition: Ch:1.		For overall comment , Kindly refer Analysis of Sociology paper II
Changing rural power structure.	1(b)	12	Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India.	Green revolution and Social change/ Changing modes of Production in Indian agriculture:	M	FA	Nadeem Hasnain:Section 2.		
Challenges to institution of marriage.	1(c)	12	Systems of Kinship in India.	Marriage in India.	M	FA	Ram Ahuja:Indian Social System: Part 4.	Test 5 Q2(b)-indirect	
Westernization and institutional changes in India.	1(d)	12	Impact of Colonial Rule on Indian Society.	Modernization of Indian Tradition.	M	F	Nadeem Hasnain: Ch:24/ Yogendra Singh: Modernization of Indian Tradition:Ch:4.		
Interaction of 'little tradition' and 'great tradition'.	1(e)	12	Impact of Colonial Rule on Indian Society.	Modernization of Indian Tradition.	E	F	Nadeem Hasnain: Indian Society and Culture: Ch-1 & Ch-24/ Ram Ahuja: Indian Social System: Ch:19 , Yogendra Singh: Modernization of Indian Tradition.		
Tribe and Caste.	2(a)(i)	4	Tribal Communities in India	Definitional Problems	E	F	An Introduction to Social Anthropology. Madam & Majumdar; CH: 15		
Affinal kin and Consanguineous kin.	2(a)(ii)	4	System of Kinship in India	Types of kinship	E	F	Madan & Majumdar. Ch: 6/7.		

				systems					
Marriage as sacrament and marriage as contract.	2(a)(iii)	4	System of Kinship in India	Family and Marriage in India	E	F	Ram Ahuja: Indian Social System. Ch: 6/7.		
Positional change and structural change.	2(a)(iv)	4	Perspectives on the study of Indian society.	Structural Functionism (M. N. Srinivas)	M	F	M. N. Srinivas: Social Change in Modern India. Ch: 3		
'Indian society may be understood as a system of cognitive structures.' How far do you agree with this statement?	2(b)	30	Perspectives on the study of Indian society.		M	F	NCERT: Class XI		
Comment on the social and cultural determinants of sexual division of labour.	2(c)	14	System of kinship in India	Sexual division of labour	M	FA	IGNOU-ESO-12, Block-7, Unit-31, 29		
Examine the impact of secularization on various religious communities in India.	3(a)	30	Religion and society/ Politics and society	Religious communities in India/ Secularization	D	FA	-		
Has geographic and economic mobility impacted the tribal culture and social structure? Give examples?	3(b)	30	Tribal communities in India	Issues of integration and autonomy	D	FA	IGNOU-ESO-12, Block-6, Unit-28/ Madan & Majumdar; CH: 16		
Has nuclear family existed in economic mobility India? Discuss with reference to the views of I.P. Desai.	4(a)	20	System of kinship in India	Family in India	M	F	Ram Ahuja: Indian Social System. Ch: 3.		
How have social reform movements in colonial India contributed to modernization of Indian society?	4(b)	20	Impact of colonial rule on Indian society	Social Reforms	E	F	K. L. Sharma: Indian Social Structure and Change; CH: 3, Nadeem Hasnanin. Ch: 23	Test 4 Q5(b)-indirect	
Discuss the factors which contributed to industrial modernization in India. What are the salient features of new industrial class structure?	4(c)	20	Industrialization and urbanization in India/ Social Classes in India	Evolution of modern industry in India/ Industrial class structure	M	FA	IGNOU-MSO-004, Block-7, Unit-27 + A. R. Desai: Social Background of Indian Nationalism	Test 5 Q4(b)-50%	
Demographic perspective of Indian youth.	5(a)	12	Population dynamics	Population size, growth, composition and distribution	D	FCA	IGNOU-ESO-16, Block-5, Unit-18		
Regional political elites and the democratic process.	5(b)	12	Politics and society	Social and Political elite	M	FA	Contemporary India. Chandhok & Priyadarshi. Ch: 16/17	Test 8 Q5(b)	

Education and Dalit empowerment.	5(c)	12	Visions of Social change in India	Education and social change	M	FA	IGNOU-ESO-11, Block-3, Unit-11 + IGNOU-ESO-14		
Constitution as a living document of social change.	5(d)	12	Visions of Social change in India	Constitution , law and social change	E	FA	K. L. Sharma: Indian Social Structure and Change. Ch: 18, Yogendra Singh. Social Change in India.	Test 5 Q1(a)-100%	
Education and removal of inequality.	5(e)	12	Visions of Social change in India/ Challenges of Social Transformation	Education and social change/ Illiteracy and disparities in education	M	FA	Contemporary India: Chandhok & Priyadarshi. Ch:9/ IGNOU-ESO-11, Block-3, Unit-11		
Critically examine the concepts of nation and citizenship in the context of globalization.	6(a)	20	Population Dynamics	Nation, democracy and citizenship	D	FA	IGNOU-MSO-004, Block-7, Unit-28		
Discuss some social and cultural determinants of infant mortality rate. Give your suggestions to prevent infanticide.	6(b)	20	Rural and Agrarian transformations in India	Emerging issues- infant mortality	M	FA	IGNOU-ESO-16, Block-2, Unit-4, Principles of Population Studies: Bhende & Kanitkar, Ch: 7	Test 6 Q1(a)-60%	
Bring out some positive and negative social consequences of green revolution. How has green revolution changed the rural social structure?	6(c)	20	Challenges of Social transformation	Green revolution and social change.	M	FA	Nameed Hasnain: Indian Society & Culture: Ch: 6, 7, 10/ NCERT: Class-XII, Social Change& Development in India. Ch:4		
Describe those social changes which have contributed to increase of violence against women. What are the emerging forms of violence against women? Suggest suitable measures to contain this problem.	7(a)	30	Challenges of Social transformation	Violence against women	D	FA	Neela Desai: Women in Indian Society	Test 6 Q4(a)	
What are the problems of ageing population? Describe the declining traditional social support system for the aged. Suggest alternative measures to support ageing population.	7(b)	30	Population Dynamics	Emerging issues- Ageing	M	FCA	IGNOU-ESO-16, Block-5, Unit-20	Test 6 Q5(b)-60%	
Have the new economic policy and economic reforms led to weakening of labour class movements? Explain your view with examples.	8(a)	30	Industrialization and urbanization in India	Working Class Class– Mobilisation	D	FCA	IGNOU-MSO-004, Block-4, Unit-14/ IGNOU-MSOE-004, Block-6, Unit-21		
Do you think that some policies and laws relating to environment have	8(b)	30	Challenges of Social transformation	Crisis of development:	M	FCA	IGNOU-MSO-003, Block-4, Unit-13, 14		

retarded the development process? Give examples. How can an ideal balance between environmental protection and development goals be brought about?				Environmental Problems and Sustainability				
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Note :


Level : Easy (E) , Medium (M) and Difficult (D)

Nature : Fundamental (F) , Fundamental Applied (FA) , Applied : Fundamental + current (FCA)

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Analysis & Approach : Sociology Paper – I [Mains-2012]

Continuing with last year's (2011) trend and pattern, Sociology (Main) Paper I, was one of 'moderate difficulty level'. The questions were once again framed in a very direct and straight forward manner, much like last year. As far as the length of the paper was concerned, the aspirants were more or less prepared to handle a lengthy paper unlike, the previous year, when many were least prepared for 12 and 20 markers and the trend of a long question being divided into three sub-parts.

In terms of distribution of marks to the different Units, there was some variation as compared to 2010, 2011. This year saw in comparison to the last two years, about 50% or more weightage being given to Sociological Thinkers. Stratification and Mobility, saw a sharp decline in terms of allotment of marks, which is always the case with one or the other unit. [Previous years: Work & Economic Life.] As far as the Institutions [Units:6-9] were concerned, there was more or less some degree of consistency. The topics chosen from the different Units [unlike in 2010] were one which required elaboration of concepts and theories rather than contemporary application per se. In other words, the paper was more theoretical rather than being applied in nature.

Unit	Year : 2010{Marks}	2011{Marks}	2012{Marks}
1. Sociology – The Discipline	30	42	30
2. Sociology as Science	30	12	24
3. Research Methods and Analysis	30	42	32
4. Sociological Thinkers	90	72	174
5. Stratification and Mobility	60	72	32
6. Works and Economic Life	105	32	32
7. Politics and Society	75	72	64
8. Religion and Society	60	32	20
9. Systems of Kinship	15	32	40
10. Social Change in Modern Society	15	72	32

2010 can be regarded as a 'break' from the pattern, generally speaking of the years before it and also after that. The present trend, leaving aside the length of the paper, can be regarded as a continuation of the previous year's pattern. The basic idea in framing a paper of this nature is to judge the conceptual clarity of the aspirants. The main challenge in writing a paper which has direct questions is to write answers rich in content and relevant with reference to the question.

The increasing length of the paper in the past two years also indicates that one needs to be familiar with all the topics and sub topics in the syllabus and one can no longer afford to be selective, while covering the syllabus for the Main examination. Each of the sub topic must be covered from standard text books, which will bring about conceptual clarity and enhance the content of the answers written.

Once, one is prepared to write a paper of such a manner, one can also effortlessly handle a paper which may be of a higher level of difficulty. Contemporary relevance of Classical thinkers and updating one's knowledge in terms of Contemporary thinkers in Sociology is all that one needs to write a good answer, irrespective of the level of difficulty of the paper.

Completing the paper and attempting the questions through three or four well organized points would undoubtedly fetch an aspirant a decent score or even above that in a paper of a very direct nature.

Analysis & Approach : Sociology Paper – II [Mains-2012]

Sociology Paper II [Mains-2012] was a **good mix** of theoretical, applied and opinion based questions. The **length** of the paper was almost comparable to that of last year, (28 Questions/22 Questions) with an addition of a new trend of 4 markers. The **nature of the questions** much like Paper I, were quite direct. In continuity with last year's trend, a good number of questions had been framed from topics or areas of contemporary significance. [Labour class movements, Ageing, Environment/Development, Demography and Indian Youth, Regional political elites]. There was also a trend of certain questions or topics being repeated. [Tribe & Caste; Infant mortality rate, Violence against women, Green revolution]. This had more to do with the current importance of the issues.

The **distribution of marks** to the three different Units, again highlights the importance successively being assigned to the section on **Social Change In India. [C]**. Broadly, the marks allotted to the **three sections** remain more or less in the same range, however there are variations within the three Units. More weight age has been given to the 'dynamics' of Indian Society rather than the just the 'structure.' Also an aspirant's sociological perspective on contemporary issues can best be analyzed by framing questions from the section on Social change.

Topic	Year:	2010 (Marks)	2011 (Marks)	2012 (Marks)
A. Indian Society				
(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian Society.		50	15	42
(ii) Impact of Colonial Rule on Indian Society.		20	30	44
	Total:	70	45	86
B. Social Structure				
(i) Rural & Agrarian Social Structure		30	—	—
(ii) Caste System		80	65	4
(iii) Tribal Communities in India		—	35	34
(iv) Social Classes in India		—	—	10
(v) Systems of Kinship		20	15	54
(vi) Religion & Society		20	—	30
	Total:	150	115	132
C. Social Change in India				
(i) Vision of Social Change in India		—	30	24
(ii) Rural & Agrarian Transformation in India		—	45	32

(iii) Industrialization & Urbanization in India	80	30	40
(iv) Politics & Society	50	30	32
(v) Social Movements in Modern India	50	35	—
(vi) Population Dynamics	50	65	62
(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation	30	85	72
Total:	260	320	262

Handling Sociology Paper II requires good 'conceptual clarity' and the ability to relate these concepts to the **Indian context** and also incorporate relevant studies or examples of change with reference to those areas/ topics. One should handle **conceptual questions** making use of 'theoretical frameworks'. This can be easily achieved by reading standard textbooks for Paper II. For the **applied questions** one should be able to present one's ideas/points in a sociological manner by linking concepts with the present reality. Also case studies from recent Sociological articles, or newspaper articles should be included.

Some bit of extra reading on the process of **Globalization** [Social change] and its impact on the different structures in the Indian context, would always be helpful in adding more content to one's answers. Also it would enable one to better analyze the current social processes in Indian society. Most importantly, coverage of all the sub topics would enable an aspirant to effortlessly apply concepts and make use of relevant examples/sociological studies wherever necessary.

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