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ACADEMY

SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)

Name Of Candidate	Shrestha Anupam		
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Mobile No.		Date:	3/08/19

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE**INSTRUCTION**

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
Total Marks:		

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).
2. There are EIGHT questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. Question 1 and 5 are compulsory. You can attempt any THREE out of the remaining, Choosing at least ONE Question from each section.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Remarks:

Start Time|

End Time|

Mode Of Examination :

Online Offline

ECN CODE:

Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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Section A

Q.1) Write notes on the following in about 150 words each: (10 * 5 = 50 Marks)

a. The sociological imagination tries to recapture the 'man in society' lost to the McDonaldized world of today. Critically analyze the statement.

(10 Marks, 150 words)

The concept of 'McDonaldization of Society' was given by George Ritzer. Drawing from the over-rationalized conception of man in Weberian bureaucratic framework, Ritzer propounded that the world is increasingly getting over-rational and it is having a negative fallout on human existence as a whole.

Globalisation phenomena has been widely debated and its consequences have been analyzed by different sociologists through distinct perspectives. While the 'hyper-globalisation' theorists believe that globalisation is an enriching experience and has no negative impact on individual or

on a nation's sovereignty, the opposite viewpoint believes that increasing globalisation is leading to loss of sovereignty and cultural identity for both persons and nations.

Ritzye compare today's world to a McDonald outlet where people queue up to get a burger as if they are parts of a moving ~~in~~ assembly line. Similarly the attendant takes orders and delivers them almost mechanically, as if behaving like a robot.

Thus the concept of a over-rationalised man lost in a 'McDonaldized society' is a raging topic of contemporary sociology.

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b. Examine the material issues that went into the making of Sociology. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Sociology owes its inception to a multitude of factors ranging from intellectual influences to French Revolution. The material conditions of the then society also played a formative role in establishing Sociology as a discipline.

In the early 19th century, the seeds of sociological thought were sown with the change of mode of production from feudal to capitalistic. Home-based production was replaced by factory-based production. Machines were increasingly used and production ^{began} ~~became~~ on mass scale.

The factory system had many negative consequences including the dehumanisation and alienation of labour.

Shums were came up to accomodate migrant workers and their families and were characterised by poor living conditions. The factory itself had long working hours with poor working conditions and little safety equipments.

These material conditions were reflected in the work of early sociologists like Karl Marx who saw capitalism as an oppressive system that led to alienation of labour. Durkheim analyzed the same through his concept of anomie.

Thus the material conditions of society, together with the intellectual and political influences, led to establishment of sociology as a discipline.

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c. Scientific method in sociology is a laudable promise with limited possibility.
Comment.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

From its very inception, Sociology has been mired in the debate of whether or not it is a scientific discipline.

— The founding fathers of sociology including Saint Simon, Auguste Comte, Durkheim etc. wanted to model sociology on the lines of natural sciences. They believed that sociology was 'a science of society' and hence application of scientific method in sociology is both necessary and desirable. They believed that use of scientific method in sociology would help in evolving general laws about society and in making sociological predictions.

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However the early 20th century saw the emergence of non-positivistic methodologies like ethnomethodology, Phenomenology, Interpretative approach etc. Thinkers like Schutz, Garfinkel and Weber showed that scientific methods can't be applied in sociology as they are applied in natural sciences because the subject matter of both is different. They advocated the use of methods like Verstehen to understand subjective nature of social realities.

The debate over the use of scientific methods continues till date. It is generally accepted that the use of such methods is possible in sociology, with some restrictions.

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d. Discuss the Synthetic and Formalist approach to the subject matter of sociology. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The subject matter and scope of Sociology has been a widely-debated issue throughout its journey as a discipline. The Synthetic and formalist approach represent two different viewpoints regarding sociology's subject matter and scope.

The formalist school believes that the scope of Sociology is limited. They propound that sociology must concern itself with understanding than predictions. Simmel is a prominent thinker of this school.

The Synthetic approach, on the other hand, argues that the scope of Sociology is unlimited and that it can

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study any and all existing social realities. Durkheim, Comte etc. were the prominent thinkers belonging to this school.

In the contemporary world, the scope of sociology has been further broadened by the post-Modernist approach which stresses on inter-disciplinarity. New topics like Information Technology and its impact on Society, demography etc. are being studied by sociology. Thus it is apt to say that what defines the subject matter and scope of sociology is not what but how it chooses to study a particular topic.

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e. What are some of the problems associated with fieldwork?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Field work, refers to an observational research methodology where the researcher tries to understand of the different facets of a social setting by observing the structures and people in it in-situ.

The importance of field work has been emphasized by many sociologists. First stressed by Ernest Pritchard and Raddiffe Brown, it was later employed in the form of village studies by many Indian sociologists like Srinivas, Andree Beteille etc.

However, the fieldwork, also poses certain problems and limitations like:—

(i) It is limited in its scope — A small social setting like a village is studied and

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The results are often not generalizable.

(ii) Time-consuming - often 2-3 years are spent in field work of a social setting. These quick results can't be produced.

(iii) It has possibility of researcher bias creeping in. A researcher from a different social setting may apply his own values to the setting he is studying.

(iv) Field limitations - As pointed out by Beteille, ~~as~~ he was prevented from meeting the lower castes during his field study of Sripuram village.

Despite these limitations, field work remains an important method of conducting sociological research.

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in this Area

(Don't Write
anything in this Area)

Q.2) a. While Economics is about how people make choice, sociology is about how they don't have any choice to make. Discuss. (20 Marks)

Sociology and Economics, as two separate disciplines, share many complementarities and also significant divergences with each other.

Classical economics is based on the premise of rationality of the actor. It believes that individuals in a market economy, make the most rational decisions, taking into account their skills, competitive advantages etc. For example, a guy looking for a job would search for one which is best-suited to his skills and knowledge. Similarly, a buyer has an option to purchase the same thing from multiple shops and he makes a choice based on lower

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costs offered, convenience, quality of product etc.

Many sociologists, primarily Durkheim, discount this economic model of rationality of actor and his choices. Durkheim says that Division of labour is based on social organisation and is a means to achieve social cohesion and solidarity.

Critical school also questions the notion of choice that an individual has. They believe that different social institutions are a way of restricting individual liberty under the pretext of allowing them more freedom. However, the over-socialized and restricted view of a man in society has been questioned & within the discipline of

Sociology itself. Thinkers like Parsons believe that a social actor is always rational and hence makes a rational choice based on normative and situational constraints.

In contemporary times, the disciplines of Economics and Sociology have drawn closer to each other.

The emergence of concepts of 'Behavioural Economics' and 'Nudge theory' has questioned the classical economic notions of individual's choice. Similarly, Sociology is also trying to find a balance between the individual's choice and society's control on them. Thus there is an increasing convergence between the two disciplines.

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b. What do you understand by Positivism and Positivist methodology? Discuss how did Durkheim apply Positivist methodology in his Study of Suicide?

(20 Marks)

Positivism is an approach to studying of sociology. It advocates the use of scientific methods in sociology and holds that sociology is a Science.

Positivist methodology refers to the objective, unbiased and empirical way of doing sociological research. It emphasises on behaviour and realities that are external enough to be observed and advocates formulation of general theories based on these empirical facts.

Positivism was stressed upon by many founding fathers of

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Sociology like Auguste Comte, Spencer, Durkheim etc who believed that usage of methods of natural science in Sociology would take sociology closer to becoming a scientific discipline.

However positivism has been criticized by later sociological approaches like Ethnomethodology, Phenomenology, Interpretative approach etc.

They believe that behaviour of man is too subjective to be empirically observed and generalised & on lines of lifeless matter like Natural sciences study. They advocate understanding of reality from individual's perspective.

Durkheim is considered one of the pioneers of Positivism and he used positivist methodology in many of his work including 'Le Suicide'. The study of suicide is considered one of the first works in which usage of quantitative methods in sociological research was demonstrated.

Durkheim focused his attention not on suicide as a phenomenon but on suicide rates, which he believed were constant for a particular society. For purpose of research, he collected data from police stations, hospitals, morgues etc- from different regions across Europe. After analysing the

data thus collected, he was able to reach the conclusion that suicide rates were indeed fairly constant for a given society. He thus proposed the presence of 'suicidal currents' which maintain the same rate of suicide in a society by taking ^{some} the vulnerable individuals in their grasp.

Thus Durkheim's study of suicide demonstrated the usage of positivist methodology like Quantitative analysis, empirical data collection, deductional analysis etc.

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