

TEST CODE: 23201

FIAS – 2019 – SOCI

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)

Name Of Candidate	Karun Garud		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910030823
Mobile No.		Date:	04/08/19

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile).</p> <p>2. There are EIGHT questions printed in ENGLISH.</p> <p>3. Question 1 and 5 are compulsory. You can attempt any THREE out of the remaining, Choosing at least ONE Question from each section.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p>	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
Total Marks:				
Remarks:			Start Time	End Time
			Mode Of Examination :	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE:	Evaluation Date:

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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 McDonaldised world of today. Critically analyze the statement.

(10 Marks, 150 words)

Ans: Sociological imagination refers to an approach of understanding social processes, social institutions, relations etc.

1) Sociological imagination tries to understand the causal relationships or correlation between different social phenomena.

2) It helps to make sense of the social reality by uncovering the meanings attached by social actors to different aspects.

3) In the era of McDonaldisation, focus of sociologist need not be on understanding effects of external stimuli on ^{an individual} human beings but on the thought process & actions of individual.

ForumIAS

4) Due to commercialisation & consumerism, man may ~~be~~ ~~lose~~ lose importance as an object of social research, merely ~~active~~ acting as a passive cog in scheme of things.

5) However sociological imagination helps unclutter the futile aspects of a phenomenon rather focussing on social relationships as formed by human interactions.

However, in many of the sociological research analysis, man is ~~not~~ merely ~~be~~ considered as responding to external stimuli without being reflective.

Despite the flaws, sociological imagination helps to divert attention towards 'man in society' from social forces.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

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

Ans: Rise of sociology was due to multiple factors, of which material issues is one of the most important.

Material Issues:

- 1) Rapid ~~urban~~ industrialisation and factory system of production disrupted normal life.
- 2) Increasing urbanisation and movement of people from rural to urban areas caused ~~many~~ great upheaval in society.
- 3) Due to congested urban spaces, there was increase in crime. Moreover, there was rise in number of nuclear families.
- 4) This led to increase in emotional load a family as a social institution.

5) Factory system of production created alienation & resentment in the minds of workers as profit was accumulated by capitalists.

6) This great social upheaval and resultant rapid changes, hampered social stability & peace.

7) To understand the changes in society due to these factors along with ideological & technological aspects, sociologists tried to undertake studies out of which borne the discipline of sociology.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

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

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Ans: Scientific method is rooted in empiricism with focus on objectivity and consistency in observations.

Positivists emphasized upon use of scientific methods in sociology whereas interpretivists ~~are~~ considered their use in sociology as futile.

However, with the help of scientific methods, research can be carried out on standard lines to improve its reproducibility, reliability & validity.

Scientific methods are also promising because, they tend to provide general understanding of a phenomenon in society. Eg. ^{Opinion} Surveys might indicate probable performance of a political party.

Forum IAS

Scientific methods of exp indirect experimentation & comparative analysis help sociologist uncover social causes behind a seemingly individual centric act. Eg. Durkheim's study of suicide.

Despite its promise, scientific methods have limited application in sociology as human beings are rational creatures with consciousness. unlike

This brings lot of subjectivity in research & results are difficult to comprehend due to reasons like, interviewer bias, non-response bias, value bias etc.

Thus, scientific methods can be used for certain aspects of sociological research ~~for~~ only.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	

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

Ans: Subject matter of sociology as per Max Weber is study of social actions.

Formalist approach

1) It generally involves less collaboration with other streams like anthropology, psychology etc.

2) It attempts to understand social reality in totality on its own.

3) It also uses scientific methods to carry out sociological research.

4) This approach takes a macro view of society & provides generalisations on the basis of observed social facts.

Synthetic Approach.

1) It involves collaboration among different fields like psychology, economics . etc.

2) Synthetic approach is useful in problems where object of study involves multidisciplinary approach.

Eg. study of human economic behaviour involves social as well as psychological aspects

3) Synthetic approach widens the scope of sociology & helps arrive at a better ~~observations~~ conclusions based on observations.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



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

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Ans: Fieldwork is a method of data collection which involves sociologists undertaking studies of particular regions to deconstruct or construct causes behind a ~~phen~~ social fact.

Issues associated

- 1) Fieldwork is an expensive & tiresome method.
- 2) The results may not be reliable as there may be value bias ~~on~~ on part of ~~ob~~ individuals being ~~ob~~ observed.
- 3) Fieldwork also requires more time for data collection & observations are subjective, open to wide interpretations.

4) Fieldwork in a particular setting or a region may not be generalised to other areas as context may not be the same.

5) Fieldwork may not yield consistent results.

Despite the shortcomings fieldwork has been found useful in many sociological studies & research & has enriched sociological ~~research~~ literature.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



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)

Ans: Economics in the basic sense is study of efficient allocation of resources - whereas sociology is the study of social institutions, social relationships, processes & so on.

Economics :

- 1) It focusses on rational behaviour of people in choosing one product or service over another.
- 2) The trade offs & considered by individual results in a rational decision on his part given the available information.
- 3) In line with 'Invisible hand' of

Adam Smith, markets or economy functions on the basic premise that economic actors possess a choice & their choices shape demand & supply.

4) Hence economics bases its studies on conscious, rational choices of individuals & its subsequent impacts.

5) Without choice, the allocation of resources will not be efficient & suitable for population.

Sociology:

1) Stream of sociological thoughts including functionalism & Marxism indicate that man is born in a social world & is

influenced by it.

2) Society is prior to individual & an individual becomes part of society by ~~for~~ learning its values & norms through process of socialisation.

3) Durkheim considers that social facts exercise restraints on an individual.

4) An individual responds to and acts in accordance with norms established, roles assigned & ^{prevailing} value consensus in society.

for eg. ~~the~~ child marriage was not taboo in medieval India but it is frowned upon in 21st century due to changing value consensus in society.

5) Thus society influences choice of individual & as such individual does not have own choice.

6) However, this strand of thinking is criticised by Interpretivist school on grounds that it completely ignores human contribution in shaping society.

7) They argue that humans are reflect reflective, conscious beings & exercise their choices independent of societal values.

Despite the shortcoming, there is little doubt that majority of actions/choices are shaped by society's values & their influence on individuals.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	



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

(20 Marks)

Ans: Positivism refers to positive science of sociology based on scientific methods analogous to natural sciences.

Positivism ~~considers~~ attempts to establish a cause & affect relationship between different phenomenon based on objective studies.

Positivist Methodology

1) Positivists deploy scientific methodology methods to decipher social facts & its impart on society.

2) It uses quantitative methods to make sense of social reality.

3) ~~Methodology involves observing society.~~

Durkheim's study of suicide

- 1) Durkheim undertook study of suicide in Europe to determine the impact of social facts on individuals.
- 2) He ~~was~~ By using suicide rates from data available for different countries, ~~he~~ Durkheim analysed suicide as a social phenomenon.
- 3) He used method of concomitant variation to understand the impact of different variable on suicide rates. For eg. he found that suicide rates were higher for protestant countries than catholic countries.
- 4) He carried out comparative analysis

to observe that within same country, suicide rates varied for catholics & protestants; married & unmarried, rich & poor etc.

5) This helped him establish his conclusion that suicide rates are affected by degree of integration of individual in society as well as degree of regulation in society.

For eg. since unmarried men are ^{less} ~~not~~ integrated than married men, propensity for suicide is more in unmarried men.

6) Thus by analysing, segregating the available data, Durkheim was able to ~~prove that~~ claim that social facts exercise constraints on individual life.

However, Durkheim's study was criticised for following reasons.

- 1) The data used by Durkheim was unreliable.
- 2) Since suicides were categorized by coroners, phenomenologists argue that Durkheim instead of revealing a social fact merely revealed psychology of coroner.

Despite the flaws, Durkheim's study provided a solid springboard for later sociologists to carry their research.

Feedback(For OFFICE use only)

Structure	
Question Interpretation	
Content	
Total	