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30 DEC 2021

FIAS - ATS2021 - SOC #7

ForumIAS

SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)

Name Of Candidate

ANUJA TRIVEDI

Roll No.

1910D78166

Date:

28/12/21

Time Allowed: Three Hours

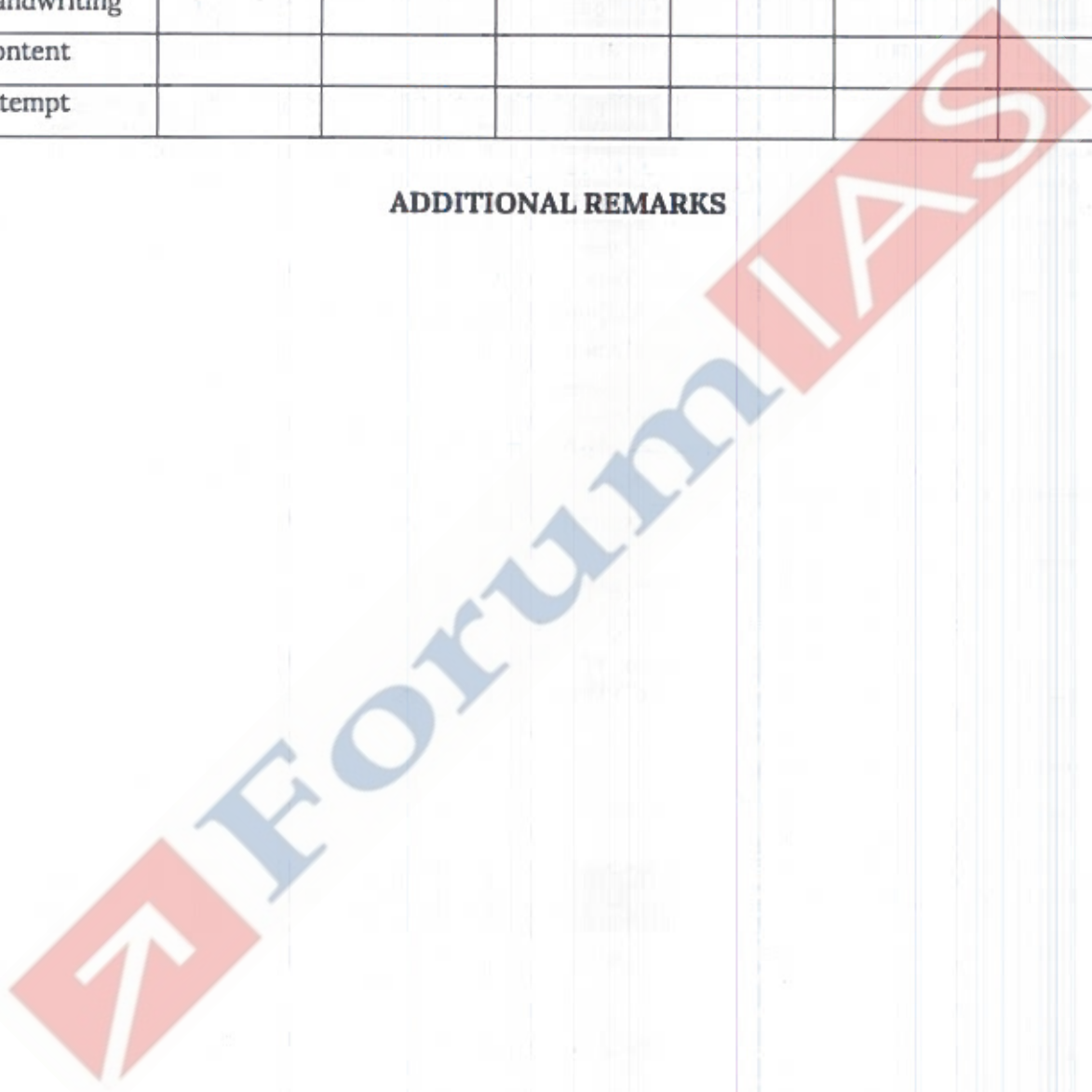
Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained		
1			1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Roll No, Date).	
2			2. There are FIVE questions in the question paper. Section A contains 2 Questions and Section B contains 3 questions.	
3			3. All Questions are Compulsory.	
4			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
5			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			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.	
7			7. Content is more important than content length.	
8			8. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.	
Total:	250		Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here. ----- -----	
Evaluator's Discretion:			For Student Only	
			Start Time 11:10 AM	End Time 2:10 Ph
Total Marks:			Mode Of Examination:	Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evaluator's Discretion: This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.			For Office Use Only	
			ECN CODE:	EG:
			Evaluation Date:	

Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings – 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

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

ADDITIONAL REMARKS



Section- A

Q.1) Answer the following questions in about 150 words each: (10*5 = 50 Marks)

a) Uber-alienated: Powerless and alone in Gig economy. (10 Marks)

Gig economy refers to the work sector in which informal workers enter into contracted, fixed time partnership with firms. For eg. Uber drivers, snuggly delivery persons.

ALIENATION IN THE GIG ECONOMY

POWERLESS AND ALONE :

① As per Marxian theory of Alienation, gig workers are alienated from -

1.1 process - which is app-based and mechanical conveyor-belt system of work.

1.2 product - they cannot afford to enjoy own services eg. expensive food delivery.

1.3 people - they are treated inhumanly by firm and customers, long hours, abuse and exploitation.

1.4 themselves - Gig workers work tirelessly with no community support = become hopeless and disenchanted.

② Robert Blauner has talked about the

role of technology in alienating workers which has exacerbated the gig economy platform-based alienation as less human-human interaction and more automation with little creative inputs.

③ Arijun Sengupta has talked about how worker solidarity and unionism has also gone down because of service sector alienation.

The recent Urban Company protests by All India Gig Workers Union has shown a spark of change as workers fight back for power in a collective way.

Feedback
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b) Anticipatory socialisation and the marginal man.

(10 Marks)

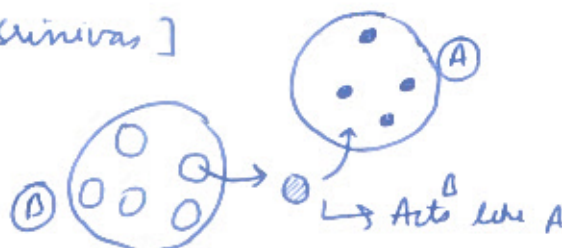
RK Merton has given the concept of anticipatory socialisation in his work in relative deprivation and reference groups.

ANTICIPATORY SOCIALISATION

Reference Group is a collective of persons which act as an aspirational group for us to compare and evaluate our achievements, successes, lifestyle etc. For eg. for a school girl it may be the Women's Cricket Team.

Anticipatory socialisation is a process by which the person adopts the manners and behaviours of the targeted reference group in order to facilitate their entry into it. For eg. lower caste giving up non-vegetarian food for Sanskritization.

[by MN Sinivas]



The person while trying to become like the desired reference group model ~~to~~ might change behaviour/mannerism and be ostracised or feel alienated from the existing group of which he is a part. For eg. migrants trying to fit in the urban areas might become 'marginal men' of their ~~the~~ communities.

These processes, thus also have functions (mobility) and dysfunctions (alienation, marginalization) and fixing this was the unique feat of Merton's neo-functionalism.

Feedback

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c) The challenge of going back to school.

(10 Marks)

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, schools have been closed for about two years and recently talks of re-opening of physical, offline classes have been conducted.

CHALLENGES OF GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

① FOR THE STUDENTS :-

1.1 Gap in learning outcomes due to digital divide - As per ASER 2020, poorer and rural children are behind the better off due to disruption in studies due to lack of internet, smartphones etc.

1.2 Underdeveloped social skills - For pre-school and young kids, their development of 'self' and 'mind' has also been disrupted because that requires socialisation [Head's Theory]. Going back to school might pose social skill challenges.

1.3 Covid infection - Vaccines are not yet available for children and with the Omicron variant, children are a

vulnerable population for spread of covid.

II) FOR THE SCHOOL -

2.1 Managing a hybrid learning system of offline + online in a compromised environment.

2.2 Arvind Patra has remarked that education can exacerbate existing inequalities if schools do not provide for equity of learning.

Ulrich Beck's 'Risk Society' states that stratification and access to the best opportunities in modern societies will depend on how people can manage risks → COVID 19 pandemic being one today. Thus schools should be cognizant to weak such stratification.

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d) Self has the peculiar ability to be both subject and object. It is greatly dynamic.
Discuss. (10 Marks)

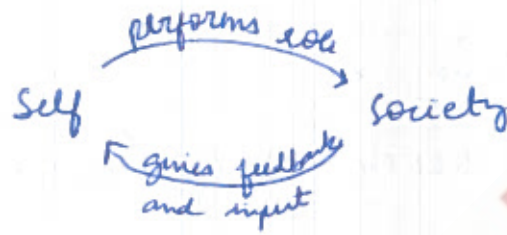
Mead gave the concept of 'self' and 'mind' by his psychological - sociological perspective contained in the work - 'Mind and society'.

SELF → PECULIAR ABILITY TO BE BOTH
SUBJECT AND OBJECT

The self is our (human) capability to see ourselves as us and also from the perspective of the 'generalized other', that is, the society.

By conceiving conceiving ourselves from others' point of view, our self can help us regulate behaviour, perform expected roles and model an ideal member of the society. We can evaluate ourselves as the society would - a concept reiterated by Cooley in his 'looking glass' theory.

The self is greatly dynamic because it perpetually in conversations with itself and the outside world. The self is a reflective social process and is preceded by socialization.



Head's 'Self Theory' gives due credit to individuals as thinking beings instead of passive beings just following society's orders.

Feedback

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e) Sociology breaks away from both common-sense observations and ideas as well as from philosophical thought. Elaborate. (10 Marks)

Sociology is the systemic study of our society, social institutions and inter-relationships eg. family, religion, work etc.

SOCIOLOGY - AS A DIFFERENT BODY

1) COMMON SENSE -

Sociology

- ① An academic body of knowledge about society
- ② Skeptical and observant of everything - like a science.
- ③ Peter Berger - "Debunking attitude" of common stereotypes, lay knowledge.
- ④ An organized, rational body aims to give theories

Common sense

Weber - A generalized belief system of every-day things around us.

Acceptance and non-questioning attitude.

Status-quoist and against major disruptions

Contradicts itself, not coherent eg. 'opposites attract' and

birds of a feather flock together

II) PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT

SOCIOLOGY

- ① Study of society and its components
- ② Rooted in empirical studies, observation, data collection.
- ③ Aims to either understand and predict or reform the social world.

PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT

- ① The study of philosophical questions and grand speculations
- ② Rooted in questions of life, god, meaning, search for truth etc.
- ③ Aims to find the meaning of life, philosophical answers and forms the basis to many sciences

Though different, both common sense and philosophy add to sociology by providing raw material, research topics and new hypotheses.

Feedback

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Q.2) a) Class inequality has overshadowed the ethnic, gender and caste inequalities in India. Discuss with respect to wide wealth differences reported by Oxfam report in India. (20 Marks)

The Oxfam Report has brought out that 75% of the India's ^{money} ~~resources~~ is owned by the top 10%. The bottom half owns less than one-fourth of the total resources. Thus, this indicates increasing class polarization and inequality.

CLASS INEQUALITY - IS IT OVERSHADOWING?

I) ETHNIC INEQUALITIES -

Ethnicity refers to belonging to one community on the basis on solidarity and sentiments based on race, language, history, culture etc.

Yes it is overshadowing →

- ① Paul Brass has talked of intra ethnic and inter-ethnic conflicts which involve members of a community against themselves or another community because of relative deprivation.

- ② Relative deprivation results from lack of access to employment, infrastructure, land etc. → class issues of North-East Bofo insurgency
- ③ On the other hand, the wealthier, middle classes are moving away from such identities and conflicts because of class privilege & migration

NO, it is not overshadowing →

- ① Ethnic disturbances continue in the North-East because of their cultural loss and desire for autonomy (Bodos, Nagas, Mizos)
- ② Widespread xenophobia, especially after COVID-19.
- ③ Language-based moments - of Dravidian anti-Hindi is still prevalent because of anti-Hindi discrimination

II) GENDER :

Yes, being overshadowed by class -

- ① Women with higher income status are more likely to be educated and employed, financially independent.

- ② Thus they can escape from early marriage, financial abuse, destitution etc.
- ③ Ann Oakley says that women are a class in themselves.

NO. Gender inequalities still persist →

- ① As per Nivedita Menon, as informal sector expands, feminization of labour is happening - abuse, exploitation of women workers.
- ② Discrimination - pink collarization, wage gap, glass ceilings still exist.
- ③ Violence against women sees no class - rape, dowry deaths, domestic violence etc.

III) CASTE INEQUALITIES -

Yes, caste is being replaced by class →

- ① AR Desai believes that in post-industrial world, caste distinctions gave way to class distinction.
- ② Especially in urban areas, status is determined by income, education etc not caste.
- ③ Constitutional safeguards are present to prevent caste discrimination.

NO, caste is still alive →
not overshadowed by class

① Andre Beteille has said that caste has developed cracks but not disappeared-reinforced by the perpetuating income difference.

② Kathleen Gough has given the concept of caste-class nexus where upper-castes have cornered class advantages also.

India, unlike Western countries, is home to multiple identities. Instead of one erasing other, what we see today is amalgamation and intersection of class with other inequalities - enslaving the divide further.

Feedback

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b) Discuss social stratification according to any two major approaches. (20 Marks)

Social stratification refers to the arrangement of members of society in different strata, usually arranged in a vertical, hierarchical order.

Stratification arises because of inequalities which themselves arise out of differentiation [O.D. Duvigney]. Many models have been proposed to study / explain social stratification.

MAJOR APPROACHES TO SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

I) Functionalist approach - Davis and Moore
Work - 'Some Principles of Social Stratification'

Basis - Differential rewards as per talent-based role allocation

Theory - 1) The society is arranged into strata, with more important positions at the top.

2) Such positions thus require high skill and talent

- 3) Talent is scarce and development of skill requires sacrifice and time.
- 4) Hence, to compensate for it and attract talent, best rewards are given to the top-most position

FUTURE → This is a functional arrangement, people do things they are fit for; hence this will continue for perpetuity.

CRITICISM → 1) MH Tumin: 1.1 NO concrete way to measure importance of position

1.2 NO way to measure 'talent objectively'

1.3 People are not sacrificing, they have 'delayed gratification'

2) Gouldner says that this theory justifies inequalities.

3) This propagates elite - self recruitment.

II) CONFLICT APPROACH - Karl Marx

Works - 'Communist Manifesto', 'Das Kapital'


Basis - Economic determinism is the criterion for class differentiation and stratification

Theory → ① In a capitalist society, there are haves and have-nots.

② The class is determined by your relation to the mode of production.

③ Haves (the bourgeoisie) control the capital-tools, machines, factories and have nots sell their labour for paltry wages.

④ This stratification = occurs which causes class polarisation to 2 ends



FUTURE → Class polarisation will lead to arousal of class consciousness and struggle. The proletariat will overthrow the bourgeoisie in a revolution to establish socialism and finally communism.

CRITICISM →

- 1) Karl Mannheim says Marx is an economic reductionist and considers only class as a dimension of stratification.
- 2) The utopian communist state never actually existed, even in communist countries.
- 3) Dahrendorf says that there will be

instead decomposition of class, labour and not a Herman revolution.

social stratification in today's world should be understood at the level of individual inequalities as per the post-modernists Beck and Baudillard.

Today many identities overlap and intersect, hence one grand framework might not be the best.

Feedback

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c) Discuss the latent and manifest functions of the covid lockdowns. (10 Marks)

Robert K Merton, a neo-functional, gave the concept of latent and manifest functions in his new paradigm.

Work - 'Social Theory and Social Structure'

LATENT

↳ unintended, unanticipated consequences of an action

MANIFEST

↳ conscious, intended and ~~not~~ determined motives of action

COVID LOCKDOWN - An analysis:

I) Manifest functions:

- ① To reduce the mobility and intermingling of people physically.
- ② This will help stop the spread of virus and the government can test-trace-quarantine easily.
- ③ Reduce R₀, mutations, infections, hospitalizations, deaths and flatten the curve.

II) Latent functions:

- ① Economic losses - due to inability to commute and work, unemployment and income loss, especially in the informal sector leading to the MIGRANT CRISIS.
- ② Mental health - Because of isolation and reduced social connect, cases of depression, anxiety etc. increased.
- ③ Work and Education - became online and new culture of work from home, blurring of boundaries emerged.
- ④ Family integration - because of more time spent, shared losses and happiness, family came closer.

COVID-19 lockdown was a massive, social experiment as well and all of its latent functions are in fact still being researched as it is supposed to have greatly impacted human psyche

Feedback

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Section- B

Q.3) Answer the following questions in about 150 words each: (10*5 = 50 Marks)

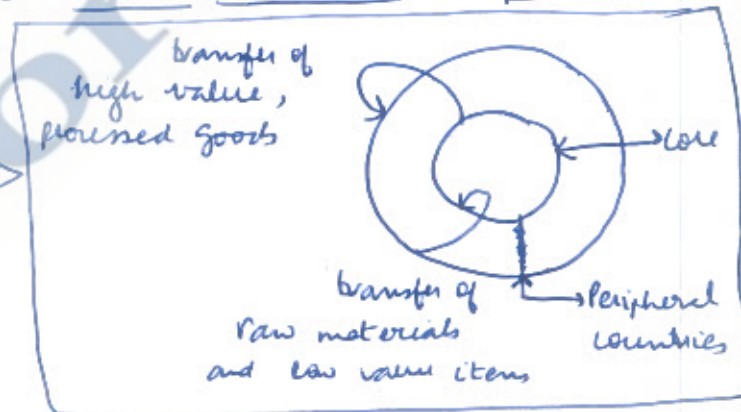
a) Development and dependency in a post-imperialism globalised world. (10 Marks)

The post-imperialism globalised world refers to a global order with free movement of goods, services, people and ideas among independent, sovereign states.

DEVELOPMENT AND DEPENDENCY :-

① Wallerstein has given his World Systems Theory which states that the developed nations keep the developing ones subordinate to them by their neo-colonialistic practices

NEW CLASS ORDER (Harriss) but in a global perspective



② Alfred Frank in his 'Development of the Underdeveloped' also says that the Global North has purposefully de-capitalised

the ability of global south to maintain a self sufficient economy and protect their industries through import embargoes, policy measures (WTO, IMF, WB) and interference.

Ex. USA and the Caribbean islands. They have created artificial dependency of the developing world on developed world.

THOSE WHO DISPUTE THIS -

- ① Amartya Sen believes that the third world has benefitted from technology transfer and funds by the first world.
- ② Gunmar Hyrdal believes that it is not neo imperialistic policies which harm the developing world but their inadequate institutional structures.

Today the world is becoming multi polar and as the balance shifts from West to East, it is possible to stop and reverse the underdevelopment and dependency.

Feedback

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b) Civil society and the lockdowns: Dynamism despite disruption. (10 Marks)

Anthony Giddens defines civil society as the third pillar, separate from the market and the government. It includes NGOs, pressure groups, religious organizations etc.

CIVIL SOCIETY AMONG COVID DISRUPTION

Civil society showed extreme resilience and dynamism to help people in COVID →

- ① Provided food and housing to the migrants who were struggling to earn and eat or go back to villages. For e.g. Khalsa - Aid.
- ② Many organizations took up the cause of women safety from violence in the time of the 'shadow pandemic' of domestic violence (increase of 46% in 2021 8 months)
- ③ Civil society was actively involved during 2nd wave of COVID in procurement of medicines, Oxygen, hospital beds by amplifying, communicating etc. For e.g. COVID Help.ORG

- ④ They were also crusaders against fake news and false COVID information - the infodemic that raged especially on social media. Thus, they educated and informed people.
- ⑤ Civil Society is also helping fight vaccine hesitancy and helping people register and access vaccines in a timely manner.

Alexis de Tocqueville has rightly commented that civil society is a crucial complementary to democracy and this proved true during the COVID times.

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c) Changing ideas of citizenship.

(10 Marks)

Harold Laski has defined citizenship as the legal membership of a person to a political community. TH Marshall has given 3 rights and duties (Civil, Political and Economic) to be a part of citizenship.

CHANGING IDEAS OF CITIZENSHIP :-

- ① Increasing globalisation → The boundaries of nations are no longer barriers to economic pressure, ideological discourse, social movements etc. Hence citizenship is now getting diluted.
- ② Risk society → Due to conflict, war, climate change, terrorism etc. many people are migrating. Thus, their citizenship status is in conundrum. e.g. Rohingya Refugees.
- ③ Increasing power of States - Citizens are accusing the state of diminishing rights of the citizen through surveillance,

oppression, systemic discrimination etc.

④ Ecological citizenship - Idea was given by Mark Smith as he says that today we are in an environmental crisis together as humanity.

⑤ Gail Omvedt also says that today citizenship is only theoretical for the marginalized # like Dalits because they are still being oppressed and denied rights.

On the other hand due to growing nationalism and de-globalisation, anti-immigration policies, citizenship is becoming exclusionary.

- Parsons believed it to be a symbol of modernity, but its changing dimensions will only determine if we follow modern ideas of equality, liberty and rationality.

Feedback

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d) Implications of same sex marriages and live-in relationships on the kinship system. (10 Marks)

Same sex marriages have been legalised in many European countries and live-in relationships are on the rise in urban Indian youth.

IMPLICATIONS ON THE KINSHIP SYSTEM

- ① Changing definition of a family -
Moving away from Murdock's orthodox definition of a heterosexual couple co-habiting and procreating and child rearing.
- ② More liberty in choosing a partner and individualism in making life decisions.
- ③ Young and Wilmott argue that there is a 'symmetrical relationship' in such modern unions as both partners contribute equally.
- ④ Traditional joint family might lose relevance and authority \Rightarrow increasing nuclearisation.
- ⑤ Losing significance of marriage as an

institution and having children as the goal of a romantic and sexual relationship.

⑥ Kinship system might shift from 'parent/elderly' centric to 'partner - friends' centric.

Both phenomenon undermine the traditional aspects of a kinship system and might adapt and change it as it evolves.

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e) According to Bottomore, "Elite circulation may not be always there." Comment.

(10 Marks)

Elite circulation refers to the replacement of the people in power at top institutions by another group of people with same upper position in the social hierarchy due to class, caste, power etc.

ELITE CIRCULATION MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE THERE →

- ① According to Karl Mannheim, elite circulation is not inevitable because of episodic accountability of the governors during election times.
- ② As per Robert Dahl in 'Who Governs', elite circulation is not a universal truth because power is dispersed and situational. Nobody is an absolute holder of all power.
- ③ Pluralists such as Parsons believe that the power equation is not a

zero sum game. Elites have to increase the total social capital in order to retain their position in a functional society.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF ELITE CIRCULATION -

① Pareto ("Mind and Society") believes that elites in form of lions (king) and foxes (democrats) only are involved in a struggle for power.

② W Mills ("Power Elites") also believed that the elite are from the similar socio-economic background and help consolidate each others power.

Elite circulation has plagued Indian polity due to dynasty politics and nepotism. To challenge it, we need internal party democracy and grass roots political mobilization.

Feedback

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Q.4) a) What do you understand by over-the-top (OTT) platforms? What impact does it have on 'youth culture' in India? (20 Marks)

OTT platforms are online, digital media spaces which deliver entertainment and content in the form of movies, videos etc. For e.g. Netflix, Hotstar etc.

OTT - PLATFORMS :

- ① A means of recreation
- ② A communication mode and propagation of ideas and stories
- ③ A new face of digital revolution

IMPACT OF OTT Platforms on YOUTH CULTURE -

- ① Democratization of Access to quality art through affordable and mobile friendly OTT-plans. This reduces the gap between the richer and poor.

- ② Reference Group behaviour - Exposure to certain lifestyle and choices (e.g. parties, drugs etc) may influence the youth to aspire and model their behaviour to suit the aspirational reference group.
- ③ This might result into Anomie.
OTT - shows promise of a cosmopolitan world and glorify money, fame.
According to Hurton, not everyone has the structural means to achieve their goals \Rightarrow leading to anomie (crime etc)
- ④ The Cultural system of the cybernetic hierarchy of control will be greatly influenced by new content and hence information flow will be enriched by fresh ideas, exhibition concepts etc. A new dynamic equilibrium in the society can be reached.
[Parson's social system Theory]

- ⑤ Youth culture will imbibe values, norms of the Westernised world which may impact family, marriage and kinship.

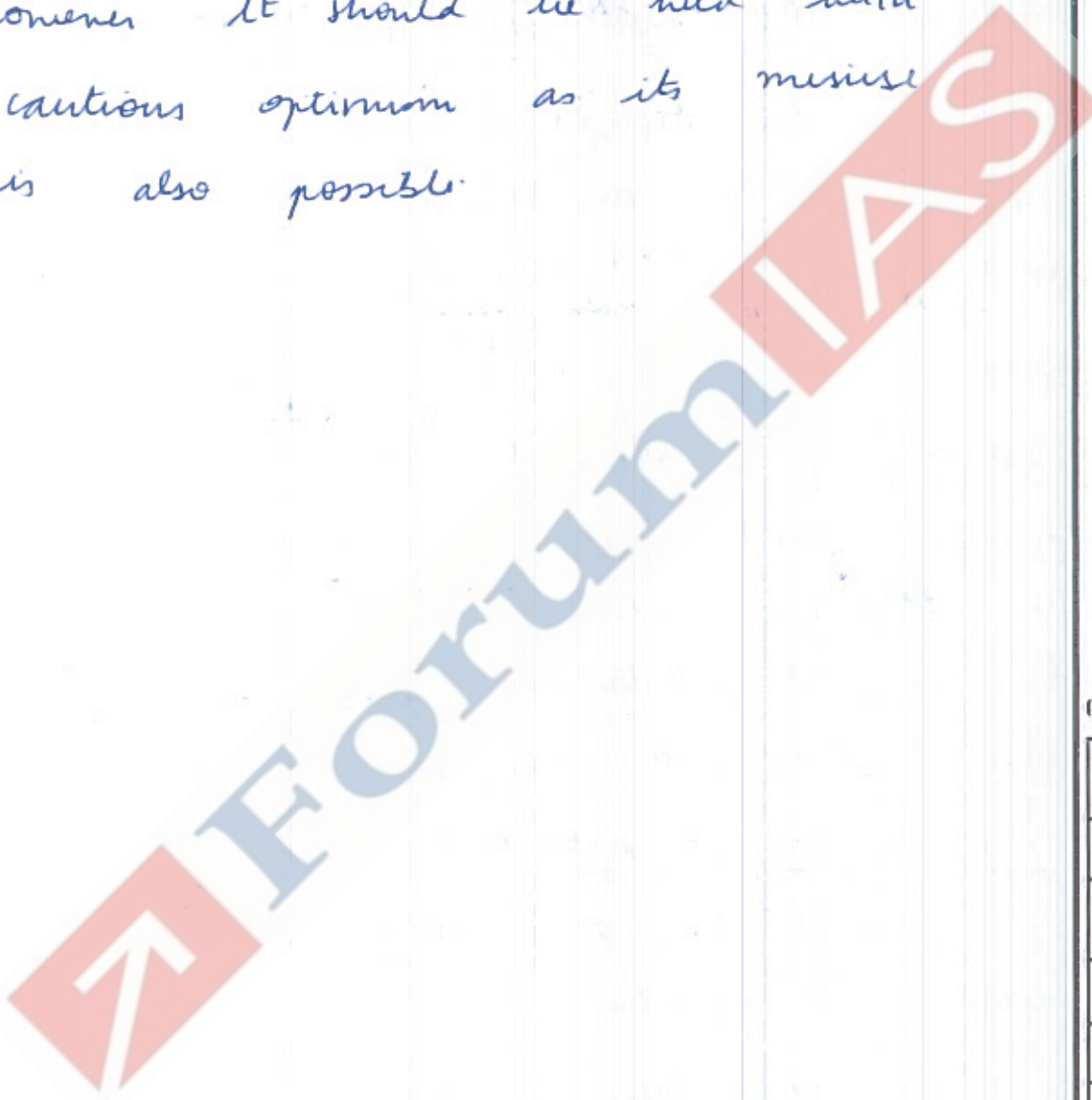
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND IMPACT :-

- ① Government has brought in the IT Rules, 2021 for management and regulation of OTT content.

Consequences :

- ② Possibility of State's control over information and discourse will increase which was studied by Foucault in his post-modernist era.
- ③ However, this will also help remove hate speech, violent content etc. which can be used to radicalize and polarise the youth.
- ④ OTT-platforms also sometimes provide obscene, vulgar content which can warp the idea of sexuality, women and relationships for the youth.

OTT platforms can provide a fresh opportunity for the youth to showcase and consume novel content, however it should be held with cautious optimism as its misuse is also possible.



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b) Is suicide a social phenomenon? Can you analyse high suicide rate among famous personalities and celebrities with the help of Durkheim's theory? (20 Marks)

Durkheim produced the first systematic sociological study 'Le suicide' to provide a scientific explanation for suicide and its causes.

SUICIDE - A SOCIAL PHENOMENON -

- 1) According to Durkheim, suicide is a sociological phenomenon and not purely psychological, cultural etc.
- 2) It arises due to suicidogenic forces in the society.
- 3) It is sui-generis and a certain rate of suicide is normal in the society.

METHOD USED : 1) Data collection from different towns and places in Europe
2) Multivariate Analysis 3) Comparative Study

EXPLANATION OF SUICIDE :-

① Focus of Integration - Determine how integrated the people are into the society, if they are content with their contribution to society etc.

Altruistic suicide happens when a person is too committed to the society and sacrifices for its well being e.g. soldiers

Egoistic suicide happens when a person is highly detached from society and feels no duties / obligations e.g. after death of spouse

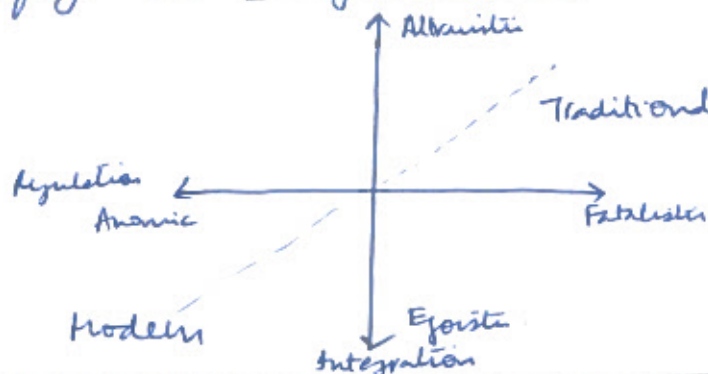
FAMOUS CELEBRITIES → More often than not fall under the egoistic suicide category because they are alienated from the general public because of fame and money and also their own work community due to isolation, discrimination and a feeling of being the 'outsider' and not 'fitting in'.

② Forms of Regulation - Determine how much regulation the state or other authority has over the person's life and choices.

Anomic suicide - when there is no regulation and norms to protect the person and he/she feels neglected / oppressed. g. ^{drug addicts} ~~addicts~~

Fatalistic suicide - when there is excessive control by state/authority over person and they feel helpless, not in control.
g. farmer suicides

FAMOUS CELEBRITIES → It is possible that they fall under fatalistic suicides because they feel trapped under the pressure of performance, public expectations, media houses etc. They sometimes seek refuge in drugs, alcohol or ~~do~~ ^{too} a



Durkheim's theory can be used to explain the reasons behind suicide of a 'category of persons' such as Protestants, males, unmarried people and famous ~~the~~ celebrities. This is a sociological theory hence does not explain the cause for individual celebrity suicides.

~~essay~~

Feedback

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c) The pandemic has added momentum to the deglobalization trend. Elaborate socio-logically. (10 Marks)

Deglobalization refers to a reversal in globalisation and a decrease in the ease of movement of goods, services, people and ideas around the world.

PANDEMIC AND DEGLOBALISATION :-

- ① Social reasons → 1.1 Aversion to travel and incoming international passengers.
1.2 Increased discrimination, hatred, xenophobia.
1.3 The rules of lock-downs, travel restrictions, isolation etc further dampen movement.
- ② Political reasons - 2.1 Raylis and Smith have said that politics has become globalised now.
2.2 Therefore international concerns for safety ⇒ right wing, ~~and~~ nationalist governments.

2.3 More emphasis on nation and citizens than the 'other' → Pitkin's basis of a nation is increasingly true

③ ECONOMIC REASONS →

2.1 Rise in supply chain resilience and domestication to avoid supply shocks like in COVID.

2.2 Also increasing protectionism to make nation's economy grow back better after the slowdown.

De-globalisation can have negative effects because trade will drop, technology transfer and investment will decrease. At this time, the world needs to come together in solidarity to build back better.

Feedback

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Q.5) a) How is social action of Max Weber different from that of Talcott Parsons?
What methods has Weber suggested to establish the meanings of social action?

(20 Marks)

Max Weber was a doyen of the school of Interpretivism and a bridged the gap between positivist and idealist school through his concept of Social Action.

SOCIAL ACTION - AS PER WEBER -

Any action which satisfies the conditions:

- ① It must be a conscious action with meaning attached to it by the actor.
- ② It must have an orientation towards the others and outer world.

Thus, as per Weber, mass conditioned and imitative actions are not social actions.

For Weber, the body of sociology is the study of social action and not social facts (as Durkheim had said before)

PARSON'S DIFFERENT APPROACH - (see study of Social Action)

Parsons found the definition of Weber too restrictive because of the ^{outer} motivational criterion. As per Parsons, a social action is an action of feeling, doing, behaving by a person in a social environment due to rational motivation or value motivation in order to adapt or change the environment.

Thus, Parsons expanded the range of social action to include all aspects → organismic (provides energy), personality (personal motivation), social (influence of social institutions like marriage, family etc) and cultural (the norms and values). [CSPO system].

Parson's 'social system' further divided into the constellation of social action which can be used to explain all systems in a grand framework.

METHODS SUGGESTED BY WEBER TO UNDERSTAND SOCIAL ACTION -

① Verstehen → which means recreating and understanding the situation of the actor.

1.1 Recreating the entire environment in as similar way as possible

1.2 Achieving same-wavelength as actor

1.3 Having an open communication with actor to understand attached meanings or directly observing

1.4 Needs a trained investigator

② Causal Pluralism or Probabilistic method which says that action is influenced by multiple causes, not monocausal.

③ Ideal Types - Mental constructs used to understand the complexities of the social world. Ideal types of Social Action -

④ Traditional [norms, values influenced]

④ Affective [emotions influence]

- c) Zweck-Rational [Means and goals both are rational motivated]
- d) Werk-Rational [Means are rational but goals are value motivated]

Social Actions were the first step towards moving towards a sociology which focuses on individual and micro aspects instead of purely external societal facts.

Feedback

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Structure/
Presentation

Question
Interpretation

Content

Value
Addition

Total

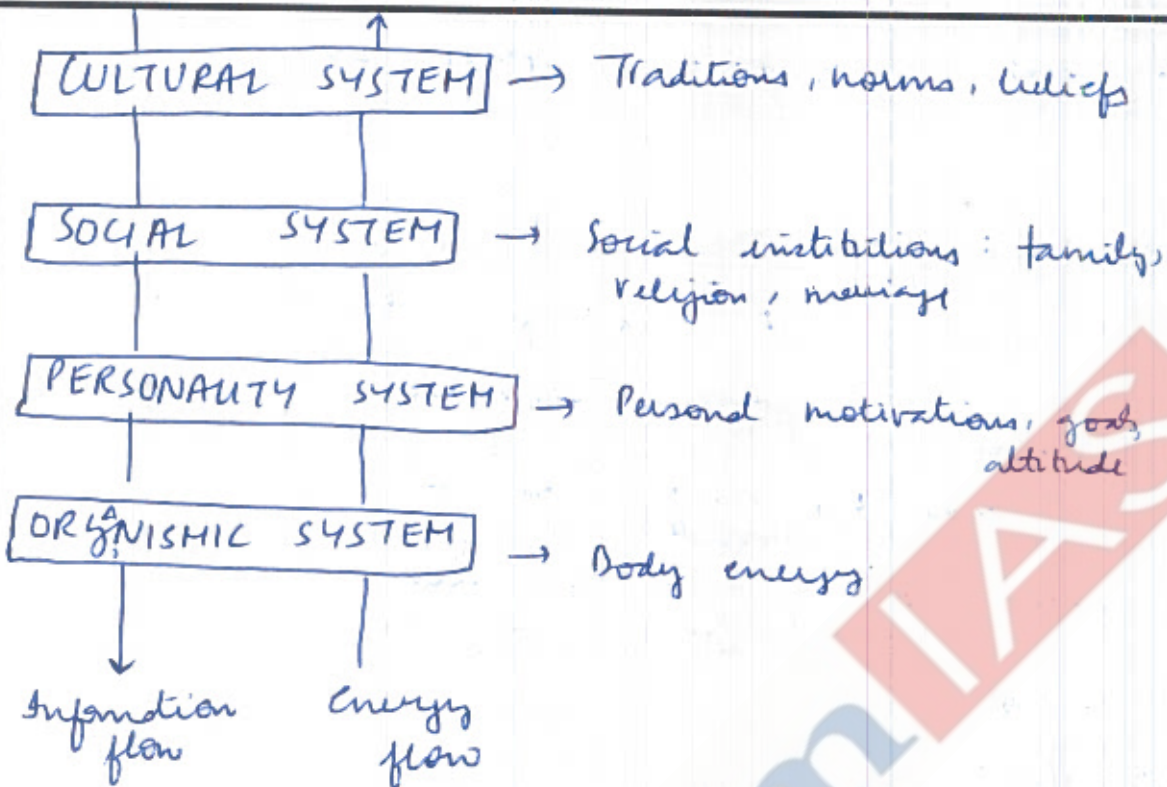
b) Explain in detail Parsons' idea of social system. How can Parsons' AGIL framework be used to analyse insurgency in the north-eastern part of India? Discuss. (20 Marks)

Parsons' idea of social system is given in his work 'Social System' where he has used structural-functionalism approach to understand all systems through a universal grand framework.

PARSONS' IDEA OF SOCIAL SYSTEM

A social action is an action performed by an actor in a social setting, motivated by himself and societal values to adapt/change the environment.

Social system is a constellation of social actions since they do not occur in a vacuum. Social system is a part of a larger framework.



Features of a social system:

- ① Can exist in harmony with and complement other systems.
- ② Allows participation by members in system.
- ③ Provides some functions to the participants.
- ④ Allows for conflict resolution and comes back into equilibrium state.
- ⑤ Has a boundary which separates it from other systems.

Social System also finds a mention in the Agile Framework:

Agil Framework to analyze the North-East Insurgency

Adaptive

Goal Attainment

<p><u>ECONOMY</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Underdevelopment ② Lack of infrastructure ③ Land encroachment and eviction ④ Unemployment 	<p><u>POLITICAL SYSTEM -</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Internal colonialism ② Encroachment by state and Centre on Tribal autonomy ③ No Decentralization ④ Army excesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Disruption in traditional norms and practices of religion ② Loss of unique culture ③ Family member death 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Law and Order Problems ② Failure to curb violence and insurgency ③ Army excesses and killing

Latency maintenance

Institutional control

Due to the above deficiencies in the various Agil components, the North-East still faces large scale disenfranchisement, dissent and resentment for the state.

In order to solve for it, the functional alternatives as suggested by

Measures are necessary. For example, alternatives for smuggling and drug trade to earn money can be organic farming and agro forestry with increased tourism.

Thus, the Agile framework can help identify lacunae in a system and rectify them to reach a peaceful, stable, equilibrium.

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c) Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of participant observation method in social research. (10 Marks)

Pauline V Young has described participant observation as the systematic understanding of a ^{social} situation and participants ~~and~~ through observing them directly or indirectly.

STRENGTHS OF PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION :

- ① Removes ecological fallacy as the participants are allowed to interact in a natural manner.
- ② Reduces researcher bias by allowing to observe things as they unfold and not manipulate any inputs.
- ③ New concepts and ideas can come up during participant observation which can add value enrichment.
- ④ Different variables can be varied to establish a causal relationship.

WEARNESSES →

- ① Possibility of Hawthorne effect - People change behaviour if they know they are being studied.
- ② ethical issues are possible if they are unaware they are under study.
- ③ William Whyte says the participant observer can become ~~more~~ too involved and attached to the group and lose objectivity.
- ④ Might not provide the exact data needed for the study.

Participant Observation can be of 4 different types (Raymond Gould) and using an appropriate degree of participation can help solve these challenges.

Feedback

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 **ForumIAS**

Augmented Test Series (ATS) Sociology (Optional)

Offline & Online

