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SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)

Name Of Candidate	YATIN SHARMA		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910060352
Mobile No.		Date:	14/12/2019

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	
1			<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>
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
<b>Total Marks:</b>			
<b>Remarks:</b>			Start Time   1 PM
			End Time   4:30 PM
			Mode Of Examination : Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			ECN CODE:
			Evaluation Date:

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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)

The sociological approach to 'man in society' tries to bring about the impact of society, its values, norms and culture on individuals. It is concerned with how societal forces shape action of the individuals in contrast to the individuals acting out of their own agency and behaving in terms of their own psych. ~~rather than~~

A 'McDonaldised world of today' suggests individualisation and customisation and argues against presence of patterns in behavior of individuals. It stands against the sociological imagination as it emphasises upon the individuality and lack of commonality among members of society and believes in catering to each member in a distinct way.

However, it can be argued that rather than advocating for an extreme of individualism

or societal determination, there exists a blend of both. Individuals in a society are shaped to an extent by it but they also assign their own meanings to phenomena and act out of their own agency. In this way, ~~the~~ it becomes possible to determine impact of societal forces on individuals without disregarding individualistic tendencies while doing so.

Feedback( For OFFICE use only )

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

Sociology emerged in late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe which was going through profound changes at that time.

The Western Europe at that time witnessed industrial revolution, French revolution which were accompanied by scientific and commercial revolution.

These led to the transformation of society from feudal agrarian type which characterised the medieval era to capitalist industrial type. This was accompanied by various material issues as this process of transformation was not smooth and was characterised by a state of disorder in society. Some of the issues faced were:

→ Breaking of old community bonds that characterised relationships in feudal agrarian society.

- Miserable conditions of living in urban settlements near industries which signified existence of hope and despair side by side.
- challenge to authority of monarchy and divine rights theory of the king.
- the philosophy of enlightenment emphasising upon freedom and rights of members of the society.

Thus emergence and making of sociology as a discipline was a response to the societal conditions prevailing at the time and was an attempt to move towards greater rationality and discovering laws to improve the condition of the people.

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

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Sociology as a discipline, as it emerged, was an attempt at scientific study of society.

The founders of sociology like Saint Simon, Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim wanted to use

the same methods in the study of society which were characteristic of natural sciences like physics, biology etc.

Thus, they stressed upon an objective study of society to arrive at generalisations and laws that could be used to predict human behaviour and could improve the condition of people as well as society.

However, with time, the use of scientific methods for study of society came into disrepute precisely because of differences in subject-matter of sociology and natural sciences.

While natural sciences are concerned with discovering laws about non-living matter, sociology was concerned with study of human behavior which is characterised by volition and meanings and motives.

Thus an objective study of society, looking only at exterior aspects and empiricist approach was found unsuitable because of its disregard for human meanings and motives.

With time, various non-positivist stands like interpretive approach, ethnomethodology, phenomenology etc developed which came to challenge the use of natural science methods in sociology. Thus, it can be argued that scientific method in sociology was a laudable promise which failed to deliver in entirety.

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

There have been differences between different sociologists since its emergence with regards to the scope and subject matter of sociology.

There are two major schools of thought in this regard.

Synthetic approach to the subject matter of sociology regards it as an all encompassing study of society.

It argues for a synthesis of all the social sciences to discover laws which characterise the whole of society. This approach was visible in the works of early sociologists. Like Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim etc who set out to establish sociology as a distinct discipline, one which draws material from all the other social sciences. Such an approach can be said to be a macro approach to sociology.

The synthetic approach to sociology was challenged by formalistic approach which argued in favor of study of forms of social interaction rather than the actual contents.

This approach argued for a limited scope of sociology as against the formalistic approach and had George Simmel and Max Weber as its proponents. Weber argued for study of social action and believed that though laws of human behavior in society can be discovered, they would be much limited in their scope rather than characterising the whole of society.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

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

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Fieldwork methodology in sociological research requires the researcher to study the society and human behavior in their natural setting. to avoid the members of society from getting impacted by the knowledge that they are under study.

However, there may be various issues that may crop up while using field. They include -

- Fieldwork requires more effort and is a time consuming process.
- The number of people or societies that can be studied is limited making the exercise of arriving at generalisations futile.
- It requires interpretation on the part of researcher who may end up imposing his views on the phenomena being studied.

→ Fieldwork as a method of research may be difficult to adopt while studying phenomena like crime and deviance as the researcher may not be accepted or may find it dangerous to study these in their natural setting.

→ There is a problem of reliability as other researchers may not arrive at the same results if he interprets the phenomena in a different way.

However, given that laboratory experiments can not be used for study of society and its members, fieldwork remains one of the favorites and one of the most promising approach to study of society.

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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)

The discipline of Economics assumes that man is a rational being who is confronted with different choices in his everyday life and adopts the best alternative based on this rational mindset.

Economics is concerned with study of production and distribution and the choices that need to be made in order to arrive at the most optimum results. It dwells into how the people come about to make these choices. Based on these studies, it arrives at various laws governing human behavior and economy.

In contrast, sociology as it developed focussed upon how the actions of members of the society were socially determined.

The early sociologist thinkers like Comte and Durkheim, in an attempt to establish sociology as a distinct discipline advocated the use of scientific methods of natural sciences for the study of society which emphasised upon the virtues of objectivity and empiricism thus disregarding the significance of meanings and motives that individuals assign to the social phenomena. This form of societal determination advocated that individuals in a society don't have any choice to make as they were constrained by 'social facts' which determined their behavior. Early sociologists advocated for discovery of social causes for social phenomena rather than studying society in terms of individual members.

interpretations and meanings and motives

However, the gradual development of sociology as well as economics has led to profound changes in interpretation of human behaviour and the gap between

the two has been bridged to some extent.

Economists have come to accept the view that not all human actions are rational and human actions occur in a social context rather than in isolation.

Sociological approaches like interpretive approach, phenomenology etc have advocated the importance of individual members' agency and his meanings and motives behind social actions.

The gradual narrowing of gap between

the two disciplines can also be witnessed

in themes like economic development

and human development with economics also getting concerned with the problems faced by members of society in the process of development.

Thus, economics and sociology, which were initially concerned with different approaches have witnessed a gradual reconciliation with time and are working in tandem at present.

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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 implies an approach to the study of society in the same way as the matter in natural sciences is studied.

A Positivist approach to study of society involves building a hypothesis and empirically testing it so as to arrive at generalisations and ultimately laws that govern the behavior of individuals in society. It adopts a positivist methodology, i.e., scientific methodology to collect, analyse and interpret data.

Such an approach argues that human behavior at the level of meanings and motives should not be studied as they differ from individual to individual.

thus making the exercise of arriving at laws to improve societies impossible.

They advocate only empirical observations which can be made objectively while disregarding subjective feelings.

However, the positivist approach and methodology came to be challenged by later sociological thinkers like Weber who argued that while making empiricist observations, understanding at the level of meanings and motives is required as well to provide a complete picture of human action. Other research strands like phenomenology and ethnomethodology went a step further and argued that it is ~~not~~ impossible to arrive at laws governing human behavior.

Emile Durkheim, in his study of suicide attempted to demonstrate use of positivist methodology. ~~Howe~~ However, strictly speaking, Durkheim can not be termed as a positivist.

Durkheim collected the data on suicide rates in various European nations at that time in an attempt to prove that suicide rates were societally determined. He used the statistics to argue against biological and psychological theories to explain suicides which were in vogue at the time. Using multivariate analysis, he demonstrated that it was social integration and degree of social regulation which determined the suicide rates.

The constancy of suicide rates went against an individualistic explanation. Also, the fact that suicide rates increased in times of depression as well as prosperity.

went against an individualistic explanation Durkheim demonstrated that being a member of closely knit religious community, having a family among others led to decline in suicides -

However, since social integration is not something that can be objectively observed and the fact that he relied upon statistics from coroners reports rather than conducting an empirical study himself undermined his credentials as a positivist to an extent.

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c. Sociology evolved as a conservative reaction to Modernity. Discuss.

(10 Marks)

Sociology, as a discipline, emerged in 19<sup>th</sup> century western Europe which was going through profound changes.

It was a response to the crisis of modernity which characterised a change from feudal agrarian society to capitalist industrial society. This modernity was characterised by a move towards greater rationality.

However, the change accompanying modernity and the industrial, French, scientific and commercial revolutions also led to a state of disorder and anomie in society wherein old norms were being challenged while the new ones were yet to be established.

Thus, emergence of sociology draws a

Reaction from the yearning of conservative thinkers like De Bonald and De Maistre who provided the goal of sociology which was social order and harmony. It was an attempt to alleviate the people from the miserable conditions in urban centres which accompanied modernity and bring about a state of order in society.

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Q.3) a. How is sociological approach to human actions different from that of psychological approach?

(20 Marks)

A sociological approach to human actions emphasises upon individuals being a member of the society and the societal context acting upon individuals in the performance of their actions. It looks at how the actions of individuals in a society are impacted and determined by social factors and societal norms, values and cultures. There are <sup>broadly</sup> two major strands of research in sociological approach - the positivist approach which argues that only the actions of individuals in so far as they are societally determined should be studied and a non positivist

approach which attaches significance to human meanings and motives in the performance of actions as well.

Thus, it can be observed that a non-positivist approach incorporates a part of psychological approach as well.

A psychological approach to human actions, in contrast to sociological approach attempts to find reasons in human actions in their individual mental states, their psych. Thus, it can not arrive at generalisations and laws of human behavior which characterise the sociological approach to the study of human actions.



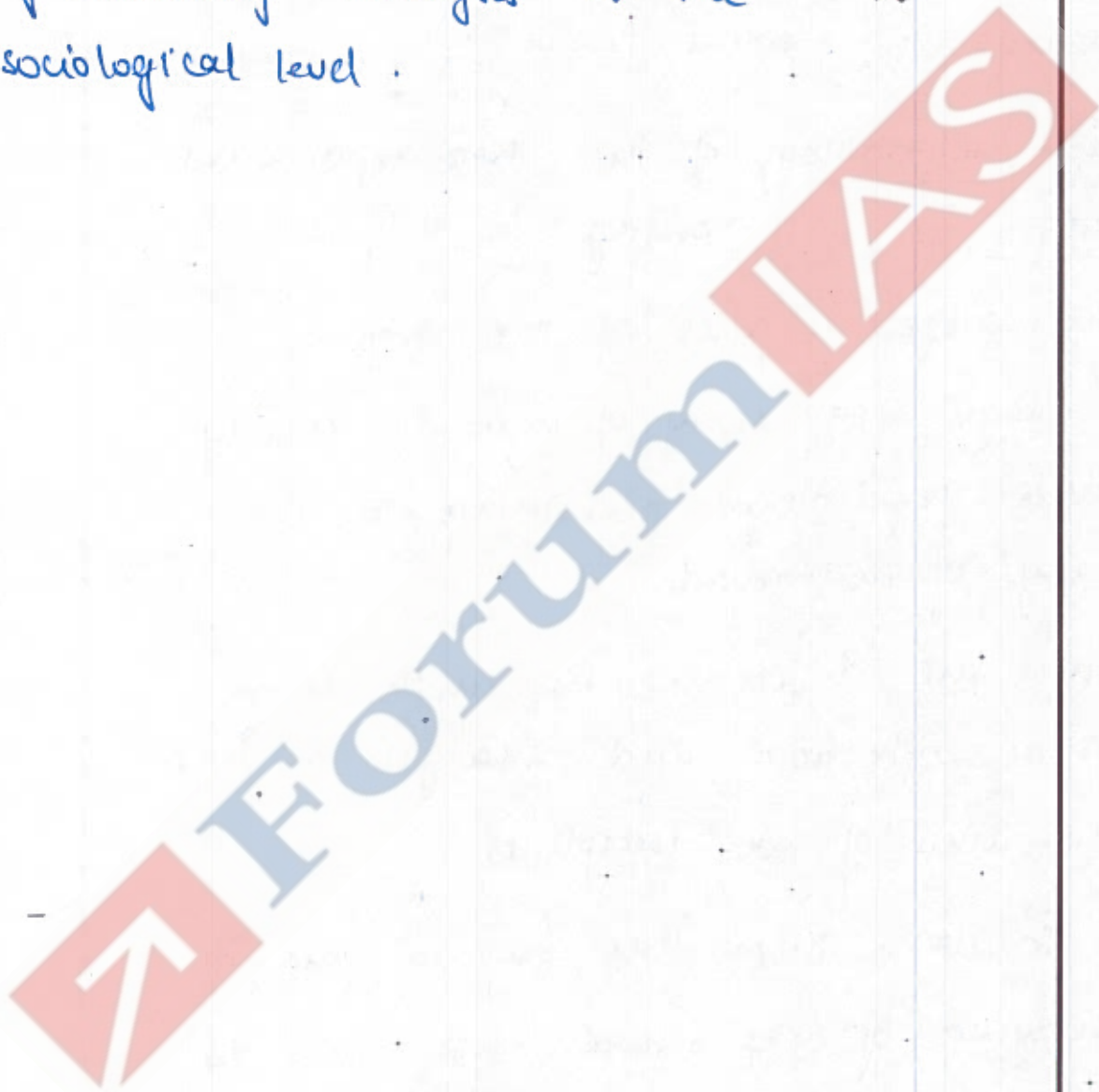
A psychological approach may assign importance to biological and genetic factors for human actions while disregarding social factors.

The methodology of the two approaches differs as well owing to difference in subject matter of the two - sociology being study of man in society while psychology pertaining to the study of individual.

There are differences in methods of data collection and analysis and the aims of two disciplines.

However, there has been a gradual bridging of gap between the two as sociologists, particularly non-positivists, have disregarded extreme social determination of the positivists and

to some extent acknowledged that psychological analysis has the potential of enriching analysis at the sociological level.



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b. Assess the view that sociological research can and should be 'value-free'.

(20 Marks)

Sociology. when it emerged, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe was viewed as a natural science of society. Early sociologists like Comte, Durkheim etc attempted to mould it into a natural science concerned with discovering laws which could be used to improve conditions of society. They advocated a value free approach to sociological research with the research being limited to external observable phenomena with no place for values in research. Thus, early sociologists, who were positivists argued that there was no place for values in sociology and it should be confined to an objective study of society.

However, later sociologists acknowledged that an objective study of society will not provide a complete picture as humans are unlike matter which forms the subject-matter of natural sciences and assign meanings and motives to their actions.

They argued that at various levels of research, values inadvertently creep in and it is impossible to completely discard values from sociological research.

The topic of sociological research is in itself determined by the values of researcher. The methodology that he adopts and his perspective are a product of the values methodology of researcher.

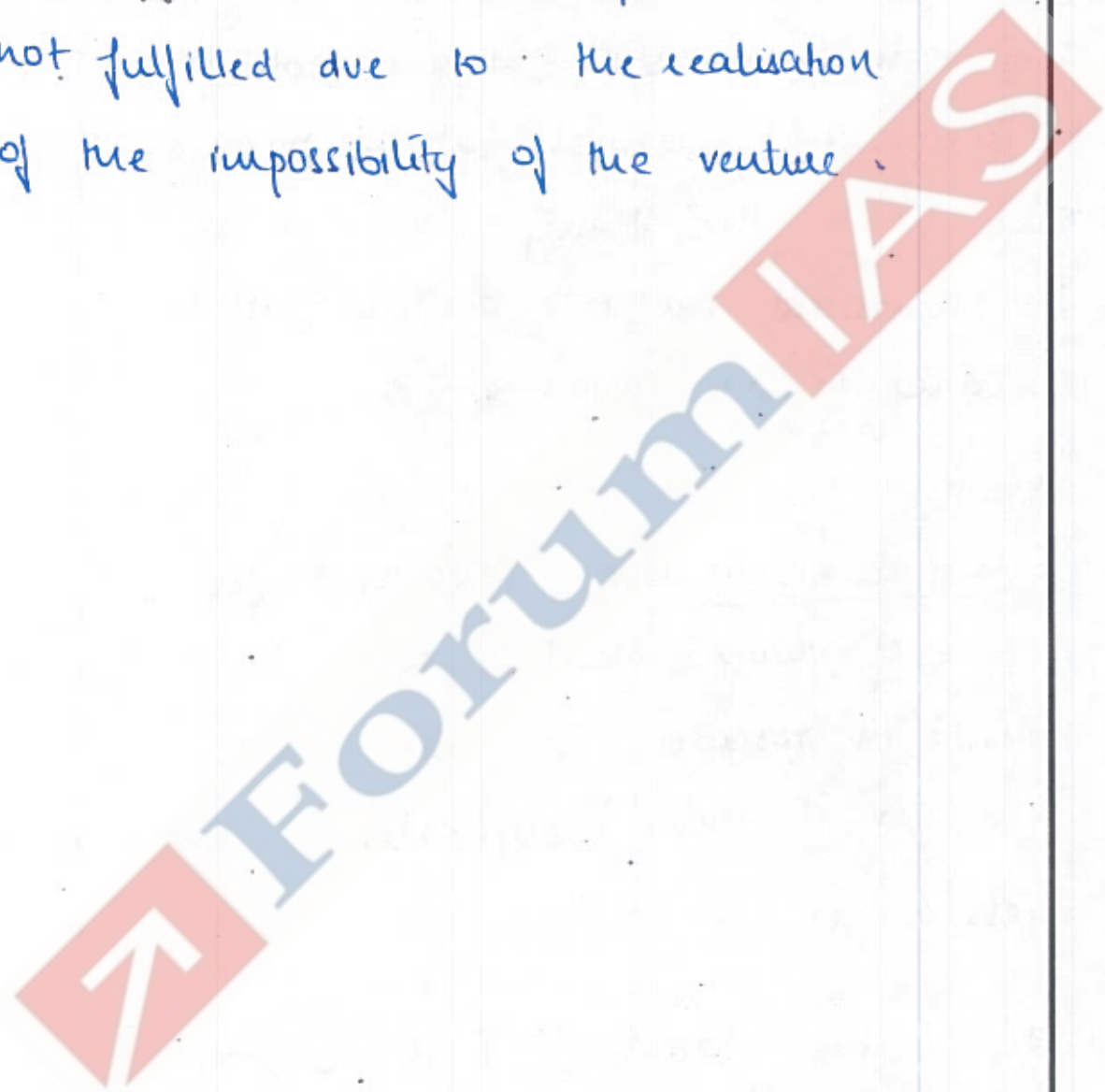
However, the data collection and analysis should not be corrupted by the values of researcher.

Thus values come to play a role in sociological research at different stages and the attempt should be to minimise the role of these values according to one point of view.

Another point of view as propogated by critical researchers advocated for presence of values which should be utilised in research to improve the conditions of the marginalised and oppressed in the society.

Thus, the statement that sociological research can and should be value free merely denotes the aspirations of early sociological thinkers

who wanted to create a distinct discipline and pattern in natural sciences. However, this aspiration was not fulfilled due to the realisation of the impossibility of the venture.



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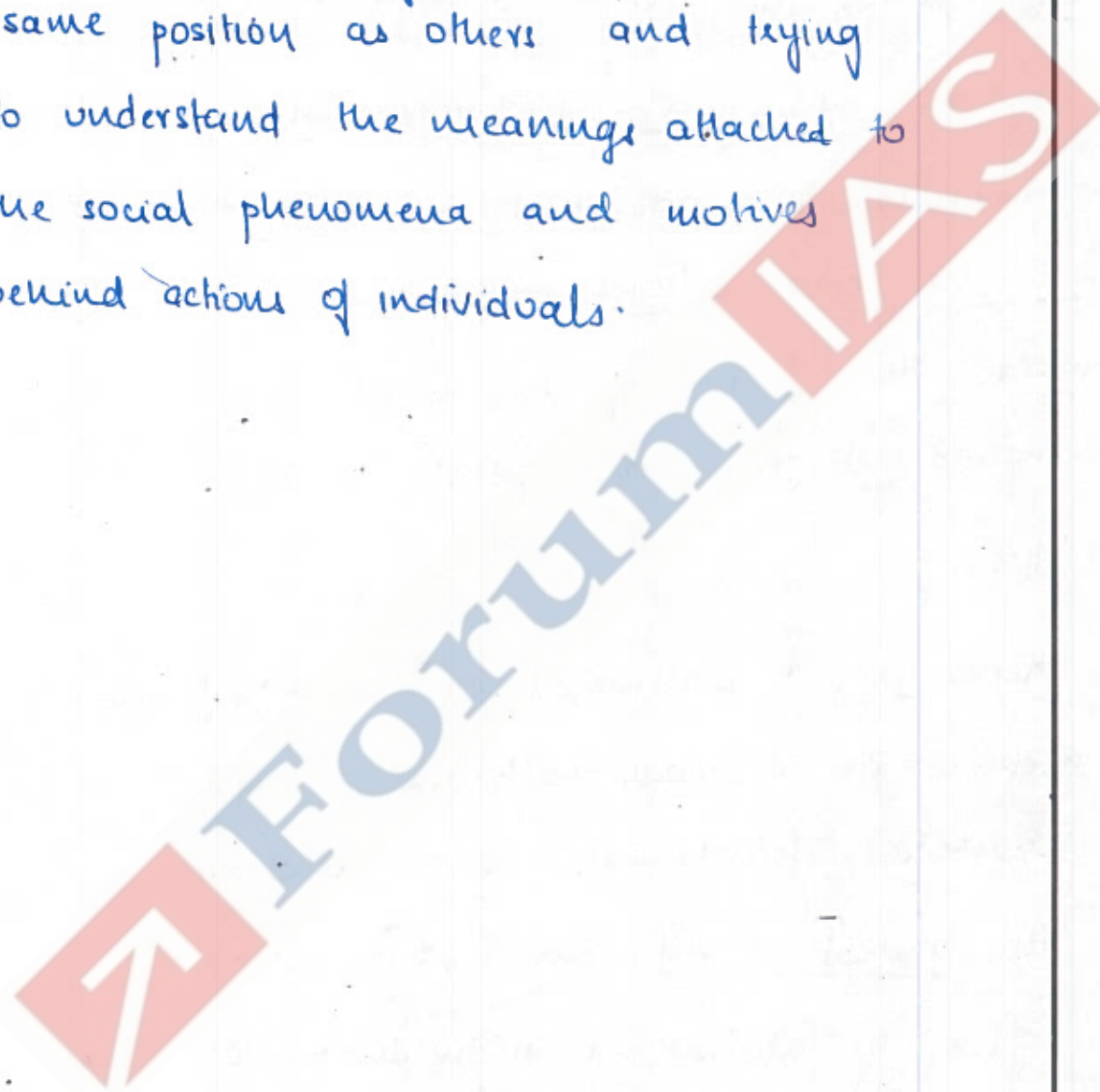
c. What do you understand by 'Reflexivity' and what is its significance in Sociology?  
(10 Marks)

Reflexivity refers to the method of self-referencing and is advocated as a method by symbolic interactionists.

It involves an individual to reflect upon his own actions by getting outside the frame of his body and analysing it from the point of view of others.

Reflexivity is considered as a significant method in sociology particularly by symbolic interactionists who advocate the concept of self and believe that reflexivity allows an individual to arrive at a concept of self which keeps changing with the process of social interactions.

The concept of reflexivity also enables one to analyse the action of others by putting himself in the same position as others and trying to understand the meanings attached to the social phenomena and motives behind actions of individuals.



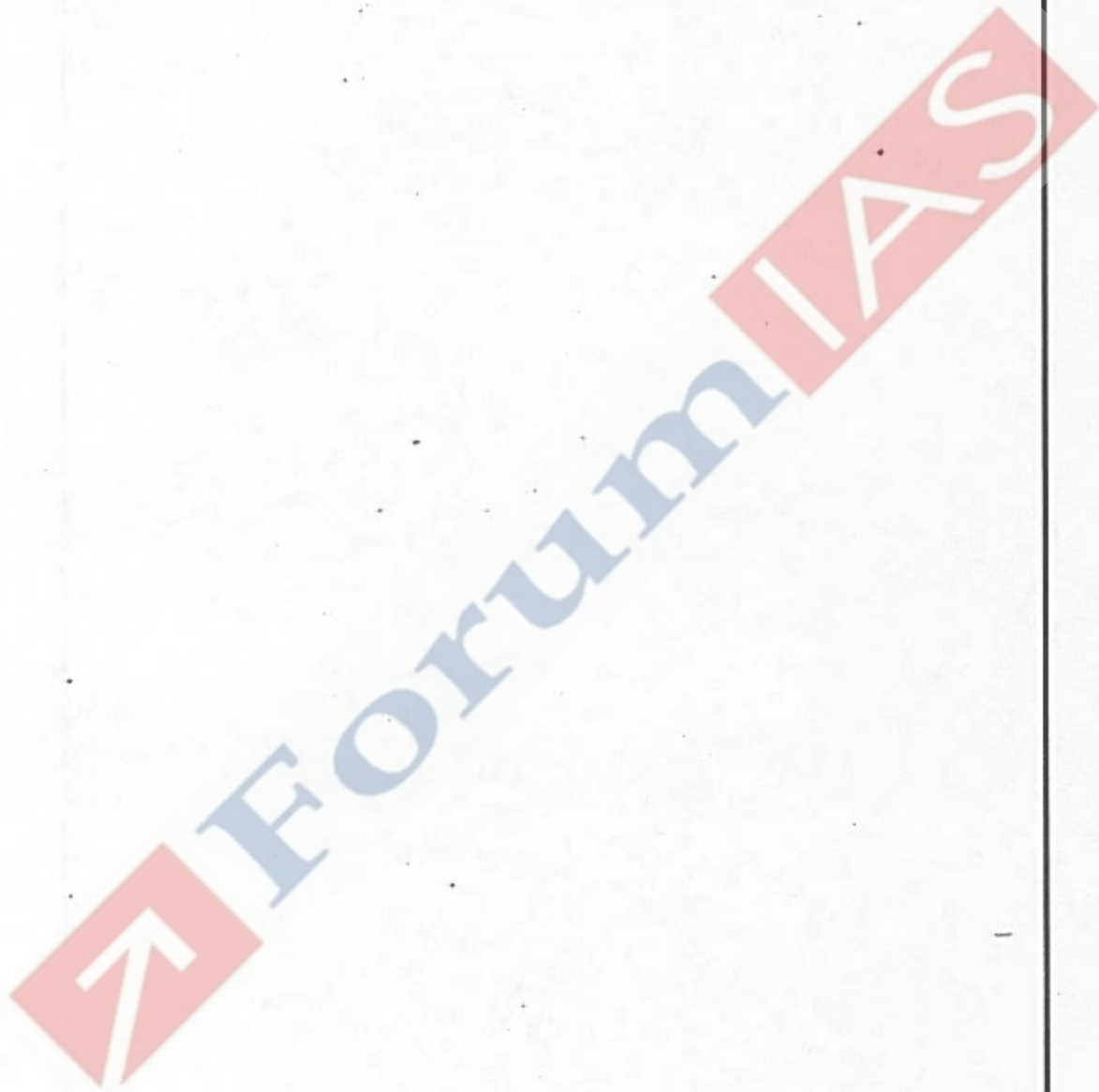
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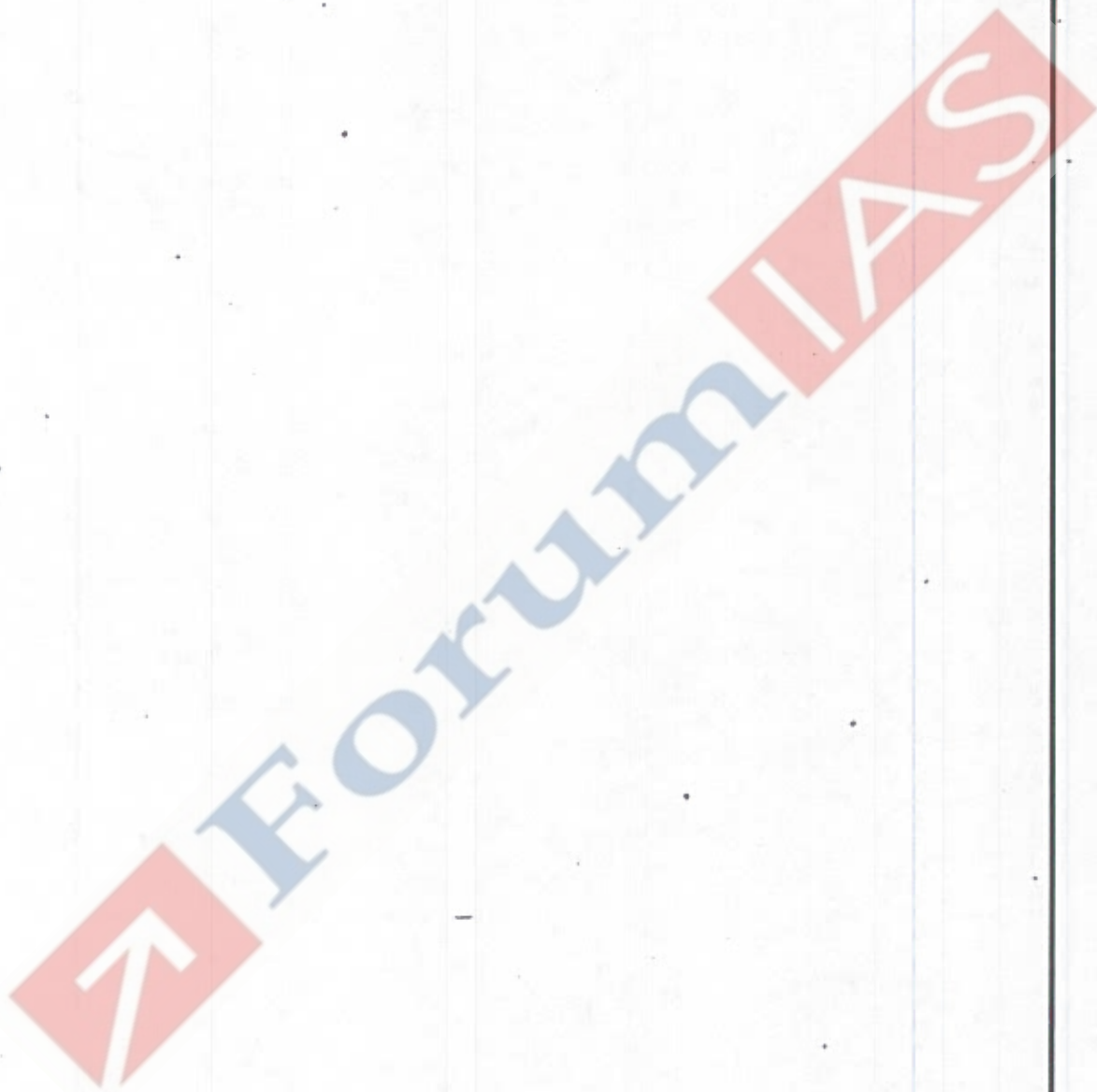
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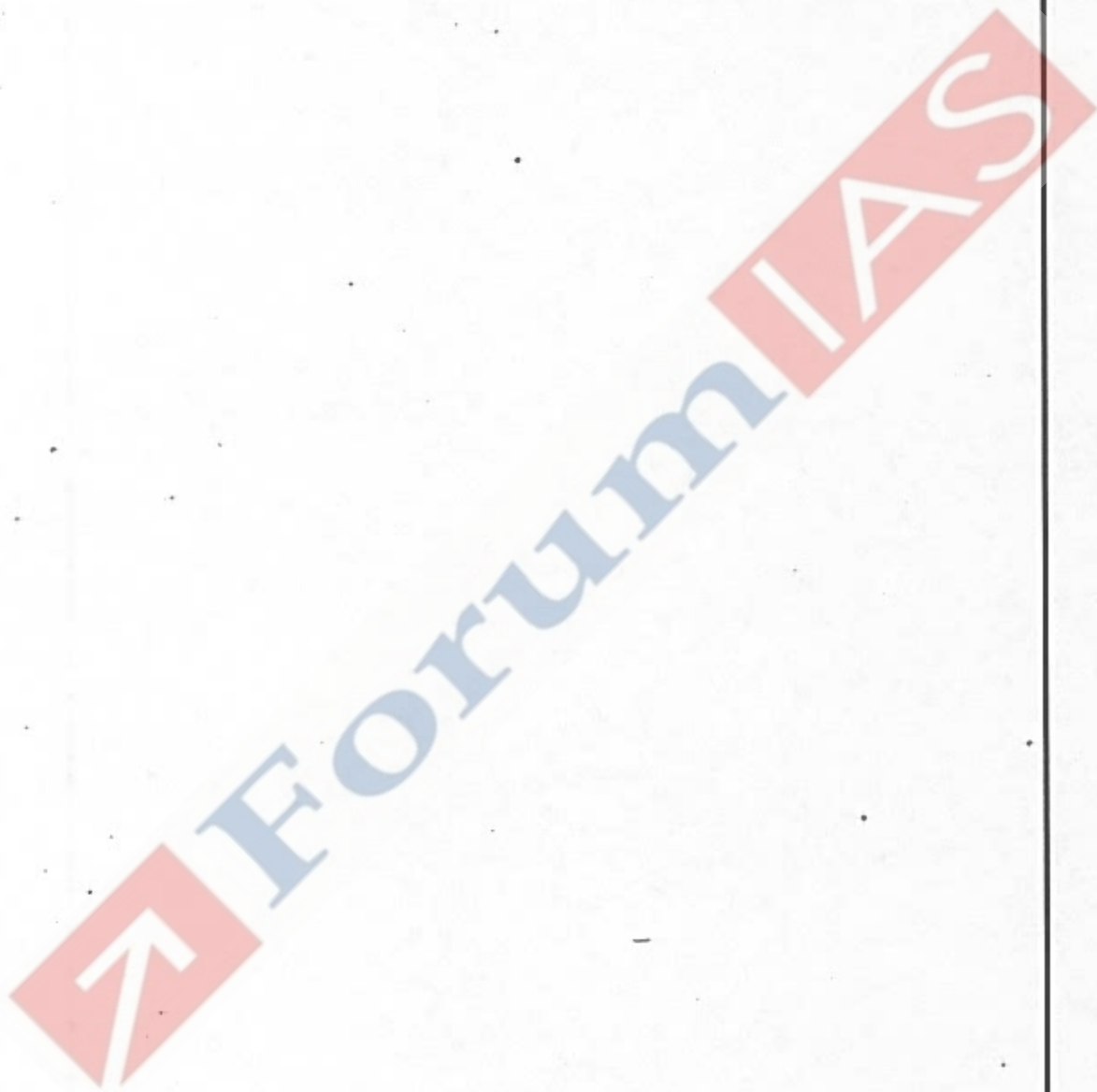


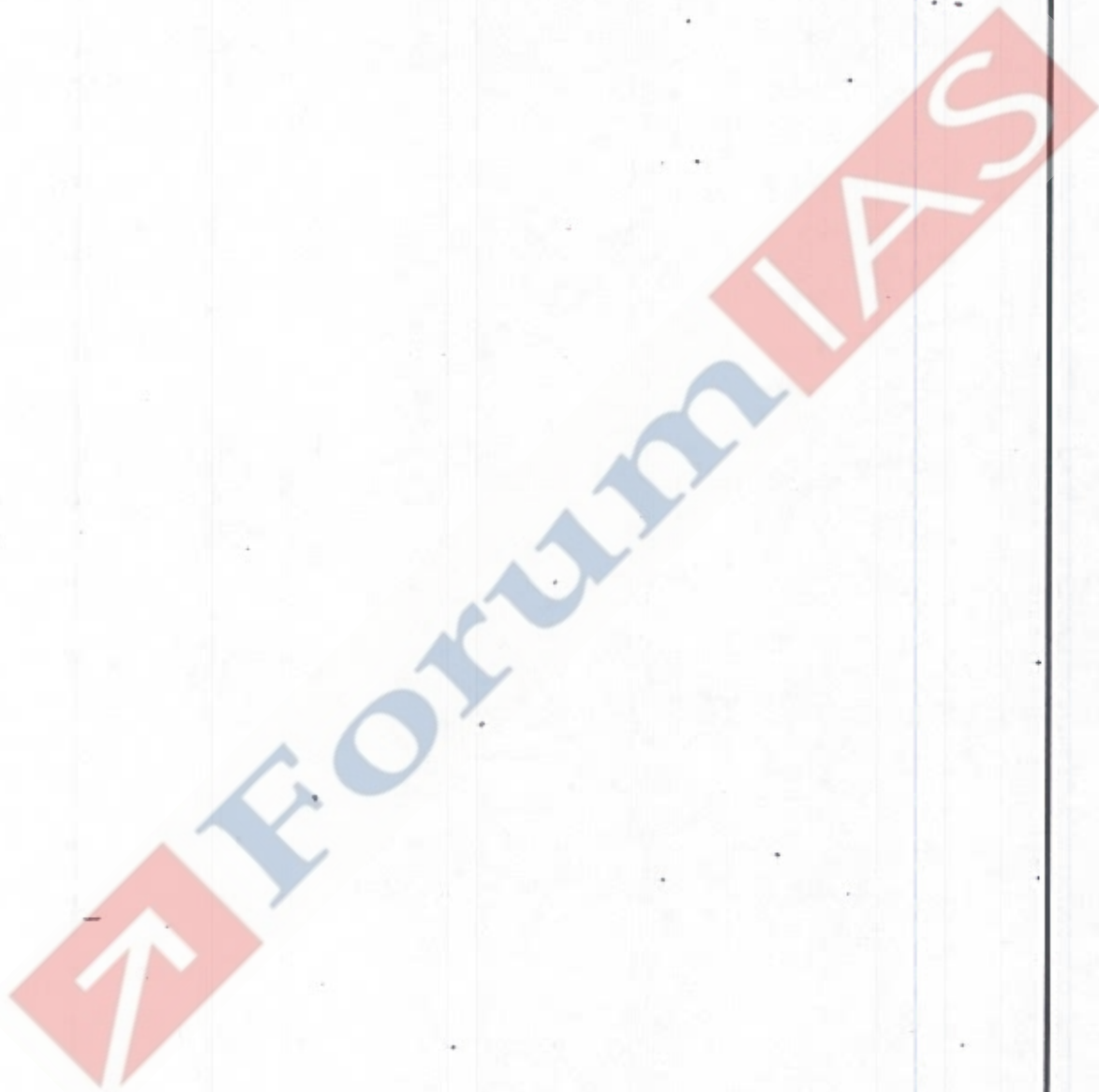


Q.4) a. The Sociological perspective is a perspective on human behaviour and its connection to the society as a whole. Discuss. (20 Marks)









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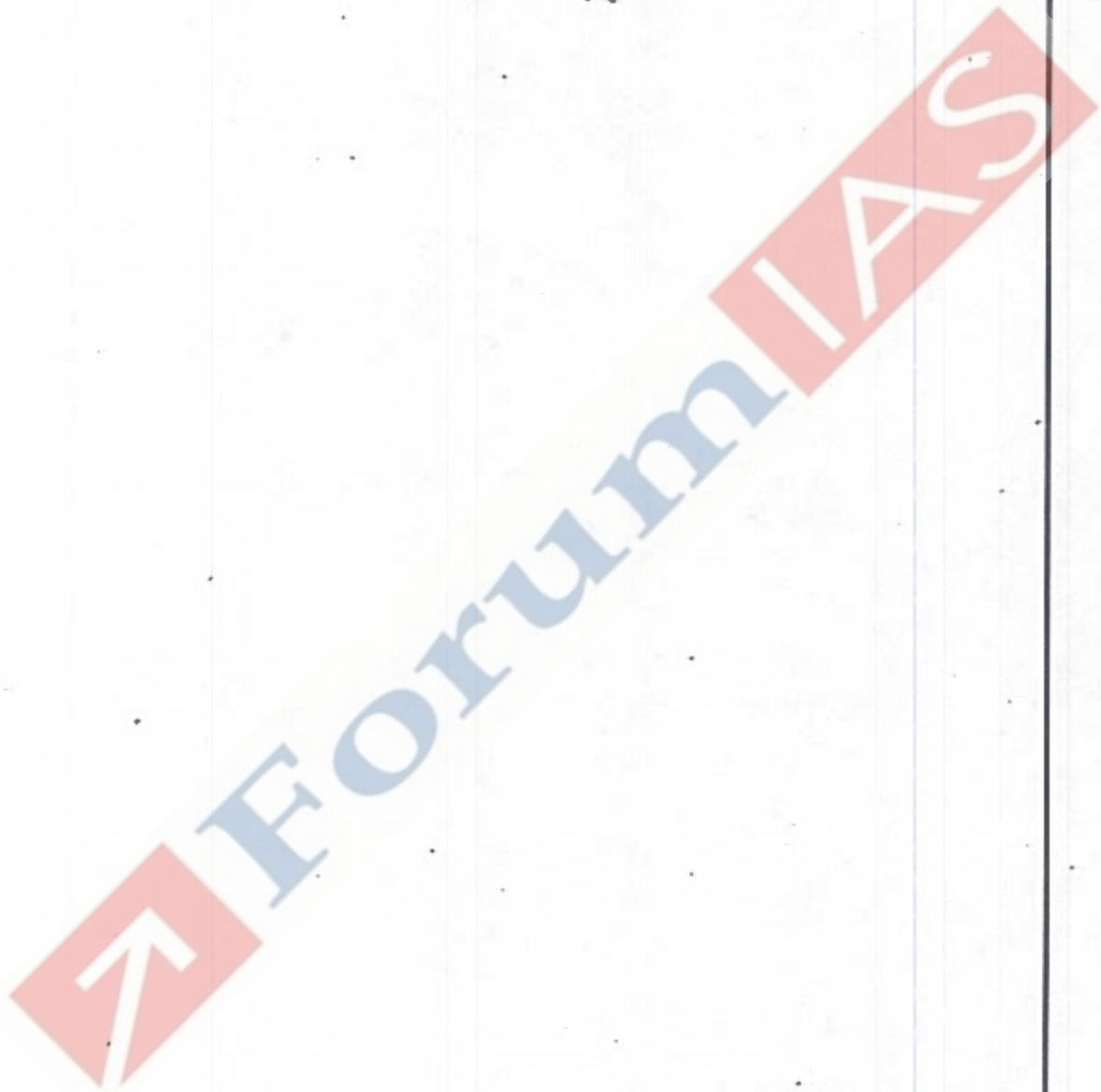
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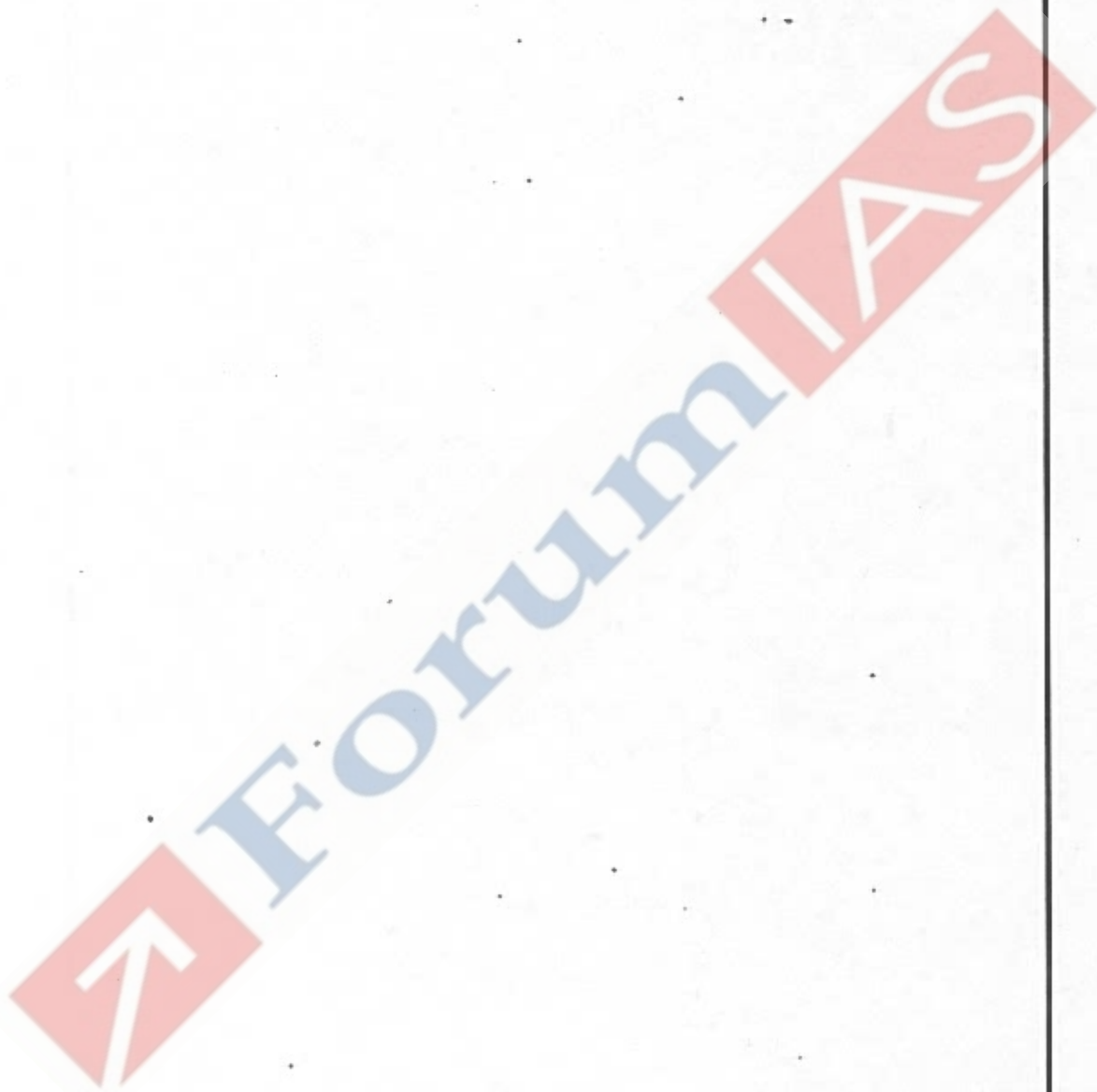


b. Common Sense is neither common nor sense. Discuss keeping sociological perspective in view.

(20 Marks)









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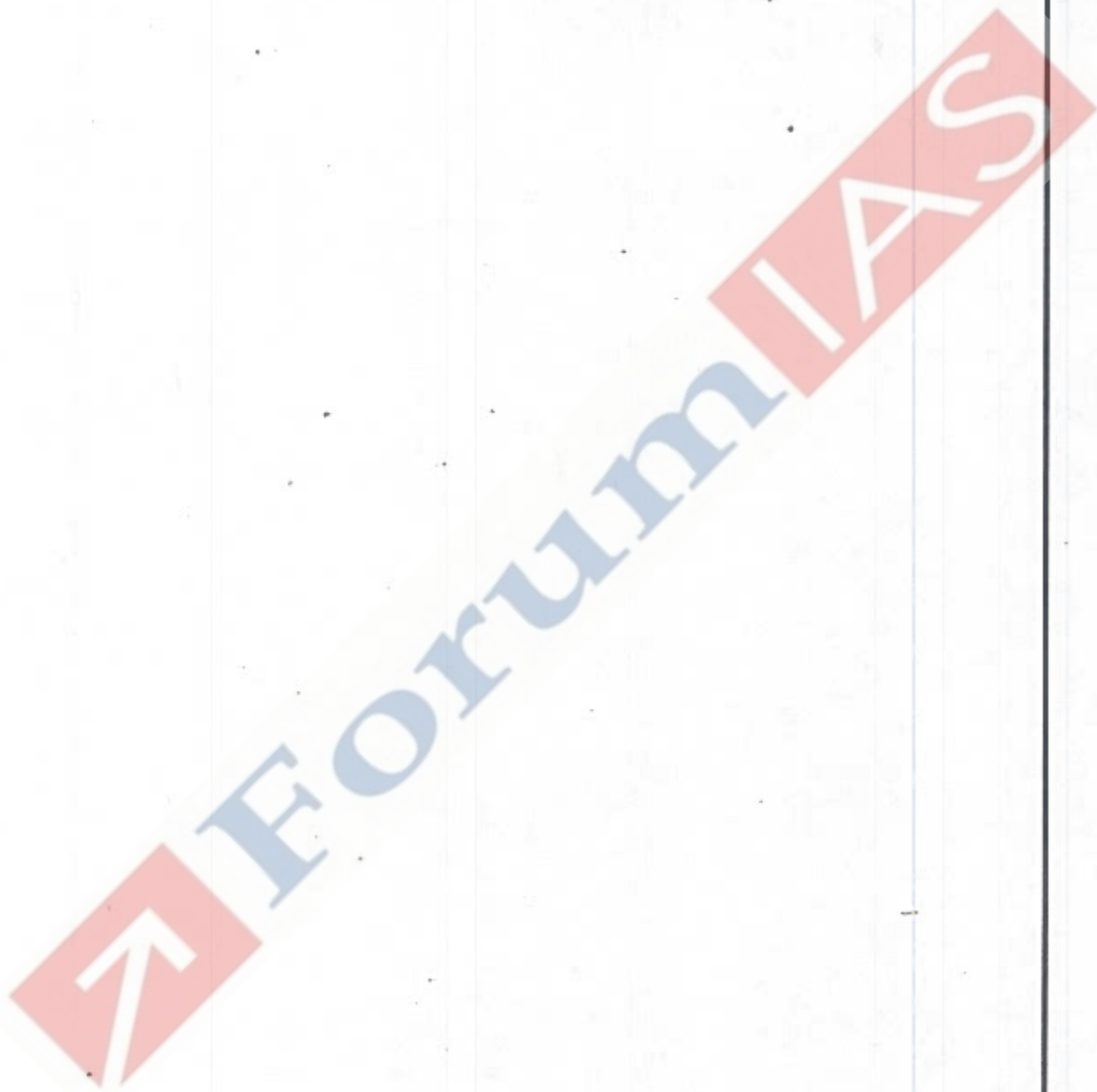




c. What is so special about 'Verstehen' that gives Sociology an objectivity of its own type?

(10 Marks)





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## Section B

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

a. Basic features of symbolic interactionism. (10 Marks, 150 words)

The approach of symbolic interactionism argues that every individual has a concept of self and they act in accordance with this concept of self.

This concept of self undergoes modifications in the course of daily interactions of individuals with other members of society. Symbolic interactionists view social phenomena as symbols which different individuals may come to interpret in a different way and they act according to their interpretation.

They believe that most human actions are measured responses to symbols in a society which humans may interpret in different ways and act

on the basis of their interpretation



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b. Sociology of Everyday life.

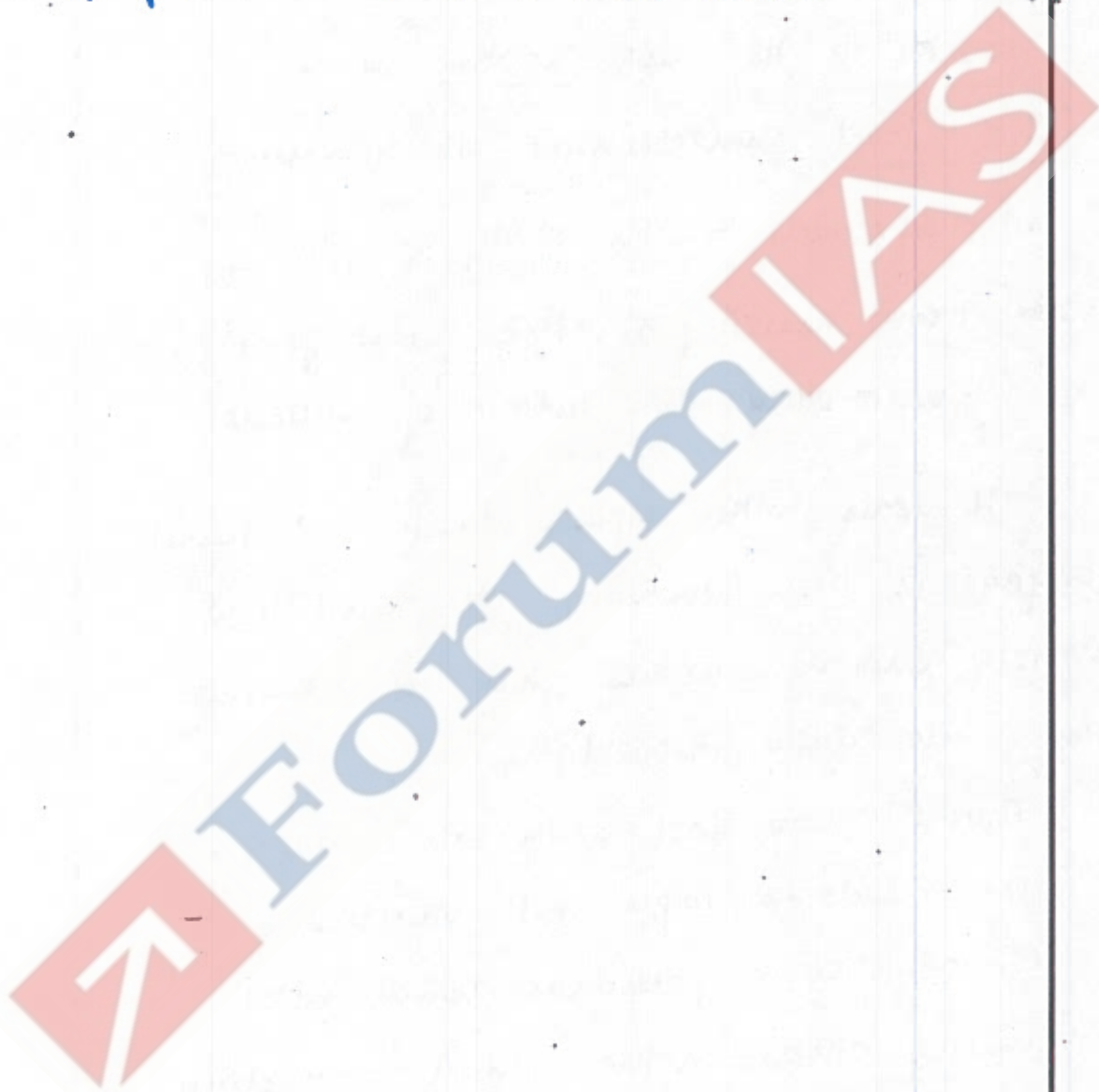
(10 Marks, 150 words)

Sociology of everyday life is not a new discipline but an approach to study the society in its most routine and smaller level characteristics. It represents a micro approach to the study of society rather than arriving at the most general laws characterising the whole of societies.

It deals with aspects that individuals engage in their everyday life and how society and its norms has a bearing upon these daily interactions.

Thus, it may deal with labour unrests, crimes such as rapes and homicides, literacy of a particular community among others rather than attempting to arrive at theories and generalisations.

Thus sociology of everyday life differs in its aims and is concerned with study of phenomena at a lower level.



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c. How do you differentiate between reliability and validity?

(10 Marks, 150 words)

Reliability in a sociological research refers to how <sup>similar</sup> ~~common~~ the results of a sociological research will be if conducted by different researchers using the same method.

It is thus the level of similarity in the findings of two or more different sociological researchers using the same method.

Generally, quantitative methods like survey, questionnaire etc are considered to be more reliable as the<sup>a</sup> different researcher using the same method is more likely to arrive at same data. Qualitative studies suffer from a lack of reliability because they involve a level of subjectivity and different researchers might arrive at different results.

Validity, as against reliability, concerns with

how closely the sociological research represent actual reality. A data can be reliable but not valid if different researchers arrive at the same data which fails to reflect actual social reality.

Qualitative research techniques are considered to be more valid compared to quantitative research techniques as they allow an indepth examination of members of society and collect more subjective data which is more likely to represent actual social reality.

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d. What are variables? Discuss their role in experimental research.

(10 Marks, 150 words)

Variables are something which are not constant and are liable to change. These variables may have different values under different contexts and it may be possible to establish a relationship between two or more variables. Variables are of two kinds - dependent variables whose value depends on other set of variables and independent variables which are varied to arrive at different values of dependent variables.

An experimental research begins with a hypothesis which is a propositional statement denoting a relationship between two or more variables. Thus variables enable researchers to arrive at cause and effect relationships in sociological research. If a hypothesis is tested and is proved

correct, it becomes a thesis and if it is proved repeatedly correct it assumes status of theory. Thus in any experimental research, variables enable to arrive at thesis and theory and when relationship between variables stands correct in a variety of contexts, it enables researchers to arrive at laws.

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e. In what way social media could be used to study social life?

(10 Marks, 150 words)

Earlier, when sociology as a discipline emerged and as it developed :- the interactions of individuals were more limited to other those with others in physical surroundings.

However, this created a problem as analysis of behavior of humans who led a more secretive life and who were not forthcoming was difficult.

With social media, the universe of social interactions has expanded.

- It has become possible to study aspects of clandestine nature which enable individuals to maintain their anonymity.

- Also, with no dearth of information available <sup>on</sup> social media, the comparative method which is relied upon in sociology is enriched.

- The advent of social media has wiped out physical boundaries and enables sociologists to reach out <sup>to</sup> a larger sample making the research more representative.
- societal aspects like prostitution and criminality can be studied in greater depth due to social media

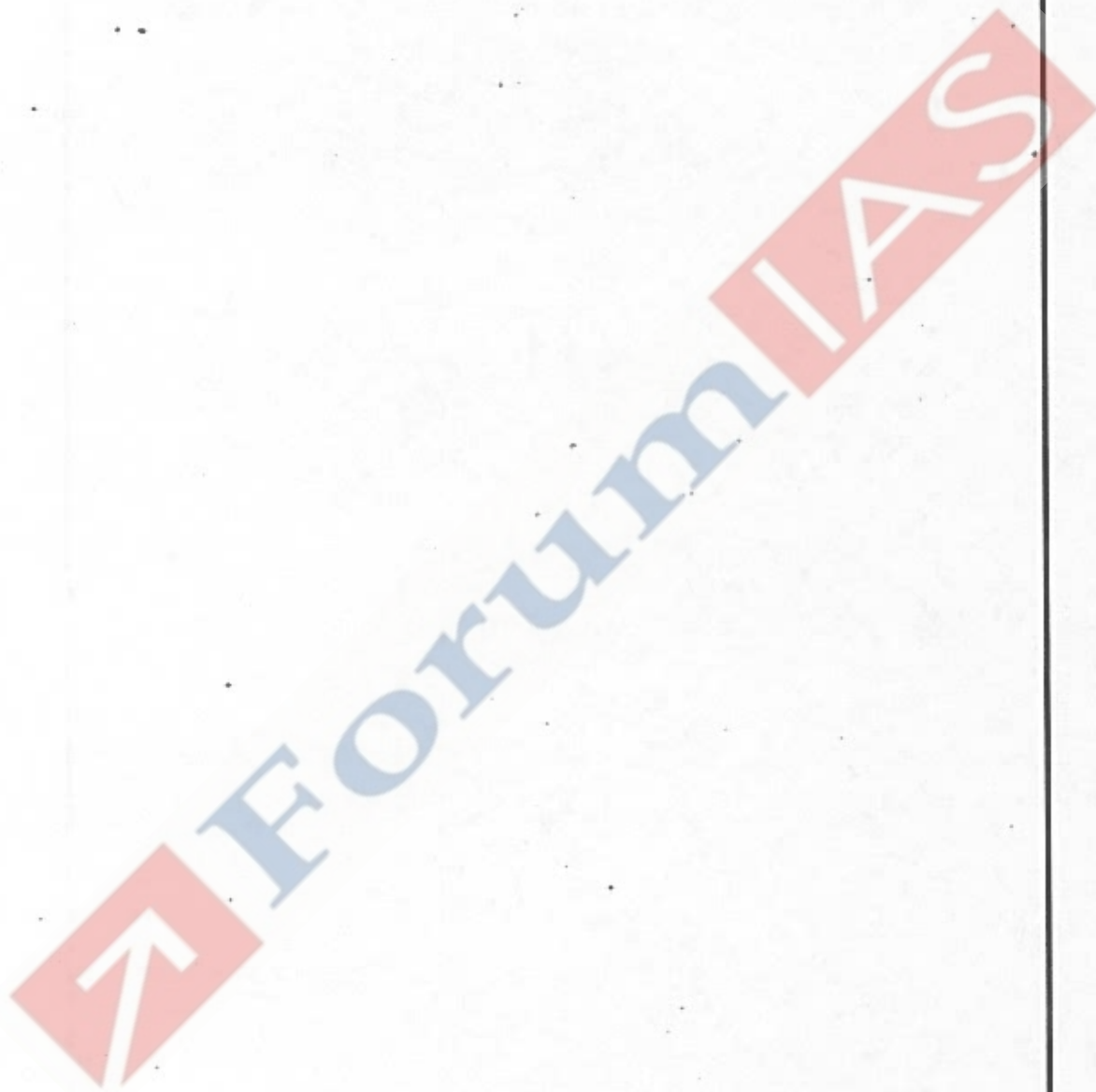
Thus social media has had a significant impact upon study of social life and this has broadened the horizons of sociological research

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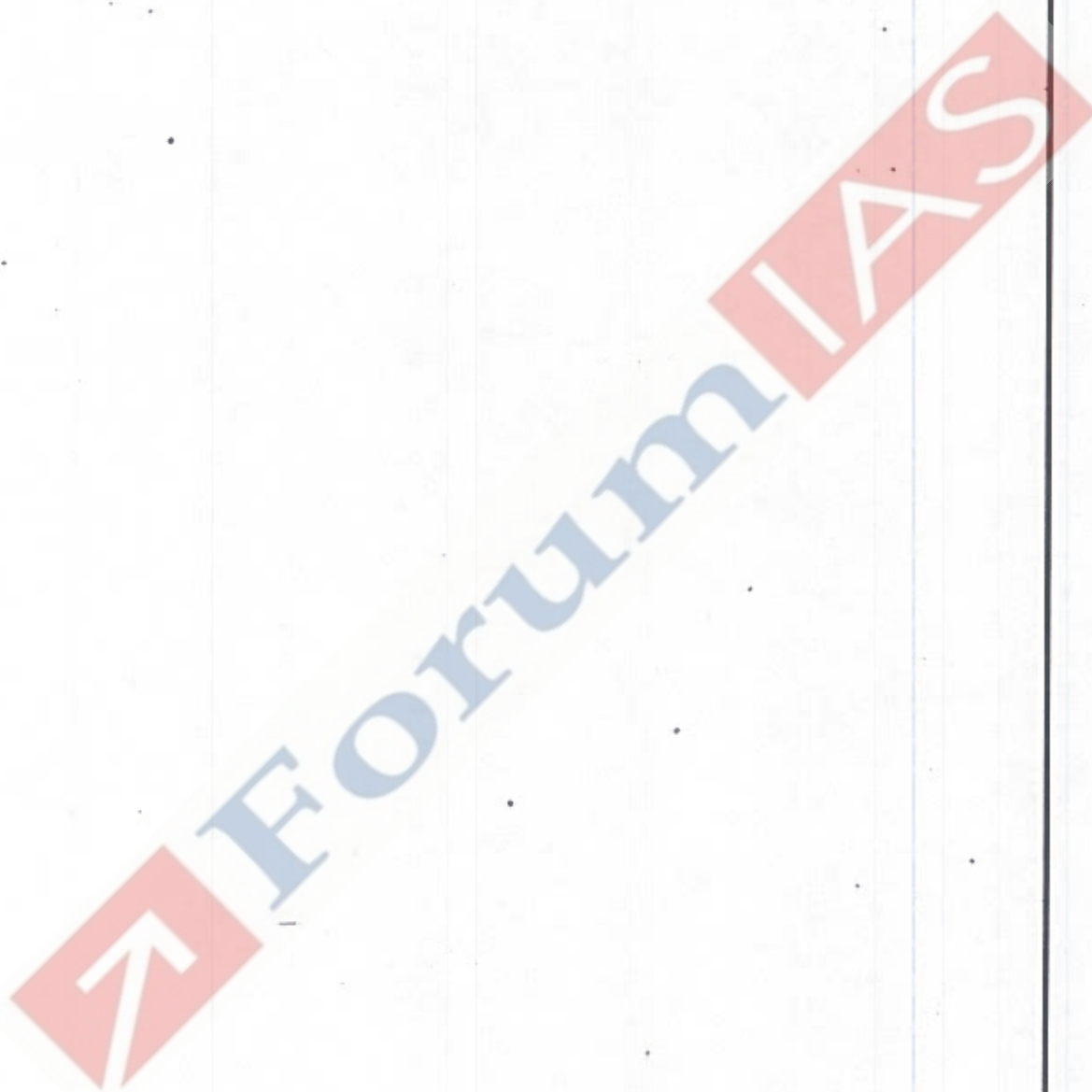


**Q.6) a.** What makes the sociologist different from other members of society. Discuss. (20 Marks)









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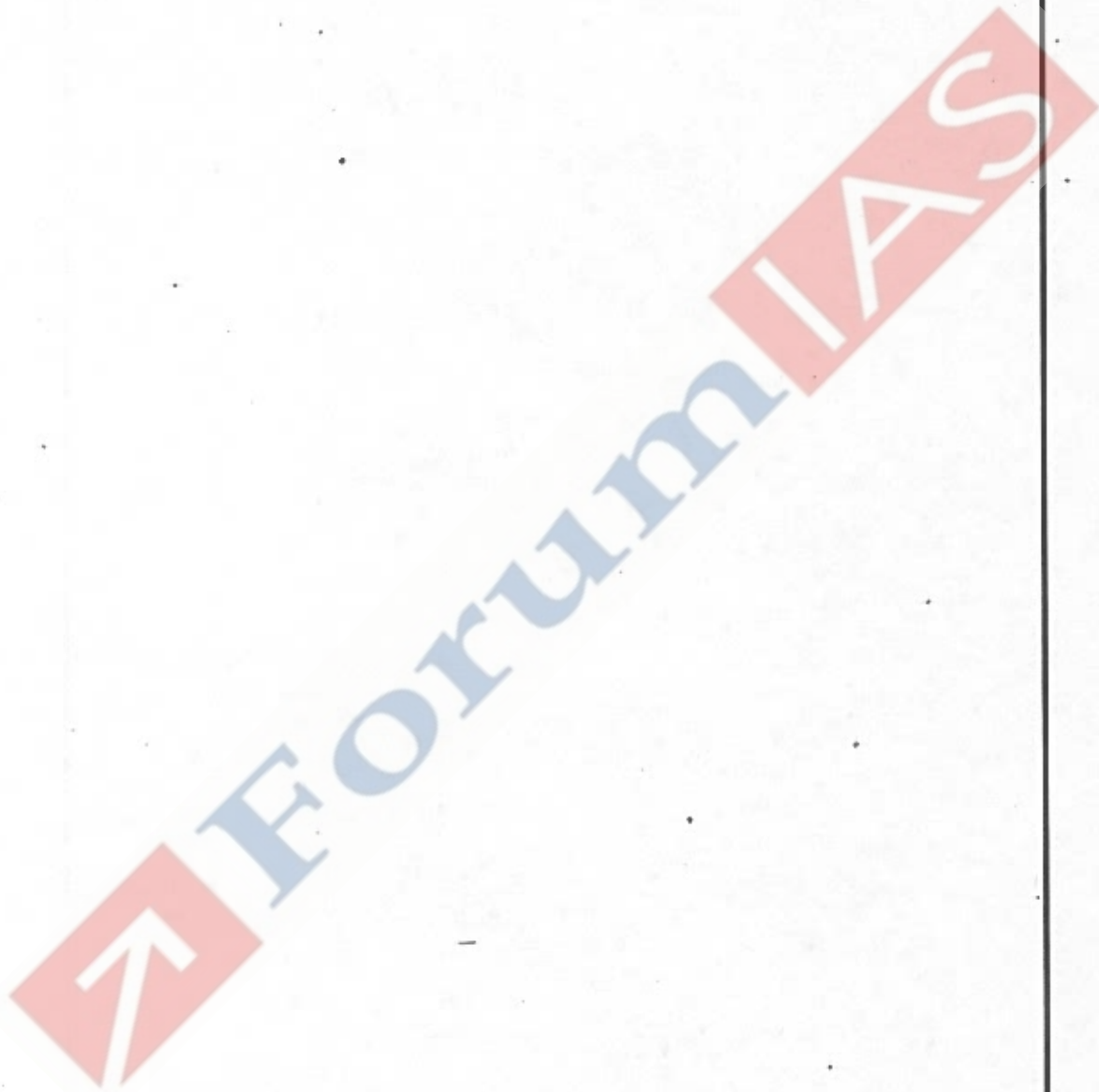
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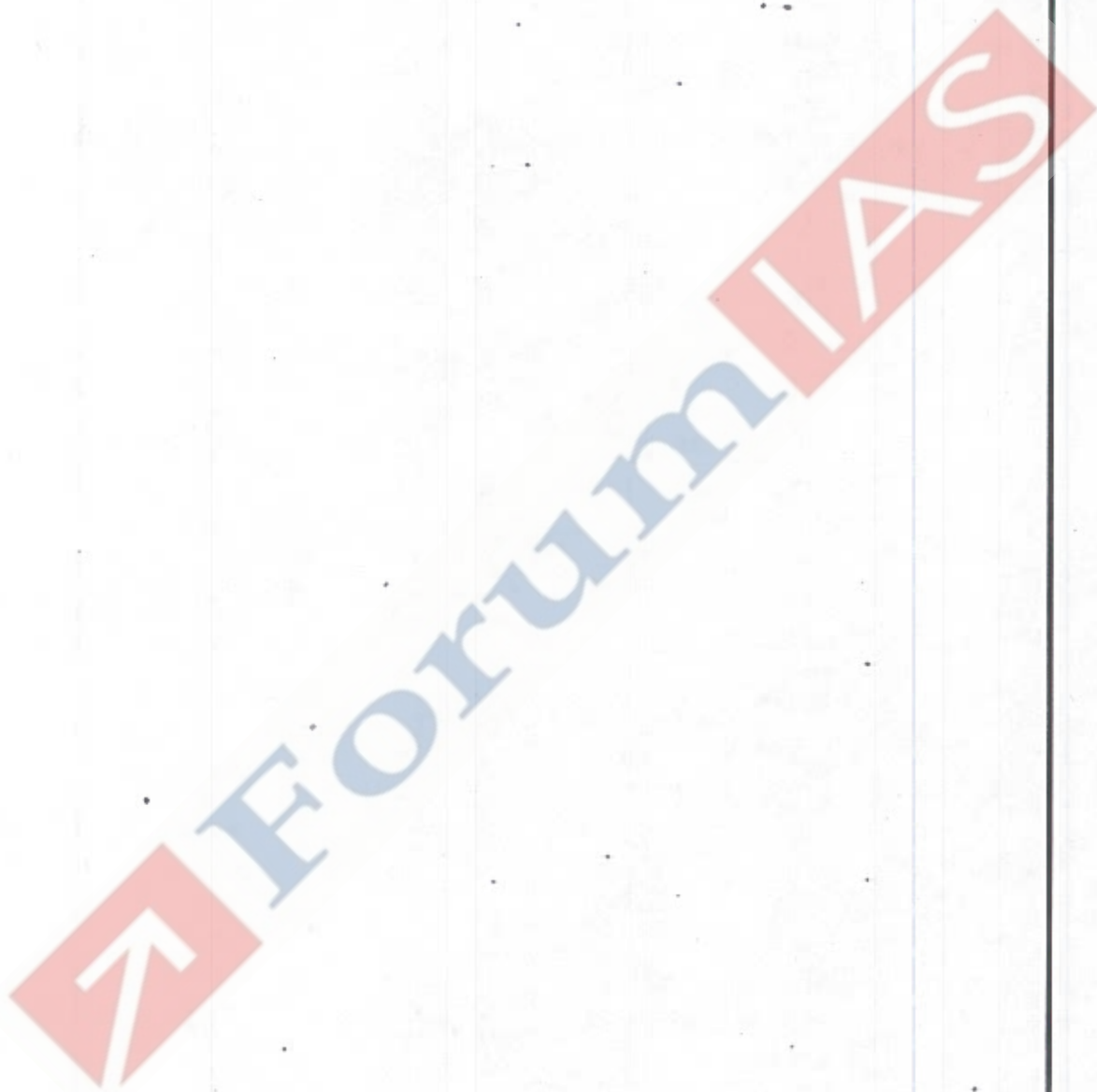


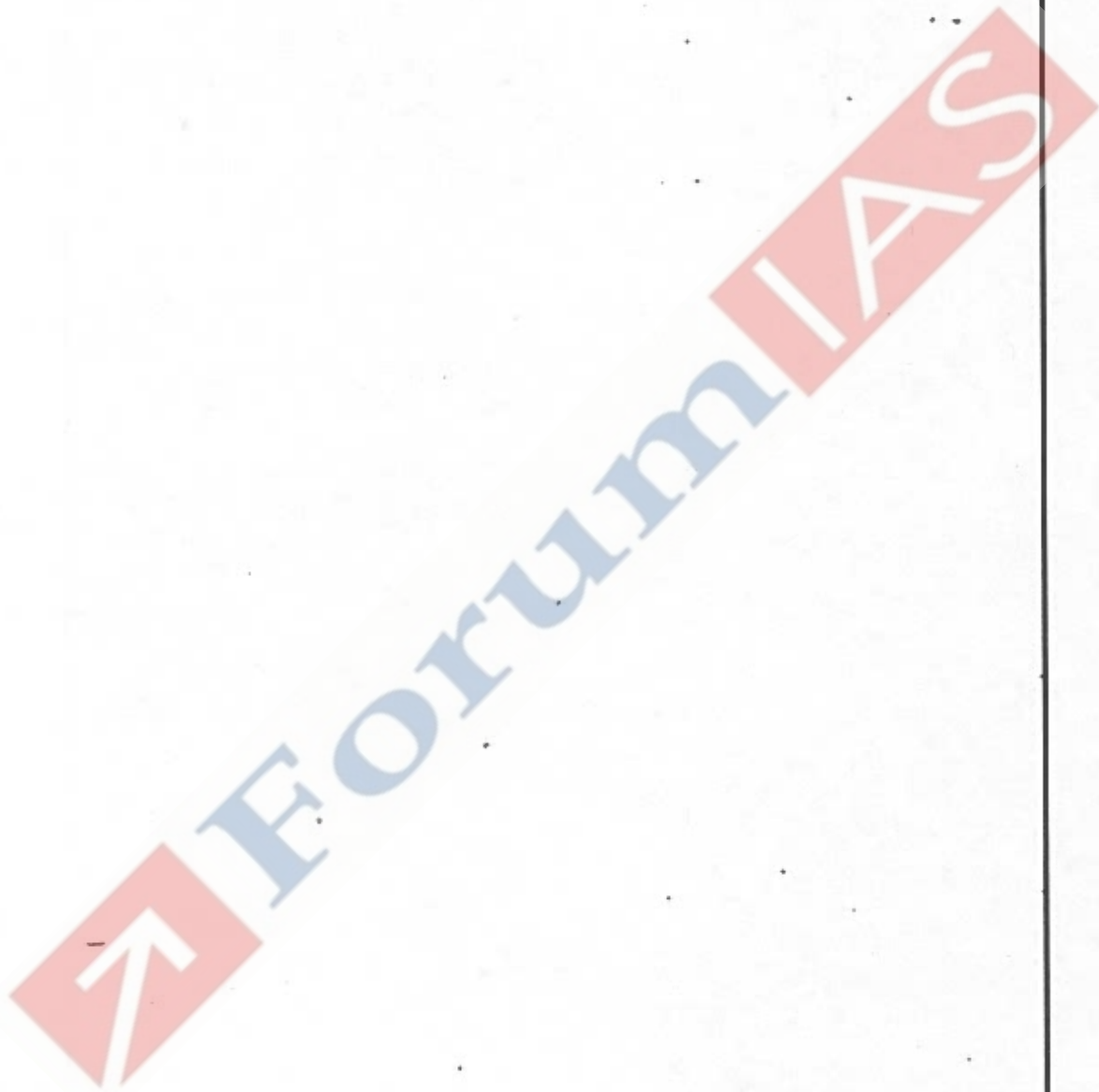


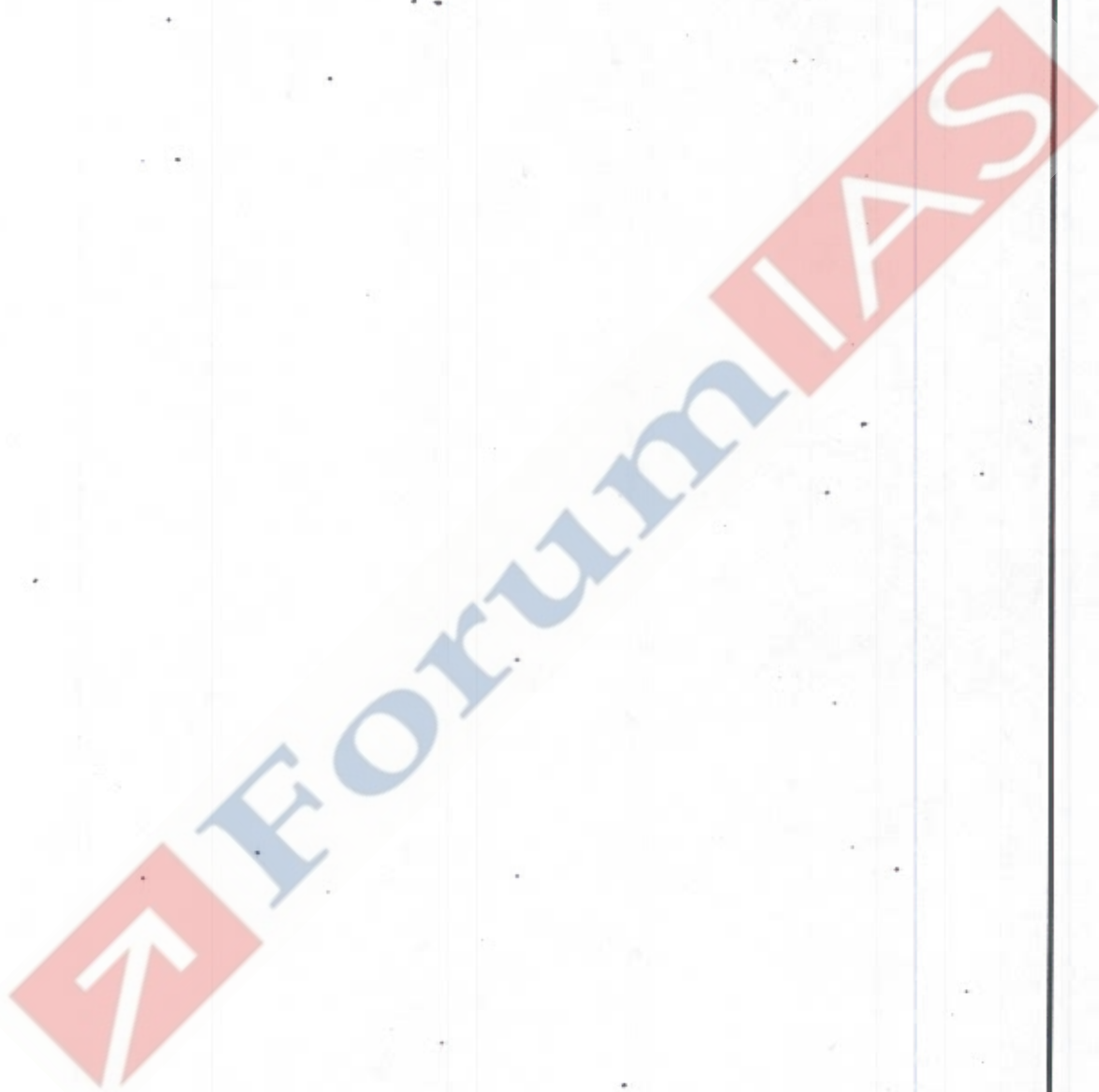
b. 'Comparative method is a method par excellence.' Discuss.

(20 Marks)









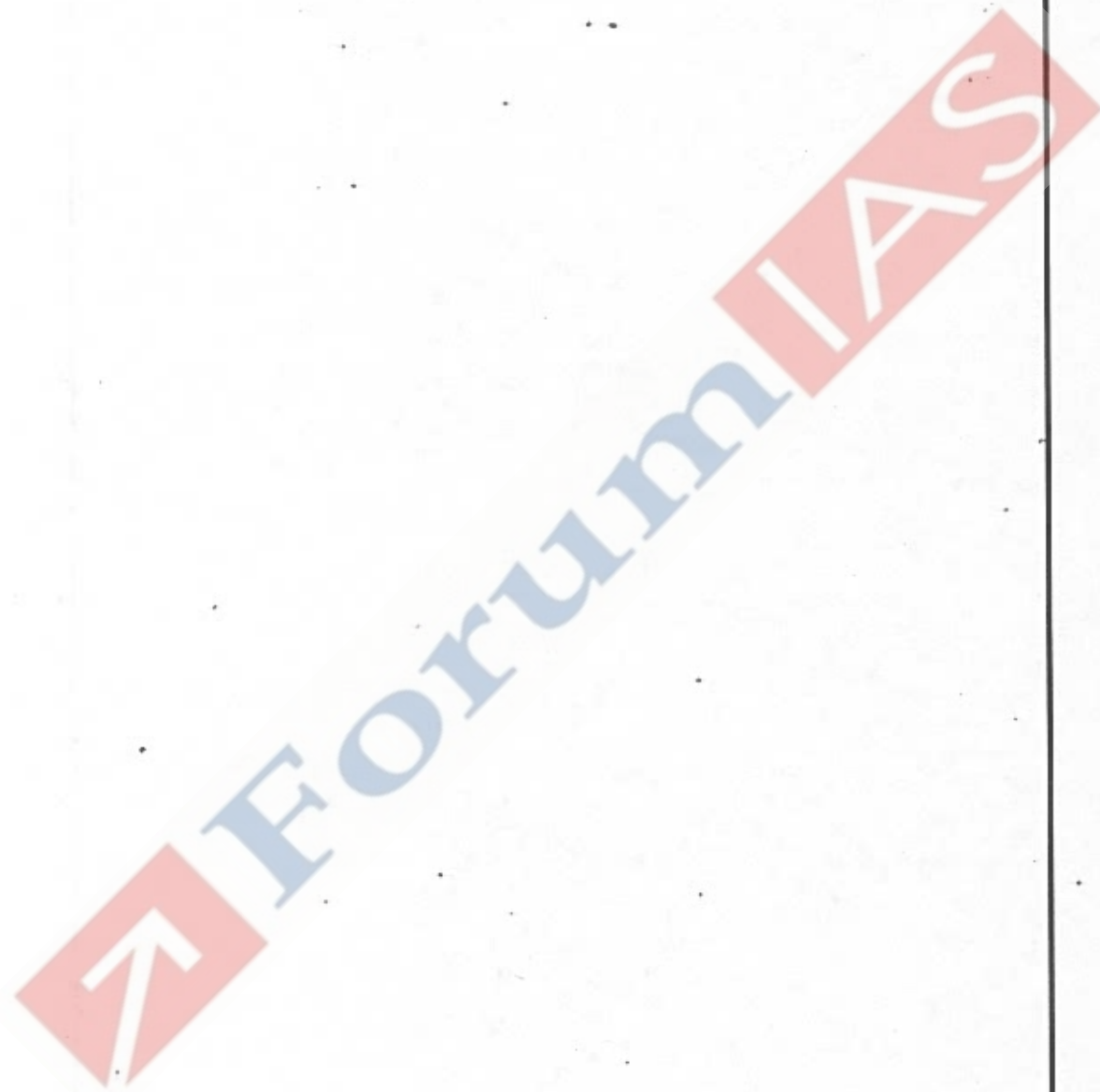
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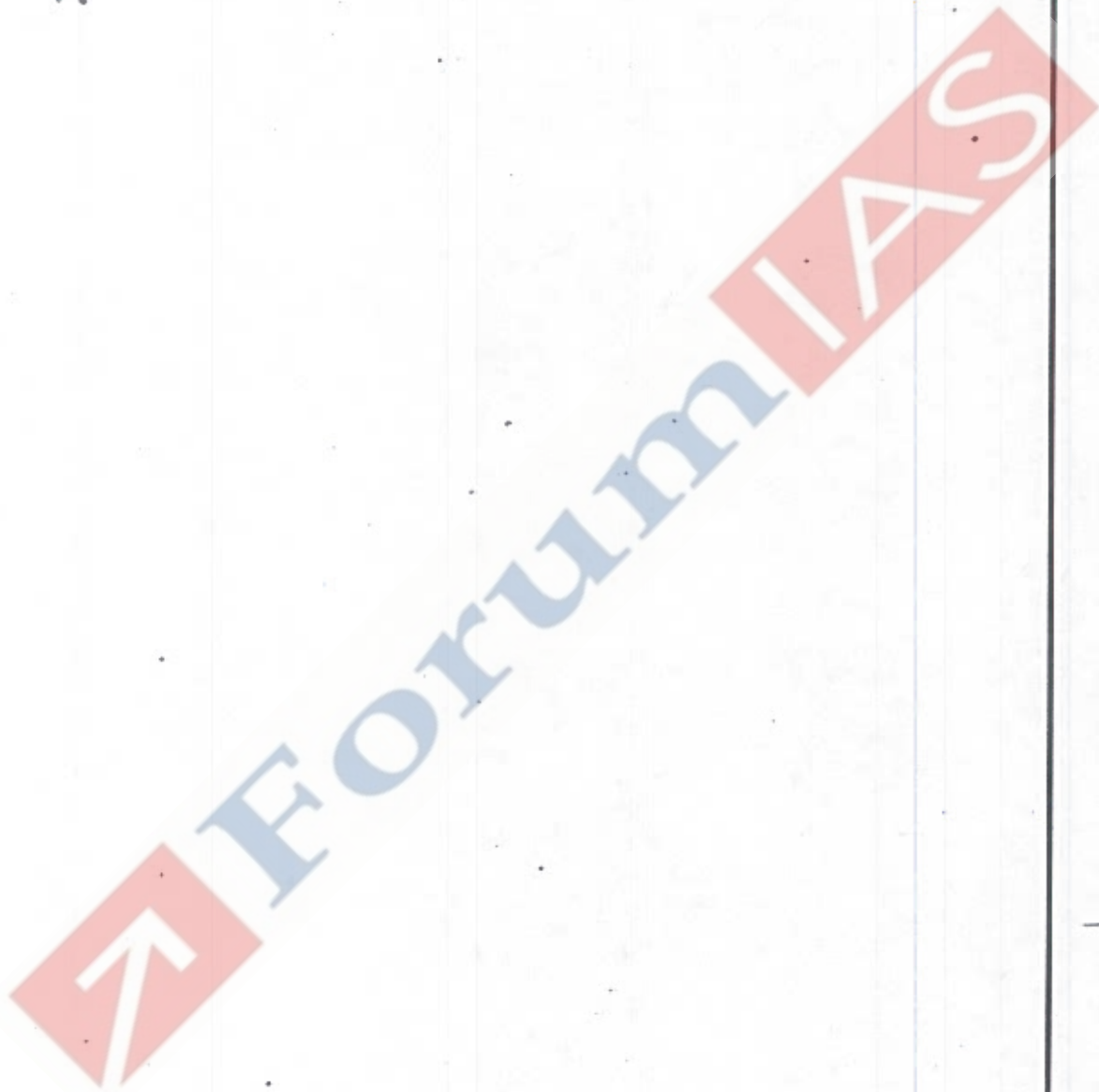
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c. Ethnomethodology is the study of methods which people use to maintain an on-going sense of reality in a situation. Illustrate with examples.

(10 Marks)





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Q.7) a. What are the major theoretical strands of research methodology? Examine. (20 Marks)

The early sociologists, like Comte, Durkheim etc attempted to mould sociology as a study of society using scientific methods of natural sciences and their methodology came to be known as positivist methodology.

This methodology was used by researchers from functionalist theoretical strand who all believed that existence of various social structures and parts and institutions of society can be justified by the functions that they perform in the service of societies as a whole. This strand argued that there were certain societal prerequisites which need to be fulfilled for maintenance of society and these functional prerequisites were fulfilled by social structures and institutions.

The positivist methodology advocated limiting to observation of social phenomena to externally observable facts as in natural sciences and arriving at laws and generalisation which can be used for predictions and improving condition of society.

As against positivism, interpretative, phenomenological and ethnomethodological perspectives developed which argued believed that trying to understand human actions in a society will fail to provide a complete picture.

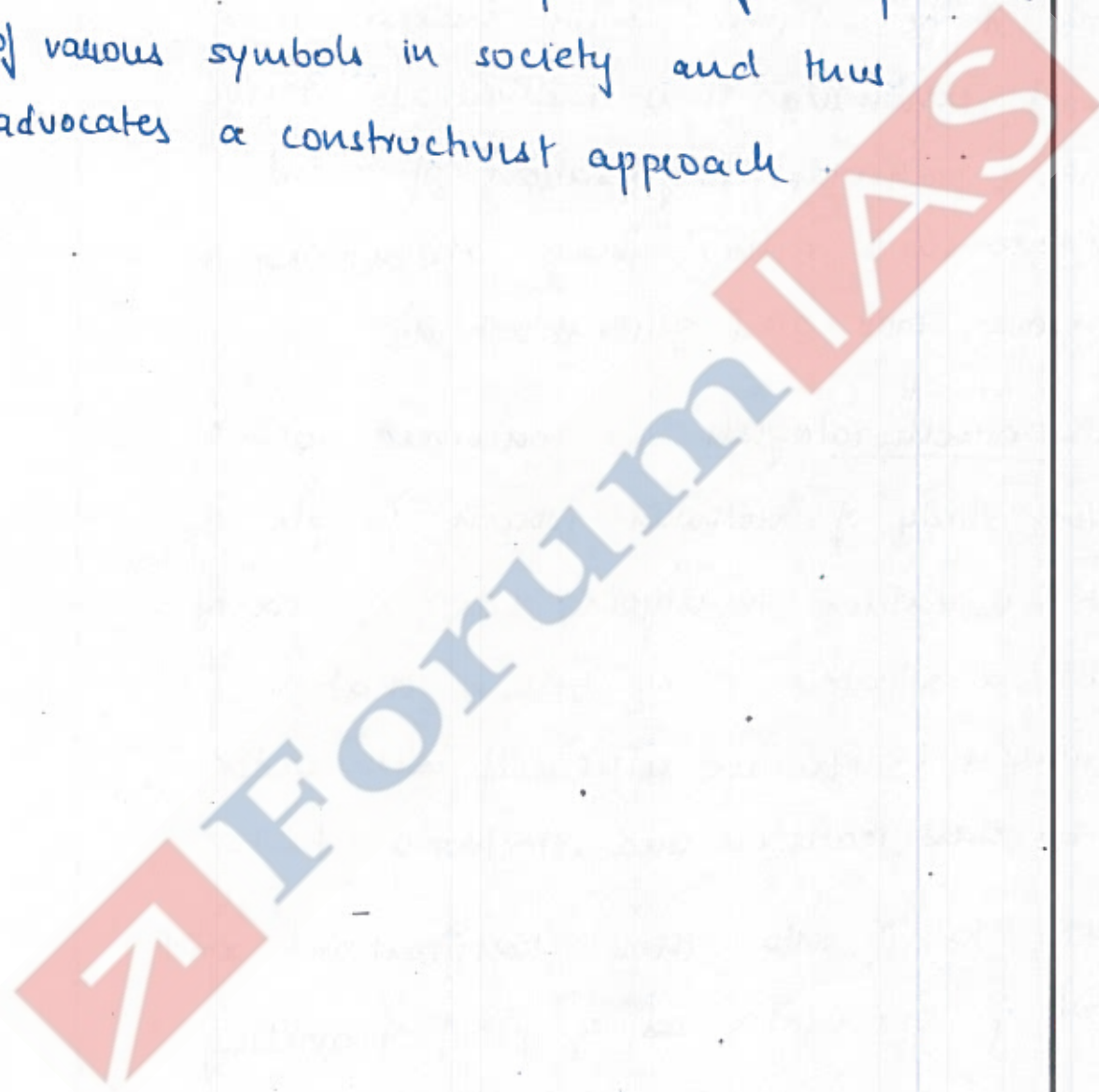
Interpretivists like Weber while agreeing with positivism on objectivity and the need for arriving at social laws argued that it was also necessary for understanding social actions at the level of meanings and motives.



Phenomenologists argued that there is no objective reality. What exists is a product of human mind and thus sociologists should be concerned with understanding and explaining how individuals arrive at a particular categorisation of social phenomena rather than attempting to uncover laws and generalisations.

Ethnomethodologists are concerned with the study of methods which people use to maintain an ongoing sense of reality in a situation. They believe that human beings are concerned with order and classifications and selectively filter data to fit into these classifications and puts up this data as a proof providing a circular explanation.

Another major theoretical strand is of symbolic interactionists who believe that social interactions are a product of interpretation of various symbols in society and thus advocates a constructivist approach.



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b. What is so scientific about sociology that makes it a science? Critically analyze.  
(20 Marks)

From the emergence of sociology as a discipline, it has been argued whether sociology is a science or not with plenty of advocates of the two positions.

Early sociologists who adopted a positivist approach attempted to mould sociology into a natural science of society by advocating use of scientific methods of empiricism and confining observation to objectively observable facts. They disregarded the fact that the nature of subject matter of natural sciences and sociology is different and human beings possess consciousness.

Later, interpretativists and other non positivists argued that a complete picture of

social actions can be discovered only by understanding human actions at the level of meanings and motives

However, the scientific methods of <sup>objective</sup> observation were not completely discarded. Rather, to supplement it, it was argued that human actions at the level of meanings and motives should also be understood.

Thus it can be said that sociology is a science but a science 'sui generis'

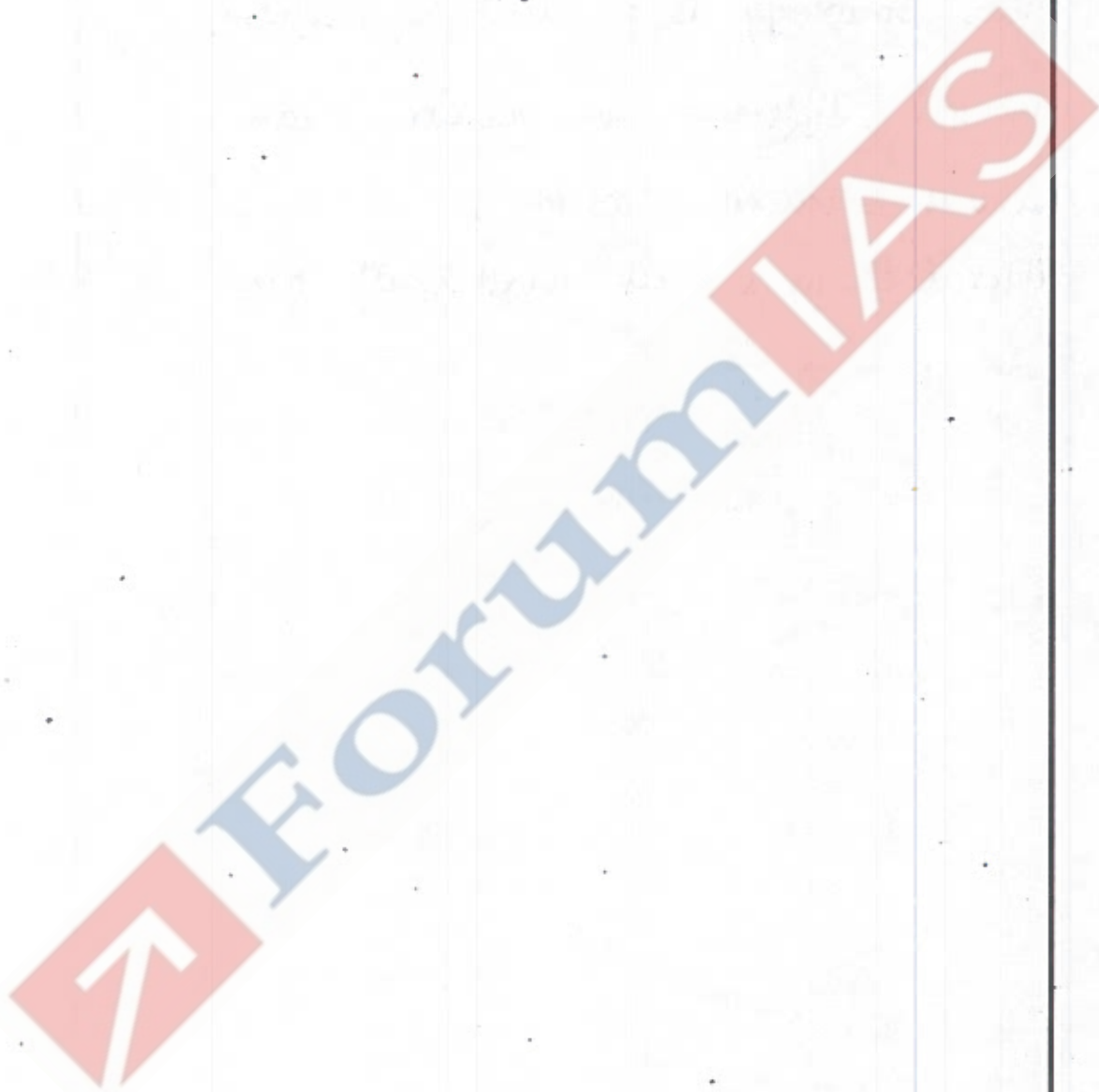
This is owing to the subject matter of sociology which is human beings.

Also, like <sup>natural</sup> sciences, sociology has been able to discover laws but on a limited scale.

The laws of sociology have been successful in articulation of relationship of variables at macro level. It is only

at the micro level that sociology as a science fails.

Thus sociology is a scientific discipline though different in nature than natural sciences which is due to difference in subject matter of the two.



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c. The significance and source of Hypothesis in social research.

(10 Marks)

Hypothesis refers to a propositional statement that states the relationship between two or more variables

Significance of hypothesis lies in the fact that it provides the first stage of any social research and is thus the first step in the discovery of social laws and generalisations

-The various sources of a hypothesis may include an already proven theory or law from which a hypothesis is stating a relationship between two or more variables can be deduced.

→ It can also be arrived at from another hypothesis while attempting to prove relationship between two variables

and discovery of another variable .

- It can also be a consequence of individual experience of the researcher
- A hypothesis may also be derived from the cultural milieu of sociological research.

Thus, a hypothesis by being the starting point for development of laws and theory provides one of the most important aspects of sociological research.

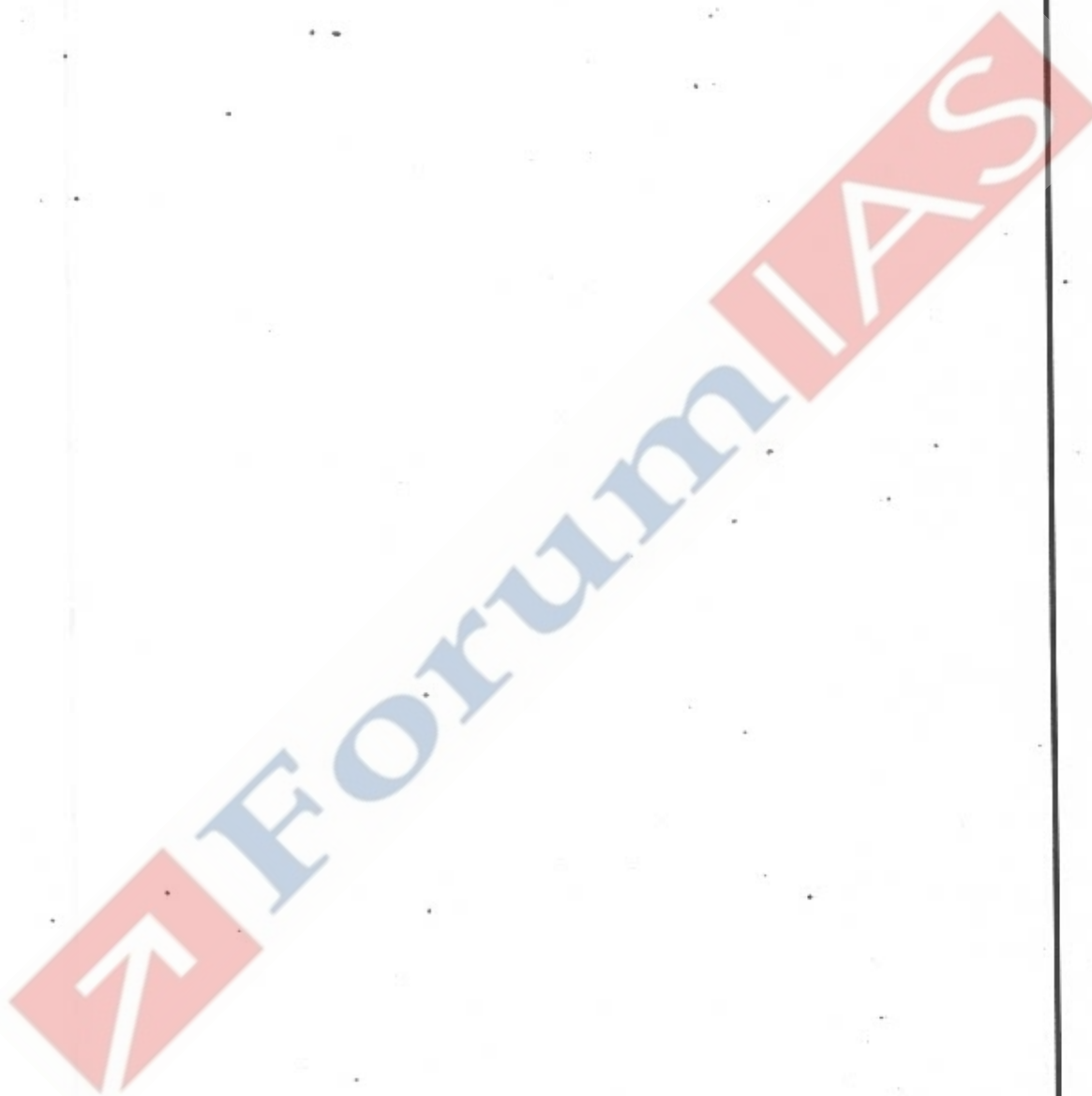
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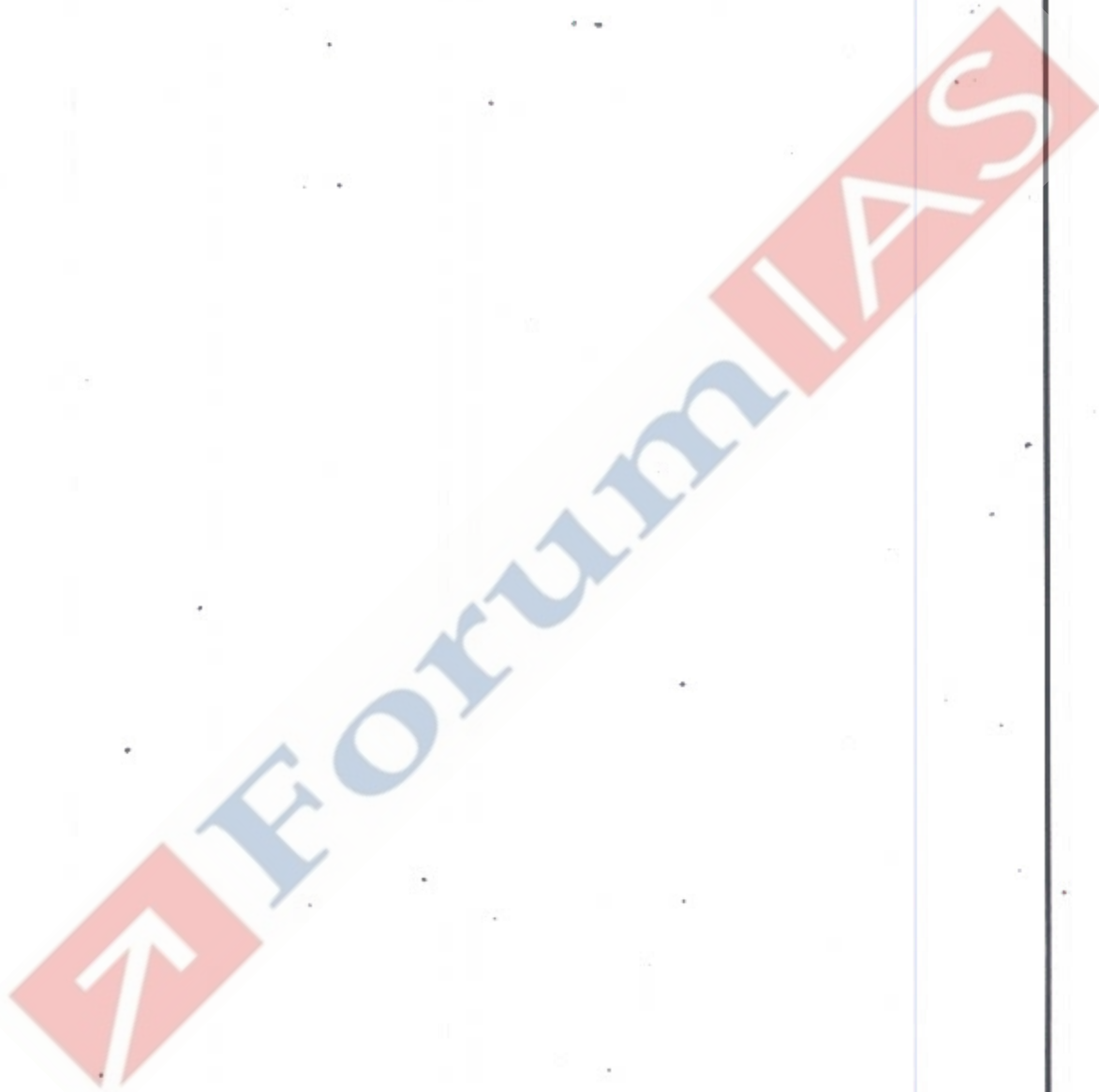
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**Q.8)** a. Pseudoscience confirms, Science disconfirms. Examine the sociological merit of the statement. Discuss whether Marxism is a science or a pseudoscience. (20 Marks)





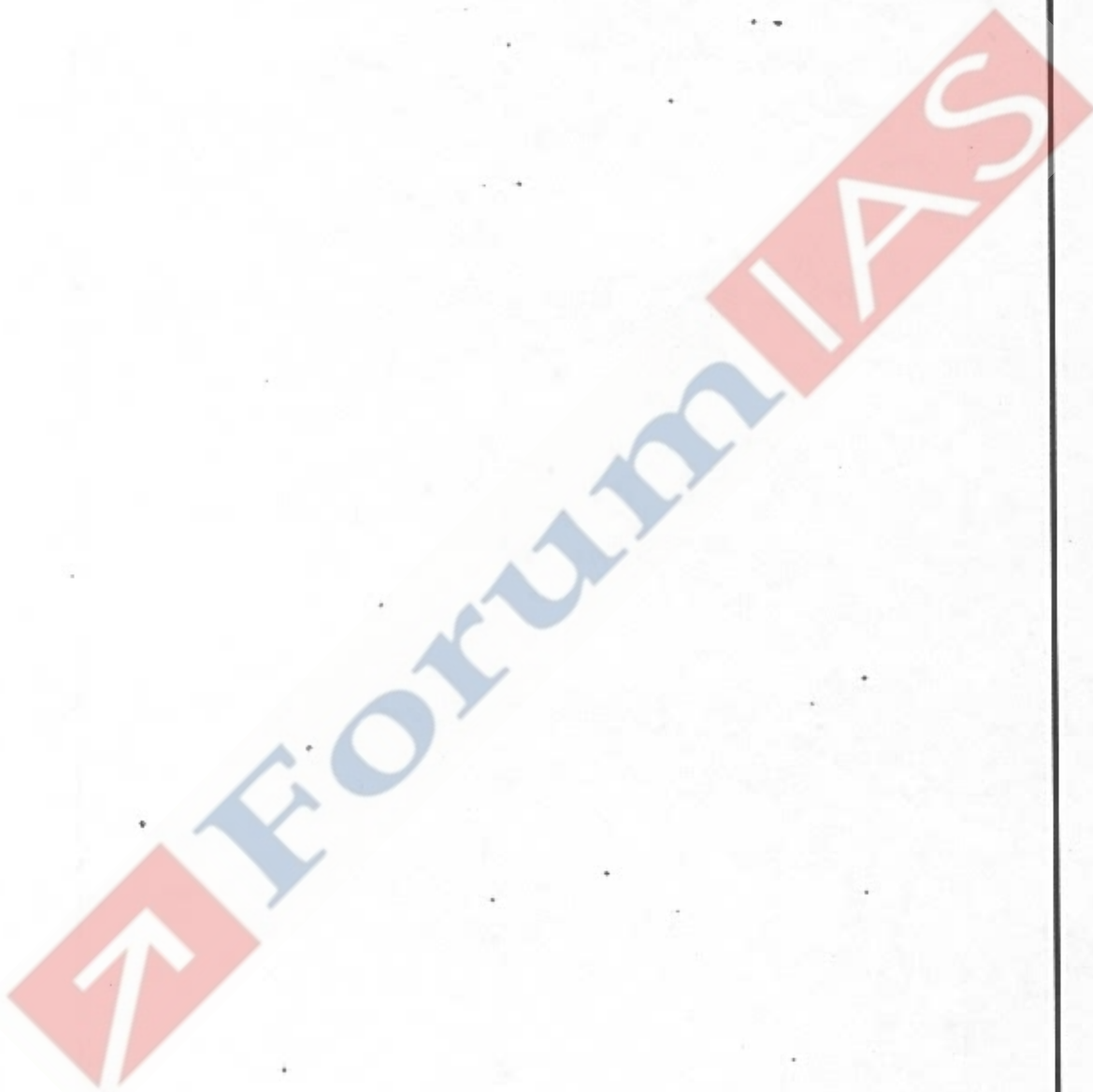
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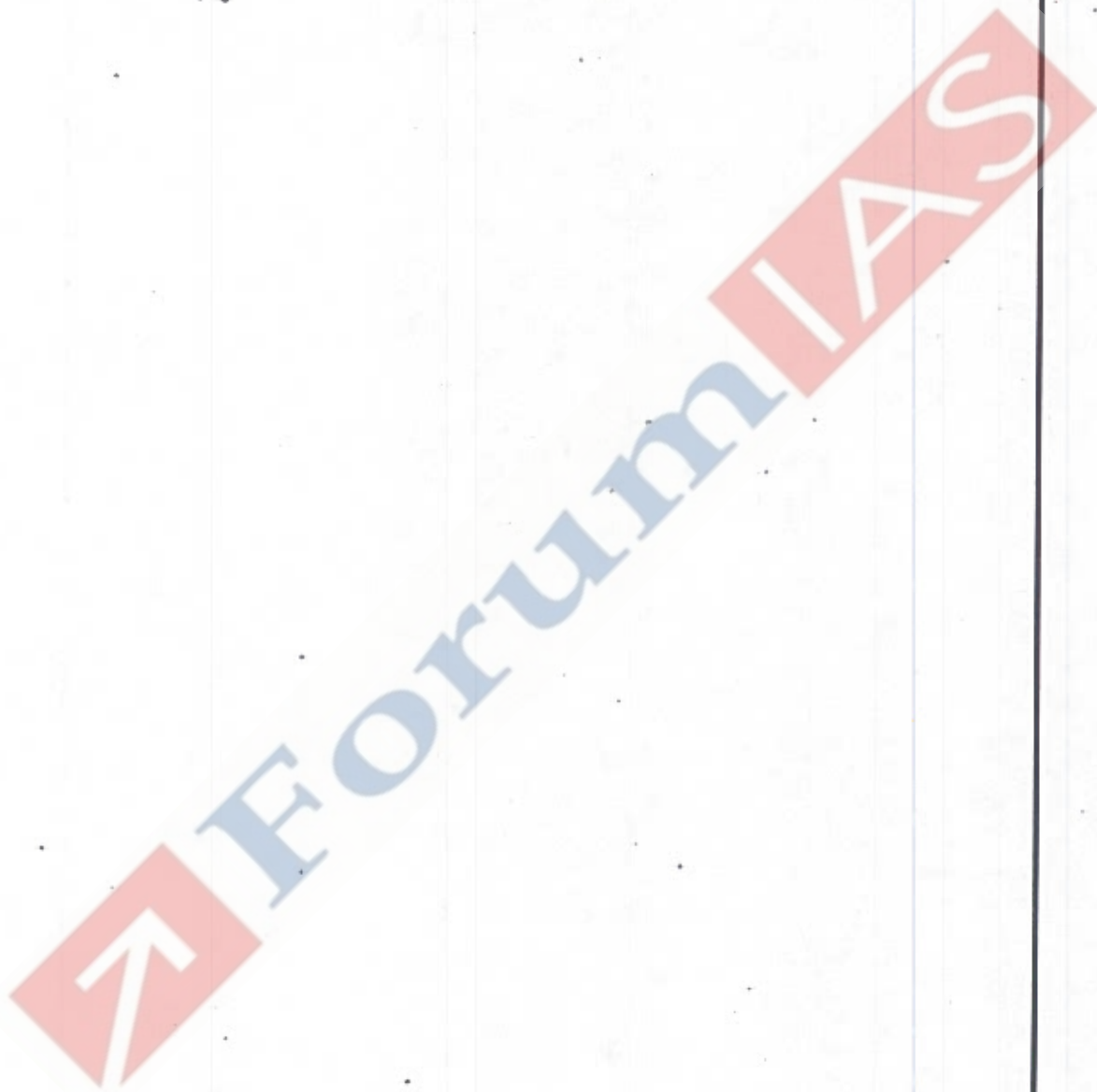
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c. Sociology is limited in its scope. Elaborate.

(10 Marks)





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# Augmented Test Series (ATS) Sociology (Optional)

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