

TEST CODE 6 3 2 6 1

FIAS | ATS 2023 | Batch 2 | SOC #1

Time Allowed : Three Hours  
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250

SOCIOLOGY / समाज शास्त्र

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Ishita Pandey		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910132637	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	18.08.23

\*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	
1			1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Roll No, Date). उत्तर पत्रक में उपयुक्त विवरण प्रस्तुत करें (अर्थात् नाम, अनुक्रमांक, तिथि)।
2			2. There are FIVE questions in the question paper. Section A contains 2 Questions and Section B contains 3 questions. प्रश्न पत्र में पांच प्रश्न हैं। खंड A में 2 प्रश्न हैं और खंड B में 3 प्रश्न हैं।
3			3. All Questions are Compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. किसी प्रश्न/भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या उसके सामने दर्शाई गई है।
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. उत्तर प्रवेश प्रमाण पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो इस प्रश्न-सह उत्तर (QCA) पुस्तिका के कवर पर दिए गए स्थान में स्पष्ट रूप से बताए जाने चाहिए।
6			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।
7			7. Content is more important than content length. विषय-सामग्री लंबाई की तुलना में विषय-सामग्री अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।
8			8. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।
Total/कुल अंक	250		

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Evaluator's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :	Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :	End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :
	9:00	12:00
Total Marks/कुल अंक :	Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :	Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>

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*Evaluator's Discretion 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. मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।	ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :	EG/ईजी :	Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :
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**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						
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**ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

Section- A

Q.1) Answer the following questions in about 150 words each

a) How have the political developments in Europe influenced the emergence and development of sociology as a discipline? (10 Marks)

'Sociology emerged in Europe as a reaction to modernity' - John Harris.

This modernity was brought in by various political changes :-

- ① Renaissance : A ~~more~~ silent revolution -  
moving from 'Dark Ages'. It was marked by -
- Rise of science by Bacon, Newton etc
  - Religious reform by Jean Calvin & Martin Luther King.
  - Philosophical reform stressing on humanistic values like Dante & Erasmus.

These changed the nature of polity by reducing the power & authority of the church & making 'state' free of orthodox religion.

② French Revolution: Oppressed & economically exploited by the 3-estate system of France & inspired by Enlightenment-thinkers like Machiavelli (rule of law), Rousseau (Actual Will & Real will juxtaposed to give General will), etc - the revolution broke out & replaced the polity by Constitutional monarchy.

③ Industrial Revolution: breakdown of feudal polity led to rise of industrial centres that had abysmal living.

Reacting to these fast changing conditions, sociology emerged with Durkheim giving it the name of 'anomie', which was followed by several reactions to this modernity.

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b) Describe the interpretive approach used in sociological research, and briefly explain how researchers strive to maintain objectivity within this methodology.

(10 Marks)

Interpretative approach shifts the focus on individuals. It is believed that individuals have a voluntary will and can not be studied/understood solely in terms of external influence (Weber).

It is based on Dilthey's theory of human action interpretation based on expression, experience & comprehension.

Further, Weber gives the theory of Verstehen that is comp. understanding of a social phenomenon from the point of view of the actor.

Objectivity in interpretative study:-

Weber describes two types of values -

- ① Value freedom: Related to the values of the observer.
- ② Value relevance: Related to the values of the observer.

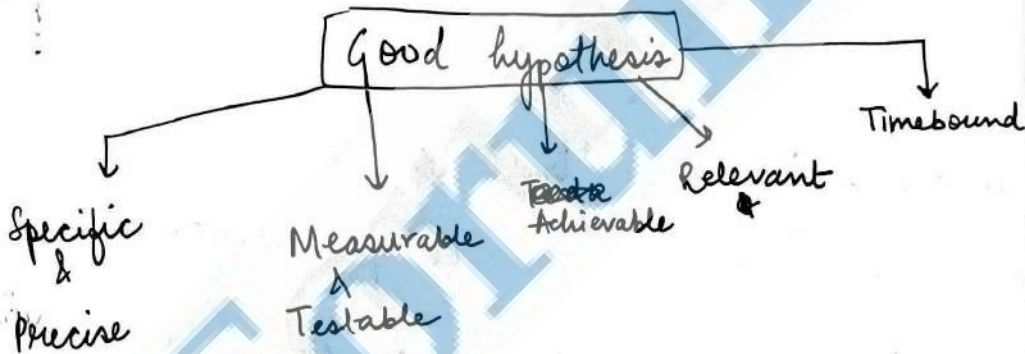
He further says that complete value neutrality - that is freedom bereft of both values is neither possible nor desirable. We must

get rid of 'value freedom' - that is bias of observer by acknowledging own values, sponsorship of work, etc & reflect the 'value relevance' as it sets the context of study.

As Gunnar Myrdal said → We need viewpoints to organise chaos - similarly we need context to fulfil the objective of interpretative sociology.

c) How would you define the term "hypothesis", and what makes a well-formulated hypothesis crucial in social research? (10 Marks)

Hypothesis is untested, relationship between the dependent & independent variables. It ~~key~~ is a broad framework of what a researcher is trying to find & usually in form of a causal relationship.



A well formulated hypothesis has following

advantages:-

① Direct & guides the research in the relevant direction.

- ② Helps keep the observer's bias away & preserves the objectivity.
- ③ Hypothesis helps decide the research framework & methodology.
- ④ A good hypothesis helps save time, & money & effort as irrelevant questions & processes are weeded out.

The hypothesis is the first step to a successful research & must be formulated well to give a clarity to researcher & the stakeholders of the study. Denzin's triangulation can be used to chisel the hypothesis.

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d) Highlight the significance of ethnography in the realm of social research.

(10 Marks)

Ethnography is based on the assumption that the actions of an individual are logical & well-reasoned and therefore reflective of his values, socialisation & environment.

Harold Garfinkel is credited to have founded this school of thought. It stresses on the understanding of the question - "What people do".

This school acts as a bridge between positivist methodology that assumes that an individual is nothing more than a 'cultural dope' & the interpretivist school.

that ~~so~~ accords endless reflexivity to individuals. This school propounds that although most routine actions are unreflective but a few important, ~~changing~~ change-causing actions are reflective & reflexive.

This school was further progressed by Aaron Cicourel who used two methods of -

- Indexity - setting the context
- Reflexivity - analyzing flow of conversation

to study the social actions.

Although, this school is criticised by Goldthorpe for ~~not~~ being narrow as what does not relate to the observed, does not exist & by

Giddens for having no goal, it is credited by bringing a holistic view of social actions.

e) What measures can be employed to minimize the potential influence of the researcher in the process of collecting data through interviews? (10 Marks)

Objectivity is crucial in any research study as biased results are neither accurate nor reproducible. Therefore, some measures are suggested to ~~see~~ avoid influence of researcher-

① Triangulation of investigators (Denzin):

If more than one investigator is involved, one can ~~avoid~~ correct & find the real picture.

② Acknowledging Minimum involvement: As seen from the study of W. Whyte that extreme involvement can make an ~~non~~ observer ~~an~~ into a participant therefore researchers must show restraint.

③ Acknowledging own bias: Weber says that accepting own bias before the beginning of report-

is acceptable way to address any biases that might have crept in during the interview.

④ Maintain an open mind: It is possible that value relevance & value of observer might clash - in such a situation, the interview might be value-laden, make the participant show conformity bias.

Although these methods can help get rid of influence to a great extent, the possibility of perfect neutrality is not ~~poss~~ achievable. Yet we must strive for the best possible.

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Q.2) a) Critically analyze the functionalist tradition within the field of sociology, specially attending to its theoretical foundations and its contributions to understanding social phenomena. (20 Marks)

The functionalist tradition was started by Emile Durkheim who is credited for bringing positivist methodology to the realm of social science.

Functionalist school of thought believes that all <sup>social</sup> structures, institutions & processes serve a function. This was an empathetic reaction to the emergence of modernity & the chaos in society thereof. The ~~chaos~~ chaos was explained by Durkheim to hold perform a function - of social change.

The society is seen as a system that undergoes social change or conforms & shows

continuity based on the impact of social events on the 'conscience collective' of the society.

This school was further propagated by Parsons who gave his structural-functional theory. It propounds that all elements in a structure have some function & roles to perform. These roles are attributed by the system itself & it is this role fulfilment that helps the system continue without change. If the roles are not fulfilled & objected to, new roles are assigned & hence a new equilibrium is established.

These functional theories help us explain why the society -

① Continues : like the caste system in India still flourishes as it serves a function - of political mobilisation.

② Change : The empowerment of women after subsequent feminist movements as the women refused to conform to their patriarchal roles.

Although functionalist school explains a lot of phenomena successfully, it is flawed in some sense :-

① It stresses that all power & lies with the system - that is all change is brought by the system - ignoring the role of individuals like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, etc.

- ② It is stater-quist & justifies social evils for being functional ~~of~~ to society.  
 (Eg) Dowry is seen as economically functional but bad for society.

- ③ It formulates grand theories that are ~~isnt~~ irrelevant temporally & spatially.

Therefore, it is flawed in some sense & post-modern scholars reject it & only believe in meta narratives but functional school is credited for bringing order to a ~~short~~ chaotic European society. & therefore still holds relevance in times of distress.



b) What are the various types of probability and non-probability sampling techniques used in sociological research? Provide relevant examples to support your answer. (20 Marks)

Sampling is used in sociological research to represent the population being studied while reducing the data to be collected & processed. If done correctly, it can be a great tool in empirically arresting sociological phenomenon.

Sampling is of two types —

- Probability
- Non Probability

### Probability sampling

In this technique, all elements of the population are equally likely to be selected in the sample.

This can be done in following 4 ways.

① Lottery/Random sample: The participants are randomly selected. Suppose a study is done

by NSSO → the household is likely selected randomly.

② Sequential random sample: In this every  $n$ th ~~stratified~~ participant from the list of target population is selected.

③ Stratified sampling: The population is divided into strata according to some specific feature and then within the particular strata, participant is randomly selected.

(Eg) To give a holistic picture - the population might be age-bucketed & then respondents chosen randomly from each age bucket.

④ Cluster random sample: The participants are clustered & ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> entire cluster is selected.

(Eg) Selecting one complete village among all villages to study Aspirational Village Program

## Non Probability sample

In this method, ~~no~~ all participants are not equally likely to be selected. It is of following types -

① Convenience sample : The most proximate participant is chosen. (Eg) To study a village & power dynamics, a researcher might visit the nearest one.

② Purposive sample : It is designed according to the need of the study :-

(a) Quota : A fixed number of representatives of all target groups are selected & such that quota fulfillment restricts entry ~~after~~ to a particular study.

(Eg) To study ~~social~~ <sup>ethnic</sup> profiles in Western countries, equal number of respondents of each ethnicity might be adhered to.

- (b) Snowballing: It is done by using the network of the participant to get more participants. It is usually done in a closed group that is strongly linked.  
 (Eg) A study on drug addicts.

Although random sampling methods provide a better <sup>more representative</sup> sample, non-random is likely to provide a more relevant sample.

Researchers are empowered to choose either based on their research and must not be judged for it as Alan Bryman says

Research should methodology must be purposive.

c) How does the sociological approach to human action diverge from the psychological approach in terms of theoretical perspectives, methodologies, and levels of analysis?

(10 Marks)

Sociology & Psychology ~~are~~ of actions are often linked & correlated as both try to understand actions by social beings.

They diverge as -

① Theoretical perspective : While ~~psycho~~ psychology stresses on understanding an action from the perspective of the actor & his/her values, beliefs & experiences, sociology understands it as a negotiation between society & individual - an overlap of external & internal realities (Weber)

② Methodology: Psychology is limited to qualitative understanding whereas sociology opts for both qualitative & empirical, quantitative means like used by Durkheim in study of suicide.

③ Levels of Analysis: The mental & emotional agencies of individual are analysed in psychology whereas the sociological perspective inspects the society, culture & political dimensions of actions like CH Cooley's 'Looking-Glass Self'.

They also converge in providing a holistic understanding of individual as a reflective unit and supporting micro-sociology.

## Section- B

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

a) What is the relationship between sociology and common sense? Provide a comprehensive discussion with relevant examples to support your answer. (10 Marks)

Alfred Schutz defines common sense as organised, typified stocks of taken-for-granted knowledge. The relationship of common sense & sociology is often seen converging & diverging:-

Divergence:

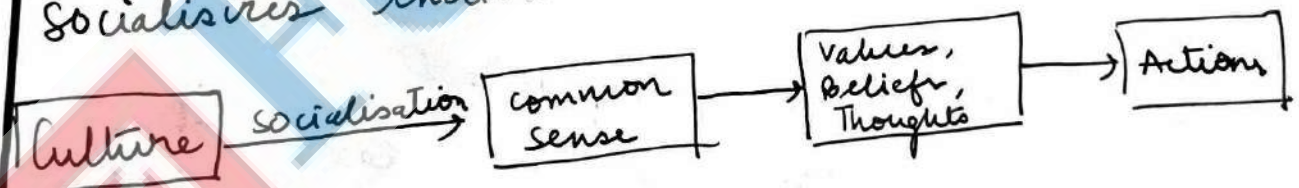
- ① Common sense is status-quoist whereas sociology questions this status quo & moves the society towards change.
- ② Common sense is based on assumptions like poverty is an economic problem whereas sociology through surveys like by FM Eden & Sir Sinclair proves that it is a sociological social disability.
- ③ Common sense is stereotypical & biased whereas

Sociology corrects those biases by evidence.  
 (Eg) The role of women was found reversed from stereotype by M. Mead

### Convergence

- ① common sense provides raw material for the scope of sociological study. (Eg) Becker's Labelling Theory
- ② Sociological conclusions are tested for its reliability & validity by common sense
- ③ It provides a study of how common sense is created - ideological domination by Gramsci.

As Weber pointed out the ~~the~~ culture socialises individuals :-



Therefore in order to understand social action, we have to understand the "common sense" behind it & not just consider it sociological non-sense.



b) According to non-positivists, what are the limitations of applying scientific methods in sociology? (10 Marks)

Scientific methods are empirical studies of a social phenomenon that are driven

by - Theoretical orientation, Objectivity,  
Quantifiable <sup>data</sup> results and Inter-<sup>subject-</sup>reliable

results.

The limitations to scientific study are :-

① Unable to capture non-quantifiable data like it is not possible to capture 'values' of a social action in Cooley's 'looking Glass self'.

② Binary/Non descriptive method: It only captures what can be expressed - ignoring reasoning or arguments. This gives a narrow

representation of the reality.. (Eg) An individual might disagree to felling of trees due to their religious sentiments but it will be captured as pro-environment-stance.

③ Scope for anti bias: Meant to be objective, the framing of questions could itself be biased with the values of the researcher to derive derive favourable results. This value is not acceptable.

④ It glorifies science as a cognitive monopoly over truth like Durkheim's theory of 'Division of labour' & leaves no scope for meta narratives.

Thus, it is upheld by post modern & contemporary sociologists that methodology must be purposive (Alan Bryman) & objectivity should not be an end in itself. (Weber)

c) Can sociology be considered a value-neutral science? Illustrate with relevant examples to support your answer. (10 Marks)

Since the conception of sociology, value-neutrality has been debated as it is a social science - that is to say it deals with society - an amalgamation of subject-realities of subjective actors & tries to study it like a science - objectively.

It shows dual nature -

Yes, a value-neutral science:-

① Grand theories based on empirical evidence like Durkheim's suicide, Parson's cybernetic flow of control are relevant spatially & temporally.

② The results produced are used in multidisciplinary studies - pointing to intersubject-

reliability. (Eg) Concept of family studied by anthropologists according to sociological concept.

No, it is not a value-neutral science:

① Generalised theories often neglect the exceptions - which reflects the bias of the researcher. (Eg) Mead's role of women in tribes study.

② The terminology & concepts are not universally accepted even within sociology. (Eg) Kinship, family & households are often debated.

Therefore, the dichotomy in nature of sociology exists but as it was rightly said by Weber - value neutrality is not the goal of the sociological research & must be aspired for but not act as a limitation.

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

Participant observation is a methodology used in sociology to closely observe the participants of the study over a long period of time to notice their mannerisms, social dynamics & interactions.

Strengths of this method:-

① It gives a holistic understanding of the social processes and even new concepts in sociological understanding of structures.

(Eg) Evans Pritchard's study of Nuer gave a new understanding on political & family structure.

② It helps understand the reasoning & values of the actors to understand the action better.

③ It helps to observe the participants in their natural surroundings, thus removing desirability bias.

Weakness of this method:

- ① W. Whyte's study of Italian prisoners reveal that a non participant can become a participant by socialisation.
- ② The participants might not co-operate. (Eg) S.C. Dube's village studies
- ③ Bias of observer might creep in.
- ④ Accustomed to the surroundings - might not notice any changes.

It is a mixed bag of possibilities but if done with objectivity & integrity, it can give great, reliable accounts.

e) Describe, with the aid of an illustrative example, the significance of variables in sociological research. (10 Marks)

Variables are identifiers used to represent a particular social entity in a sociological research. They are of two types — dependent & independent.

The significance of these variables are

① Dependent variable: This is the construct which is being studied & whose relationship with independent variables

is tested. (Eg) The status of women

might be studied in terms of their economic value: Status being dependent-variable.

→ It signifies the subject of the study.

→ Directs the research methodology & instrument to focus on this.

(2) Independent variable : These are often the drivers of certain social phenomenon.

(Eg) Age might be an independent variable that affects the status of women.

→ These help in finding the causal relationships of the dependent variable

→ Multiple independent variable can be used to give a holistic picture & even

be used as intermediate variables in sociological relationships.

Overall, variables help empirically represent the sociological phenomenon & study it using scientific methodology.

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Q.4) a) How can the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods enhance the quality of sociological research? Provide a detailed discussion with appropriate examples to illustrate their respective strengths and weaknesses. (20 Marks)

Qualitative methods refer to the study of sociological processes using observation & understanding whereas quantitative methods focus on empirical study to establish cause-effect relationships usually.

With the advent of time & development of sociological, the debate of 'qualitative or quantitative' has shifted to 'qualitative and quantitative' as it is believed to provide a better understanding of sociological concepts: -

① It arrests the empirical evidence along with reasoning.

② It helps conciliate the behaviours with thoughts - to weed out subjectivity, desirability bias & observation bias.

③ A group study along with a questionnaire can help reach coherent results.

④ It can be carried out with two/more different researchers - to collate the results & eradicate the observer bias.

⑤ It can be carried out with different groups within the target population to test the reliability of results obtained from one on the other.

Thus, Robert Denzin suggests triangulation of - methodology, data, researcher & hypothesis to accurately arrest the

sociological reality.

Although it has following advantages (as seen before) -

- ① Holistic perspective
- ② More objective while accomodating views of observers.
- ③ Expert driven as collation requires expertise - hence more valid & reliable.

It also poses certain disadvantages :-

- ① It is complex and time taking
- ② It can be costly as it requires an expert's involvement throughout.
- ③ Multiplicity could lead to a non-coherent result - wasting money, time & efforts.
- ④ It could be non-reproducible <sup>due to</sup> by the sheer amount of resources used.

Today, multiple studies like Postmodern  
narratives & feminist studies use none  
of these explicitly and dabble according  
to the purpose & needs.

Therefore, the advantages & disadvantages  
must be balanced.

b) To what extent do phenomenological perspectives in sociology challenge and reject the assumptions of positivism? Provide a comprehensive commentary with supporting arguments and examples. (20 Marks)

Phenomenology is the study of the day-to-day phenomena in the life of an actor/social being to understand - '<sup>How</sup> ~~what~~ do they think?'

This school of micro-sociology was started by Husserl & Alfred Schutz.

They propounded that actions ~~have~~ must be studied according to the meaning attached by the actor as without context, actions mean nothing. (Eg) A person smiling could be happy or just fulfilling his professional courtesy - without understanding the meaning, it is not accurate understanding.

## Phenomenology & Positivism's criticism:

- ① Phenomenology attacks the goal of Positivist ~~the~~ methodology to produce macro theories & generalisations. (Eg) It questions Durkheim's totem theory of religion & attributes individualistic value to totem.
- ② Further, the method of empirical data collection is rejected by phenomenology & Peter Berger stresses that facts do not fall from the sky - they exist in context & context is more crucial than the fact itself.
- ③ The goal of ~~the~~ positivist theory to predict the course of society based on cause-effect relationship is also rejected by the phenomenologists like

T. Luckman who stress on understanding the actor (& his religious views) rather than predicting the future of religion.

① Finally, it rejects the inductive approach used by positivists & focusses on deduction.

Although phenomenologists brought about a paradigm shift in the study of sociological realities, they are criticised as -

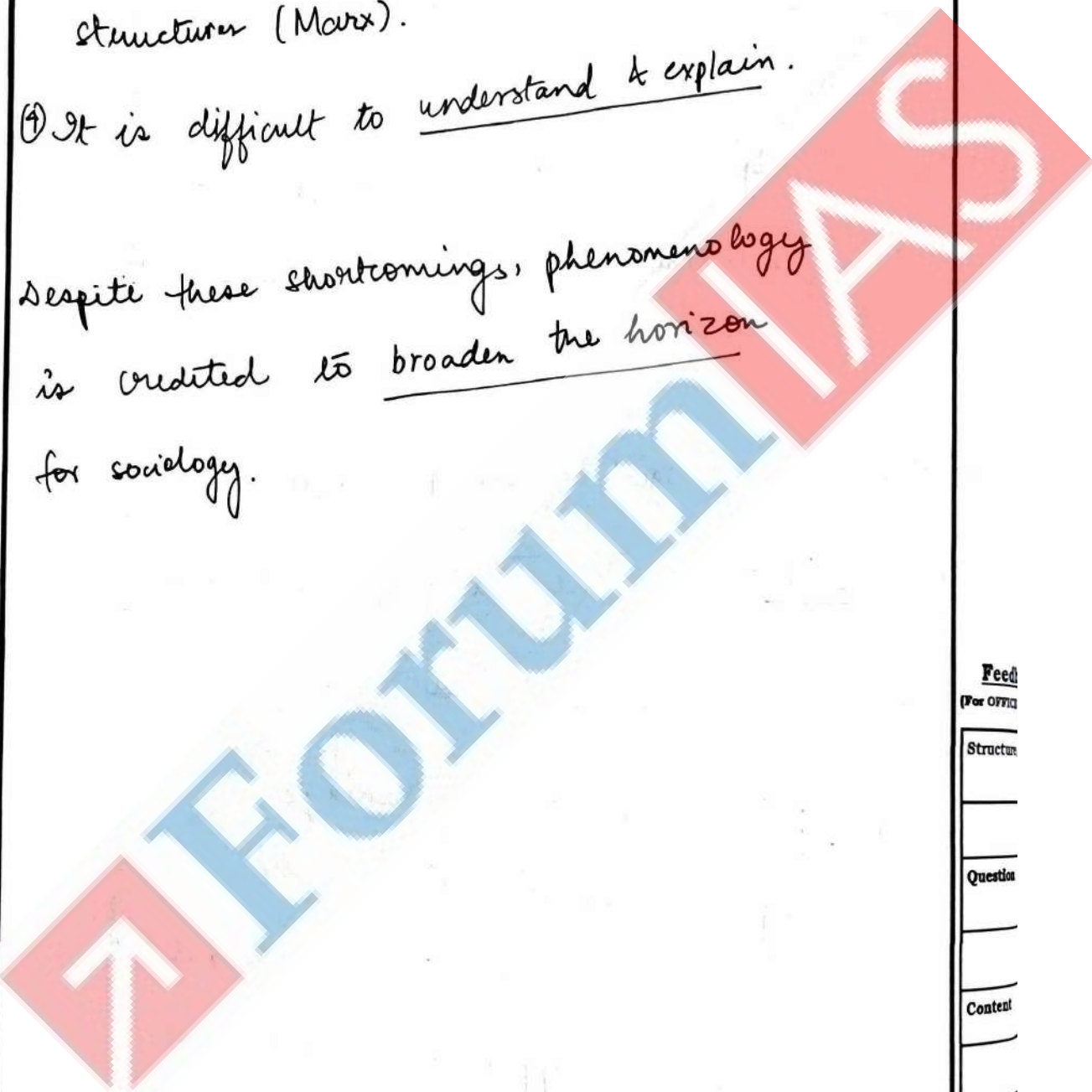
① Goldthorpe points out that meanings & understanding is limited to the life & experiences of the actor - which means that what did not happen to the actor does not exist - which is not as the objective truth.

② It is believed to be too subjective.

② It ignores the consciousness that attributes meanings & how it is shaped by power structures (Marx).

④ It is difficult to understand & explain.

Despite these shortcomings, phenomenology is credited to broaden the horizon for sociology.



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c) What is the rationale behind considering random sampling as a method that offers higher reliability and validity in research? (10 Marks)

Random sampling means selecting the participants for a sociological research from the target population such that each of them has equal probability of being selected.

It is highly reliable & valid because:-

① As random respondents are chosen, it is reproducible with any other respondent due to vast randomisation of respondents - the central tendency theory applies.

② Using stratified random sampling, the representativeness of the sample can be optimised. (Eg) To study Indian society at large - respondents must be stratified chosen to reflect the age structure - and then chosen.

③ It is responded to by diverse set of people thus indicating comprehensibility of the questions across the population - thus giving internally valid & result.

Although it offers high reliability & validity, it can be obstructed by measurement validity that is ignoring if the questions actually adequately measure the the subject of research due to some subjectivity in understanding.

This can be eradicated by use of expert opinion in designing the sample test or conducting a pilot study prior to the actual sampling to avoid non-sampling & sampling errors.

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Q.5) a) The emergence of sociology can be attributed to the transformative forces of modernity and social change in Europe. Analyze this statement, exploring the historical context, key sociological thinkers, and the impact of modernity on the development of sociology as a distinct discipline. (20 Marks)

Breman defines modernity as more than presence of liberal ideas but also an existential experience which influences institutions, cultures & society politics.

This modernity is credited for the emergence of sociology:

Historical context:

ridden with the aftermath of chaos & anarchy due to the French Revolution, & inspired by the liberal ideas of

Enlightenment - French thinkers constituted

a body of knowledge to explain & remedy

the situation of the French society.

The impact of modernity is understood as-

① Philosophical reaction: Saint Simon, & August Comte & other early sociological thinkers viewed modernity as evolutionary zenith - required for the wellbeing of all.

② Empathetic reaction: Functionalists like Emile Durkheim viewed modernity & the 'good & bad' changes as functional to the system & supported by collective conscience. They also viewed chaos in terms of a temporary 'anomie'.

③ Revolutionary reaction: Conflict theorists like Marx viewed this modernity as a more change in structure progressing towards

revolution for a change of structure.

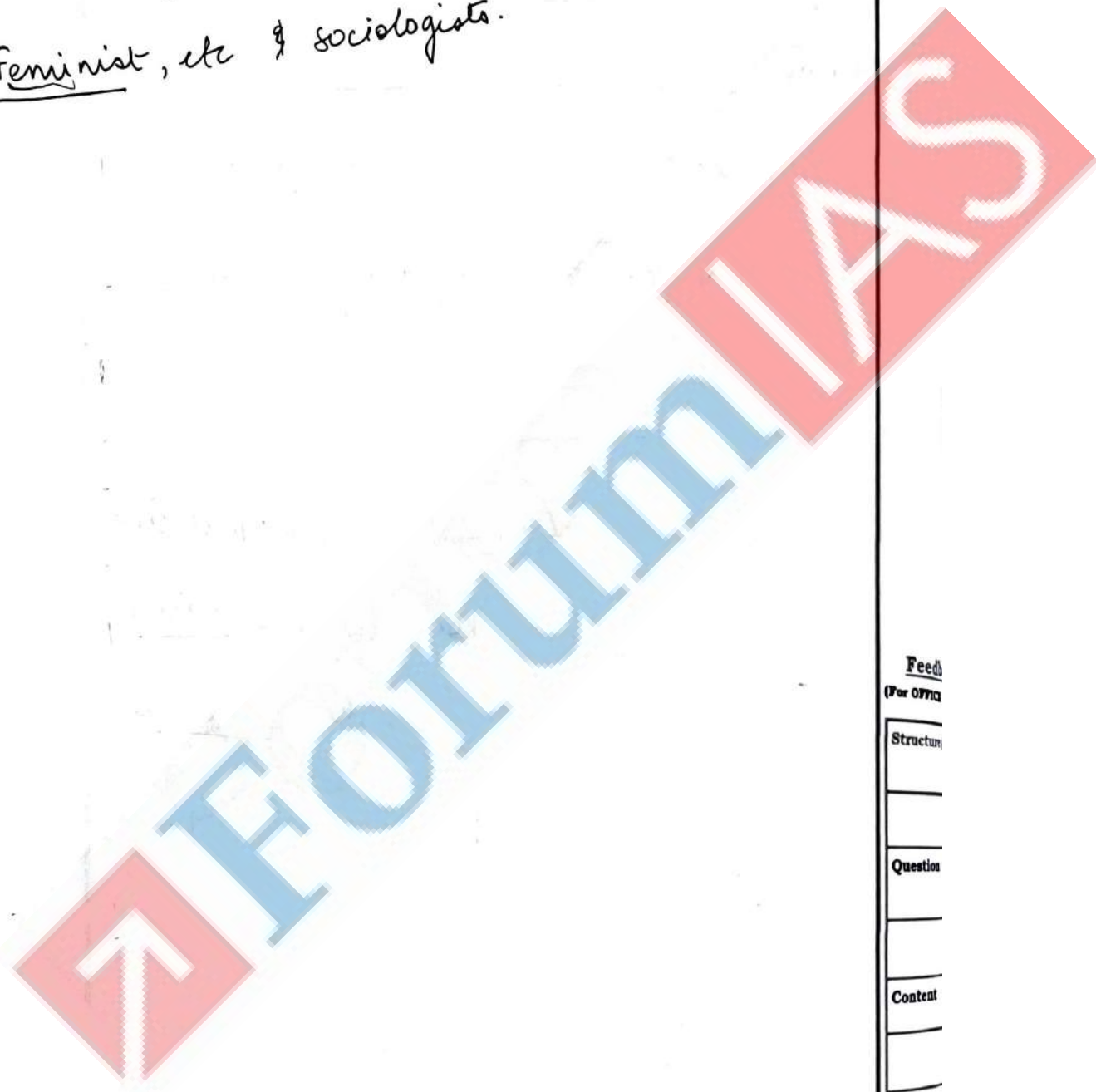
(A) Conservative reaction: Boone out of nostalgia, de Bonald & de Maistre viewed modernity as a cause of rootless & moral corruption & suggested revival of tradition.

(B) Interpretative reaction: Microsociologists like Weber encouraged to look at the action & of individuals & how they perceive the change to understand modernity.

These reactions provided the base for sociology as a discipline with broad body of knowledge, broad methodology &

(Don't do anything)

Comprehensive subject matter; which were further expanded by ~~separate~~ Post modern, Feminist, etc & sociologists.



Feedb (For 07/12)
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b) How does the scope of sociology compare to other social sciences, such as history or economics, and in what ways does sociology have a broader scope than these disciplines? Provide relevant examples to substantiate your arguments. (20 Marks)

Sociology is known as the product of all social sciences ~~as~~ due to the borrowing of concepts during its emergence but today, it stands strong & independently ~~is~~ and therefore it becomes easier to compare it with -

(a) History

History is the study of past events encompassing social, cultural & economic features, whereas sociology is a study of past, present & to some extent future realities of the society & its structures.

→ History studies the difference in similar situations like the policies during different

dynasties, whereas sociology aims to find similarities over time & trends

(Eg) Role of women throughout history

→ History is ideographic, sociology is nomothetic.

But, they converge :- Sociology without history - rootless  
History without sociology - fruitless

Today, we study it multidisciplinarily -

(Eg) Marx's study of Means of Production to give the concept of historical materialism <sup>dialectic</sup>

(b) Economy

→ Economy is the study of market forces where sociology studies all social forces.

→ Economy is mostly quantitative whereas sociology is both qualitative & quantitative



→ Economy ~~only~~ gives general & universal theories like Demand & Supply whereas sociology gives specific theories.

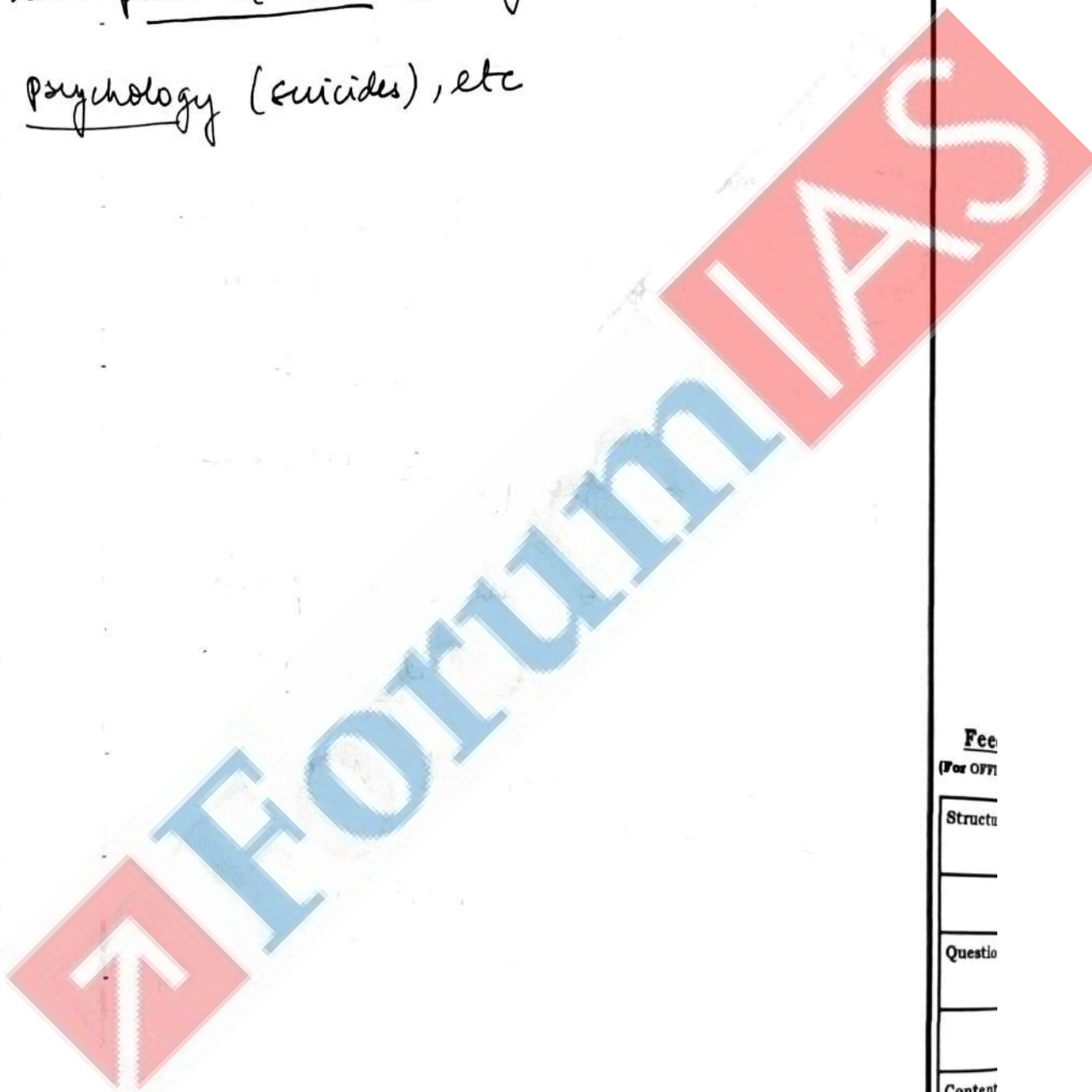
With the emergence of behavioural economics, economics borrows heavily from sociology like in terms of kinship, reference group, etc whereas

Sociology uses economics to explain various theories like Wallerstein's - World Systems Theory & Weber's -

Protestant ethics & capitalism

Therefore, they are interdependent & multidisciplinary studies are the norm today. → Sociology borrows & contributes to various social sciences -

beyond philosophy history & economics  
like political science (voting behaviour),  
psychology (suicides), etc



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c) What do you understand by reliability and validity in research? Provide relevant examples to illustrate their application in research methodology. (10 Marks)

Reliability refers to the ability to reproduce the same results in a different-time & space. It encompasses - intersubject, inter test & inter method reproducibility.

eg. we study the drivers of suicide today as Durkheim did, it should reaffirm his results - in India, in 2023.

Validity refers to accuracy of the test in measuring what it is supposed to. Alan Bryman talks of four types:

- ① Ecological : That is conducive & correct-environment of research.
- ② Measurement : The use of right tool for

measuring the right thing.

⑤ External : The ability to generalise the results

④ Internal : The ability to measure what it supposed to in any p. study & reaffirm the causal relationship

These factors of validity & reliability help produce an objective result that is independent of situation, observer & participant and is recurrent & consensual.

**Feedback**

(For OFFICE use :)

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