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### Optional + Answer Writing Exam Group 2025

#### SYLLABUS

Exam #22 - Gen Code: (881242)

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Roll No.

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Exam Time: 2 Hours

#### Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 8 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- Answers must be attempted in the OCA booklet only.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
Overall Grade/Score	

Phenomenology is creating a challenge to the positivistic methodological explanation of society. Analyse the statement with suitable examples. (10 marks)

Positivistic methodology in sociology aimed to make sociology akin to natural science in both observation and theory building by ignoring values and meanings.

Phenomenology on the other hand bases its centrality on the assumptions of conscious being humans and gives primacy to values, challenging positivistic

Challenges posed by phenomenology to positivistic explanations

- ①. Focus on values and meanings: Alfred Schutz ideas view there is nothing beyond the meanings of individuals to study phenomenon (Eg) Human actions and interactions shape the content of situation in life
- ②. Focus on micro phenomenon: As phenomenologists believe the meanings are created and recreated

in social interaction unlike study of positivists (Eg) studying the office environment to understand anger of manager and alienation

③ No grand theories : phenomenologist focus on describing the phenomenon rather than explaining and arriving at causal analysis (Eg) suicides are individual predispositions and the meaning they attach to it.

④. Focus on life-world and typifications to classify and understand social phenomenon (Eg) typification of poverty in terms of deprivations.

**Criticism**

- They reduce sociology to mere commonsense
- Neglect of power, feministic dimension in interactions.

However phenomenology added value to sociology by integrating micro approaches and meanings to understand society.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor		Average					Good	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

New-idealism is a school of thought that was offshoot of idealism of Hegel, Kant to suit to the modern cultural and societal perspectives.

### Features of neo-idealist analysis

- ①. Ideas are central to social change and the development of society (Eg) Idea of colonialism caused the inequality across the world
- ②. Modern social institutions reflect the ideas and evolution towards rification (Eg) Bureaucracy with its tendency of rationalization of world
- ③. Neo-idealist also talk about power hegemony and the domination of idea over materialism (Eg) Critiquing Marx's utopian concept of Communism

④. Neo-idealists believe that ideas are rooted in cultural and social setup of society.  
 (Eg) Laws like universal adult franchise emerge from idea of Democracy.

### Criticism of Neo-idealists

①. Marxist Critique - by ignoring reality of material forces Neo-idealists are biased to ideas.

②. Feminists argue that even neo-idealists ideas are patriarchal and support domination.

③. A.G. Frank argue that ideas are rooted in the thinking of elites and enforced on society.

Neo-idealists however

contributed to discipline of idealism and made different vantage points in sociology possible.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average				Good	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Q.3) Examine the differences between fact, value and objectivity

(10 marks)

Fact, value and objectivity are the parameters employed in the process of sociological research

Differences between Fact, value & objectivity

Facts	values	objectivity
<u>Definition</u>		
<p>They are true statements that don't change with interpretation</p> <p>(Eg) sun rises in the east is fact</p>	<p>values are the thing that researcher feels important in research process</p> <p>(Eg) value of empathy, in village studies</p>	<p>The method of data collection without influence of biases, prejudices</p> <p>(Eg) collecting the facts without values</p>
<u>Scope in research</u>		
<p>2. make the sociological research more objective, reliable and valid</p>	<p>values distort the objectivity and reduce reliability of research</p>	<p>Objectivity enhances the reliability but reduces the validity of research</p>

Fact	value	objectivity
3. Facts are building blocks of the hypothesis and theory building	values distort hypothesis and make the theories biased (Eg) Brahmin scholar studying caste system and functions	objectivity helps in data collection for testing the hypothesis to generate theories. (Eg) Survey, census data for identifying poor and poverty.

value in research distorts the research by being biased. Weber calls for value-neutrality and value free approaches to study sociology. Fact-value distinction over dichotomy must be employed in theoretical understanding according to Karl Popper because values are inseparable and objectivity in research process is desirable.

Overall Grading (V)

Poor		Average				Good	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.4) Examine the role of Dilthey in propagating of non Positivist methodology in sociology. (10 marks)

Dilthey, a German idealist was one of the earliest philosopher turned the nascent positivist discipline on its head to include meanings, values in sociological analysis.

Role of Dilthey in propagating non positivist methodology

① Heuristic methodology : To understand the meanings the individual gives to the action.  
 (Eg) this influenced Weber's sketches & ideal type

② Role in epistemology of non-positivism : Dilthey argued humans as thinking beings who have ability to create the social reality.  
 (Eg) It influenced in moving away from grand theory of positivism





efforts must be to understand it-

Dramaturgy of Erving Goffman employed Symbolic interactionism to understand the 'Perception management' of individuals.

Arlie Hochschild in study of Delta airlines used this approach to explain how even a personal thing like smile can be commodified.

Symbolic interactionists also believe that socialization process is the way that humans imbibe the element of society into them.

Mead says "Self and Society are twin born?"

Criticism

- ①. Ignoring the effect and constraints of society in interaction.
- ②. Interactions are channeled in a direction desirable in society.

#### Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average				Good	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.6) Discuss the major Non Positivistic methodologies giving alternate understanding of society.

(15 marks)

Non positivistic methodologies emerged to curtail hegemony of positivism on Sociology and to make sociology account for meanings, values and interactional process.

Dilthey was the first to propose fact-value dichotomy and advocated for studying the meanings of individuals to make sense of social reality. Heremaneutics approach was adopted for the purpose.

The above thought influenced Weber who advocated value-neutrality and micro approach to counter the fact & objectivity based approaches. He opined that facts don't fall from the sky but created in social setup. He developed methods like Verstehen, ideal type



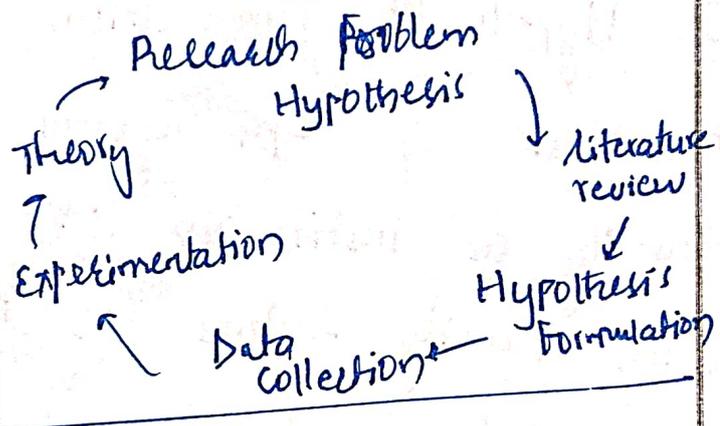


Application of Science in sociology creates a platform for understanding the society in a systematic manner. Give your opinion in support of the statement. (15 marks)

Sociology is viewed as one of the scientific disciplines to study society, social institutions in objective manner. Scientific epistemological

and ontological ideas makes the study in scientific method systematic manner

Application of scientific method and approach in sociology created a systematic study:



(Eg) study of Joint families in India Post liberalization

Application of science to study above statement

1. Research Problem : Defining Joint family in the Indian context, defining variables like

Cohabitation, Common residence, Common kitchen

② Literature review : Studying the existing studies of A.M-shah, Kapadia and Irawathy leave to arrive at hypothesis not covered in the literature

③ Hypothesis Formulation : Arriving at the hypothesis of LPG reforms reduced the Joint family as institution (or) LPG reforms strengthened Joint family systems (or) no influence of LPG on Joint family.

④ Data collection : Employing the Scientific and objective methods of data collection like surveys and online questionnaire to arrive at representative samples of society.

Sampling methods like cluster or stratified sampling can be used to

study over entire nation.

Experimentation : Establishing the causality from the above data and over the variables and comparative analysis over space and time would give idea about Joint family post 499

Theory : Universalising the phenomenon observed through experimentation process.

Thus, as mentioned through examples, scientific approach in sociology provides systematic analysis

Criticism → 1. scientific approach is constraining to account for other factors.  
 → 2. human consciousness creates social reality which scientific approach misses

However despite criticism scientific approach is a lin-qua-non for establishing theory in sociology

Overall Grading ( V )

Poor			Average				Good	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.8) Do you think Sociology can be developed as a facts loaded subject, relying solely on the scientific methodology. Give your opinion with suitable examples. (15 marks)

Facts loaded approach to study sociology was adopted by positivists during the days of nascent discipline. However this approach was not able to provide complete picture.

Yes - Sociology can be developed as facts loaded subject relying on scientific methodology

- ①. To make sociology more close to the natural sciences: (Eg) Comte's 3 stages of evolution of society Theological, metaphysical and positivist stage
- ②. To better identify the patterns in social institutions, value consensus and social integration  
(Eg) Durkheim's study of how society holds together through Division of labour in the form of mechanical and organic solidarity.



of individual and the meanings he attach to phenomenon.

Middle path of both Facts & value in sociology

Weber calls for adoption of scientific and objective methods in sociology but also add the micro approach through tools like verstehen and ideal types to understand social reality in a much better way

He calls for value-neutral, value free approach in his Rules of Sociological methodology.

Adoption of methodological pluralism, triangulation, value adoption but not swaying away to values, reflexivity in social analysis helps in making the discipline more relevant in societal analysis

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average				Good	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9