



Optional – Answer Writing Focus Group 2025
SOCIOLOGY

Dawt #10 - (Test Code : 881210)

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Allotted Time : 2 Hours

Instructions to Candidates -

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

Q. No.	Grade/Score
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Overall Grade/Score	

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(10 marks)

Q.1) Explain the concept of "cultural lag" in Ogburn's theory of social change.

Ogburn gave the concept of 'cultural lag' in his work "Social Change with respect to Culture and Original Nature".

Social change refers to variations in or modifications of social processes, patterns, behaviours or organisation
[M.E. Jones]

Cultural lag refers to the mismatch in change happening in material and non material aspects of society.

Material aspects include tools & technology while non material aspects refer to social norms, values & culture etc.

Ogburn argued that changes in material aspects happen faster than non material aspects which usually translates to conflicts.

For instance, India exposed to technology like ultrasound machines but rural population don't accept it for progressive insights & rather use it for female foeticide upholding the values of patriarchy (son preference).

Similarly advancements in automobiles took place, yet we are behind in following 'universalistic values' of following traffic rules.

This also applies to monumental development of internet, Artificial Intelligence etc yet sluggish development of regulatory guidelines leading to social dysfunctions like fake news, deep fakes etc

Ogburn's concept, though criticised for being technological deterministic & ignoring factors of agency & structures, provided a significant insight to study social change.

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Q.2) Is social change always progressive? Examine using sociological perspectives. (10 marks)

M.E. Jones defined social change as variations in or modifications of social processes, social patterns, social interactions & social organisation.

Value Attachment with Social Change

Progressive: Functional theories posit social change to be progressive & functional for society. For example:

1) Parsons saw social change as a result of social differentiation

↳ emergence of nuclear families for industrial societies performing function of providing mobility (geographical)
[Functional fit thesis]

2) Leslie White argues social change caused by technology [Energy per capita increase] leading to cultural revolution

3) State sponsored social change aims for development ↳ Golden Quadrilateral project aiming for national integration

4) Modernisation thesis of W.W. Rostow & Da Lerner also agreed for functions of social change initiated by development

Dysfunctional Nature of Social Change :-

1) Alvin Toffler in his future shock thesis argues rapid social change leads to :
 a) loss of identity b) Adhocrism ^{rep} contractual jobs

2) Social change also leads to revival of conservative forces.

rep Globalisation → struggle for local identities
 [Iranian Revolution]

3) Marrxists argue social change is necessary for Communism but is often a replica of old exploitative modes of progression.

4) Durkheim in "The division of labour" argues that social change without emergence of new shared values leads to anomie [normlessness & confusion]

Thus, social change has both functions & dysfunctions & is not always progress

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Q.3) Analyze how market forces act as agents of both progress and inequality. (10 marks)

Adam Smith called market forces as being the 'invisible hand' which propels economy & humanity towards progress [daisee faire] but sociological reality is dialectical.

Market forces as Progress agent

1) Liberal market ensures equality of opportunity which serves all, as argued by liberal economists.

↳ rise of Byjus in India

2) Market provides equal access to state resources and capital

3) Market provides competition which often leads to innovation & better quality products to consumers leading to discernible social change.

↳ cheap internet provided by Jio in 2016 leading digital revolution.

However, critical & conflict theorists argue that it acts as an agent of inequality.

1) Karl Marx opined that market forces are 'visible' hands of oppression which put workers in exploitative relations of production in capitalism.

2) Market forces aid in reproduction of class inequality as owners of capital use it for their own benefit.

3) Immanuel Wallerstein & A.G. Frank opined that Latin American & Asian countries are systemically exploited through market forces causing their 'underdevelopm^{ent} (Frank) leading to global inequality (Wallerstein)

4) Market forces are dysfunctional for marginalised & vulnerable groups like elderly, lower castes, women etc as seen in COVID-19 induced the economic slowdown.

Thus, market forces play a dialectical role acting as agents of both progress & inequality

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Q.4) Discuss the dialectical role of religion as an agent of social change.

Religion as an agent of inducing ^(10 marks) variations in social patterns, processes & interaction plays a dialectical role.

Religion as a cause of social change:-

1) Max Weber in his work "Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism" showed an elective affinity between religious ideas of Protestants & emergence of Capitalism.

Key: Notion of 'Calling' (religion) → dedication to work → Capitalism (social change)

2) Religious revivalism has significant part to play in social mobilisation leading to collective action & social movements

Key: Islamic Revolution of Iran [1979]

3) Reinterpretation of religious texts leads to renewed consciousness & social change

Key: reinterpreting role of 'Mary Magdalene' in early Christianity & narrative of 'Draupadi' by feminist scholars

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Religion as Obstructing Social Change :-

1) Marxist theory posits religion as a structural barrier. \Rightarrow Marx called religion as "opium of masses" that soothes capitalistic oppression preventing formation of 'true class consciousness' (religion as part of superstructure)

2) Althusser argues religion to be 'Ideological State Apparatus' which conditions masses to consider ideas of ruling class as common sense. \Rightarrow values of 'meekness' preventing social change.

3) Religious values often profess values of women subservience or hindering feminist consciousness \Rightarrow Ann Oakley argues religion subjugates women through scriptures (Manu ^{Smriti}) teachings (Eve's sins) and reduced role in priesthood.

dialectical role of religion is therefore significant in understanding sociology of religion & social change.

Overall Grading (✓)

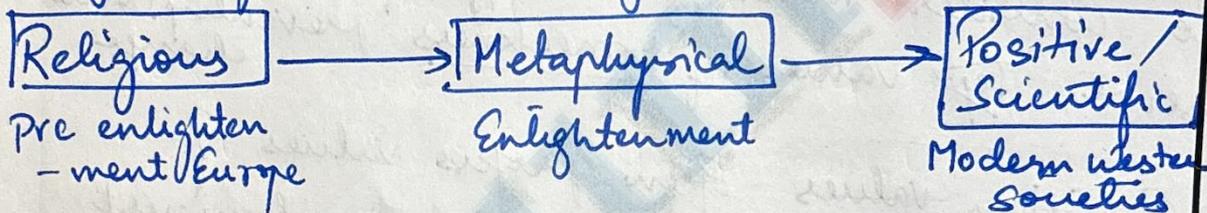
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Q.5) Compare the views of Sorokin and Comte on the direction of social change.

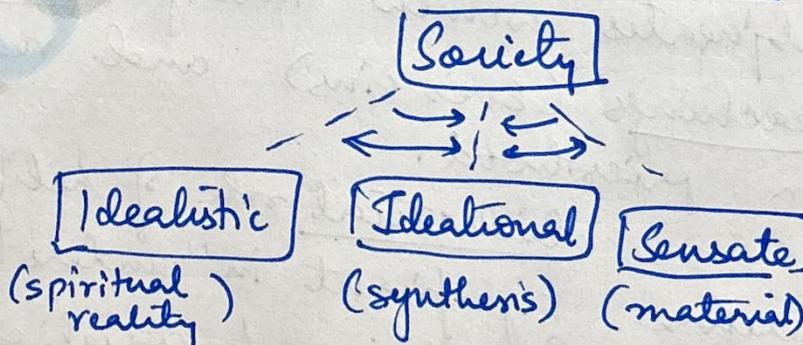
Comte gave a unidirectional view (10 marks) of social change through his Three Stages of Laws and Sorokin gave his cyclical theory in "Social & Cultural Dynamics".

Comparison

Auguste Comte argued that each society traverses through 'distinct' stages of social thought in:



For Sorokin, societies oscillated between two ends based on 'cultural mentality'.



Comte gave a linear view where the end point was a civilisation based

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on modern scientific thought by using empiricism & observation.

eg Fire as a chemical reaction & not 'god' or human quest for knowledge (meta-physical) (religion).

However, Sorokin argued that there is no 'ultimate' social thought & society rather move towards either material basis of social reality (Western) or spiritual understanding (East) or has components of both (eg India).

For Comte social change was an outcome of 'thought' while Sorokin founded principles of immanent social-cultural changes & limited possibilities as basis of social change.

Both theories were criticised for lacking empirical basis but both provided a 'direction' to study social change as well.

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Q.6) How do world-systems theorists explain global inequalities in development? (15 marks)

development ^{trajectory} of post colonial countries during cold war was a subject of planners and leaders world wide during 1950s-1960s.

World system theorists came as a response to Modernisation thesis and dependency theories.

Modernisation Theorists like W.W. Rostow and David Serner argued that such countries should not reinvent the wheel & instead follow Western model of modernisation for development. [economic diversification, heavy technology use etc].

dependency Theorists like A.G. Frank instead argued that 'underdevelopment' was other coin face of development and not a result of internal inefficiencies & suggested 'protectionism'

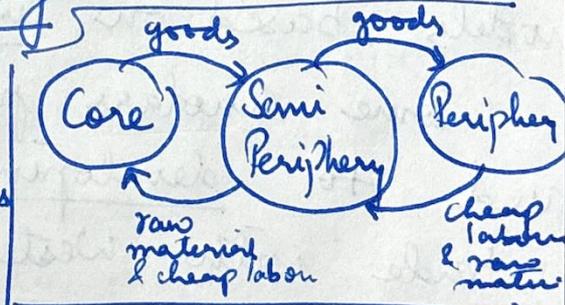
World System Theorists like Immanuel Wallerstein took inspiration from

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Marxist theories that saw inequalities as a result of Capitalism.

Wallerstein applied Marxist view to global scenario and saw world as an integrated capitalist system which systemically oppressed the so called 'Third World Countries' or 'Satellites' (in Frank's model).

Wallerstein criticised Satellite Model of Frank as being too static. He instead proposed a Core-Semi Periphery - Periphery model to understand global inequalities.



World System Theorists argue that Core exploits Periphery & semi periphery by extracting raw material & labour & in turn selling costly manufactured goods to them.

They highlight the role of 'Semi Periphery' also which acts as

a) Political buffer: to prevent mobilisation of periphery.

b) Hope for ^{upward} mobility through trade.

Also, Wallerstein argued that Semi periphery acts as a Core for periphery through local elites & subjects periphery to the same disadvantageous terms of trade. In this way, the integrated & exploitative capitalist system works leading to global inequality.

Critics opine that we need to move away from concept of development altogether & find World System Theorists' models based on unverifiable evidence.

Some scholars point out the benefits accrued to developing countries because of trade with western countries like technology transfer (Amartya Sen) etc.

Nevertheless, despite criticisms, World System Theory gave a macro world view of global inequalities in contemporary time.

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Q.7) Is resistance a necessary precondition for meaningful social change? Critically assess.

Social Change, as defined by M.E. Jones (15 marks) refers to variations in, or modifications of, social processes, social patterns, social interactions & social organisation.

A social change becomes 'meaningful' when it aligns with desired outcomes.

Key: Proletariat revolution → egalitarian society of Communism [meaningful for Marx]

Resistance in context of social change refers to disagreement against present situations. Key: 'True Class Consciousness' about current exploitation in Capitalism leads to resistance against Capitalism [Marx]

Resistance: A necessary precondition?

➤ Variations in acceptance to shared values & norms leads to resistance in forms of protests & collective action

Key: 'Pride Rallies' by LGBTQ+ members

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2) Forces of Globalisation, urbanisation & industrialisation brought dysfunctions of loss of identity, anomic normlessness and vanishing social relations which often evoke resistance in form of religious revivalism, ethnic mobilisation & fundamentalism

eg) Iranian Revolution against Shah

eg) emergence of ISIS.

3) Systemic & structural oppression of Man by women [Sylvia Walby] leads to resistance by women

eg) 1st Waves of 'Feminism' leading to social change such as universal suffrage, abortion rights, amendments

4) Marginalisation of vulnerable sections lead to re-emergence of collective conscience & shared solidarity among social groups

eg) Dalit Mobilisation, resistance of

Black Panthers, Farmer Protests

However, meaningful social change has also happened without resistance:

① Max Weber in 'Protestant Ethics & Spirit of Capitalism' points out how conflict & resistance is not a sine qua non for social change. Instead, religious values accompanied with rationality led to social change in form of emergence of Capitalism in West

② State led initiatives like Green Revolution, MGNREGA, DBT, Aadhaar etc lead to social change without ~~resistance~~ active resistance
 Ex: DBT → digital banking → efficient distribution

③ MN Srinivas in Rampura study showed how people accepted 'Western values' sans resistance (fully Westernised) leading to westernisation. Hence, meaningful social change may or may not necessitate resistance as a precondition.

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Q.8) Has technology become a new site of domination rather than liberation? Discuss.

(15 marks)

Technology refers to the practical application of systematic knowledge of science for realising desired goals.

↳ Spinning Jenny or steam engine led to increased efficiency.

Technology : Domination or liberation

Role of technology is a contested sociological reality.

Technology, as opined by technology optimists like Deslie White lead to meaningful liberation & cultural revolution. It is evident in:

- 1) Technology aided Gig Economy & flexibility of work is functional for women as they can become financially independent [increase in Female LFPR [43%]]
- 2) 'New Media' is facilitator for giving voice to marginalised. At Jenkins & Boyle observe that consumers have become the new producers thereby liberating them

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of traditional barriers \rightarrow Instagram influencers

3) Technology's role in Social movements:

- Spreading ideology
- anonymous leadership
- crowdfunding for resources
- dissemination of information

However, technology has also aided domination :-

① Feminists argue that science is dualistic

[Rene Descartes] which sees male & female in 'binary opposites' thereby promoting

biological determinism. Misuse of tech for dominating women is seen in:

a) Use of ultrasound technology for female feticide

b) Scientific & Genetic explanations for socially excluding women from workforce
[Morgan, Robin & Fox]

c) Bias against women in modern technology like Machine Learning (ML)

\rightarrow targetted ads using ML for pink collar jobs for women on Facebook

d) Promoting a culture of aggression against women \rightarrow Hate comments, revenge porn etc.

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- ② Marrists argue that technology is a tool for furthering Capitalist interests.
- a) Harry Brerman puts across 'deskilling thesis' saying technology has deskilld workers.
- ⇒ Use of small monotonous tasks workers in Assembly line.
- b) Technology used for Surveillance & monitoring worker activity.
- ⇒ CCTV cameras, Microsoft Teams etc.
- c) Technology is used for reducing cost of production ⇒ loss of jobs due to AI.
- ③ Technology is also a reason for supra state control on citizens [Panopticon concept by Foucault] sexuality activities
- ④ Tech giants like Amazon & Meta are accused of Neo-Imperialism in developing countries.
- ⑤ Financial imperialism using SWIFT, stock market [World System Theorists & Dependency Theorists] Hence, technology has become a contested site for forces of liberation & domination.

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