



SOCIOLOGY

SYLLABUS

UPSC (Optional) - Mains

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SOCIOLOGY**SYLLABUS****PAPER-I FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY**

1. Sociology - The Discipline:
 - (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
 - (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
 - (c) Sociology and common sense.
2. Sociology as Science:
 - (a) Science, scientific method, and critique.
 - (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
 - (c) Positivism and its critique.
 - (d) Fact value and objectivity.
 - (e) Non-positivist methodologies.
3. Research Methods and Analysis:
 - (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
 - (b) Techniques of data collection.
 - (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability, and validity.
4. Sociological Thinkers:
 - (a) Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
 - (b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
 - (c) Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
 - (d) Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables.
 - (e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
 - (f) Mead - Self and identity.

PIONEER ACADEMY FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

5. Stratification and Mobility:

- (a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty, and deprivation.
- (b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
- (c) Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.
- (d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

6. Work and Economic Life:

- (a) Social organization of work in different types of society - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society.
- (b) Formal and informal organization of work.
- (c) Labour and society.

7. Politics and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of power.
- (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties.
- (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

8. Religion and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of religion.
- (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage.
- (b) Types and forms of family.
- (c) Lineage and descent.
- (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
- (e) Contemporary trends.

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of social change.

- (b) Development and dependency.
- (c) Agents of social change.
- (d) Education and social change.
- (e) Science, technology, and social change.

PAPER-II FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

A. Introducing Indian Society:

1. Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society:
 - (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure).
 - (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas).
 - (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai).
2. Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:
 - (a) Social background of Indian nationalism.
 - (b) Modernization of Indian tradition.
 - (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.
 - (d) Social reforms.

B. Social Structure:

1. Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:
 - (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
 - (b) Agrarian social structure— evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.
2. Caste System:
 - (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
 - (b) Features of caste system.
 - (c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives
3. Tribal Communities in India:
 - (a) Definitional problems.
 - (b) Geographical spread.

PIONEER ACADEMY FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

- (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
- (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.
- 4. Social Classes in India:
 - (a) Agrarian class structure.
 - (b) Industrial class structure.
 - (c) Middle classes in India.
- 5. Systems of Kinship in India:
 - (a) Lineage and descent in India.
 - (b) Types of kinship systems.
 - (c) Family and marriage in India.
 - (d) Household dimensions of the family.
 - (e) Patriarchy, entitlements, and sexual division of labour.
- 6. Religion and Society:
 - (a) Religious communities in India.
 - (b) Problems of religious minorities.

C. Social Changes in India:

- 1. Visions of Social Change in India:
 - (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
 - (b) Constitution, law, and social change.
 - (c) Education and social change.
- 2. Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India:
 - (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
 - (b) Green revolution and social change.
 - (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.
 - (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.
- 3. Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:
 - (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
 - (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.

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- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour.
- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.
- 4. Politics and Society:
 - (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.
 - (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.
 - (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
 - (d) Secularization.
- 5. Social Movements in Modern India:
 - (a) Peasants and farmers' movements.
 - (b) Women's movement.
 - (c) Backward classes & Dalit movements.
 - (d) Environmental movements.
 - (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.
- 6. Population Dynamics:
 - (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
 - (b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
 - (c) Population Policy and family planning.
 - (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.
- 7. Challenges of Social Transformation:
 - (a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.
 - (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
 - (c) Violence against women.
 - (d) Caste conflicts.
 - (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
 - (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.