UPSC Mains Sociology Syllabus

Paper – I: Fundamentals of Sociology

Sociology – The Discipline

- Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- Sociology and common sense.

Sociology as Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science, scientific method and critique</th>
<th>Major theoretical strands of research methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positivism and its critique</td>
<td>Fact value and objectivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-positivist methodologies</td>
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Research Methods and Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualitative and quantitative methods</th>
<th>Techniques of data collection</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity</td>
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Sociological Thinkers

- Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables.
- Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
- Mead – Self and identity.

Stratification and Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts</th>
<th>equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theories of social stratification</td>
<td>Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social mobility</td>
<td>open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility</td>
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</tbody>
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Works and Economic Life

- Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society
- Formal and informal organization of work
- Labour and society
UPSC Sociology Syllabus

Politics and Society

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

Religion and Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociological theories of religion</th>
<th>Animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Types of religious practices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion in modern society</td>
<td>Religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.</td>
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Systems of Kinship

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family, household, marriage</th>
<th>Types and forms of family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lineage and descent</td>
<td>Patriarchy and sexual division of labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary trends</td>
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Social Change in Modern Society

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociological theories of social change</th>
<th>Development and dependency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agents of social change</td>
<td>Education and social change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science, technology and social change</td>
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Introducing Indian Society

**PERSPECTIVES ON THE STUDY OF INDIAN SOCIETY**

- Indology (GS. Ghurye) Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas)
- Marxist sociology (A R Desai) —

**IMPACT OF COLONIAL RULE ON INDIAN SOCIETY**

- Social background of Indian nationalism Modernization of Indian tradition
- Protests and movements during the colonial period Social reforms

Social Structure

**RURAL AND AGRARIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

- The idea of Indian village and village studies. Agrarian social structure – evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

**CASTE SYSTEM**

- Untouchability – forms and perspectives. —

**TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN INDIA**
Definitional problems | Geographical spread
Colonial policies and tribes | Issues of integration and autonomy

**SOCIAL CLASSES IN INDIA**

Agrarian class structure | Industrial class structure
Middle classes in India | —

**SYSTEMS OF KINSHIP IN INDIA**

Lineage and descent in India | Types of kinship systems
Family and marriage in India | Household dimensions of the family
Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour | —

**RELIGION AND SOCIETY**

Religious communities in India | Problems of religious minorities

Social Changes in India

**VISIONS OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN INDIA**

Idea of development planning and mixed economy | Constitution, law and social change
Education and social change | —

**RURAL AND AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA**

Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes | Green revolution and social change
Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture | Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration

**INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANISATION IN INDIA**

Evolution of modern industry in India | Growth of urban settlements in India
Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization | Informal sector, child labour
Slums and deprivation in urban areas | —

**POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

Nation, democracy and citizenship | Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite
Regionalism and decentralization of power | Secularization

**SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN MODERN INDIA**

Peasants and farmers movements | Women’s movement
Backward classes & Dalit movement | Environmental movements
Ethnicity and Identity movements | —

**POPULATION DYNAMICS**

Population size, growth, composition and distribution | Components of population growth: birth, death, migration
Population policy and family planning | Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health

**CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability | Poverty, deprivation and inequalities
Violence against women | Caste conflicts
Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism | Illiteracy and disparities in education