

UPSC Mains 2025 Aug 31, 2025 Sociology (Paper 1) Question Paper and Answer Key PDF

Q. No.	Question	Check Solution
Q1 (A)	What is common sense? How are common knowledge and sociology related to each other? Explain.	Check Solution
Q1 (B)	What is the relationship (similarities and differences) between sociology and history in terms of their area of study and methodology? Discuss.	Check Solution
Q1 (C)	What is a variable in social research? What are their different types? Elaborate.	Check Solution
Q1 (D)	Can Merton's reference group theory be relevant in understanding 'identity making' in digital world? Explain.	Check Solution
Q1 (E)	Is the social stratification theory gender-blind? Elucidate.	Check Solution
Q2 (A)	What is positivism? Critically analyze the major arguments against it.	Check Solution
Q2 (B)	Highlight the main features of historical materialism as propounded by Marx. How far is this theory relevant in understanding contemporary societies? Explain.	Check Solution
Q2 (C)	What do you mean by reliability? Discuss the importance of reliability in social science research.	Check Solution
Q3 (A)	Compare capability deprivation approach with that of social capital deprivation in understanding chronic poverty.	Check Solution
Q3 (B)	Are pressure groups a threat to or a necessary element of democracy? Explain with suitable illustrations.	Check Solution
Q3 (C)	What is hypothesis? Critically evaluate the significance of hypothesis in social research.	Check Solution
Q4 (A)	Give an account of the recent trends of marriage in the Indian context. How are these different from traditional practices?	Check Solution
Q4 (B)	What would you identify as the similarities and differences in the elite theories of Mosca, Michels and Pareto? Discuss their main/crucial issues.	Check Solution
Q4 (C)	Critically analyze the sociological significance of informal sector in the economy of developing societies.	Check Solution
Q5 (A)	In what way is the scope of sociology unique? Explain.	Check Solution
Q5 (B)	Does the structural-functionalist perspective on social stratification promote a status quo? Give reasons for your answer.	Check Solution
Q5 (C)	Do you think that the formal workspaces are free of gender bias? Argue your case.	Check Solution
Q5 (D)	How does Weber's Verstehen address the objectivity-subjectivity debate in sociology?	Check Solution
Q5 (E)	To what extent can education and skill development be an agent of social change? Critically analyze.	Check Solution
Q6 (A)	What is science? Do you think that the methods used in natural sciences can be	Check Solution

	applied to sociology? Give reasons for your answer.	
Q6 (B)	What do you understand by gender-based domestic division of labour? Is it undergoing a change in the wake of increasing participation of women in formal employment? Clarify your answer with illustrations.	Check Solution
Q6 (C)	How can you assess the significance of social movements in the digital era? Explain.	Check Solution
Q7 (A)	What is sampling in the context of social research? Discuss different forms of sampling with their relative advantages and disadvantages.	Check Solution
Q7 (B)	How do theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? Explain.	Check Solution
Q7 (C)	What is the nature of relationship between science and religion in modern society? Analyze with suitable examples.	Check Solution
Q8 (A)	What do you understand by sustainable development? Discuss the elements of sustainable development as proposed in the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals Report-2015.	Check Solution
Q8 (B)	How do 'Civil Society Organizations' such as 'NGOs' and 'Self-Help Groups' contribute to grassroot level social changes? Discuss.	Check Solution
Q8 (C)	In what way does queer kinship challenge the traditional kinship system? Substantiate by giving illustrations.	Check Solution