



Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir

Assessment 1 Answer Key

SOCIOLOGY (Code:039)

Class: XII

Date:21/09/2025

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The question paper is divided into four sections. There are 35 questions in all. All questions are compulsory.
2. Section A includes question No. 1-16. These are MCQ type questions. As per the question, there can be one answer.
3. Section B includes question No.17-25. These are very short answer type questions carrying 2 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 80-100 words. There's an internal choice in question no.23. Answer any one question.
4. Section C includes question No. 26-32. They are short answer type questions carrying 4 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 150-200 words. There's an internal choice in question no.31. Answer any one question.
5. Section D includes question No. 33-35. They are long answer type questions carrying 6 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 500 words each.
6. There are 5 printed sides in this question paper

	SECTION A	
1.	Which of the following statements best captures the social and regional outcome of the Green Revolution in India? a) The Green Revolution led to uniform agricultural development across all Indian states, eliminating feudal structures and caste-based inequalities. b) The Green Revolution accelerated differentiation: richer farmers in well-irrigated regions (Punjab, Haryana, western UP) became wealthier, while underdeveloped regions (eastern UP, Bihar, Telangana) with feudal agrarian structures stagnated or regressed—leading to entrenched class-caste inequality and violence. c)All regions benefitted equally, but interpersonal caste relations deteriorated everywhere due to mechanization. d)The Green Revolution primarily affected cropping patterns without significantly influencing social inequality or regional differentiation.	1

2.	Assertion (A): Communalism treats people of one religion as a single homogenous group, ignoring their social, regional, and economic differences. Reason (R): According to communalism, religion overrides occupation, caste, class, or political beliefs, and it becomes the primary identity of individuals a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true, but R is false. d) A is false, but R is true.	1
3.	Which three aspects did Sociologist Satish Saberwal identify as key to the modern framework of change in colonial India? a) Economic policies, cultural rituals, and traditional crafts b) Education systems, agricultural techniques, and legal reforms c) Religious reforms, industrial growth, and political movements d) Modes of communication, forms of organization, and the nature of ideas	1
4.	Why is the incidence of disability higher among poor people? a) Because they are genetically weaker than rich people b) Due to lack of intelligence and education among the poor c) Due to malnutrition, frequent childbirth, inadequate immunization, and unsafe living conditions d) Because disabled people prefer to live in poor countries	1
5.	How was British colonialism in India different from earlier pre-capitalist conquests? a) Pre-capitalist rulers focused on introducing new crops and industries, while the British did not interfere in production. b) Pre-capitalist rulers only demanded tribute without altering the economic base, while the British directly interfered with laws, land, agriculture, and industries. c) Both pre-capitalist rulers and the British avoided interfering in the economic systems of the conquered territories. d) British colonialism was limited only to military control, similar to pre-capitalist empires.	1
6.	Assertion (A): Castes are not only unequal in ritual terms, they are also supposed to be complementary and non-competing groups. Reason (R): Each caste has its own place in the system which cannot be taken by any other caste. a. Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation of A b. Both A & R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A c. A is true but R is false d. A is false but R is true	1

7.	Which of the following statements about the modern census in India is correct? a) The first modern census was conducted in 1881. b) Ten-yearly censuses began after India's Independence. c) The first modern census was conducted by the British Indian government between 1867-72. d) India's census is the largest in the world because it includes China's population.	1
8.	Which of the following does not stand for secularism? a. Progressive retreat of religion from the public life b. Not favouring a particular religion over the others c. Separation of state and church d. Religious identity overriding everything else	1
9.	Assertion (A): Jahanara Shah Nawas proposed a resolution against polygamy at the All India Muslim Ladies Conference, arguing that polygamy practiced by some Muslims goes against the true spirit of the Quran. Reason (R): The resolution condemning polygamy was unanimously accepted by all sections of the Muslim press without any debate. a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A c) A is true, but R is false d) A is false, but R is true	1
10.	Assertion (A): Knowledge of English has given Indians an edge in the global market and provided new opportunities for the marginalized. Reason (R): English is both a mark of privilege and a tool for empowerment in India. a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true, but R is false. d) A is false, but R is true.	1
11.	Assertion (A): The women's movement in India shifted its focus from "backward aspects of tradition" to "modern issues" during the 1970s. Reason (R): The legal framework concerning women had been significantly reformed in the 1980s, which eliminated the need to address older issues like Sati and child marriage. a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A. c) A is true but R is false.	1

	d) A is false but R is true.	
12.	What are the two main criteria used to classify tribes based on acquired traits? a) Their political power and economic status. b) Their mode of livelihood and their geographical location. c) Their level of education and their religious beliefs. d) Their mode of livelihood and their extent of incorporation into Hindu society.	1
13.	Assertion (A): The assumption that social reform for women's rights in India was solely the work of male reformers is incorrect. Reason (R): Early female writers like Tarabai Shinde and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain contributed to the discussion on women's rights through their published works, such as <i>Stree Purush Tulana</i> and <i>Sultana's Dream</i>. a. Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation of A b. Both A & R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A c. A is true but R is false d. A is false but R is true	1
14.	According to the Theory of Demographic Transition, what is the primary cause of a 'population explosion' during the demographic transition? a) A sudden increase in the birth rate. b) A change in reproductive behavior in response to prosperity. c) An increase in life spans due to better nutrition. d) A rapid decrease in the death rate combined with a slower decline in the birth rate.	1
15.	Assertion (A): The 'development' model pursued in post-Independence India disproportionately harmed tribal communities. Reason (R): Tribal areas were often rich in minerals and forests, making them prime locations for large-scale development projects like dams, factories, and mines, which led to the displacement of tribes. a. Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation of A b. Both A & R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A c. A is true but R is false d. A is false but R is true	1

16.	Which of the following ensures that regional sentiments are respected and States function as relatively autonomous units within India? a) The Election Commission of India b) The President's Rule provisions c) The Supreme Court of India d) The Constitutional provisions defining powers of States and the Centre	1
	SECTION B	
17.	What are the causes of famines? Ans: Famines are caused by high levels of continuing poverty and malnutrition in an agro- climatic environment that is affected by variations in rainfall, lack of adequate means of transportation and communication. During a famine there is scarcity of food or shortage of food supply and production. Famines are of two types: - Natural: excessive rainfall, no rainfall, drought - Manmade: excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, lack of proper public food distribution systems.	2
18.	What does the term 'begar' mean? Ans: 'Begar' or free labour was prevalent in many parts of northern India. Members of low ranked caste groups had to provide labour for a fixed number of days per year to the village zamindar or landlord. Although such practices have been abolished legally, they continue to exist in many areas.	2
19.	What is caste? Ans: The term caste is derived from the Portuguese word 'casta' which means pure breed. In other words, it also means a group/community of people. Caste is also called 'jati'. Caste can also be described as a segmental division of stratification in society acquired by birth. OR According to G.S Ghurye, "caste is a segmental division of society having a hierarchy of groups, professing a fixed occupation, having allied and religious disabilities and privileges with restrictions on marriage, food sharing and social intercourse. It is an endogamous group determined by birth.	2
20.	<i>'The impoverished and exploited circumstances under which adivasis live can be traced historically to the pattern of accelerated resource extraction started by the colonial British government and continued by the government of independent India'.</i> Explain Ans: From the late nineteenth century onwards, the colonial government reserved most forest tracts for its own use, severing the rights that adivasis had long exercised to use the forest for gathering produce and for shifting cultivation. Forests were now to be protected for maximizing timber production. With this policy, the mainstay of their livelihoods was taken away from adivasis, rendering their lives poorer and more insecure. Denied access to forests and land for cultivation, adivasis were forced to either	2

	use the forests illegally (and be harassed and prosecuted as ‘encroachers’ and thieves) or migrate in search of wage labour.	
21.	What does the term cultural diversity mean? Ans: The term diversity implies differences rather than inequalities. When we say that India is a nation of great cultural diversity, we mean that there are many different types of social groups and communities living here. There are communities with different cultural markers like language, religion, sect, race or caste.	2
22.	Explain the labour system in Assam where the tea industry was located. Ans: The labour system in Assam was essentially that of indenture by which the labourers went to Assam under contract for a number of years. The British government helped the planters by providing for penal sanctions in case of non-fulfillment of the contract by the labourers.	2
23.	What was the condition of Indian agriculture after independence? Ans: The condition of Indian agriculture was dismal after independence. It was marked by: - low productivity - dependence on imported food grains and - intense poverty of a large section of the rural population. OR What are benami transfers? Ans: There were many loopholes and other strategies through which most landowners were able to escape from having their surplus land taken over by the state under the Land ceiling Act. While some very large estates were broken-up, in most cases landowners managed to divide the land among relatives and others, including servants, in so-called ‘benami transfers’-which allowed them to keep control over the land (in fact not in name).	2
24.	What are the uses/ Importance of Demographic Data? The demographic data collected is essential for: - the planning and implementation of state policies, -for economic development and -public welfare.	2
25.	Mention isolation and integration debate on Tribe Ans: The ‘isolation’ and ‘integration’ debate on tribes is based upon tribal societies as isolated wholes. The isolationist believed that tribals needed protection from traders,	2

	moneylenders and Hindu and Christian missionaries, all of whom try to reduce tribals to detribalized landless labour. The integrationists believe that tribals' are merely backward Hindus, and their problems had to be addressed within the same framework as that of other backward classes.	
	SECTION C	
26.	What kinds of provisions have been provided to the SC and ST's by the state? Ans: After independence there were many state and non-state initiatives to address the issue of Caste discrimination. The details of reservations provided by the state to the SC's and ST's are as follows: - Reservation of seats in the state and central legislatures. - Reservation of jobs in Government services. - Reservation of seats in educational institutions. - Abolition of untouchability Article 17 - Caste Disabilities Removal Act 1850 - Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes (prevention of atrocities) Act 1989.	4
27.	In what ways can changes in social structure lead to changes in the family structure? Ans. The internal structure of the family is usually related to other structures of society i.e. political, economic, cultural, etc. Therefore, any significant change in behaviour pattern of members of family may change the nature of society for example working schedules of young parents in the software industry in India may lead to increasing number of grandparents moving in as caregivers to the young grandchildren. •The composition of the family and its structure thereby changes. And these changes can be understood in relation to other changes in society. •The family (the private sphere) is linked to the economic, political, cultural and educational (the public) spheres. •Sometimes the changes in the families and corresponding changes in the society occur accidentally e.g. due to war or riots people migrate in search of work or for security reasons. •Sometimes these changes are purposefully brought about, e.g. due to independence and openness of ideas, people choosing their jobs, life partner and life style and such changes are very frequent in the Indian society.	4
28.	Write a short note on the age structure of India's population Ans: 1. India is one of the youngest countries in the world—majority of Indians tend to be young. 2. The average age is also less than that for most other countries. 3. The share of the 15-60 age group has increased slightly, while the share of the 60+ age group is very small 4. The present trend indicates that 0-14 age group will reduce, thus the changing age structure could offer a demographic dividend for India.	4

	5. There are wide regional variations in the age structure. While a state like Kerala is beginning to acquire an age structure like that of the developed countries, some states like Uttar Pradesh have high proportions in the younger age groups and relatively low proportions among the aged.	
29.	Write short notes on Gender and Sanskritization •Sanskritization supports traditional way of life for women and it is more liberal for modernization or westernization for men. •Most of the supporters of Sanskritization support the women life within the four walls of the houses. They support or prefer the role of women as a mother, a sister and a daughter. •They like women to follow the traditional way of marriage with the consent of parents. Kumud Pawade as a student could enable her to read in the original what the texts have to say about women and the Dalits. As she proceeds with her studies, she meets with varied reactions ranging from surprise to hostility, from guarded acceptance to brutal rejection. As she says “I remember an expression I heard somewhere: “What comes by birth, but can’t be cast off by by dying—that is caste?”	4
30.	Explain ascriptive identities and state its features Ans: Community identities are based on birth and ‘belonging’ rather than on some form of acquired qualifications or ‘accomplishment’ are called ascriptive identities. It is what we ‘are’ rather than what we have ‘become’. There are 2 features to ascriptive identities: -These kinds of ascriptive identities are determined by the birth and do not involve any choice on the part of the individuals concerned. -A second feature of ascriptive identities and community feeling is that they are universal. Everyone has a motherland, a mother tongue, a family, a faith. This may not necessarily be strictly true of every individual, but it is true in a general sense.	4
31.	Explain the relationship between modernization and secularization Ans: Modernization refers to the improvement in technology, production processes; path of development taken by much of west Europe or north America. In the west modernization seems to have led to secularization- a process of decline in the influence of religion especially in the public sphere. Rituals have a secular dimension as it provides occasions to socialize with friends and kin to show off wealth and style to enhance social status. M.N Srinivas says that “the term secularization implies that what was previously regarded as religious now ceases to be. The effect of religion is decreasing in daily life and the impact of science and objectivity is increasing day by day. OR	4

	Write a short note on Secularization of caste Ans: In traditional India, caste system operated within the religious framework. •Belief systems of purity and pollution were central to its practice. India has seen such formation of caste associations and caste based political parties. They seem to press upon the state for their demands. •Such a changed role of caste has been described as secularization of caste. •The traditional social system in India was organized around caste structures and caste identities. •Politicians mobilize caste groupings and identities in order to organize their power.... where there are other types of groups and other bases of association, politicians approach them as well. And as they everywhere change the form of such organizations, they change the form of caste as well.	
32.	What are some of the rules that the caste system imposes? Ans. The most commonly cited rules that the caste system has imposed are as follows: •Caste is determined by birth-a child inherits the caste of its parents. One can never change one's caste, leave it, or choose not to join it. Caste is never a matter of choice. •Membership in a caste involves strict rules about marriage. Caste groups are "endogamous" i.e. marriage is restricted to members of the group. •Members of a particular caste have to follow rules about food and food sharing. •An individual born into a caste could only practice the occupation associated with that caste, so that occupations were hereditary. •Caste involves hierarchy of rank and status. Every person has a caste. Every caste has a specified place in the hierarchy of all castes. •Castes involve sub-division within themselves. Sometimes sub-castes may also have sub-caste i.e. segmental organization.	4
	SECTION D	
33.		6

Study the given table and answer the given questions. Percentage of Population lying below poverty line 2011-12.

Caste and Community	Rural India Expenditure of Rs327 or less per person per month	urban India Expenditure of Rs 424 or less per person per month
Schedule Tribes	45.3%	24.1%
Schedule Castes	31.5 %	21.7%
Other Backward Classes	22.7%	15.4%
Higher Caste Muslims	26.9 %	22.7%
Higher Caste Hindus	25.6%	12.1%
Higher Caste Christians	22.2%	05.5%
Higher Caste Sikhs	06.2%,	05.0%
All communities	27.0%	13.7%

(a) Most of the persons of which caste are living their life in extreme poverty?
Which community has least number of persons living in poverty?

(b) What do you understand by the term other backward classes?
What can you conclude about OBC's after reading the above table and discuss their social problems.

(c) What is the main difference between Dalits and OBC's?

Ans: a) ST's-24.1% in urban areas highest AND Higher caste sikhs in urban India as the lowest.

b) Largely they were the service and artisanal castes who occupied the lower rungs of the caste hierarchy. Upper OBC's were largely landed castes who enjoyed dominance in rural society in many regions of India while the lower OBC's are very poor and disadvantaged and are often not very different from Dalits in Socio-economic terms. They are known as creamy layer OBC's and non-creamy layer OBC's now a days.

c) However, the constitution of India recognizes the probability what there may be groups other than SCs and STs who suffer from social disadvantages. These groups were described as "socially and educationally" backward classes or other backward classes." The OBCs are neither part of the castes at the upper end of the caste hierarchy, nor the Dalits at the lower end. The OBCs are a much more diverse groups than the Dalits.

34.

What is civil society? What is its role and significance today? Support your answer with suitable examples.

- Civil society is the non-state and non-market part of the public domain in which individuals get together voluntarily to create institutions and organizations.
- It is the sphere of active citizenship. Here, individuals try to take up social issues, try to influence the state or make demands on it, pursue their collective interests or seek support for a variety of causes.
- It consists of voluntary associations, organizations or institutions formed by groups of citizens, political parties, media institutions, trade unions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Today, the activities of civil society organizations have a wide range, including advocacy and lobbying activity with national and international agencies as well as active participation in various movements.

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	•Diverse issues taken up by civil society - • Tribal struggles for land rights • Devolution in urban governance • Campaigns against rape and violence • Rehabilitation of those displaced by dams and other developmental projects • Fishermen's struggles against merchandised fishing • Rehabilitation of hawkers and pavement dwellers • Campaigns against slum demolitions and for housing rights • Primary education reform • Distribution of land to dalits • Keeping a watch on the state and forcing it to obey the law Among the most significant recent initiatives is the campaign for the Right to information. It illustrates the crucial role of civil society in ensuring that the state is accountable to its nations and its people. The answer to the RTI has to be given within 30 days.	
35.	Urbanization and industrialization are linked processes. Justify Ans. Industrialization refers to the emergence of machine production, based on the use of inanimate power resources like steam or electricity. •A prime feature of industrial societies is that a large number of people are employed in factories, offices or shops rather than agriculture. •Over 90% people are living in cities and towns where most jobs are to be found and new job opportunities are created e.g. in Britain the first society to undergo industrialization was also the earliest to move from being rural to an urban community. •During British period industrialization in some regions had led to decline of old urban centers. The process of urbanization during the colonial period caused decline of earlier urban centers and the emergence of new colonial cities e.g. cities like Surat and Masulipatnam lost their charm and Bombay and Madras emerged as important cities. •When manufacturing units boomed in Britain, traditional export of cotton and silk manufactures of India declined because they could not compete to Manchester. •At the end of 19th century, with the development of mechanized factory industrialization, few towns became heavily populated. Other than eastern India where British penetration was earliest and deepest, survived much longer e.g. village crafts in the interior could survive. They were affected only with the spread of railways. •The government of India after Independence played significant role in protecting and promoting industrialization. •Because of recent policies related to liberalization and globalization led to vast expansion of cities.	6

