



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
TERM 1: Chapter 2- Terms, concepts & their use in
Sociology Q&A

(GRADE XI)

Sub topics in this chapter:

- Introduction
- Social Groups and Society
- Types of groups
 - a. Primary & Secondary
 - b. Community, Society or Association
 - c. In group & out-group
 - d. Peer group
 - e. Reference group
- Social stratification
 - a. Caste
 - b. Class
- Status and Role
- Society and Social control



Q1. Why do we need to use special terms and concepts in Sociology? (4mks)

Ans: As opposed to commonsensical knowledge, sociology like any other science has its own body of concepts and methods of data collection.

As a social science, sociology does need to have certain agreed upon meanings of social realities and processes in studying. Each subject is required to have a standard vocabulary, terminology, language and concepts through which professionals can converse and maintain the different identity of its subject.

It becomes all the more important to discuss sociological terms so as to distinguish what they mean from commonsensical usage which may have varied meanings and connotations.

Q2. What is a social group? State some of its characteristics (2mks)

Ans: A social groups refers to a collection of continuously interacting persons who share common interests, culture, values and norms within a given society.

Characteristics of social groups are as follows:

1. Persistent interaction to provide continuity
2. A stable pattern of these interactions
3. A sense of belonging
4. Shared interest
5. Acceptance of common norms and values
6. A definable structure

Q3. Define in-group (2mk) Ans: The groups having ‘we’ feeling are called ‘in-groups’. Members perceive positive characteristics for each other. The group maintains mutual dependence, trust, solidarity, harmony and sacrifice. Members are cooperative with each other and a lot of communication occurs.

Q4: Define out-group (2mk) Ans: Out groups are ‘they’ groups. Members of ‘in-group’ perceive them with negative characteristics, competition, hostility, lack of communication. For the Congress Party members, the BJP members are Out-group and vice-versa.

Q5. Reference group (2mk)

Ans: The term ‘Reference group’ was coined by Herbert Hyman. Hyman distinguished between a membership group to which people actually belong to and a reference group which is used as a basis for comparison. A reference group may or may not be a membership group. A type of group in which we do not belong to but we aspire to be like is a reference group. Therefore we try to emulate their lifestyle, culture and important sources of information, aspiration and goal attainment e.g. for many Indian youths, Americans are a reference group.

Q6. Explain what is a Peer group (2mk)

Ans: A set of individuals who share certain common characteristics such as age, ethnicity or occupation, perceive themselves and are recognised by others as a distinct social collectivity. The group is seen to have its own culture, symbols, sanctions and rituals, into which the new members must be socialised according to which those who fail to comply with group norms may be ostracized.

Q7. Explain secondary groups and state its characteristics (2mk) Ans: Secondary groups are relatively large in size, maintain formal and impersonal relationships e.g. schools, government offices are examples of secondary groups.

Characteristic of secondary group:

- (1) Large size
- (2) Indirect relationship
- (3) Fulfilment of special interest
- (4) Limited responsibility
- (5) Impersonal relationship

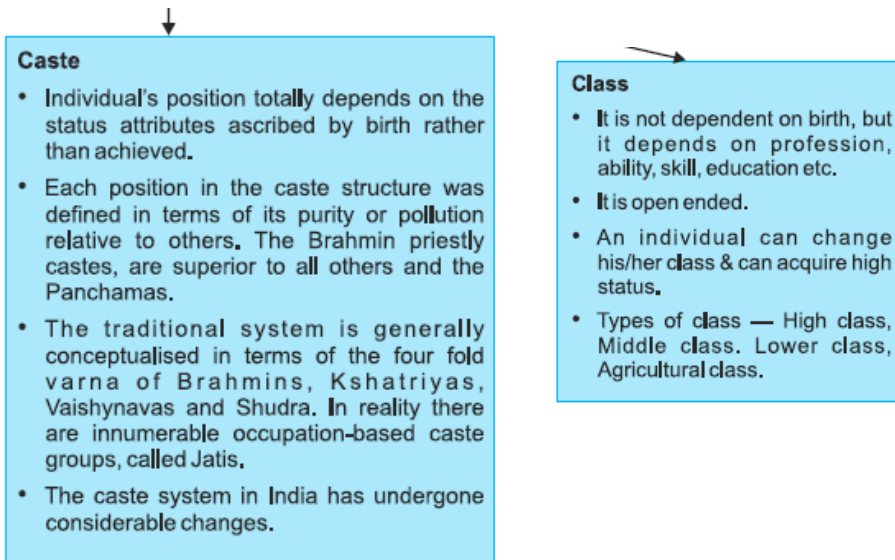
Q8. Differentiate between community and society/association (2mk)

Community and Association:

Community	Society / Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It refers to human relationship that are personal, intimate and enduring.• Person's involvement is total and relations are close knit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It refers to human relationship that are impersonal, superficial and transitory.• Person's involvement is rational, calculating & purpose oriented.

Q9. What is social stratification? (2mk) Ans: Social stratification refers to division of members of a society into different social categories or strata which are ranked into hierarchy, according to their relative power, prestige and wealth. It is not an individual fact, it is rather a social fact. Examples of social stratification systems include slavery, feudalism, caste and class.

Q10. Differentiate between caste and class as a form of social stratification (4mk)



Q11. Explain the meaning of social status and write its two forms (4mk)

Ans: Social status refers to the position that a person occupies in the social structure, such as a teacher or priest. It is often combined with the notion of social role. In its stranger and more

specific meaning it refers to a form of social stratification in which social positions are ranked and organised by legal, political and cultural criteria into status groups.

Status, which an individual gets by birth or due to nominations is known as ‘Ascribed Status.’ e.g. Brahmins higher status in Hindu society is simply ‘ascribed’.

Ascribed status is determined by age, sex, birth, caste, kinship, race etc. The bases of ascribed status is usually fixed and the sources of ‘Ascribed Status’ are the customs, traditions, values and norms of the society.

An individual acquires ‘Achieved Status’ because of his intelligence, aptitude, efforts, diligence, skills and personality characterization.

The sources of ‘Achieved Status’ are individual’s own personality traits and his/her ability to make best use of his/her potentials.

Q12. Explain the meaning of status and state points of difference between ascribed and achieved status. (4mk)

Status:

- It refers to the position an individual occupies in a group or in society. Each status has certain defined rights and duties assigned to it.
- Examples of status- Doctor, mother, teacher etc.
- Status is of two types: Ascribed Status and Achieved Status

	Achieved Status		Ascribed Status
1	It is achieved by an individual on merit and effort.	1	It is assigned to us on the basis of birth, biological inheritance, parents’ status etc.
2	It is based on individual’s choice.	2	A person does not choose this status.
3	It can change qualifications, income etc.	3	It is difficult to change status.
4	It plays an important role in modern societies.	4	It plays an important role in traditional societies.
	Eg. Class		Eg. Caste

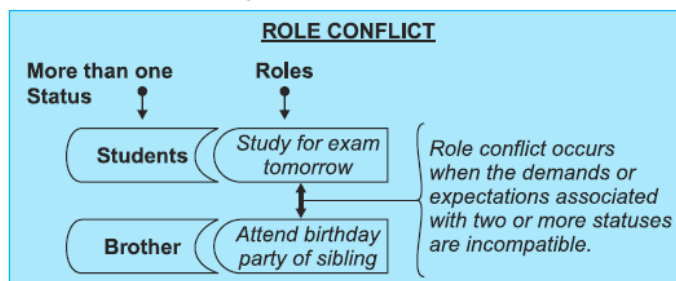
Q13. What do you mean by role? (2mk)

Ans: A **Role** refers to the expected behaviour of an individual who holds a certain status and it is the status which determines the behaviour pattern, obligations and privileges. Role is the dynamic aspect of status. The functions which an individual performs in society are referred to as ‘Role taking’ and the functions that he/she is expected to perform are known as ‘Role expectations’.

Q14. Explain role conflict with an example (4mk)

Role Conflict:

- When a person has many role-sets, performance of one role may be in conflict with another role. This situation is called as role conflict.
- When a person has many role-sets and performance of one role may be in conflict with another role.
- It occurs when different expectations arise from two or more roles.



Q15. What is social control? (2mk) Ans:

Social control refers to the social process, techniques and strategies by which the behaviours of individual or a group are regulated. It refers both to the use of force to regulate the behaviour of the individual and groups and also refers to the enforcing of values and patterns for maintaining order in society.

- Example 1. A teacher on invigilation duty might find the son/daughter of a friend cheating OR a middle class working woman who has to manage her role as mother and wife at home and that of a professional.

Q16. Explain the types of social control with examples (6mks)

Ans: Social control refers to the various means used by a society to bring its recalcitrant or unruly members back into line.

- It is the social process, techniques and strategies by which the behaviours or individuals or a group are regulated.
- It can be the use of force to regulate the behavior of the individuals or enforcement of values in the individual to maintain order in society.

Social Control can be of two types- formal and informal.

-Formal means of social control: When the codified, systematic and other formal mechanisms of control are used, it is known as formal social control. There are agencies and mechanisms of formal social control e.g. law and the state. In the modern society formal mechanisms and agencies of social control are emphasized.

- Informal means of social control: In every society there is another type of social control that is known as informal social control. It is personal, unofficial and uncodified. They include smiles, making faces, body language, frowns, criticism, ridicule and laughter etc. However, in some cases informal methods of social control may not be adequate in enforcing conformity or obedience. There are various agencies of informal social control such as family, religion, kinship etc.

Q17. Explain what is deviance (2mk)

Ans: Deviance refers to modes of action, which do not conform to the norms and values held by most of the members of the group. What is regarded as 'deviant' is as widely variable as the norms and values that distinguish different cultures and sub cultures. Likewise, ideas of deviance are challenged and change from one period to another. For example- a woman choosing to be an astronaut may be considered deviant at one time, and be applauded at another time even in the same society.

Extra Notes for 1mk Questions:

Explain the meaning of Primary groups

Ans: Primary group refers to a small group of people connected by intimate and face- to-face association and co-operation. For e.g. family, village and groups.

Define informal group (read only)

Ans: A type of group in which there is complete absence of arrangement and organization. Members of informal groups are attached to each other by friendship, personal relations, emotional bonding and respect for each other.

Define formal group (read only) Ans: The groups which are arranged and organized. These are large or a part of large organization. Formal groups are always normative & hierarchal structure in which relationship bonds are professional, e.g. university, army etc.

Role Conflict

When there is incompatibility among roles corresponding to multiple statuses, it is referred to as role conflict. It occurs when contrary expectations arise from two or more roles to be performed.

Role and Role Playing

- A role is the dynamic or the behavioural aspect of status. People perform their roles according to social expectations associated with the status that he/she occupies. This is referred to as role taking or role playing.
- Thus, roles are played in accordance with the status. For example, a child learns to behave in accordance with how her behaviour will be seen and judged by others.

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. Migrants are often considered as

- (a) Out-Group.
- (b) In-Group.
- (c) Peer Group.
- (d) Reference Group.

2. _____ a mode of reward or punishment that reinforce socially expected forms of behaviour.

- (a) Identity
- (b) Conflict
- (c) Sanctions
- (d) Khasi

3. The system in which society was divided into Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras was known as

- (a) Varna System.
- (b) Class System.
- (c) Status.
- (d) Caste System.

4. 'Social position' in a society is known as

- (a) Class.
- (b) Caste.
- (c) Role.
- (d) Status.

5. The behaviours, obligations, and privileges attached to a social status is known as

- (a) Status set.
- (b) Role set.
- (c) Social role.
- (d) Status symbol.

6. The sociologist who has been credited with carrying out census in Rampura in 1948 _____

- (a) M.N. Srinivas
- (b) Auguste Comte
- (c) D.P. Mukherjee
- (d) None of the above

7. The perspective which stresses that deviance promotes social unity and social change is

- (a) Conflict.
- (b) Functionalist.
- (c) Interactionism.
- (d) Post-modernist.

8. Social classes, status groups, age and gender groups and crowds are the examples of

- (a) Reference groups.
- (b) Peer groups.
- (c) In - groups.
- (d) Quasi groups.

10. Peer group is a kind of

- (a) Primary group.
- (b) Secondary group.
- (c) Association.
- (d) Peer group.

11. The basis of a caste system is

- (a) Ascribed status.
- (b) Achieved status.
- (c) Power.
- (d) Wealth.

12. Human life is based on the

- (a) Material benefits.
- (b) Spiritual thoughts.
- (c) Conflict among members.
- (d) Interaction and communication among members.

13. Which one of the following refers to the place or time of one's birth?

- (a) Identity.
- (b) Natal.
- (c) Values.
- (d) Aggregates.

14. Panchamas in the caste system were considered as

- (a) Untouchables.
- (b) Vaishyas.
- (c) Shudras.
- (d) Kshatriyas.