



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR TERM 1: Chapter 1- Sociology & Society NOTES AND Q&A

MAIN SUBTOPICS IN THIS CHAPTER:

- INTRODUCTION
- THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION
- PLURALITIES AND INEQUALITIES IN SOCIETY
- INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGY
- SOCIOLOGY AND COMMON SENSE
- INTELLECTUAL IDEAS THAT WENT INTO MAKING SOCIOLOGY
- MATERIAL ISSUES THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF SOCIOLOGY
- BEGINNING AND GROWTH OF SOCIOLOGY IN EUROPE
- GROWTH OF SOCIOLOGY IN INDIA
- SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY AND ITS RELATION TO OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES
- SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS
- SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
- SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY
- SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY
- SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY



1) What is Sociology? (2marks)

- Sociology is a scientific and comprehensive study of human society.
- The very origin of the word 'Sociology' comes from the Latin word 'Socius' (companion) and the Greek word Ology (study of), to indicate its nature as a hybrid discipline.
- August Comte, a French philosopher coined the term Sociology in 1838 and called it the science of human associations. He is known as the 'Father of Sociology'. The contributions of Durkheim, Spencer and Max Weber is significant to develop Sociology as a separate discipline.

(4marks)- don't write

- By and large Sociology as a scientific discipline has certain characteristics. It is a social science, not a natural science, which studies social groups and social relations. It is a categorical science, not a normative science because it deals with 'what is' instead of 'Who ought to be'.
- Sociology is a pure science, not an applied science. It simply collects the knowledge about human society. It is an abstract science not a concrete science. It simply deals with

the design and norms and interested in the fact that despite the differences in their origin and culture people live in a common human society.

- Sociology is a science of generalization and not specialization. It simply makes generalizations about human groups, social actions, societies and their structure. Sociology is both a rational and empirical science.
- Sociology analyses society. It focuses on the emergence of society. It deals with major social units and their dynamics.

Q2. State main features of Sociology (4marks)

Answer:

- Sociology is a social science.
- It is a pure science, not an applied science.
- It is a categorical science, not a normative science.
- Sociology is a general science.
- It is both rational and empirical science.
- Culture, social organization, social institution and social structure are the subject matters of sociology.
- Sociology is a science of generalization rather than specialization.

Q3. What are the main characteristics of society? (2marks)

The main characteristics of society are as follows:

- Society is a territorial group.
- Progeny: The members of a society came by means of human reproduction within the group of people.
- Culture: Society is always culturally sufficient.
- Independence: Society is permanent, self-contained and an integrated group. The members of a society are interdependent.

Q4. Discuss the pluralistic perspective of a society (2 marks)

Answer:

Society can be understood better as a group of people who are interacting, interdependent, have a structure and follow a similar cultural pattern. Each society is unique. Society includes similarities, diversities, inequalities because in the society each individual has his own personal values and ideals. Individuals live in a society.

Q5. How is sociological knowledge different from common sense observations. Explain with suitable examples (4marks)

Ans: The general population would consider sociology and common sense to be the same. However, both these terminologies differ in various aspects.

-The difference between sociology and common sense is based on the aim, purpose, and characteristics.

-Sociology is more about understanding society through a logical approach. Common sense stems from personal experiences and can only be relevant to a particular section. Common sense states only the existing conditions in society.

-In some cases, sociology and common sense can work together. For instance, common sense can indicate an existing problem. And the sociological aspects can help us know what changes can be made. Therefore, sociology and common sense may sound the same, but they hold varied relevance in society.

Q6. In what ways did the Industrial Revolution lead to the birth of Sociology in Europe? (6marks)

- The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It marked the beginning of the scientific age and led to changes in social lives of people.
- Before industrialization the rural sector was important. The chief occupation was farming and weaving. Society was hierarchical, status and class conscious. People worked according to their needs, factors like daylight and deadlines.
- Industrialization meant there was a systematic application of science and technology. Huge factories were set up for large-scale production of goods like textiles and iron and steel. New forms of economic activity gave rise to capitalism as the pursuit of profit was geared to markets in distant colonies.
- There was a dramatic change in social life as a new working class emerged. Farmers migrated to industrial cities, which were characterized by overcrowded housing, poor sanitation and general squalor.
- An indicator of this new society was the emergence of “clock time”. The tempo of work was set by the clock and calendar. Factory production meant that work began punctually and people worked in shifts for set hours and were paid according to what they produced.
- Karl Marx and Durkheim were appalled at the degradation of factory workers and became concerned with the scientific analysis of developments in industrial society. Sociology was born as a result of this as it was based on the understanding of “science of a new modern industrial world”.

Q7. List any two consequences of urbanization (4marks)

Urbanization involved an increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Urbanisation occurs because people move from rural areas (countryside) to urban areas (towns and cities). In many parts of the world, industrialization resulted in urbanization. Two of its consequences were:

- **poor living conditions** of people who had migrated to cities in search of jobs and
- **new significance of clock time** as the basis of social organization

Q8. What is capitalism? (2marks)

Ans: Capitalism is a system of economic enterprise based on market exchange. 'Capital' refers to any asset, including money, property and machines, which can be used to produce commodities for sale or invested in a market with the hope of achieving a profit. This system rests on the private ownership of assets and the means of production.

Q9. What were the reasons for the critical condition of the Indian craftsmen during colonialism? (4marks)

1. Ans: The British Govt had a profound effect on the Indian economy in all policies implemented. The traditional structure of the economy had been completely modified and it had become a colonial economy that had been signed off for the needs of Britain's newly emerging industrial economy.

Reasons for the critical condition of Indian craftsmen during the colonial period were as follows:

- Under the colonial rule, the Indian artistic crafts which made the nation famous had collapsed. **This was primarily because of the competition of products imported from Britain made by machines. The ability to produce massive products** helped Britain flood the Indian market, particularly with cotton textiles & other cheap products.
- Many craftsmen were obliged to give up their ancient trades. The UK exported cotton-like "raw materials" from India. The Indian weaver therefore had to purchase **these products at a higher price. As compared to machine made goods, this resulted in increased the cost of Indian crafts. In the British market,** Indian goods also were subject to high tariffs, while British goods acquired "duty-free access" in the Indian markets.

Q10. Discuss the emergence of Sociology in India (Read only)

- During the course of their rule in India, the British officials realized that for smooth administration, it was important that they acquire knowledge of Indian society and culture. This prompted the origin of Sociology in India.
- Western sociological writings about Indian society were sometimes misleading. For instance, the understanding and portrayal of the Indian village was unchanging. Many Indian scholars thus, took to sociological studies to close such gaps.
- The diversified nature of the Indian society in terms of region, language, religion, ethnicity, caste, etc. also led to the growth of sociology in India in connection with the discipline of social anthropology. This is a characteristic feature different from that of the western countries where both disciplines have been kept distinct from each other.
- Indian sociologists realized that the transformation process of contemporary Indian society is different from that of the western society. Modernity as understood in the western European society is the outcome of scientific process and democratic ideas. Whereas the same process of modernity was introduced in Indian society under the colonial regime.

Q11. Discuss the relationship between Sociology and Economics (4marks)

Answer:

1. Sociology studies the different parts of society as a whole whereas Economics studies only the economic part of society.
2. The viewpoint of sociology is extensive while economics is a special science related to the economic aspect of human beings.
3. The approach of sociology to study relationships is collectivistic whereas the perspective of economics is individualistic.
4. Economics uses quantitative and numerical methods whereas sociology derives facts using inductive and deductive methods.
5. Economic phenomena are constantly determined by all sorts of social needs and activities and they are constantly redefining, creating, shaping and transforming economic needs and activity of every kind.

Q12. How Sociology and Political Science are related to each other? (4marks)

Answer: Political science studies political institution such as state governments and its branches like legislative, executive and judiciary.

- Sociology studies power in terms of social context e.g. during elections.
- Political Science is restricted to study of formal organisation and institutions whereas sociology is concerned with study of behaviour of the people in power.
- Sociology focuses on the interpersonal relationship between political and other social institutions institution.
- The main task of a political scientist is to study the political behaviour whereas main task of sociologist is to develop knowledge that would explain both social and political behaviour along with the consequences of this behaviour.

- There are several areas of social life that need both the approaches e.g. implementing a law and its effect on people.

Q13. Discuss the relationship between Sociology and History (4marks)

Answer: Sociology tries to understand the social life of particular times only on the basis of historical influences whereas History is a compilation of the events of the past.

- History focuses on the study of the past, whereas Sociology shows interest in contemporary scene or recent past.
- Historians delineate actual events to establish how things actually happened while in sociology the focus is on establishing causal relationships.
- In the past, history was about history of kings and wars. Today however, history is far more sociological as social history is the stuff of history where it looks at social patterns, gender relations, customs and important institutions other than the acts of rules, wars and monarchy.

Q14. How Sociology is related with Social Anthropology? (6marks- full answer)

Answer: Relationship between Sociology and Social Anthropology

- **Types of Society:** Sociology emerged as the study of modern, industrial complex societies while Social Anthropology emerged as the study of primitive, simple and small-scale societies.
The anthropologists of the past documented the details of simple societies apparently in a neutral scientific fashion. In practice, however, they were constantly comparing those societies with the model of the western modern societies as a benchmark.
- **Scale of study:** Social anthropology tended to study society (simple societies) in all their aspects, as a whole. In so far, as they specialized, it was on the basis of area. For example, the Andaman Islands. Sociologists study complex societies and would therefore often focus on parts of society like the bureaucracy or religion or caste or a process such as social mobility.
- **Methods of Study:** Social Anthropology has been associated with the ethnographic methods of participant observation. It is characterized by long field work tradition, living in and with the community being studied for a long time and learning their language. Sociologists have often relied on survey methods and quantitative data using statistics and the questionnaire mode.
- **Convergence of Sociology and Social Anthropology:** (4marks) Today the distinction between a simple society and a complex one itself needs major rethinking. India itself is a complex mix of tradition and modernity, of the village and the city, of caste and tribe, of class and community.

- Consequently, there is a coming together of sociology and social anthropology in India. There have been fruitful interchanges between the two disciplines and today often methods and techniques are drawn from both.
- On the other hand, Sociology too has been using quantitative and qualitative techniques, macro and micro approaches for studying the complexities of modern societies.

D. Sociology and Psychology

SOCIOLOGY	PSYCHOLOGY
It pertains to learning human behavior.	It pertains to the study of human mind.
It deals with larger groups or society itself.	It deals with individuals or small groups.
It is an observational process.	It can be termed as an experiential process.
It deals with the interaction of people.	It deals with human emotions.
In sociological studies, it is assumed that an individual act is influenced by his/her surroundings or to the groups she belongs to.	In psychological studies, it is perceived that the individual is singly responsible for all the activities.

BRANCHES OF SOCIOLOGY

Micro Sociology

- The study of everyday human behaviour in context of face to face interaction.
- It occurs at the level of individuals or small group.

Macro Sociology

- The study of large scale groups and organisation like political system or the economic order.