



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
TERM 1: Chapter 4- Introducing Western
Sociologists
(GRADE XI) Question Bank & Answer Key for
Durkheim and Weber

CHAPTER 4

INTRODUCING WESTERN SOCIOLOGISTS

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the word enlightenment?
2. What are the different stages society has progressed according to Karl Marx?
3. What do you understand by the term bureaucracy?
4. How is traditional authority different from charismatic authority?
5. What is social facts?
6. Name the three revolution that paved way the emergence of sociology.

4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Write a short note on French Revolution.
2. Describe the consequences of industrialisation in social life.
3. Explain the process of alienation.
4. Discuss Karl Marx's view point on class struggle.
5. Explain Durkheim's vision of sociology.
6. What are the characteristic of society based on mechanical solidarity?
7. 'Organic solidarity characterises modern society.' Discuss.
8. Explain Karl Marx's view on capitalism.

6 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Briefly explain the intellectual contribution of Karl Marx in sociology.
2. Explain the characteristic features of bureaucracy.
3. Discuss Max Weber's contribution in sociology.
4. Highlight Durkheim's contribution in the field of sociology.

Question 5.

What are social facts?

Answer:

- Social facts are collective representations which emerge from the association of people.
- They are not particular to a person but of a general nature, independent of the individual.
- Durkheim called the 'emergent level', that is the level of complex collective life where social phenomena can emerge.
- One of Durkheim's most significant achievements is his demonstration that sociology, a discipline that dealt with abstract entities like social facts/could nevertheless be a science founded on observable empirically verifiable evidence.
- The most famous example of his use of new kind of empirical data is in his study of suicide.
- Each individual case of suicide was specific to the individual and his/her circumstances.

Question 6.

What is the difference between 'mechanic' and 'organic' solidarity?

Answer:

Durkheim says that in every society some values, ideas, beliefs, ways of behaviour, institutions and laws are there which binds the society in a single knot. Because of the presence of these elements, the relations and unity or solidarity exist in society.

He classified a society by the nature of social solidarity which existed in the society which are as follows:

Mechanical Solidarity

- It is predominant in less advanced societies.
- It is segmental in nature.
- In these social bonds are relatively weak.
- It exists more where population is less.
- In it, collective authority is absolute.
- It is highly religious.
- It is concrete and specific.

Organic Solidarity

- It is predominant in more advanced societies.
- It is organized in nature.
- In this, the social bonds are strong.
- It exists where population is more.
- In this, there is more room for individual initiative.

- It is highly secular.
- It is abstract and general.

Question 7.

Show, with examples, how moral codes are indicators of social solidarity.

Answer:

- The social solidarity was to be found in the codes of conduct imposed on individuals by collective agreement.
- Moral facts are phenomena like others; they consist of rules of action recognizable by certain distinctive characteristics, it must then be possible to observe them, describe them, classify them and look for certain laws explaining them.
- Society, for Durkheim, was a social fact which existed as a moral community over and above the individual.
- Social solidarities exerted pressure on individuals to conform to the norms and expectations of the group.
- Moral codes are manifestations of particular social conditions.
- The moral code that is appropriate for one society is inappropriate for another.
- The prevailing social conditions could be deduced from the moral codes. This has made sociology akin to the natural sciences and is in keeping with his larger objective of establishing sociology as a rigorous scientific discipline.
- By observing behaviour patterns, it is possible to identify the norms, codes and social solidarities which governed them.
- The existence of otherwise 'invisible' things like ideas, norms, values and so on could be empirically verified by studying the patterns of social behaviour of the people.

Question 8.

Discuss Durkheim's concept of collective conscience.

Answer:

- The concept of collective conscience is defined by Emile Durkheim as 'the body of beliefs and sentiments common to the average of members of the society. It contains those beliefs and sentiments which are found in the average members of society, e.g., it is people's belief that poor should not be tortured, instead people should take care of them.
- It comprised a form and content which varies according to whether society is characterized by mechanical or organic solidarity.
- According to mechanical solidarity the collective conscience is extensive and strong widely related to people's life. It controls the people through various religious or other traditional means of sanction.
- It emphasizes the primacy of society over the individual and his or her dignity.
- Gradually the collective conscience declined in its influence and became less extensive.
- In the transition to organic solidarity this could be observed in the replacement of repressive by restitutive i.e., making amends of it by systems of law.

- According to Durkheim, a society wide collective conscience can only hold a segmental society together.
- The collective conscience becomes a diffuse, abstract cult of the individual which as a civil religion, supplies ultimate principles and justifications but cannot bear the whole weight of social cohesion.
- Durkheim believes that collective conscience is in the beliefs and expresses itself in the form of symbols, e.g., the festival of Vijayadashmi represents the victory of good over evil. This belief can be seen in the concrete form in this festival.
- The individual consciousness becomes subset of collective consciousness and therefore any violation of collective consciousness is labelled as revolt against whole society.
- The influence of collective consciousness varies from society to society. It is more prevalent among mechanical societies, i.e., less advanced and highly religious societies. Its influence declines in the organic society, i.e., advanced societies which are highly secular.
- The collective consciousness gets transferred from generation to generation through the process of socialization.

Question 9.

What are the basic features of bureaucracy?

Answer:

- Officials have fixed areas of official jurisdiction governed by rules, laws and administrative regulations.
- Commands are issued by higher authorities for implementation by subordinates in a stable way, but the responsibilities of officials are strictly delimited by the authority available to them.
- Official positions in a bureaucracy are independent.
- Authority and office are placed on a graded hierarchy where the higher officials supervise the lower ones.
- Management of a bureaucratic organization is carried out on the basis of written documents (the files) which are preserved as records.
- Full time attention of officials irrespective of her/his delimited hours in office, hence an official's conduct in office is governed by exhaustive rules and regulations.

Question 10.

What is special or different about the kind of objectivity needed in social science?

Question 12.

Try to find out what Marx and Weber wrote about India.

Answer:

- Marx argued that people's ideas and beliefs originated from the economic system of which they were part.
- Marx laid great emphasis on economic structure and processes because he believed that they formed the foundation of every social system throughout human history.
- Marx believed that class struggle was the major driving force of change in society.
- Weber argued that the overall objective of the social sciences was to develop an 'interpretative understanding of social action'.
- The central concern of the social sciences was with social action and since human actions necessarily involved subjective meanings, the methods of enquiry of social science also had to be different from the methods of natural science.
- The social world was founded on subjective human meanings, values, feelings, prejudices, ideals and so on.
- Social scientists had to constantly practice 'empathetic understanding'. But this investigation has to be done objectively.
- Sociologists are meant to describe, not judge, the subjective feelings of others.

Question 4.

Explain briefly social fact as interpreted by Durkheim.

Answer:

Social facts are those ways of thinking, doing work and feel which has the special characteristics to maintain its existence exterior to the individual consciousness.

Durkheim also writes, "Social facts are those ways of working, thinking and feeling which are exterior to man and which controls the man by their power of constraint".

• Question 5.

Why is Emile Durkheim called the 'key classical theorists in sociology'?

Answer:

Emile Durkheim is one of the 'key classical theorists in sociology'. He is best known for founding sociology as a scientific discipline and for defining the boundaries of its subject matter.

His key theoretical statement lies in his claim that social phenomena are realities that can only be explained by other social facts.

• Question 6.

Differentiate between the sacred and the profane.

Answer:

The sacred is that which is considered holy and dreaded. It includes religious beliefs and rites, duties or anything related to religious treatment par excellence.

The profane relates to the ordinary, utilitarian aspects of life, dull or routine, full of impurity.

- Question 7.

What is social fact, according to Durkheim?

Answer:

Social facts are those ways of working, thinking and feeling which are exterior to man and which controls the man by their power of constraints.

Question 2.

Write short note on Max Weber.

Answer:

Max Weber was born on 21st April, 1864 in Erfurt, Germany. He studied and received his degree in law. After the completion of his doctoral and the post-doctoral dissertations in 1897 he joined Heidelberg University as a Professor of Economics. He started his works in sociology in 1916 and was appointed Professor of Sociology at Munich. He died on July 14, 1920. His main works include:

- The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism
- The Religion of India.
- Economy and Society
- Essays in Sociology

Question 3.

How Durkheim interpreted suicide?

Answer:

According to Durkheim, all deaths which are the direct or indirect results of any function of dead person about which he himself knows that this act will cause death to him.

Durkheim suggested four forms of Suicide:

- Egoistic Suicide: Characterized by excessive reflection on personal matters.
- Altruistic Suicide: When the individual is over integrated with society. For example, Jauhar Pratha in Rajputs.
- Anomic Suicide: The state, which results from the weakening of powers in society that regulate social equilibrium. Individual meets frustration, which they are not able to cope with.
- Fatalistic Suicide: Due to excessive degree of regulation e.g. suicide of enslavement under the master.

Question 4.

Explain in detail Karl Marx's theory of class struggle.

Answer:

Karl Marx was of the view that:

- Human society passed through different stages of development viz primitive, communal, ancient, feudal and capitalist.
- Each stage is defined by a mode of production.

- The factors of production are in the hands of the “oppressors”, they control them; the “oppressed” are deprived of them.
- There is a conflict between the “haves” and the “have-nots”.
- When the proletariat becomes conscious and acquires revolutionary character, there is an overthrow of those in power or the bourgeoisie.

Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Write a short note on Emile Durkheim.

Answer:

Emile Durkheim was born on 15th April, 1858 in France. His elementary education was completed at Ecole. After graduation from the Ecole, he started working for the doctoral degree. He obtained his doctorate in 1893, and was appointed Professor in the Paris University. Durkheim founded L ‘Anne Sociologique, the first social science journal in France. He died on Nov. 15, 1917. His works include:

- Division of Labour in Society
- The Rules of Sociological Method
- Suicide
- The Elementary Forms of Religious Life.

According to Durkheim, social facts are the substance of sociological study. Durkheim was strongly concerned with outlining the nature and scope of sociology.

- They are general throughout society.
- They are external to individuals and exist independently on their will.
- They exercise external constraint over individuals.

Question 2.

Explain “theory of suicide” as stated by Emile Durkheim.

Answer:

Emile Durkheim identified four types of suicide:

1. Egoistic Suicide: A person gives too much importance to his own self or ego; is not properly integrated in society; excessive self- reflection on personal matters leading to withdrawal from the outside world; as a result there is weakening in the bonds of solidarity in the family, religious and political organizations.

2. Altruistic Suicide: In this the person is over-integrated with the society. They commit suicide for the cause of society or a kind of self-denial, e.g. Sati, Jauhar.

3. Anomic Suicide: In societies that experience sudden changes. Anomic is a state which results from the weakening of the powers in the society that regulate social equilibrium. The person meets frustration and he cannot withstand it, he puts an end to his life.

4. Fatalistic Suicide: When there is excessive degree of regulation and an overly developed regime, e.g. seeing no alternative to enslavement under the master a slave takes his life.

Question 3.

Highlight the basic characteristics of religion.

Answer:

The basic characteristics of religion are:

- Belief in supernatural power.
- Emotional state of mind associated with the beliefs, happiness, fear, reverence etc.
- Material objects involved in the religious practices-altar, cross, sacrifice, flower, . incense sticks, special clothes, banana leaves etc.
- Variations in the types of material objects used in religious ceremonies-differ from culture to culture.
- Specific rituals – fasting, chanting, dancing, specific types of food etc.
- Specific mode of worship.
- Concept of heaven and hell; sacred and profane etc.
- A special place of worship.
- Generally, rituals are performed in isolation but occasionally it is performed collectively.

Question 4.

How did Max Weber explain “social action”? Elaborate on the types of social action seen in society. (HOTS)

Answer:

According to Max Weber

- An action is social when it is oriented or directed to others in society.
- It is social in so far as by virtue of the meaning attached to it by the acting individual or individuals.
- All human behaviour to which the actor attaches a subjective meaning is social action.

Types of social action

- Goal-Rational Action: Both means and goals are rationally selected by the individual.
- Value-Rational Action: These are performed under the influence of ethical values and religious beliefs of the individual.

- Emotional Action: The means and ends of the action are selected on the basis of emotional criteria. They may not be rational.
- Traditional Action: Tradition and customs guide the selection of the means and ends.