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SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 1999)

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Medium Eng/Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1003810
Center	ONLINE (MUMBAI)	Date	10/12/2021

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1 (a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
2 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
3 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
4 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
5(a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
6(a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
7 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
8(a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	

Total Marks Obtained:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. The Candidate should attempt FIVE Questions out of EIGHT questions strictly in accordance with the instructions given under each question printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

(a) Religious worship is really the worship of society itself. Comment.

Religion plays an indispensable role in society and many sociologists have focused their studies on religion and its role in society - among them being Emile Durkheim.

Durkheim's explanation of religion

1. Durkheim explained religion and its origin by analysing data about simple society - Arunta tribe.
2. All previous explanations about religion were based on individual fear, etc.
3. Durkheim observed that ~~by~~ in the Arunta tribes various clans worshipped a totem - a symbol
↳ eg: a tree, animal.

4. The totem is considered sacred and clan members also get it embossed on their bodies.
5. Thus anything that bears the totem is also considered sacred and hence in a way the clan members by worshipping totem were infact worshipping the clan → the solidarity and security it provides.

Thus, through the concepts of totem and the dichotomy of sacred and profane, Emile Durkheim explained that religion worship is really the worship of society itself.

1. (b) Explain the significance of 'hypotheses' in formulation of sociological theories.

Hypothesis is a tentative statement that is not yet proven and the attempt of research is to validate the hypothesis statement.

Significance of hypothesis

1. Hypothesis gives a direction to the research study

eg: To study poverty, a researcher could try to prove the hypothesis that illiteracy has a strong correlation to poverty

2. Hypothesis helps to define the scope of the sociological research
Thus it prevents the researcher from going off-track.

3. Hypothesis helps to widen the knowledge base as it helps to prove new theories.

4. Hypothesis statement when well defined at the start of the research study helps the researchers to collect the required data and reject non-relevant data.

Thus, hypothesis plays a significant role in sociological theories and it is often said that a good hypothesis prevents a blind research.

1. (c) Explain the relevance of theory of Reference Group in understanding the life of an UPSC aspirant?

Reference Group refers to a group - usually an outgroup that an individual aspires to be a part of.

1. Robert K. Merton made a significant contribution to developing the Reference Group Theory

2. He explains that once an individual identifies the reference group he undergoes a process of anticipatory socialization whereby he tries to imitate the reference group behaviour

3. This leads to a change in the norms, beliefs, etc. of a group

4. If the reference group however is a closed group - no membership

it leads rejection - individual becomes marginal man - enhanced sense of relative deprivation.

Application to life of UPSC Aspirant

1. The reference group for UPSC aspirant is of civil servants.
2. Aspirant undergoes anticipatory socialisation → staying updated with news, government policies, behaviour - neutrality, problem solving approach, etc.
3. However due to higher proportion of rejection many candidates end up spending many years not developing skills for other employable professions - marginal man.

Thus, reference group is a useful tool to apply to behavioural characteristics in society.

1. (d) To what extent, concept of 'society' is accorded priority in Mead's analysis. Discuss.

George H. Mead was a symbolic interactionist who emphasized through his work that society and self have a reflexive relationship.

Importance of society in Mead's analysis

1. One of Mead's biggest contribution was explanation of the formation of self.
2. He explained that 'self' is formed through 3 stages

Preparatory stage

↳ simple imitation

Play stage

↳ role taking but erratic

Game stage

↳ role taking < simple - 2 roles
multiple - many
anchors.

3. Mead explained that through role taking an individual understands the expectations of the generalized other i.e. the society.
4. These expectations or societal norms help in the formation of self.
5. He further explains that self has two components:
I : objective, creative response
ME : subjective, others perception.
6. 'ME' is the reflection of society on an individual which takes place through interactions - symbols like gestures, etc.

Thus, society plays a pivotal role in Mead's analysis of formation of self.

1. (e) Longitudinal study aims to study group of people for relatively shorter period of time. Explain with inherent benefits in such studies.

Longitudinal study is a research methodology that observes / studies the subject at different points in time — it is a temporal study.

1. In a longitudinal study the researcher takes observations about the group of people at one point in time and returns again to observe the same parameters after some time period has passed.

eg: Village studies - Andre Beteille took observations after a span of 20 years to observe changes in kinship patterns.

2. However, due to practicality constraints it is not possible to take such observations after sufficiently long period of time

- like more than 25 years or so.
3. The biggest obstacle is that the original group undergoes significant changes in this time span → members migrate, die, etc. so it is not possible to recreate exact same group conditions in terms of the sample.
4. As such, longitudinal studies come with inherent reliability issues that hamper comparison.
5. However, such studies are useful to study phenomenon of social change, how society responds to emerging factors like technology, etc.

Thus, despite the limitations longitudinal studies are a very important tool in sociological research.

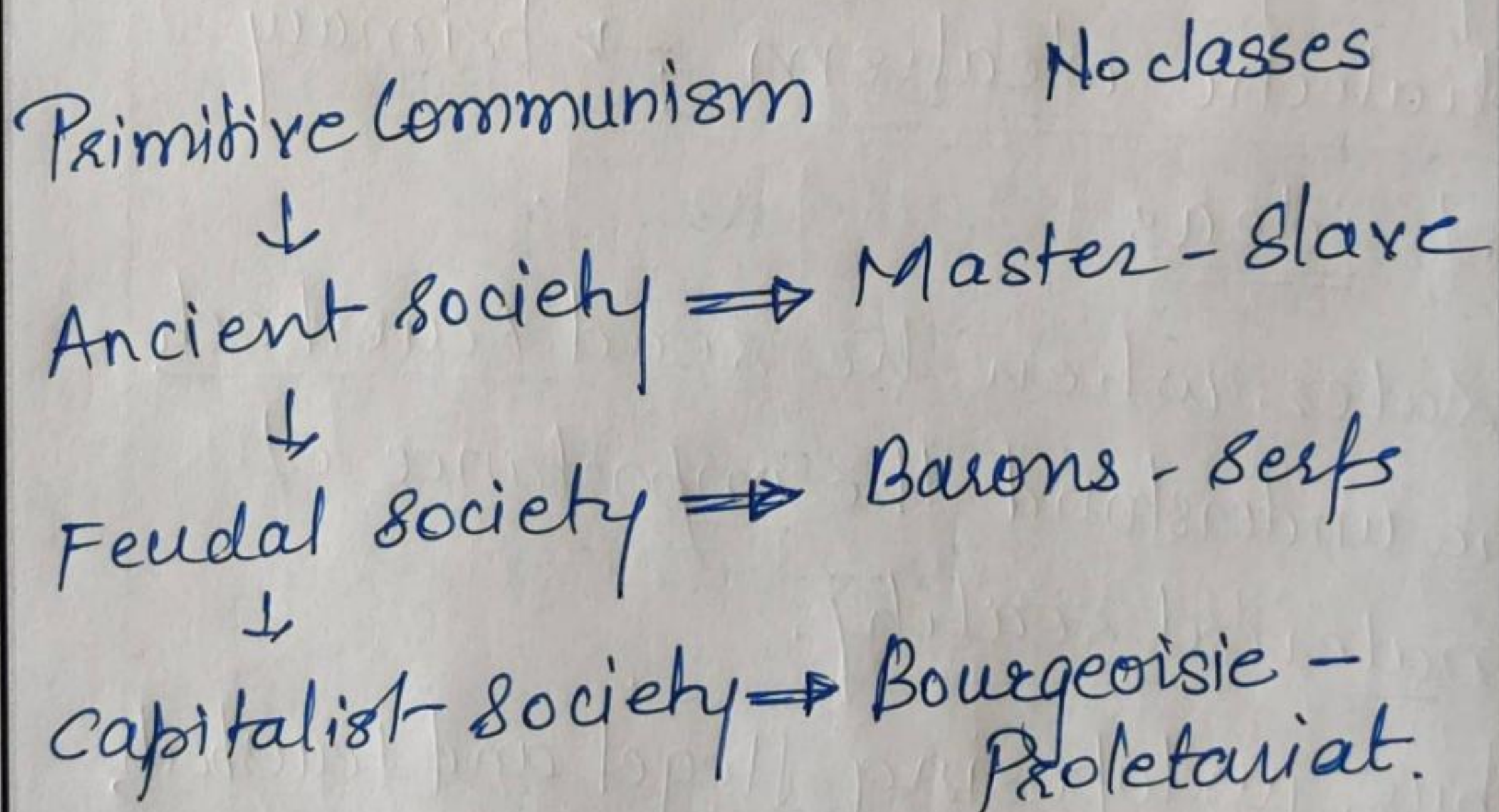
2. (a) "The material conditions of life" are fundamental in the structuring of a society. In this context, discuss the approach of Marx's of historical materialism for the explanation of human society. 20

[Karl Marx] was a prominent thinker of the 19th century who emphasized on the importance of material conditions in his works.

Historical Materialism

1. Karl Marx was initially influenced by [Hegel] who gave the idea of dialectic idealism → primary of ideas
2. Later when he read Feuerbach he understood the importance of material reality.
3. Thus, juxtaposing Hegel and Feuerbach, Marx gave the idea of historical materialism.

4. Marx explained that society changes through history from one stage to another due to changes in the material conditions.
5. He explains that each stage is characterised by certain forces of production (technology, tools, etc) and relations of production of the classes with those forces.



c. When a change occurs in the material conditions → a new force

of production develops, there occurs a contradiction between the old relations of production and new forces of production.

7. This dialectics when realized in sufficient quantitative changes lead to a qualitative change and a new mode of production emerges.

8. Thus, Marx emphasises on the material → economic infrastructure and says that the superstructure (family, polity, culture) etc is a derivative of the infrastructure.

9. Marx is criticized for being an economic determinist - as other aspects like culture also play a role in change (Sorokin)

Thus, despite criticisms, Marx's theory of historical materialism is critical to understanding societal evolution.

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2. (b) Robert K. Merton's significant contribution to functionalism lies in his clarification and codification of functional analysis. Discuss. 20

Robert K. Merton was a sociological thinker who challenged conservative functionalism and proposed new conceptions to widen the scope of functionalist approach.

Conservative functionalism can be observed in the works of Malinowski and A.R. Radcliffe Brown

Postulates of functionalism

1. Postulate of functional unity
2. Postulate of universal functionalism
3. Postulate of functional indispensability

Robert Merton challenged these postulates and clarified the way functional analysis can be expanded

(1) Postulate of functional unity

- All parts of a system are perfectly cohesive and no scope for conflict
- Merton criticized this and observed this can be true for simple societies but modern, complex societies different
- eg: Religion can bring about solidarity in a homogenous group but in plural societies can be source of conflict

(2) Postulate of universal functionalism

- All parts serve a positive function
- Merton criticized this and explained that analysis should include whether a particular aspect is
 - positive functional
 - dysfunctional
 - non-functional.
- He further gave the concepts of [Manifest] and [Latent functions]

to undertake a holistic analysis.

Manifest functions - observable and intended

Latent functions - nonobservable and unintended consequences

eg: Capitalist system - manifest functions - production of commodities
latent - class inequalities.

(3) Postulate of functional indispensability

- All aspects of system are important and indispensable.

- Merton proposed alternative functions and functional substitution to be included in analysis. Eg: Communist system's substitute for religion

Thus Merton's critique of functionalism helped to widen the scope of functional analysis

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2. (c) What are ideal types? Bring out the purpose and it's use in the study of contemporary society. 10

Ideal types are a methodological tool proposed by Max Weber to be able to comprehend reality better and in a systematic way.

1. Ideal type is a mental construct and a pure type.

2. It involves one-sided exaggeration of a characteristic to be able to classify different phenomenon in society.

eg: Weber gave 3 ideal types of social action – Traditional, Affective and Rational.

3. A sociological researcher can study a phenomenon by first creating an ideal type of different aspects and then analysing how the

intermediate levels are formed.

4. Pitirim Sorokin used the concept of ideal types in his study of social change due to cultural changes. Ideal types of culture: sensate, idealistic, observed mix - ideational.

5. In this way ideal types can be used in the study of contemporary society to study different phenomenon eg: poverty, democracy. Democracy ideal type → complete people participation. Actual observed → majoritarianism.

Thus, ideal type is a very useful methodological tool that can be used in the study of contemporary society.

3. (a) "Weber's approach to stratification was built on the analysis developed by Marx, but he modified and elaborated on it". Discuss. 20

Social stratification means the division of different social groups into layers which may or may not be hierarchical.

- Karl Marx and Max Weber have immensely contributed to the understanding of social stratification through their theories.

Marx's view on stratification

- Marx proposed a uniasial stratification theory based on class.
- According to Marx, the class of an individual depends on his relations with the means of production.

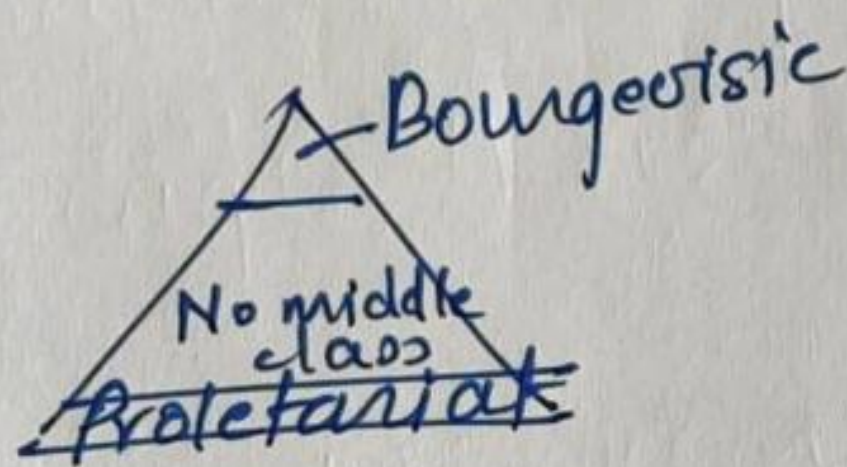
- He divided society into two classes: haves and have nots.
- In the capitalist society due to inherent contradictions, the haves (Bourgeoisie) make profit using the labour of the have nots (Proletariat).
- As the system progresses, due to pauperization the Proletariat class will expand and society will be polarized.

Weber's Theory of Stratification

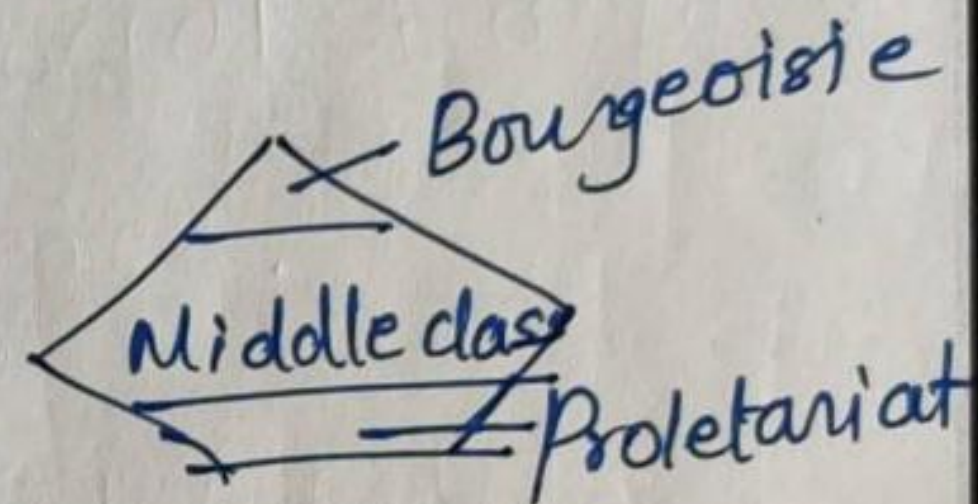
- Max Weber while drawing from Marx's theory proposes a trinitarian model.
- Stratification occurs along 3 axes - class, status, power (party).
- Thus he steps away from Marx's economic determinism and says that even status - prestige and

political power play a role in determining the position of an individual in society.

- Weber argued that as the capitalist society progresses there will be increasing rationalization and this will lead to creation of middle class



Marx



Weber

Thus, Weber modified Marx's stratification theory which was based only on class to make it a unitarian model of stratification.

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3. (b) Supporter of participation observation have argued that, compared to other research techniques, it is least likely to lead sociologists imposing the reality of social world they seek to understand. Discuss. 20

Participant observation is a research methodology in which the researcher takes part in the group that he is studying.

Example of participant observation - field study, ethnography.

1. Participant observation can be of two types - intrusive and non intrusive
2. Intrusive - Researcher acts as a part of the group though doesn't take any leadership position.
3. Non intrusive - Researcher only observes and does not play a role in the events.
4. In non intrusive participant

observation it is possible for the researcher to stay neutral and not affect the course of things.

Here there is least likelihood of the sociologist imposing any social reality on the group.

- However when the researcher takes part as an actor in the group there is possibility of reality imposition.

Advantages of Participant observation

- Gives complete, detailed picture of phenomenon / group being observed.
- Most valid form of method
- Gives ample scope for researcher to clarify and understand different situations.

Disadvantages

- Since only small groups can be observed so closely → generalisations become difficult.
- Very time consuming
- Researcher imposition bias → group may modify behaviour because of presence of researcher.
- Large samples cannot be studied using participant observation.

Thus, despite its limitation when participant observation is conducted correctly, it produces most detailed and valid research body.

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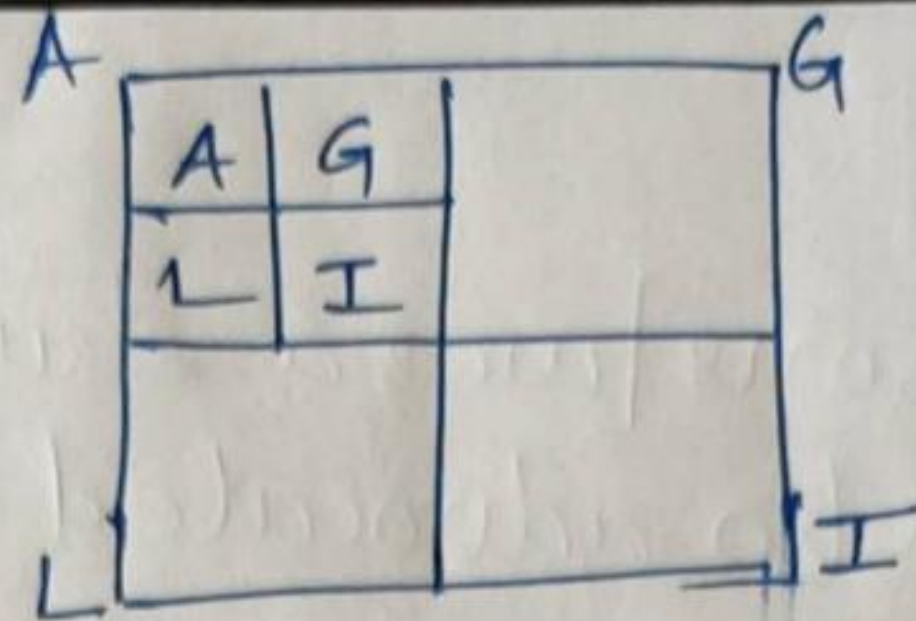
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3. (c) Talcott Parsons' theory of social system has been criticized as a veiled status quoist ideology. Critically examine. 10

Talcott Parsons was a structural functionalist who advocated the study of society through his social systems approach.

1. Parsons explained that society can be compared to system that consists of many sub systems like political, economic, cultural, etc.
2. Society should be understood through the interplay of the different subsystems.
3. He emphasized that for a system to be functional there are 4 pre-requisites :-
Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration and Latency.



[Parson's System view]

Adaptation refers to the interface of system with external environment. The economic system performs this function.

Goal Attainment: Setting goals and planning to achieve → Political system

Integration: how each subsystem interfaces with others → regulation: Legal

Latency: refers to the pattern maintenance → cultural system.

There is flow of energy and information between these systems. But Parson's system view does not explain how social change occurs.

Hence, criticized to be status quoist.

5. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

(a) Briefly discuss the impact of Industrialization on kinship relations.

Kinship group refers to the extended family group that an individual identifies with based on either blood relations or common ancestry.

Impact of industrialisation on kinship relations

1. Industrialisation → family change from being unit of production and consumption to only consumption.
2. Large scale migration → usually only men would migrate.
3. Parsons was of the view that industrialisation led to change from extended family to nuclear family thus weak kinship ties.
4. However Peter Laslett challenged

this view → he defined family differently and observed that even pre-industrial society was predominated by nuclear family

5. [William Goode] argued that industrialisation led to increased role-bargaining whereby people maintained contact only with kinsgroups where they had some thing to gain.

6. [Celin Bell] explained that even though kinship ties extended geographically over long distance technology helping to maintain contact.

Thus, industrialisation no doubt changed the structure of kinship ties but, technology is helping to bridge the gap.

5. (b) Write a brief note on Implications of social mobility on an Individual in different structures.

Social mobility means the movement of a group or an individual along a stratification system.

Types of social mobility

- vertical or horizontal
- intra generational or inter-generational

Different structures : -

1) Closed system

- In this system, social mobility is theoretically impossible.
eg: Feudal system in medieval Europe
Caste system in India
- The nature of society is ascriptive
- Although in case of Indian caste system as explained by MN Srinivas mobility is possible through the process of sanskritisation.

However, this mobility is slow
and usually intergenerational
eg: Yadavs in India.

[Open System]

- In this system, it is possible for
an individual to easily move
from one position to other

eg: Class system in modern societies

- Such societies are achievement
oriented and thus it is possible
to have intra generational mobility

eg: Person who works hard and becomes
rich → Jeff Bezos

- Open systems act as safety valve
and there is less scope for violent
conflicts due to deprivation

Thus, different mobility
structures affect the life chances
of an individual.

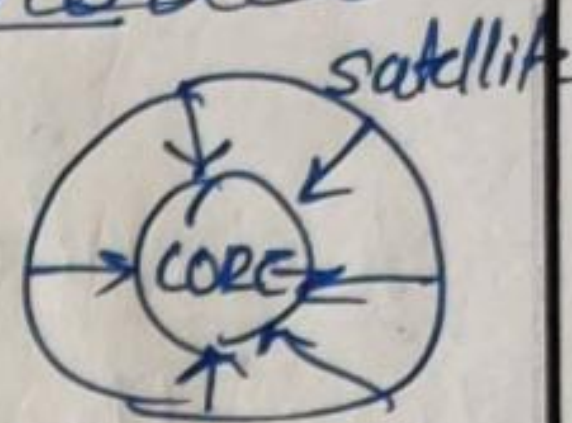
5. (c) The dependency theories in their analysis of global inequalities have taken a uni-dimensional view of development. Critically analyze.

Dependency theories are a set of studies that try to explain why there is underdevelopment in some countries in the world.

Dependency Theories

- 1) One of the first theories was proposed by Raul Prebisch when he was heading UN Commission on Latin America.
- 2) He explained that developed countries import raw materials from poor countries and in return export finished goods.
- 3) Thus, the developing/poor countries will never have enough money to buy the value added finished goods and this leads to debt trap through IMF and World Bank.
- 4) Another perspective given by A.G. Frank

extending the capitalist model
 Developed countries (core)
 appropriate value (profits)
 from raw materials and cheap
labours of developing countries and
 thus produce under development.



Criticisms

1. Dependency theories have been criticized because capital from developing countries has resulted in improving the standard of living in many countries.
2. Countries like China, South Korea, Singapore, etc. are now shoulder to shoulder with developed countries.
3. Many NGOs doing poverty alleviation, educational improvement

Thus, dependency theories have taken a uni-dimensional view ignoring improvements in developing countries.

5. (d) Elaborate on different "Types of social movements".

Social movement is a collective effort to achieve certain desired goals.

David Aberle proposed a typology of social movements on 2 parameters

- degree of change
- target of change

		Degree of change	
		Limited	Radical
Target of change	Individual	Alternative	Redemptive
	Society	Reformative	Revolutionary

i) Alternative Social Movements

- try to change certain specific aspects of some individuals.

eg: Hippie movement of 1960s
Youth disillusioned with rising

materialism.

2) Redemptive social movement
- try to bring about radical change
in life of some individuals

eg: Religious conversion movements,
Arya Samaj

3) Reformative
change some aspects of whole
society.

eg: temple entry movement,
LGBT rights

4) Revolutionary
- bring about drastic change in
society

eg: French Revolution, Communist
Revolution in Russia

Thus, David Aberle's typology
helps understand different social
movements that take place in society

5. (e) Critically analyze "Interactionist perspective on deviance".

Deviance refers to the behaviour of an individual that does not resonate with the normative structure of society.

Functionalist perspective

Emile Durkheim and R.K. Merton explained deviance as a consequence of change in society and structure of the society respectively.

Interactionist perspective

1. Albert Cohen explains deviance through subculture theory.
2. He argues that lack of access to institutionalized means of achieving societal goals results in status frustration.

3. Individuals instead try to conform to the norms of the subgroup.

eg: Youth smoking cigarettes → not with intention to break family norms but fit-in with peer group.

4. Walter Miller argues that groups create their own culture

eg: Gang members → do not reveal names of group members even after beaten by police → symbol of courage/bravery → earn respect of group.

Thus interactionist theories of deviance focus on the culture that is created due to lack of access to institutionalized means.

6. (a) Religion is said to have emancipated human beings on the one hand but it also alienates them on the other. Bring out the paradoxical functions religion plays in a modern secular society. 20

Religion is the belief system that people in society adhere to in their day to day lives.

Function of religion

1. Religion brings about group solidarity.

eg: Helping each other during crisis

2. Modern society → chaotic hyper rationalized. As such

Anthony Giddens explains that religion helps us to make sense of the rapidly changing social order.

3. Society has become increasingly disconnected with each other being immersed in digital visual.

world. In such a scenario, religion helps to bring people together through practices like visiting church, celebrating festivals, etc.

4. All religions at the core give message of peace and no harm to any individual. This type of socialization is important to overcome tendencies of communalism, fundamentalism, etc.

Dysfunctions of religion

1. Religious beliefs are often at odds with scientific beliefs

eg: COVID-19 pandemic → Opposition to vaccination by some sects

Abortion → some religions prohibit → at odds with individual rights.

2. Extreme loyalty to one's religion, breeds a sense of superiority which results into tendencies of communalism fundamentalism, etc which destroys the social fabric.

3. Increasing politicisation of religion creating barriers to access to political power for many groups.

Thus, religion is like a double edged sword that can perform both functions of unification and polarization of society.

6. (b) "Patriarchy is indispensable for an analysis of gender inequality". In the context of this statement, critically examine various structures of patriarchy. 20

Patriarchy is defined as the social structure which results in men dominating women and oppressing them.

1. Patriarchy has resulted in gender inequality in society.

2. Str Sylvia Walby while explaining patriarchy put forth 6 structures of patriarchy

(a) Household level → unpaid labour performed by women in the house → domestic chores, caregiving, etc.

Parsons called this the expressive role → adult stabilization and primary socialisation.

(b) At workplace : horizontal and vertical discrimination.

eg: Glass ceiling at work → cannot reach top positions.

Pink collarization → only specific jobs like receptionist, air hostess etc

(c) Patriarchal state

Women have no access to positions of power

eg: Only 14% women MPs in India

Recent farmer protest → negotiating group → no women representative.

Despite increasing feminization of agriculture.

(d) Control of women's sexuality

eg: Khap Panchayats → endogamy, exogamy rules.

(e) Cultural institutions like media, education, etc.

eg: Women projected in negative light
In Bollywood films - item songs
objectification of women.

(f) Physical violence → abuse at
home or outside → rapes, dowry
harrassment, etc.

- Though women have increasingly
started participating in employment
sectors, complete emancipation
of women is still a distant
dream.

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6. (c) According to the recent findings, middle classes in India are excluding themselves from society. Critically examine the factors responsible for their self-exclusion. 10

Middle class refers to the intermediary class in a society between the capitalist-upper class and lower class proletariat.

1. Middle class is an aspirational class that believes in conforming to the culturally defined goals of a society by following institutionalized means of achieving these goals.
2. Middle class acts as the safety valve in society that prevents a Proletariat Revolution.
3. However it is increasingly observed that middle classes in India excluding themselves from society.

4. In political sphere → vote bank politics → while lower classes are lured with money / alcohol, middle class concerns are sidelined
5. This manifests in non participation in movements like environment concerns, increasing tendency to study and go abroad.
6. Increasing consumerism results in the middle class only focus on self aggrandizement.

To overcome these issues, it is important to bring about structural changes in the society through appropriate socialization and strengthening democratic institutions.