

Sociology Optional Syllabus

Paper - I

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

1. **Sociology - The Discipline:**

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

2. **Sociology as Science:**

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique. (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non- positivist methodologies.

3. **Research Methods and Analysis:**

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

4. **Sociological Thinkers:**

- (a) Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- (b) Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- (c) Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- (d) Talcolt Parsons- Social system, pattern variables.
- (e) Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
- (f) Mead - Self and identity.

5. **Stratification and Mobility:**

- (a) Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.
- (b) Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
- (c) Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.
- (d) Social mobility-open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

6. **Works and Economic Life:**

- (a) Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial/capitalist society.
- (b) Formal and informal organization of work.
- (c) Labour and society.

7. **Politics and Society:**

- (a) Sociological theories of power.
- (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.
- (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

8. **Religion and Society:**

- (a) Sociological theories of religion.
- (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.



9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage.
- (b) Types and forms of family.
- (c) Lineage and descent.
- (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
- (e) Contemporary trends.

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of social change.
- (b) Development and dependency.
- (c) Agents of social change.
- (d) Education and social change.
- (e) Science, technology and social change.

Paper - II

INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society:

- (a) Indology (GS. Ghurye).
- (b) Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas).
- (c) Marxist sociology (A R Desai).

(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:

- (a) Social background of Indian nationalism.
- (b) Modernization of Indian tradition.
- (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.
- (d) Social reforms.

B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

- (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
- (b) Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

(ii) Caste System:

- (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
- (b) Features of caste system.
- (c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives.

(iii) Tribal communities in India:

- (a) Definitional problems.
- (b) Geographical spread.
- (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
- (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.

(iv) Social Classes in India:

- (a) Agrarian class structure.
- (b) Industrial class structure.
- (c) Middle classes in India.

(v) Systems of Kinship in India:

- (a) Lineage and descent in India.
- (b) Types of kinship systems.
- (c) Family and marriage in India.
- (d) Household dimensions of the family.
- (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.



(vi) Religion and Society:

- (a) Religious communities in India.
- (b) Problems of religious minorities.

C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
- (b) Constitution, law and social change.
- (c) Education and social change.

(ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India:

- (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
- (b) Green revolution and social change.
- (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.
- (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

- (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
- (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour.
- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

(iv) Politics and Society:

- (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.
- (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.
- (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
- (d) Secularization

(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

- (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
- (b) Women's movement.
- (c) Backward classes & Dalit movement.
- (d) Environmental movements.
- (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.

(vi) Population Dynamics:

- (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
- (b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
- (c) Population policy and family planning.
- (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

- (a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.
- (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
- (c) Violence against women.
- (d) Caste conflicts.
- (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
- (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.