

UPSC Sociology Optional Syllabus for Paper 1

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) Talcott 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.
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UPSC Sociology Optional Syllabus for Paper 2

UPSC Sociology Syllabus for Paper 2 focuses on Indian society, its structure, and the various processes of change and development it undergoes.

INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society:

1. **Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society:**
 - (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure).
 - (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas).
 - (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai).
2. **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:

1. **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.
2. **Caste System:**
 - (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
 - (b) Features of caste system.
 - (c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives

3. **Tribal Communities in India:**

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

4. **Social Classes in India:**

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

5. **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.

6. **Religion and Society:**

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

C. Social Changes in India:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **Social Movements in Modern India:**

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

6. **Population Dynamics:**

Population size, growth, composition and distribution.

Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.

Population Policy and family planning.

Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

7. **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.

