

Subject: Sociology
Chapter: 1 SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIETY
Key Notes

Introduction to Sociology

1. Advice to Students:

- Students are often told to study hard for success.
- Other advice is based on **job market trends**, **gender roles**, and **family expectations**.

2. Contradictions in Advice:

- First advice stresses **individual effort**, while others highlight **external social factors** like market, gender, and family.

3. Social Factors Matter:

- Success depends on more than effort—**job market**, **gender**, **economic background**, and **culture** also play roles.

4. What is a Good Job?

- The meaning of a "good job" varies by **society and culture** — could mean **money**, **respect**, or **personal satisfaction**.

5. Sociology's Focus:

- Sociology connects **personal problems** to **public issues**.
- It studies how **society shapes individual choices**.

6. Relevant Society:

- A person belongs to many groups — **caste**, **community**, **family**, **profession**, **nation** — all influence decisions.

7. Social Inequality:

- Societies are **unequal**. Opportunities vary by **class**, **caste**, **gender**, and **region**.

8. Sociology as a Discipline:

- a. It is a **systematic study** of society.
- b. Different from **common sense**, **philosophy**, and **religion**.

9. Origin of Sociology:

- Emerged in the **West** during Industrial and French Revolutions.
- Western in origin but has **global relevance**.

10. Sociology in India:

- Developed in context of **colonialism**, **caste**, and **diversity**.
- Focuses on Indian realities like caste, religion, and rural life.

11. Interdisciplinary Nature:

- Related to **History**, **Economics**, **Political Science**, and **Anthropology**.
- Helps understand **social patterns and change**.

II. The Sociological Imagination

1. Individual and Society Are Linked

- Sociology focuses on how individuals and society affect each other.
- This link is called **dialectical** – meaning mutual influence.

2. C. Wright Mills' Idea

- Introduced the concept of "**Sociological Imagination**".

- It helps us understand how **personal problems** are connected to **larger social issues**.

3. Personal Troubles vs Public Issues

- **Personal troubles:** Affect individual and close relationships (e.g., losing a job).
- **Public issues:** Affect society as a whole (e.g., unemployment, poverty).

4. Example: Homelessness

- Not just a personal problem.
- Caused by **migration, lack of jobs, urban housing crisis**, etc.
- Government programs like **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin** address it as a public issue.

5. Understanding Society and Self Together

- We can't understand a person's life without understanding their **social context**.
- Example: War or economic change affects individuals' lives (job loss, family changes, etc.).

II. THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION: The Personal Problem and the Public Issue

1. Core Idea:

- Sociological imagination, a term by **C. Wright Mills**, highlights the link between personal experiences and larger societal forces.
- It teaches us to view individual troubles in the context of public issues (e.g., unemployment, poverty, homelessness).

2. Understanding Personal vs Public:

- **Personal troubles:** Individual-level problems (e.g., one person losing a job).
- **Public issues:** Systemic problems affecting many (e.g., large-scale unemployment due to economic crisis).

3. Homelessness Example:

- Not just a personal failure but a **social issue** tied to poverty, migration, unemployment, and housing policies.
- Programs like **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna–Gramin** are state responses treating homelessness as a public concern.

4. Key Quote (Mills, 1959):

- "Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both."

III. PLURALITIES AND INEQUALITIES AMONG SOCIETIES

1. Multiple Belongings:

- People belong to multiple "societies"—national (e.g., Indian), religious, linguistic, caste, tribal.
- This **pluralism** makes sociological study complex and layered.

2. Satyajit Ray's Reflection:

- Asked whether to portray rural India, ancient epics, or urban chaos—mirroring sociology's dilemma of **what to study**.
- Villages may be romanticized, but real accounts (like of Dalits) show embedded **social exclusion** and inequality.

3. Amartya Sen on Inequality:

- Highlights deep **inequalities** in Indian society—wealth, education, power, opportunity, and dignity.
- These inequalities are **structural**, not just accidental or individual.

IV. INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGY

1. Nature of Sociology:

- Sociology is the **systematic and scientific** study of human social life, groups, and societies.
- It sees **interconnectedness** among institutions—economic, political, familial, educational, etc.

2. Beyond Common Sense:

- Sociology moves beyond everyday common sense or moral judgment.
- It studies **how norms and values function**, not how they "should" function.

3. Objective Inquiry:

- Like a **spy**, the sociologist must report society **as it is**, not based on personal beliefs or ideologies (Peter Berger).
- Sociological research must be **evidence-based, repeatable, and open to verification**.

4. Sociologist's Responsibility:

- While their research should remain value-neutral, sociologists **do have a moral and civic responsibility** about how their findings are used.

5. Scientific Nature:

- Sociology follows **scientific methods** with rules, methods, and standards for observation and interpretation.
- Even though it's a human science, sociology emphasizes **empirical research** and **methodological rigour**.

Important Terms:

- **Sociological Imagination** – Ability to connect personal experiences with larger societal structures.
- **Personal Troubles** – Individual-level problems in daily life.
- **Public Issues** – Collective problems shaped by social institutions and history.
- **Plural Society** – A society made up of different communities, castes, classes, religions, etc.
- **Empirical Study** – Research based on observation and evidence rather than theory alone.
- **Objectivity** – Studying society without personal or ideological bias.

Why This is Important for Students:

- Develops the skill to **think critically about society**.
- Encourages looking beyond surface-level explanations for social problems.
- Provides tools to **understand diversity and inequality** in complex societies like India.

1. Sociology vs Common Sense

- **Sociology is a scientific discipline**, while common sense is based on everyday beliefs, cultural norms, and personal experiences.
- **Common sense is unreflective** – it doesn't question its assumptions or ask "*Why do I believe this?*"
- **Sociology asks critical questions**, investigates beliefs systematically, and tries to uncover patterns.

2. Nature of Common-Sense Knowledge

- **Derived from personal experience**, tradition, or cultural norms.
- Often relies on **superficial or untested assumptions**.
- Examples: Beliefs like "poor people are lazy" or "some communities are born criminal" are common sense ideas that sociology challenges.

3. Naturalistic & Individualistic Explanations

- Common sense explanations are **naturalistic** (based on 'natural' causes) or **individualistic** (blame the person).
- **Example of Poverty:**
 - **Naturalistic view:** People are poor because they are lazy, lack intelligence, or come from 'problem families'.
 - **Sociological view:** Poverty is a result of **structural inequalities** in society like class, caste, and job insecurity.

4. Sociological Approach

- Sociology uses a **systematic, empirical, and questioning method**.
- It focuses on **patterns, structures, institutions**, and **social relationships**.
- It follows **scientific rules and methods** that can be verified by others.

5. Importance of Scientific Inquiry

- Sociology emerged during a time when **modern science was growing**.
- Like science, sociology relies on:
 - **Observation**
 - **Data collection**
 - **Verification**
- Sociologists aim for **objectivity**, even when the findings challenge personal or societal values.

6. Unexpected Consequences of Social Actions

- Sociological thinking reveals **unintended consequences** of actions.
- **Example:** After the Kargil War, compensations to soldiers' widows led to **forced marriages** with brothers-in-law to keep money within the patrilineal family.
- These examples show how **social structures and norms** shape individual lives in complex ways.

7. Sociology is Not Always Dramatic

- **Sociological progress is slow and incremental**.
- It rarely produces instant results but builds knowledge through careful and repeated study.
- **Meaningful insights** often come from detailed and long-term investigation.

8. Why Sociology Is Needed

- Common sense cannot replace sociology because:
 - It **lacks conceptual clarity and method**.
 - It doesn't **question norms** or **explore deeper causes**.
- Sociology equips us with **tools to understand society scientifically and critically**.

Summary Table: Poverty Example

Type of Explanation	Reason Given
Naturalistic (Common Sense)	Laziness, low intelligence, poor budgeting, shiftlessness
Sociological	Structural inequality, irregular employment, low wages (Jayaram, 1987)

VI – The Intellectual Ideas That Went into the Making of Sociology

1. Influence of Scientific Evolution

- Early sociologists were influenced by:
 - **Natural evolution theories** (like Darwin's theory of evolution).
 - **Travelers, colonial administrators, and anthropologists** who studied pre-modern societies.
- Societies were **classified into types and stages**:
 - **Pre-modern**: Hunter-gatherers, pastoral, agrarian.
 - **Modern**: Industrial societies.
- This **evolutionary approach** often claimed that **Western societies were more advanced**, viewing non-Western societies as **"barbaric" or "primitive"**.

2. Role of Colonialism and Indian Sociology

- Colonial rule shaped the study of Indian society.
- **British colonizers classified Indian society**, which led to biases in knowledge production.
- Indian sociology reflects this **historical tension** and tends to be more **reflexive (self-aware and critical)**.
- Quoted scholars:
 - **Yogendra Singh** (2004) – Colonial impact on Indian sociology.
 - **Maitrayee Chaudhuri** (2003) – Reflexivity in Indian sociology.

3. Impact of Darwin's Theory of Evolution

- **Society compared to a living organism** – each part (like organs) has a function.
- Influenced **functionalism**: Society is a system with interdependent parts (e.g. family, school, religion).
- Sociology began studying **institutions and structures** like stratification (class, caste, etc.) scientifically.

4. The Enlightenment (Late 17th–18th Century Europe)

- A major intellectual movement emphasizing:
 - **Reason**
 - **Scientific thinking**
 - **Individualism**
- Shifted thinking from religious to **rational and scientific explanations**.
- Poverty, once seen as natural, was reinterpreted as a **social problem** caused by exploitation or ignorance.

5. Use of Scientific Methods in Sociology

- Inspired by **natural sciences**, early sociologists believed:
 - Human behaviour can be **measured and studied scientifically**.

- **Social surveys** became a method to study issues like poverty using data and classification (more in Chapter 5).

6. Auguste Comte (1789–1857): The Founder of Sociology

- A French thinker, believed that:
 - **Sociology could improve society** and contribute to human welfare.
 - He called sociology the “**science of society**”.
 - Wanted to apply **scientific methods** to study human behaviour.

7. Sociological Perspective: Product of Historical Context

- Sociology emerged as a result of:
 - Scientific advancements.
 - Social changes (industrialization, urbanization, colonialism).
 - Intellectual shifts (Enlightenment, evolution).
- Thus, **sociology reflects its historical roots** and the debates around modernity and inequality.

Summary Table

Influence	Impact on Sociology
Darwin’s Evolution Theory	Society viewed like a biological organism; focus on functions of social institutions.
Enlightenment Movement	Emphasized reason, science, and progress; encouraged rational study of social issues.
Colonial Experience in India	Led to classification and bias; Indian sociology became critical and reflective.
Auguste Comte	Proposed sociology as a scientific study for the welfare of society.

VII. THE MATERIAL ISSUES THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF SOCIOLOGY

1. Industrial Revolution and Capitalism

- The **Industrial Revolution** created a new economic system called **capitalism**.
- In capitalism, people (entrepreneurs) tried to earn **profit** through factories and industries.
- **Markets** became very important, and **labour and goods** were bought and sold like things (commodities).

2. Life Before Industrialisation

- In England before industrialisation, people lived in **villages** and worked in **agriculture and handicrafts**.
- Society was **small**, people had **fixed roles**, and **social positions** (like landlord or peasant) were clearly defined.
- There was **strong community bonding**, like in Indian villages.

3. Major Changes Due to Industrialisation

- Work moved out of homes, villages, and guilds into **factories**.
- Workers lost their **independent status**, especially **skilled workers**.
- **Cities grew** very fast and became dirty and crowded.

- There were new **social problems** like slums, pollution, and poor sanitation.

4. City Life and Social Impact

- Cities changed how people interacted—more **impersonal** and **competitive** life.
- A Hindi film song ("Aye Dil Hai Mushkil Jeena Yahan") describes **struggles of city life**, where money and survival became more important than human feelings.

5. Urbanisation in India vs. Britain

- In Britain:
 - a. In 1810, **20%** people lived in towns.
 - b. By 1910, **80%** lived in cities.
- In India:
 - c. Cities also grew, but many **lost jobs** as British goods replaced Indian handicrafts.
 - d. Many Indian artisans became **poor farmers** for survival.

6. Factories: Both Harmful and Helpful

- **Karl Marx** saw factories as **oppressive** but also **hopeful**.
- Workers in factories **learnt unity** and how to **fight for better rights** together.

7. Importance of Clock-Time

- Before, work followed **natural rhythms** (like daylight).
- In factories, everything was done by the **clock**: fixed start and end times.
- This gave rise to the idea that "**time is money**".

VIII Why Study the Beginning and Growth of Sociology in Europe?

- Most sociological issues and concerns originated during the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe.
- This period saw major changes like capitalism and industrialization.
- Issues like urbanization and factory production began then, which are still relevant today in all modern societies.
- Indian society is unique because of its colonial past and diversity, and Indian sociology reflects this.
- Studying European sociology is important because:
 - Indian history is closely linked with British capitalism and colonialism.
 - Western capitalism led to worldwide expansion and influenced many societies globally.

Impact of Capitalism and Colonialism Globally

- Between the 17th and 19th centuries, about 24 million Africans were enslaved; 11 million survived the journey to the Americas.
- These people were forcibly removed from their homes to serve capitalism.
- Slavery declined in the 1800s.
- In the same period, the British transported indentured laborers from India to work on plantations in places like Surinam, the West Indies, and Fiji.
- Descendants of these laborers, like writer V.S. Naipaul, show the lasting impact of this history.

Example from R.K. Laxman's Travelogue of Mauritius

- Mauritius reflects the colonial and global past where many ethnic groups live together: Africans, Chinese, Biharis, Dutch, Persians, Tamils, Arabs, French, and English.
- Example: A Tamil man named Govindan from Madras no longer speaks Tamil fluently and speaks English with a French accent, showing how cultures and languages changed over time due to colonialism.

IX. Colonialism and Sociology in India

- Colonialism was a key part of modern capitalism and industrialization.
- Western sociological ideas on capitalism and modern society help us understand social change in India.
- However, industrialization affected India differently than the West because of colonialism.

Impact of Colonialism on Indian Economy (Karl Marx's View)

- India was a major cotton manufacturer historically.
- British policies flooded India with British cotton goods, ruining local cotton industries.
- Indian products were excluded or heavily taxed in Britain, while British goods entered India with minimal duties.

Western Views on Indian Society

- Western colonial officials and scholars often misunderstood Indian society.
- The Indian village was wrongly seen as “unchanging” and a survival from a primitive past.
- Western writers compared Indian villages to the “infancy of society” and saw India as Europe's past.

Sociology and Social Anthropology in India vs. West

- Western sociology focuses mainly on industrialized societies.
- Western social anthropology studies “simple,” non-Western societies.
- In India, due to its vast diversity (regional, linguistic, religious, caste, rural-urban), many “others” exist even nearby.
- M.N. Srinivas emphasized that “the other” in India is often a neighbor, not a distant culture.

The Indian Context: Blurring Sociology and Anthropology

- Social anthropology in India evolved from studying “primitive people” to peasants, ethnic groups, social classes, ancient civilizations, and modern societies.
- There is no sharp divide between sociology and social anthropology in India.
- This reflects India's mix of traditional and modern, village and city life.

X. Scope of Sociology

- Sociology studies a **wide range** of social interactions and issues:
 - **Micro-level:** Interactions between individuals (e.g., shopkeeper and customer, teacher and student, family members).
 - **Meso-level:** Community or group issues (e.g., caste conflict, rural indebtedness).
 - **Macro-level:** National or global issues (e.g., unemployment, state policies, global labor regulations, electronic media impact, foreign universities entering education).
- What defines sociology is **how** it studies a topic, not just the topic itself.

Relationship with Other Social Sciences

- Sociology is part of a group of social sciences including:
 - Anthropology
 - Economics
 - Political Science
 - History
- These disciplines share **common interests, concepts, and methods**.
- The boundaries between social sciences are **not strict or clear-cut**.

- Distinguishing too rigidly between these disciplines **ignores their similarities** and can be misleading.

Importance of Interdisciplinary Approach

- Feminist theories highlight the need for interdisciplinary study.
- Example: Political scientists or economists studying **gender roles** must incorporate sociological insights (e.g., family structure, gender division of labor) for a complete understanding.

Reflective Question (from text)

- Consider how history, sociology, political science, and economics would each study fashion/clothes, marketplaces, and city streets.

Economics: Basic Focus

- Economics studies **production and distribution** of goods and services.
- Classical economics focuses narrowly on **economic variables** like price, demand, supply, money flows, and output-input ratios.
- Traditional economics sees economic activity mainly as **allocation of scarce resources**.
- Political economy approach broadens this to study **ownership and relations to means of production**.
- Economics aims to formulate **precise laws** of economic behavior and has strong **predictive power**.

Sociology's Approach to Economics

- Sociology studies economic behavior in a **broader social context**, including:
 - Social norms
 - Values
 - Practices
 - Interests
- Sociologists emphasize how **culture and social institutions** influence economic actions.
- Corporate sectors use this knowledge in **advertising** to shape lifestyles and consumption patterns.

Feminist Economics

- Broadens economic analysis by including **gender** as a key organizing principle.
- Examines links between **unpaid home work** and **productive labor** outside.

Strengths and Weaknesses

- Economics is precise and can influence **public policy** with clear technical solutions.
- However, economists may **neglect individual behavior, cultural norms, and institutional resistance**, areas studied by sociology.
- Sociology encourages a **critical questioning** of assumptions and the **social desirability of goals**, not just technical means.

Pierre Bourdieu's View (1998)

- True economic science should consider **all costs and profits**:
 - Material and symbolic
 - Individual and collective
- For example, include social costs like **crime, suicide, mental health issues**.
- Proposes an **economics of happiness**, considering well-being beyond material profits.

Economic Sociology

- Recent resurgence of **economic sociology** reflects the integration of sociological critical perspectives into economic studies.
- Sociology provides:
 - Better **factual understanding**
 - Theoretical insights into **why** social phenomena happen, not just what happens.

Sociology and Political Science

- Political science traditionally focused on:
 - Political theory (ideas from Plato to Marx)
 - Government administration (formal structure, less on actual operation)
- Sociology studies all aspects of society, including interrelations among institutions, including government.
- Political science focuses more on **processes within government**, while sociology looks at broader social interrelationships.
- Political sociology (by sociologists like Max Weber) studies **actual political behavior**.
- Recent studies include:
 - Voting patterns
 - Membership in political organizations
 - Decision-making processes
 - Sociological reasons for political party support
 - Role of gender in politics
- **Activity:** Explore studies done during recent elections to see how political science and sociology interact.

Sociology and History

- History studies the **past**, mainly concrete events; sociology focuses on the **contemporary or recent past**.
- Historians aim to **describe events**, sociologists seek **causal relationships**.
- History focuses on concrete details; sociology abstracts and generalizes.
- History traditionally studied kings, wars, and rulers; sociology focused on social changes like **land relations, gender relations, family**.
- Social history now combines sociological approaches and studies social patterns, gender, customs, institutions.
- **Activity:** Research how historians write about social/cultural topics like art, cricket, fashion, architecture.

Sociology and Psychology

- Psychology studies individual behavior: intelligence, motivations, learning, memory, nervous system.
- Social psychology bridges sociology and psychology, studying individual behavior **in social groups**.
- Sociology studies how personality and behavior are shaped by society: economic systems, political systems, family, culture, norms, values.
- Example: Durkheim's study of suicide focused on **social statistics** rather than individual intentions.

Sociology and Social Anthropology

- Anthropology covers archaeology, physical anthropology, cultural history, linguistics, and life in "simple societies."
- Social anthropology focuses on **simple, non-industrial societies**; sociology studies **modern, complex societies**.
- Social anthropology originated in the West studying non-European societies, often with a biased view.
- The study of "simple societies" is challenged today due to globalization and colonial impact.
- Anthropology uses **long fieldwork and ethnographic methods** (living within communities).
- Sociology often uses **surveys, quantitative data, and statistics**.
- The distinction between simple and complex societies is blurring (e.g., India's mix of tradition and modernity).
- Indian sociology is eclectic, studying both urban modern and tribal societies holistically.
- The two disciplines influence each other; today, both use qualitative and quantitative methods for complex social study.
- **Activity:** Learn about the origins of Santhal tea plantation workers and colonial tea cultivation.

QUESTION BANK
TWO MARK QUESTIONS

1. What is the sociological imagination? (CBSE 2022)

Answer:

- It refers to the ability to understand the relationship between individual experiences and larger social influences.
- C. Wright Mills introduced it to link personal troubles with public issues.

2. Define 'society' from a sociological perspective. (CBSE 2023)

Answer:

- Society is a network of social relationships and interactions.
- It includes shared norms, values, institutions, and patterns of behavior.

3. What does sociology mean by 'public issues'? (CBSE Sample Paper 2025)

Answer:

- Public issues are societal problems that impact large groups beyond personal experiences.
- They often stem from structural or institutional factors, e.g., unemployment, poverty.

4. Give any two features of sociology as a discipline. (CBSE 2020)

Answer:

- Sociology is empirical—it is based on observation and evidence.
- It uses scientific methods and systematic study to understand society.

5. What distinguishes sociological understanding from common sense? (CBSE 2021)

Answer:

- Common sense is based on personal experiences and biases.
- Sociology is systematic, evidence-based, and open to questioning assumptions.

6. Mention any two disciplines related to sociology. (CBSE 2023)

Answer:

- Political Science – shares the study of power and institutions.
- Economics – shares interest in production and consumption in social context.

7. Define capitalism in the context of sociology. (CBSE Sample Paper 2024)

Answer:

- Capitalism is an economic system based on private ownership of production.
- It focuses on profit-making through market exchange.

8. What is meant by 'pluralities' in society? (CBSE Sample Paper 2025)

Answer:

- Pluralities refer to the existence of multiple identities like caste, class, religion.
- It highlights the diversity and complexity within societies.

THREE MARK QUESTIONS

1. Explain how sociology is different from psychology. (CBSE 2020)

Answer:

- Sociology studies human behavior in groups and social structures, while psychology focuses on the individual.
- Sociology examines how institutions like family and education shape behavior.
- For example, suicide in sociology is explained through social facts (Durkheim), not just personal reasons.

2. What is the relevance of studying the origin and growth of sociology in Europe? (CBSE 2021)

Answer:

- It helps us understand how sociology emerged in response to social changes like industrialization and capitalism.
- Issues like urbanization, factory life, and class inequality shaped early sociological thinking.
- These concepts are still applicable in studying Indian society today.

3. How is sociology both a science and different from natural science? (CBSE 2022)

Answer:

- Sociology uses scientific methods like observation and data collection.
- But unlike natural sciences, it deals with subjective meanings and social contexts.
- It balances objectivity with understanding human behavior in its cultural setting.

4. Discuss how sociology and economics are interrelated. (CBSE Sample Paper 2025)

Answer:

- Economics studies production and distribution; sociology examines how social norms influence economic behavior.
- Sociologists analyze how gender, class, and culture affect consumption and savings.
- For example, advertising reshapes lifestyle choices through social influence.

5. Explain the impact of industrialization on traditional society. (CBSE 2023)

Answer:

- Industrialization led to the decline of traditional occupations like handicrafts.
- It introduced factory work, wage labor, and urban migration.
- Family and community ties weakened, and clock-time structured daily life.

SIX MARKER QUESTIONS

Q1. Explain any three key differences between Sociology and Common Sense Knowledge. (CBSE 2023)

Answer:

1. **Basis of Understanding:** Sociology is a systematic study based on scientific research, while common sense is derived from personal experiences, social beliefs, and traditions.
2. **Verification of Ideas:** Sociological concepts are verified through empirical data and structured research methods, whereas common sense knowledge is often untested and unquestioned.
3. **Objectivity:** Sociology strives for objectivity by eliminating personal biases, while common sense explanations are subjective and shaped by individual or cultural prejudices.
4. **Critical Thinking:** Sociology encourages critical inquiry into social realities and existing beliefs, whereas common sense tends to accept ideas as they are.
5. **Generalisation:** Sociological knowledge seeks patterns applicable to larger groups, unlike common sense which is based on limited, individual experiences.

6. **Scientific Methodology:** Sociologists use surveys, observations, and analysis, while common sense depends on intuition or hearsay.

Q2. How did industrialization influence the emergence of sociology? (CBSE Sample Paper 2025)

Answer:

1. **Disruption of Traditional Life:** Industrialization altered agrarian societies by replacing handcraft-based work with machine production, creating new forms of livelihood.
2. **Rise of Urbanisation:** It led to the rapid growth of cities and urban centers, causing crowding, slums, and sanitation problems that needed sociological attention.
3. **Emergence of Class Conflict:** A new economic order emerged where capitalists owned factories and workers were exploited, bringing class-based social tensions.
4. **Decline of Community Bonds:** The factory system weakened traditional relationships based on kinship and community, creating alienation.
5. **Rise of Social Problems:** Poverty, child labor, and poor working conditions became widespread, demanding a deeper understanding of their social roots.
6. **Birth of Sociology:** Thinkers like Karl Marx, Durkheim, and Weber studied these transformations, leading to the formation of sociology as a discipline to understand modern society.

Q3. What is sociological imagination? How does it link personal problems to public issues? (CBSE 2022)

Answer:

1. **Concept by C. Wright Mills:** Sociological imagination is the ability to connect individual experiences with larger social and historical forces.
2. **Understanding Social Context:** It helps individuals see how their personal issues—like unemployment—are shaped by economic policies and social structures.
3. **Differentiates Troubles and Issues:** Mills distinguished personal troubles (individual problems) from public issues (societal problems), showing how the two are interconnected.
4. **Example of Homelessness:** A person's homelessness may seem like a personal failure, but it often results from public issues like migration, lack of housing policies, or unemployment.
5. **Develops Social Awareness:** This perspective helps individuals think critically about their position in society rather than blaming themselves.
6. **Promotes Policy and Change:** By understanding the public roots of personal problems, sociological imagination contributes to better policy-making and collective action.

Q4. Describe any three features of sociology as a scientific discipline. (CBSE 2021)

Answer:

1. **Systematic Study:** Sociology is based on structured procedures involving observation, data collection, and hypothesis testing, similar to natural sciences.
2. **Empirical Evidence:** Sociologists base their conclusions on real-life observations and factual data rather than beliefs or opinions.
3. **Objectivity:** Personal emotions and biases are avoided while conducting sociological research; facts are interpreted without prejudice.
4. **Conceptual Framework:** Sociology uses well-defined concepts like status, role, stratification, and social mobility to analyze society.
5. **Theory and Explanation:** It builds theories that explain patterns of behavior and relationships between individuals and institutions.
6. **Reproducibility:** Sociological studies can be repeated and verified by other researchers to ensure consistency and reliability.

Q5. How did colonialism shape the growth of sociology in India? (CBSE Sample Paper 2024)

Answer:

1. **Western View of Indian Society:** Colonial administrators viewed Indian society as static and primitive, often misrepresenting it in their records.
2. **Challenge by Indian Sociologists:** Indian thinkers like M.N. Srinivas and G.S. Ghurye developed indigenous sociological perspectives to correct these biased views.
3. **New Subjects of Study:** Colonial rule changed the economy, land system, and introduced Western education, all of which became subjects of sociological interest.
4. **Creation of New Social Issues:** The collapse of traditional industries and growth of urbanization during colonialism led to new social classes and migration patterns.
5. **Blend of Western and Indian Thought:** Indian sociology was influenced by Western theories but adapted them to Indian realities, such as caste, joint family, and village society.
6. **Institutional Development:** The colonial period led to the establishment of universities and research institutions that encouraged sociological study and education.

Q6. Differentiate sociology from two other social sciences with suitable examples. (CBSE 2020)

Answer:

1. **Sociology vs History:** History focuses on chronological events and the past; sociology studies contemporary social structures and patterns of change.
2. **Sociology vs Political Science:** Political science emphasizes power and governance within the state; sociology studies power within family, caste, religion, etc.
3. **Scope of Study:** Sociology explores both macro (institutions, class) and micro (interpersonal) interactions, unlike history's focus on specific events or political science's focus on formal systems.
4. **Methods Used:** Sociology uses both qualitative (interviews, observations) and quantitative (surveys) methods, whereas history relies more on documents and archives.
5. **Examples of Overlap:** Voting behavior can be studied by political scientists for electoral trends and by sociologists to understand caste or gender influences.
6. **Interdisciplinary Nature:** Sociology draws insights from history, political science, and economics, offering a more holistic understanding of society.