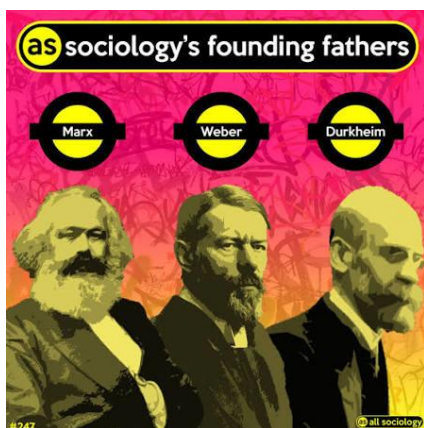




INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Chapter 4- Introducing Western Sociologists (GRADE XI)



SUB UNITS:

- Factors that paved the way for the emergence of Sociology in Europe
- Karl Marx
- Emile Durkheim
- Max Weber

Q1: What is Enlightenment or the 'Age of Reason'? (2mks)

Ans: During the late 17th and 18th centuries, Western Europe saw the emergence of radically new ways of thinking about the world. Referred to as the Enlightenment, these policies established the human being at the center of the universe, and rational thought as the central feature of the human being.

Q2. Why is the Enlightenment important for the development of sociology? (4mks)

Ans:

- During the late 17th and 18th centuries, Western Europe saw the emergence of radically new ways of thinking about the world. It is referred to 'The Enlightenment'.
- The ability to think rationally and critically transformed the individual human being into both the producer and the user of all knowledge, the 'knowing subject'.
- Only persons who could think and reason could be considered as a complete human being.
- To define features of the human world, it was necessary to displace nature, religion and the divine acts of gods from the central position they had in earlier days of understanding the world. The Enlightenment thus became the backdrop for the emergence of social sciences, and sociology in particular.

Q3. Explain the main features of Industrial Revolution (2mks)

Ans: The foundations of modern industry were laid by the Industrial Revolution, which began in Britain in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It had two major aspects:

- 1) The first was the **systematic application of science and technology to industrial production**, particularly the invention of new machines e.g. Spinning Jenny and the harnessing of new sources of power e.g. Steam.

- 2) Secondly, the industrial revolution also **evolved new ways of organizing labour and markets** on a scale larger than anything in the past.

Q4. How was the Industrial Revolution responsible for giving rise to sociology? (4mks)

Ans: The massive changes in the production system brought about by Industrial Revolution also led to major changes in social life.

- The factories set up in **urban areas were manned by workers who were uprooted from the rural areas** and came to the cities in search of work.
- **Low wages at the factory meant that men, women and even children had to work long hours in hazardous circumstances** to eke out a living.
- Cities and towns became the dominant forms of human settlement, **housing large and unequal populations in small, densely populated urban areas**. The rich and powerful lived in cities, but also did the working classes who lived in **slums amidst poverty and squalor**.
- **Modern forms of governance, with the state assuming control of health, sanitation, crime control** and general development. The social sciences and particularly sociology emerged partly as a response to this need.

Q5. Write a short note on the French Revolution (2mks)

Ans: The French Revolution (1789) announced the arrival of political sovereignty at the level of individuals as well as nation-states.

-The Declaration of Human Rights asserted the equality of all citizens and questioned the legitimacy of privileges inherited by birth.

- It signaled the emancipation of the individual from the oppressive rule of the religious and feudal institutions that dominated France before the Revolution.

KARL MARX

Q6. According to Marx, what are the various components of a mode of production? (2mks)

Answer: A mode of production has the following components:

- First are the **production forces** or means of production i.e. land, natural resources, capital investment & technology
- Second is the **production relations**. In a capitalist society, it was the class who owns the means of production or the **bourgeoisie** and the **proletarians** who were the labour class who produce goods, in exchange for wages.

Q7. Why do classes come into conflict, according to Marx? (4mks)

Answer: Karl Marx has studied two classes. Two opposite groups exist in each society. First who exploit and second is that who are being exploited. Conflict is always going on between these two classes from the very beginning. Marx explained that

- Bourgeoisie own all the means of production and suppress other groups with their means of production.
- Second class is the labour class which was given the name of Proletariats who work under the bourgeoisie.

According to Marx, economic processes generally tend to generate class conflicts though this also depends on political and social conditions.

Q8: Explain the term ‘Bourgeoisie’ (1mk)

Answer: According to Marx, Bourgeoisie are those few people who own the means of production in a capitalist society. They enjoy both economic and political power.

Q9: Explain the term ‘surplus value’ (2mks)

Answer: The term ‘surplus value’ refers to the quality of value produced by the worker beyond the necessary labour time, i.e., the marking time required to produce a value equal to the one he has received in the form of wages.

Q10: List two suitable grounds on which Marxian theory of class struggle has been criticized. (2mks)

Answer: Karl Marx’s theory of class struggle has been criticized because he has absolutely ignored the middle class. Middle class has a great importance in a modern capitalist society. The class struggle cannot be accepted as constructive as it leads to fascism which any society is unable to bear.

Q11. Explain in detail Karl Marx’s theory of class struggle (6mks)

Answer: Karl Marx was of the view that:

- Human society passed through different stages of development viz primitive communism, slavery, feudalism and capitalism. Each stage is defined by a mode of production.
- 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.
- The modes 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.

EMILE DURKHEIM

Q12. Explain briefly social fact as interpreted by Durkheim (2mks)

Ans: Durkheim writes, “**Social facts** are those ways of working, thinking and feeling which are exterior to man and which control man by their power of constraint”. These social facts could be observed via social behavior, and specially **aggregated patterns of social behaviour**.

The most famous example of this is his study of Suicide where although each individual case of suicide was specific to the individual and his/her circumstances, the average rate of suicide aggregated across hundreds of individuals in a community was a **social fact**.

Q13. Why is Emile Durkheim called the Founder of Sociology? (2mks)

Ans: Emile Durkheim is one of the 'key classical theorists in sociology'. He is best known for establishing 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.

Q14. Explain Emile Durkheim's concept of social facts. How did he establish sociology as a scientific discipline? Illustrate your answer with reference to his study of suicide. (read only- as covered in the previous questions)

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', as 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.

Q15. What is the difference between 'mechanical' and 'organic' solidarity? (4mks)

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 and is more homogenous
- 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 and there is heterogeneity
- In this, there is more room for individual initiative.
- It is highly secular.
- It is abstract and general.

Q16. State the defining features of Durkheim's vision of sociology (6mks)

Durkheim's vision of sociology as a new scientific discipline was characterized by two defining features:

First, the subject matter of sociology- **the study of social facts** was different from the other sciences. Sociology concerned itself exclusively with what he called the 'emergent' level, that is, the level of complex collective life where social phenomena can emerge. These phenomena – e.g. social institutions like religion or the family, or social values like friendship or patriotism. These were only possible in a complex whole which was larger than (and different from) its constituent parts.

The second **empirical discipline** -like most of the natural sciences, it was an empirical discipline. This was actually a difficult claim to make because social phenomena are by their very nature abstract. e.g. we cannot see a collective entity like the Jain community or Bengali speaking community.

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. Although not directly observable, social facts were indirectly observable through patterns of behavior.

Difference between repressive and restitutive law given by Emile Durkheim:-

Repressive Law	Restitutive Law
• Repressive laws are designed to repair or prevent deviation from community norms. • It was sought to punish wrong doers and enforced a sort of collective revenge for their acts.	• Restitutive law is designed to correct the wrong that is done by a criminal act. • The primary purpose of the legal system is to restore to the individual which has been wrongfully taken away from him.
It existed in primitive society i.e pre industrial society • These were made because the individual and the community were so tightly integrated that it was feared that any violation of code of conduct could result in disintegration of the community.	It prevailed in Modern Society i.e in industrial Society • It stresses restitution in place of punishment.

Q17. Discuss Durkheim's concept of collective conscience (read only)

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 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 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.

Max Weber

Q18. What are the basic features of bureaucracy according to Weber? (4mks)

Answer:

- **Functioning of Officials:** 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.
- **Office management:** Official positions in a bureaucracy are independent.

- **Hierarchical Ordering of Positions:** Authority and office are placed on a graded hierarchy where the higher officials supervise the lower ones.
- **Reliance on written document:** Management of a bureaucratic organization is carried out on the basis of written documents (the files) which are preserved as records.
- **Conduct in office:** 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.

Q19. What is special or different about the kind of objectivity needed in social science? (4marks)

The special or different kind of objectivity needed in social science is '**value-neutrality**'. According to Max Weber, it was important for sociologists to understand the subject matter of sociology in an objective manner as social interactions incorporated subjective human meanings, values, feelings, prejudices and ideals.

For this, a sociologist had to study and record the views of people and their personal beliefs in a neutral way through **empathetic understanding**. That is, s/he had to describe and could not judge or imply her/his own conceptions to the understanding of others. Social scientists were themselves a part of society. Therefore, the exercise of such objectivity is deemed to be unique.

Q20. Explain ideal types according to Weber (2mks)

Ans: Apart from empathetic understanding, Weber also suggested another methodological tool for doing sociology- the 'ideal type'. Ideal types may exaggerate some features of phenomenon that are considered analytically important, and ignore or downplay others. Weber used the ideal type to illustrate the three types of authority that he defined as traditional, charismatic and rational-legal.

Part A: Multiple Choice Questions

Section 1: The Context of Sociology

1. Sociology is often referred to as the 'child of the age of revolution' because:

A) It was developed by revolutionaries during the French Revolution.

B) It emerged in response to the radical social changes of the 19th century.

C) It focuses exclusively on political uprisings and wars.

D) It was founded by the children of Enlightenment philosophers.

2. The Enlightenment philosophy established which of the following as the central feature of the human being?

A) Religious devotion B) Physical strength C) Rational thought D) Inherited status

3. Which revolution signaled the arrival of political sovereignty and the Declaration of Human Rights?

A) The Industrial Revolution B) The Scientific Revolution

C) The French Revolution D) The Russian Revolution

4. The systematic application of science and technology to industrial production was a hallmark of:

A) The Enlightenment B) The Industrial Revolution C) Feudalism D) The Age of Reason

5. According to the text, how did the Industrial Revolution change human settlement?

A) People moved from cities to rural areas to escape pollution.

B) Rural areas became the dominant form of settlement.

C) Cities and towns became the dominant forms of settlement.

D) Population density decreased across Europe.

Section 2: Karl Marx

6. According to Marx, the 'economic base' of society consists of:

A) Religion, art, and law B) Productive forces and production relations

C) Political institutions and the state D) Individual ideas and beliefs

7. Marx argued that 'material life shapes ideas.' This means:

A) People are free to think whatever they want regardless of their job.

B) How humans earn their livelihood determines how they think.

C) Religious beliefs are the foundation of the economic system.

D) Scientific inventions are the only things that change society.

8. Which of the following is NOT one of the levels of alienation described by Marx?

A) Alienation from nature B) Alienation from the fruits of one's labor

C) Alienation from religious institutions D) Alienation from oneself

9. In Marx's theory, the 'superstructure' includes:

A) Technology and sources of energy B) Land and labor

C) Legal and political institutions D) Property relations

10. Marx believed that the transition from capitalism to socialism would be achieved through:

A) Peaceful negotiations between classes

B) Class struggle and revolution

C) The expansion of the factory system

D) The return to primitive communism

Section 3: Durkheim & Weber

11. Emile Durkheim's vision of sociology was centered on the study of 'social facts.' A social fact is:

A) An individual's private psychological state.

B) A way of acting that is external to the individual and exercises constraint.

C) A historical event that cannot be repeated.

D) A biological instinct shared by all humans.

12. According to Durkheim, 'organic solidarity' is characteristic of:

A) Primitive societies with little division of labor.

B) Modern industrial societies with high specialization.

C) Societies where everyone performs the same tasks.

D) Feudal societies based on land ownership.

13. Max Weber argued that the main goal of social science was to study:

A) Economic structures only. B) Social action and its subjective meanings.

C) The biological evolution of humans. D) The physical laws of nature.

14. Weber's concept of 'Bureaucracy' is a form of organization based on:

A) Traditional authority and family ties. B) Charismatic leadership and emotion.

C) Rational-legal authority and clear rules. D) Random decision-making by officials.

15. Which sociologist emphasized that 'Verstehen' (empathetic understanding) was necessary to study social action?

A) Karl Marx B) Emile Durkheim C) Max Weber D) Auguste Comte

Part B: Assertion-Reason Questions

Directions: In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R).

Mark the correct choice as: a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.

c) A is true but R is false.

d) A is false but R is true.

16. Assertion (A): In modern societies, individuals are interdependent even though they are different.

Reason (R): The complex division of labor in industrial society creates organic solidarity.

17. Assertion (A): Social facts must be treated as 'things' by the sociologist.

Reason (R): Social facts are internal psychological motivations that drive individual behavior.

18. Assertion (A): The working class under capitalism is alienated from the products they produce.

Reason (R): Workers in a factory system do not own the means of production or the final goods.

19. Assertion (A): Marx believed that ideas and beliefs shape the economic system of a society.

Reason (R): According to Marx, the economic base determines the nature of the superstructure.

20. Assertion (A): Capitalism individualizes previously collective forms of social organization.

Reason (R): Alienation occurs because relationships in capitalist society become increasingly market-mediated.

21. Assertion (A): Bureaucracy is the most efficient form of organization in modern society.

Reason (R): Bureaucratic systems function through rational-legal authority and specialized tasks.

22. Assertion (A): Max Weber focused on the objective laws of society similar to the natural sciences.

Reason (R): Weber believed that social action involves subjective meanings that must be understood by the researcher.

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Answer Key and Explanations

Part A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. **B) It emerged in response to the radical social changes of the 19th century.** *Rationale:* Sociology was born from the intellectual and social upheavals of the Enlightenment, French Revolution, and Industrial Revolution.
2. **C) Rational thought** *Rationale:* The Enlightenment established human beings as 'knowing subjects' defined by their ability to think rationally and critically.
3. **C) The French Revolution** *Rationale:* The 1789 revolution introduced political sovereignty and the Declaration of Human Rights, ending feudal privileges.
4. **B) The Industrial Revolution** *Rationale:* This period was defined by the application of science to production, leading to the factory system.
5. **C) Cities and towns became the dominant forms of settlement.** *Rationale:* The shift from rural to urban dominance was a direct result of the factory system and mass manufacture.
6. **B) Productive forces and production relations** *Rationale:* Marx defined the economic base as the combination of the means of production (forces) and the social organization of labor (relations).
7. **B) How humans earn their livelihood determines how they think.** *Rationale:* Marx argued that material life (the base) shapes ideas (the superstructure), not the other way around.
8. **C) Alienation from religious institutions** *Rationale:* Marx identified four levels: nature, other people, the fruits of labor, and oneself. Religion is part of the superstructure, not a level of alienation.
9. **C) Legal and political institutions** *Rationale:* The superstructure consists of social, cultural, and political institutions built upon the economic base.
10. **B) Class struggle and revolution** *Rationale:* Marx believed the working class would unite to overthrow capitalism to establish a socialist society.
11. **B) A way of acting that is external to the individual and exercises constraint.** *Rationale:* Durkheim defined social facts as collective ways of acting, thinking, or feeling that exist outside the individual.

12. **B) Modern industrial societies with high specialization.** *Rationale:* Organic solidarity is based on the interdependence created by a complex division of labor.
13. **B) Social action and its subjective meanings.** *Rationale:* Weber argued that sociology must understand the meanings individuals attach to their actions.
14. **C) Rational-legal authority and clear rules.** *Rationale:* Bureaucracy is characterized by written rules, specialized tasks, and a hierarchy based on legal authority.
15. **C) Max Weber** *Rationale:* Weber used the term 'Verstehen' to describe the empathetic understanding required to study social action.

Part B: Assertion-Reason Explanations

16. **a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.** *Justification:* In modern society, the division of labor makes individuals perform different tasks, which makes them dependent on one another (organic solidarity).
17. **c) A is true but R is false.** *Justification:* While Durkheim argued social facts should be treated as 'things,' he explicitly stated they are *external* to the individual, not internal psychological motivations.
18. **a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.** *Justification:* Alienation from the product occurs specifically because the worker does not own the means of production or have control over the final goods produced in a factory.
19. **d) A is false but R is true.** *Justification:* Marx argued that the economic base determines ideas (superstructure); therefore, ideas do not shape the economic system.
20. **a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.** *Justification:* Capitalism breaks down collective social forms by turning relationships into market-mediated transactions, leading to alienation between individuals.
21. **a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.** *Justification:* Bureaucracy achieves efficiency through rational-legal authority, where every official has a specialized task and follows clear, written rules.
22. **d) A is false but R is true.** *Justification:* Weber did not focus on objective laws like natural sciences; he emphasized that social science must account for the subjective meanings of human action.