



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

TERM 1: Chapter 1- Sociology & Society

Q&A

MAIN SUBTOPICS IN THIS CHAPTER:

- INTRODUCTION
- THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION
- PLURALITIES AND INEQUALITIES IN SOCIETY
- INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGY
- SOCIOLOGY AND COMMON SENSE
- INTELLECTUAL IDEAS THAT WENT INTO MAKING SOCIOLOGY
- MATERIAL ISSUES THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF SOCIOLOGY
- BEGINNING AND GROWTH OF SOCIOLOGY IN EUROPE
- GROWTH OF SOCIOLOGY IN INDIA
- SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY AND ITS RELATION TO OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES (ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY)



1) What is Sociology? (2mks)

- Sociology is a scientific and comprehensive study of human society.
- The very origin of the word 'Sociology' comes from the Latin word 'Socius' (companion) and the Greek word Ology (study of), to indicate its nature as a hybrid discipline.
- August Comte, a French philosopher coined the term Sociology in 1838 and called it the science of human associations. He is known as the 'Father of Sociology'. The contributions of Durkheim, Spencer and Max Weber is significant to develop Sociology as a separate discipline.

Q2. State main features of Sociology (4mks)

Answer:

- Sociology is a social science.
- It is a pure science, not an applied science.
- It is a categorical science, not a normative science.
- Sociology is a general science.
- It is both rational and empirical science.
- Culture, social organization, social institution and social structure are the subject matters of sociology.
- Sociology is a science of generalization rather than specialization.

Q3. What is the sociological imagination? Explain with an example (4mks)

The **sociological imagination** is a concept developed by sociologist **C. Wright Mills**. It refers to the ability to see the connection between **personal experiences** and **larger social structures or historical forces**. In simple terms, it's about understanding how your personal life is shaped by broader societal patterns.

Example:

Imagine someone **loses their job** and feels like a personal failure. Using the sociological imagination, we would ask:

- Is this person the only one losing a job right now?
- Is there a trend in the economy that's causing job losses?
- Are certain industries or groups more affected?
- How do education, race, gender, or geography play into job opportunities?

Q4. Discuss the pluralistic perspective of a society (2mks)

Ans: Society can be understood better as a group of people who are interacting, interdependent, have a structure and follow a similar cultural pattern. Each society is unique. A pluralistic perspective views society as a diverse, democratic coexistence of multiple distinct groups—defined by culture, belief, or interest—that actively participate in governance and social life. It emphasizes that power is dispersed, not concentrated in an elite, allowing competition and compromise to drive policies for the common good.

Q5. How is sociological knowledge different from common sense observations. Explain with suitable examples (4mks)

1. **Basic Difference** : Sociology and common sense may appear similar, but they differ in **aim, purpose, and approach**.

2. **Nature of Knowledge**:

- Sociology uses a **scientific and logical approach** to understand society.
- Common sense is based on **personal experiences and beliefs**.

3. **Scope**:

- Sociology provides **systematic and general explanations**.
- Common sense is **limited and may apply only to specific situations or groups**.

4. **Function**:

- Common sense describes **existing conditions** in society.

- Sociology goes further to **analyze, explain, and suggest changes**.

5. Relationship between the Two

- Common sense may help **identify problems**.
- Sociology helps in **understanding causes and finding solutions**.

Q6: How did Darwin's ideas influence early sociological thought? (2mks)

Ans: Darwin's ideas of organic evolution influenced early sociology by encouraging scholars to view society as a system of interrelated parts, similar to a living organism. Each part was seen as performing a specific function, which shaped the study of social institutions and structures like family, school, and stratification.

Q7. In what ways did the Industrial Revolution lead to the birth of Sociology in Europe? (6mks)

- The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the late **18th and early 19th centuries**. It marked the beginning of the **scientific age** and led to **changes in social lives** of people.
- Before industrialization the **rural sector** was important. The chief occupation was farming and weaving. Society was **hierarchical, status and class conscious**. People worked according to their needs, factors like daylight determined work patterns and deadlines were flexible if they were social functions and duties to perform.
- **Industrialization** meant there was a **systematic application of science and technology**. Huge factories were set up for large-scale production of goods like textiles and iron and steel. New forms of economic activity **gave rise to capitalism** as the **pursuit of profit** was geared to markets in distant colonies.
- There was a **dramatic change in social life** as a new working class emerged. Farmers **migrated** to industrial cities, which were characterized by overcrowded housing, poor sanitation and general squalor.
- An indicator of this new society was the **emergence of "clock time"**. The tempo of work was set by the clock and calendar. Factory production meant that work began punctually and people worked in shifts for set hours and were paid according to what they produced.
- Karl Marx and Durkheim were appalled at the **degradation of factory workers** and became concerned with the scientific analysis of developments in industrial society. **Sociology was born** as a result of this as it was based on the understanding of "science of a new modern industrial world".

Q7. List any two consequences of urbanization (2mks) Ans: Urbanization involved an increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. Urbanization occurs because people move from rural areas (countryside) to urban areas (towns and cities). In many parts of the world, industrialization resulted in urbanization. Two of its consequences were:

- **poor living conditions** of people who had migrated to cities in search of jobs and
- **new significance of clock time** as the basis of social organization

Q8. What is capitalism? (2mks) Ans: Capitalism is a system of economic enterprise based on market exchange. 'Capital' refers to any asset, including money, property and machines, which can be used to produce commodities for sale or invested in a market with the hope of achieving a profit. This system rests on the private ownership of assets and the means of production.

Q9. What were the reasons for the critical condition of the Indian craftsmen during colonialism? (4mks)

Ans: The British Govt had a profound effect on the Indian economy in all policies implemented. The traditional structure of the economy had been completely modified and it had become a colonial economy that had been signed off for the needs of Britain's newly emerging industrial economy.

Reasons for the critical condition of Indian craftsmen during the colonial period were as follows:

- Under the colonial rule, the Indian artistic crafts which made the nation famous had collapsed. **This was primarily because of the competition of products imported from Britain made by machines. The ability to produce massive products** helped Britain flood the Indian market, particularly with cotton textiles & other cheap products.
- Many craftsmen were obliged to give up their ancient trades. The UK exported cotton-like "raw materials" from India. The Indian weaver therefore had to purchase **these products at a higher price. As compared to machine made goods, this resulted in increased the cost of Indian crafts. In the British market**, Indian goods also were subject to high tariffs, while British goods acquired "duty-free access" in the Indian markets.

Q10. Discuss the emergence of Sociology in India (Read only)

- During the course of their rule in India, the British officials realized that for smooth administration, it was important that they acquire knowledge of Indian society and culture. This prompted the origin of Sociology in India.
- Western sociological writings about Indian society were sometimes misleading. For instance, the understanding and portrayal of the Indian village was unchanging. Many Indian scholars thus, took to sociological studies to close such gaps.
- The diversified nature of the Indian society in terms of region, language, religion, ethnicity, caste, etc. also led to the growth of sociology in India in connection with the discipline of social anthropology. This is a characteristic feature different from that of the western countries where both disciplines have been kept distinct from each other.
- Indian sociologists realized that the transformation process of contemporary Indian society is different from that of the western society. Modernity as understood in the western European society is the outcome of scientific process and democratic ideas. Whereas the same process of modernity was introduced in Indian society under the colonial regime.

Q11. Discuss the relationship between Sociology and Economics (4mks)

The points below explain the relationship between Sociology & Economics:

- **Scope of Study:** Sociology studies society as a whole, including all social relationships and institutions, whereas Economics focuses specifically on the economic aspects of human behavior such as production, distribution, and consumption.
- **Nature of Discipline:** Sociology is a broad and general social science, while Economics is a specialized science dealing with economic activities of individuals and societies.
- **Approach to Study:** Sociology adopts a **collectivistic approach**, studying groups, communities, and social systems. In contrast, Economics generally follows an **individualistic approach**, focusing on individual choices and decision-making.
- **Methods Used:** Economics relies heavily on **quantitative and statistical methods**. Sociology uses a combination of **qualitative and quantitative methods**, including inductive and deductive reasoning.
- **Interdependence:** Economic phenomena are deeply influenced by social factors such as culture, norms, and values. At the same time, economic activities shape and transform social structures, relationships, and needs. Thus, both disciplines are closely interrelated and interdependent.

Q12. How Sociology and Political Science are related to each other? (4mks)

Answer: The points below explain how Political Science and Sociology are related to each other:

- **Scope of Study:** Sociology studies power within a broader social context (e.g., during elections and within society), whereas Political Science focuses specifically on political systems, governance, and state-related activities.
- **Focus of Analysis:** Political Science is largely restricted to the study of formal organizations and institutions such as the state, government, and political parties. In contrast, Sociology examines the behavior of people in power as well as those affected by power.

- **Nature of Relationships Studied:** Sociology emphasizes the study of interpersonal relationships and the interaction between political institutions and other social institutions like family, religion, and economy.
- **Primary Objective:** The main task of Political Science is to study political behaviour and systems. Sociology, however, aims to develop a broader understanding that explains both social and political behaviour along with their consequences.
- **Interdependence in Real Life:** Many areas of social life require both sociological and political perspectives. For example, the implementation of laws and their impact on people can only be fully understood by combining insights from both disciplines.

Q13. Discuss the relationship between Sociology and History (4mks)

Answer: The points below explain the relationship between Sociology & History:

- **Nature of Study:** Sociology studies society with an emphasis on social relationships and processes, including historical influences. In contrast, History is primarily a compilation and study of past events.
- **Time Orientation:** History focuses mainly on the past, whereas Sociology is concerned with contemporary society as well as the recent past.
- **Approach and Objective:** Historians aim to describe and reconstruct events to understand what actually happened. Sociologists, on the other hand, analyze social phenomena to establish patterns and causal relationships.
- **Scope of Analysis (Traditional vs. Modern):** Traditionally, History focused on kings, wars, and political events. However, modern History has become more sociological in nature, emphasizing social history.
- **Areas of Overlap:** Contemporary historical studies include social patterns, gender relations, customs, and institutions, showing a close connection with Sociology in understanding society beyond just political events.

Q14. What is the relationship between Psychology & Sociology? (4mks)

Ans: Psychology is one of the closest subjects to sociology and the relationship between the two can be understood through the following points:

1. **Scope of Study:** Psychology focuses on the study of the individual mind and behaviour, whereas Sociology studies society and social relationships.
2. **Nature of Discipline:** Psychology is the science of behaviour, mental processes, and experiences. In contrast, Sociology studies the social behaviour of individuals within a group or society.
3. **Areas of Interest:** Psychology is concerned with aspects such as intelligence, learning, emotions, motivation, and memory. Sociology focuses on social relationships and institutions like family, marriage, kinship, values, and norms.

4. **Level of Analysis:** Psychology examines individual feelings such as hopes, fears, and personal experiences. Sociology studies organized social life through institutions and collective patterns of behaviour.
5. **Link between the Two (Social Psychology):** Social Psychology acts as a bridge between the two disciplines by studying how individuals behave in social contexts and how group dynamics influence individual behaviour.

Q14. How Sociology is related with Social Anthropology? (6mks)

Answer: Relationship between Sociology and Social Anthropology can be understood through the points below:

- **Types of Society:** Sociology emerged as the study of modern, industrial complex societies while Social Anthropology emerged as the study of primitive, simple and small-scale societies.
The anthropologists of the past documented the details of simple societies apparently in a neutral scientific fashion. In practice, however, they were constantly comparing those societies with the model of the western modern societies as a benchmark.
- **Scale of study:** Social anthropology tended to study society (simple societies) in all their aspects, as a whole. In so far, as they specialized, it was on the basis of area. For example, the Andaman Islands. Sociologists study complex societies and would therefore often focus on parts of society like the bureaucracy or religion or caste or a process such as social mobility.
- **Methods of Study:** Social Anthropology has been associated with the ethnographic methods of participant observation. It is characterized by long field work tradition, living in and with the community being studied for a long time and learning their language. Sociologists have often relied on survey methods and quantitative data using statistics and the questionnaire mode.
- **Convergence of Sociology and Social Anthropology:** (4mks) Today the distinction between a simple society and a complex one itself needs major rethinking. India itself is a complex mix of tradition and modernity, of the village and the city, of caste and tribe, of class and community.

-Consequently, there is a coming together of sociology and social anthropology in India. There have been fruitful interchanges between the two disciplines and today often methods and techniques are drawn from both.

-On the other hand, Sociology too has been using quantitative and qualitative techniques, macro and micro approaches for studying the complexities of modern societies.

BRANCHES OF SOCIOLOGY

Micro Sociology

- The study of everyday human behaviour in context of face to face interaction.
- It occurs at the level of individuals or small group.

Macro Sociology

- The study of large scale groups and organisation like political system or the economic order.

Case based Type Questions:

Q1. Darwin's ideas about organic evolution were a dominant influence on early sociological thought.

Society was often compared with living organisms and efforts were made to trace its growth through stages comparable to those of organic life. This way of looking at society as a system of parts, each part playing a given function influenced the study of social institutions like the family or the school and structures such as stratification. We mention this here because the intellectual ideas that went into the making of sociology have a direct bearing on how sociology studies empirical reality.

Read carefully the given paragraph and answer the following questions.

- Write the names of social institutions mentioned in the passage.
 - The family
 - The School
 - The Structures
 - All of the above
- Charles Darwin's ideas about organic evolution tell us that he was a great:
 - Scientist
 - Historian
 - Philosopher
 - None of these
- _____ ideas went into the making of sociology.
 - Realistic
 - Empirical
 - Intellectual
 - None of the above
- Sociology is the study of:
 - Human social behavior
 - Plants and animals
 - Man and environment
 - Earth
- Questions on common sense knowledge lead to the _____.
 - Sociological Knowledge
 - Common sense knowledge
 - Social differentiation
 - Sociological imagination

1. Who wrote the book 'Sociological Imagination'?

a) Auguste Comte b) Karl Marx c) C.W. Mills d) Max Weber

2. The basis of 'common sense' knowledge is

a) Rational thinking b) general understanding

c) empirical investigations d) scientific data

3. Industrial Revolution was characterized by _____

a) migration to cities b) emergence of clock time

c) bad sanitation and general squalor d) all of the above

4. Sociology as a Western discipline emerged in

a) Europe b) Japan c) America d) Asia

5. Who categorized classes based on their relationship to means of production?
a) Max Weber b) Emile Durkheim c) C.W. Mills d) Karl Marx
6. Macro Sociology is the study of –
a) small groups b) large groups c) minorities d) tribal groups
6. Social control brings ____ to society.
a) social order b) deviance c) disobedience d) violence

Assertion Reason Type Questions

1.Assertion (A): The Industrial Revolution was based on a new, dynamic form of economic activity- capitalism

Reason (R: This system of capitalism became the driving force behind the growth of industrial manufacturing.

- a. Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b. Both A & 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

2.Assertion (A): The scope of Sociological study is extremely wide

Reason (R: It can focus its analysis of meaningful interactions between individuals such as shopkeeper, with a customer, between teachers and friends, between two friends and family members.

- a) Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A & 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

3.Assertion (A): The scope of sociological study is extremely wide

Reason (R: It can focus its analysis on individual, national and global issues as well.

- Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- Both A & R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true
