Main sub topics:

- Social change
- Environment, Technology & economy, Politics & Culture
- Social Order
- Contestation, Crime & Violence
- Social order and change in village, town and city
- Social order and social change in rural areas
- Social order and social change in urban areas

Very Short Answer Type Questions on the sub-topic Social Change

Question 1: Define social change or what do you understand by the term social change
Answer: Social change refers to changes that are significant i.e., changes which alter the 'underlying structure of an object or situation over a period of time'.

Question 2: What are the sources of social change?

Ans: There are 5 main sources of social change: environment, technological, political, economic and cultural.

Question 3: Give the meaning of the term evolution

Ans: Evolution is the name given to a kind of change that takes place slowly over a long period of time. This term was made famous by the natural scientist Charles Darwin, who proposed a theory of how living organisms evolve- or change- slowly over several centuries or even millennia, by adapting themselves to natural circumstances.

Question 4: What is revolutionary change? Ans: In contrast to evolutionary change, change that occurs comparatively quickly, even suddenly, is sometimes called 'revolutionary change'. It is used mainly in the political context, when the power structure of society changes very rapidly through the overthrow of former ruling class or group by its changers.

Question 5: Give any two examples of revolutionary change Ans: The French Revolution (1789-93) and the Soviet or Russian Revolution of 1917 are examples of revolutionary changes.

Question 6: Give examples of technological evolution

Ans: The most famous instance of massive and immediately visible social change is the Industrial Revolution. The discovery of steam power allowed emerging forms of large-scale industry to use a source of energy that was not only far stronger than animals or human beings, but was also capable of continuous operation without the need for rest. When harnessed to modes of transport like the steam ship and the railway, it transformed the economy and social geography of the world. Another example closer to home is the case of technological innovations in the textile industry in Britain.

Question 7: What is cultural change?

Ans: Culture is a short label for a wide field of ideas, values, beliefs that are important to people and help shape their lives. Changes in such ideas and beliefs lead naturally to changes in social life.

Question 8: What do you understand by 'universal adult franchise'?

Ans: 'Universal adult franchise' means 'one person, one vote' principle. It is probably the single biggest political change in history.

Question 9: How can technology bring social change?
Answer: Technology refers to the use of sophisticated methods to fulfil material needs which is capable of bringing vast changes in the society.
It changes the simple society into complex one. Social changes due to technology is being labelled as technological revolution.

4mark Questions:

Question 1 (Read only): Would you agree with the statement that rapid social change is a comparatively new phenomenon in human history? Give reasons for your answer.
Answer:

- It is estimated that human beings have existed on planet earth for approximately 500.0 (five lakh) years, but they have had a civilized existence for only about 6.0 years.
- Of these civilized years, it is only in the last 400 years that we have seen constant and rapid changes.
- Even within these years of change, the pace has accelerated only in the last 100 years. Because the speed with which change happens has been increasing steadily, it is probably true that in the last hundred years, change has been faster in the last fifty years than in the first fifty.

- And within the last fifty years the world may have changed more in the last twenty years than in the first thirty years.

Question 2: How is social change to be distinguished from other kinds of change?
Answer:

- Social change is a general term that refers to almost any kind of change not qualified by some other terms, such as economic or political change.
- Social change refers to changes that are significant, changes which alter the underlying structure of an object or situation over a period of time.
- Social change does not include any and all changes, but only changes which transform things fundamentally.
- Social change remains a very broad term. Attempts to further qualify it by its sources or causes: by its nature, or the kind of impact it has on society; and by its pace or speed.

Question 4: Describe some kinds of environment -related social changes
Answer: 1. Nature, ecology and physical environment have always had a significant influence on the structure and shape of society.

2. This was particularly true in the past when human beings were unable to control or overcome the effects of nature. For example, people living in a desert environment were unable to practice settled agriculture of the sort that was possible in the plains, near rivers and so on. So, the kind of food they ate or the clothes they wore, the way they earned their livelihood, their patterns of social interaction were all determined to a large extent by the physical and climatic conditions of their environment.

3. Sudden and catastrophic events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, or tidal waves (like the tsunami that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Andaman Islands and parts of Tamil Nadu in December 2004) can change societies quite drastically. These changes are often irreversible, that is, they are permanent and don't allow a return to the way things were.

4. There are numerous instances of natural disasters leading to total transformation and sometimes total destruction of societies in history. Environmental or ecological factors need not only be destructive to cause change, they can be constructive as well. For example- the discovery of oil in countries of the middle east.

Question 5: "Society is not static phenomenon, instead it is subject to constant change." Discuss.
Answer: Social change is inevitable in social life and relationship. Evolutionary theories views society as moving in a definite direction and cause changes. Social changes may occur in the internal or external aspects of the structure of society.

External change also referred exogenous change relate to changes in forms of family, marriage, class, caste and kinship etc.

Internal changes also referred to as endogenous change relate to changes in the norms and values of the society.

The rate of change of internal aspects is always slow because the social norms, values and belief gradually become part of the core of personality.

6 marks questions on Social change:

Question 1: What are some kinds of changes brought about by technology and the economy?
Answer: 1. The combination of technological and economic change has been responsible for immense social changes, especially in the modern period.

2. Technology affects society in a wide variety of ways. As seen above, it can help us to resist, control, adapt to or harness nature in different ways. In combination with the very powerful institution of the market, technological change can be as impressive in its social impact as natural factors like a tsunami or the discovery of oil.

3. The discovery of steam power allowed emerging forms of large-scale industry to make use of a source of energy that was not only far stronger than animals or human beings, but was also capable of continuous operation without the need for rest.

4. Modes of transport like the steam, ship and the railways transformed the economy and social geography of the world.

5. The rail, road enabled the westward expansion of industry and trade on the American continent and in Asia. In India too, the railways have played a very important role in shaping the economy, especially in the first century after their introduction in 1853.

6. Steamships made ocean voyages much faster and much more reliable, thereby changing the dynamics of international trade and migration. Both these developments created gigantic ripples of change which affected not only the economy but also the social, cultural and demographic dimensions of world 3 society.

7. Sometimes, the social impact of technological changes become visible only retrospectively. A technological invention or discovery may produce limited immediate effects, as though it were lying dormant. Some later change in the economic context may suddenly change the social significance of the same invention and give it recognition as a historic event. Examples of this are the discovery of gunpowder and writing paper in China, which had only limited impact for centuries until they were inserted into the context of modernizing Western Europe.

8. From that vantage point, given the advantage of enabling circumstances, gunpowder helped to transform the technology of warfare and the paper-print revolution changed society forever.

9. Sometimes changes in economic organization that are not directly technological can also change society. In a well-known historical example, plantation agriculture, that is, the growing of single cash crops like sugarcane, tea or cotton on a large scale created a heavy demand for labour.

10. In India, too, the tea plantations of Assam involved the forced migration of labour from Eastern India (specially the Adivasi areas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh).

Question 2: What do you understand by 'structural change'? Explain with examples other than those in the text.
Answer:

- Structural change refers to transformations in the structure of society- to its institutions or the rules by which these institutions are run.
- For example, the emergence of paper money as currency marked a major change. in the organization of financial markets and transactions. Until this change came about, most forms of currency involved precious metals like gold and silver.
- The value of the coin was directly linked to the value of the gold or silver it contained.
- By contrast, the value of a paper currency note has no relationship to the value of the paper it is printed on, or the cost of its printing.
- The idea behind paper money was that a medium or means for facilitating the exchange of goods and services need not itself be intrinsically valuable. As long as it represents values convincingly i.e., as long as it inspires trust – almost anything can function as money.
- Changes in values and beliefs can also lead to social change.
- For example, changes in the ideas and childhood have brought about many types of social changes. There was a time when children were simply considered small adults. There was no special concept of childhood as such with its associated notions of what was right or wrong for children to do.
- As late as in 19th century, for example, it was considered good and proper that children do work as soon as they are able to. Children were often helping their families at work from the age of five or six; the early factory system depended on the labour of children.
- It was during the 19th and early 20th centuries that ideas of childhood as a special stage in life gained influence and it was unthinkable for small children to be at work. Many countries passed laws banning child labour.

Question 3: How do demographic factors, education and social legislation cause social change?
Answer:

-Population growth, its size and composition cause social change. When population starts multiplying, unemployment, housing, cleanliness and hygiene, poor economic condition, severe stress due to competition.

Education is one of the core factors which has far reaching consequences on the evolution and progress of individual and society by and large. Modern educational system aims at imparting empirical knowledge. Education enables the members to participate effectively in social domains.

-Education can bring radical changes in the status of women. Modern education has brought significant changes in customs, traditions, superstitions and beliefs of people in the society.

-Social legislation has brought significant changes in society if it is supported by social opinion.

-After independence in India many legislations have been passed. Of the many, a few could bring about significant changes e.g. legislation related to SCs and STs. But there are many which are implemented. It could not bring about significant changes particularly in the rural society like 'Sharda Act' related to child marriage.

It is in all these ways that social change is brought about due to demographic factors, education and social legislation.

QUESTIONS ON SOCIAL ORDER

Question 1: What is meant by social order and how is it maintained? (6marks)
Answer:

- Social order, is the tendency within established social systems to resist and regulate change. Social order prevents, discourages, or at least controls change.
- In order to establish itself as a strong and viable social system, every society must be able to reproduce itself over time and maintain its stability. Stability requires that things continue more or less as they are – that people continue to follow the same rules, that similar actions produce similar results, and more generally, that individuals and institutions behave in a fairly predictable manner.
- The ruling or dominant groups in society generally resist any social changes that may alter their status, because they have a vested interest in stability. On the other hand, the subordinated or oppressed groups have a vested interest in change. 'Normal' conditions usually favour the rich and powerful, and they are able to resist change.

- Socialization may be more or less efficient in different contexts, but however efficient it is, it can never completely erase the will of the individual.
- While socialization does take on much of the burden of producing social order, it is never enough by itself.
- Thus, most modern societies must also depend on some form of power or coercion to ensure that institutions and individuals conform to established social norms.

Question 2: What is authority and how is it related to domination and the law? (6marks)
Answer: **Authority** is defined by Max Weber as **legitimate power**, that is, power considered to be justified or proper. For example, a police officer, a judge, or a school teacher all exercise different kinds of authority as part of their jobs.

- This authority is explicitly provided to them by their official job description. There are written documents specifying their authority, and what they may and may not do.
- A **law** is an explicitly codified norm or rule. It is usually written down, and there are laws that specify how laws are to be made or changed, or what is to be done if someone violates them.
- Law forms the formal body of rules according to which society will be governed. Laws apply to all citizens. Whether or not I as an individual agree with a particular law, it has binding force on me as a citizen, and on all other citizens similarly regardless of their beliefs.
- **Domination** works through power, but much of this power is actually legitimate power or authority a large part of which is codified in law.
- **Consent and cooperation** are obtained on a regular and reliable basis because of the backing of this structure of legitimation and formal institutional support. This does not exhaust the domain of power or domination – there are many kinds of power that are effective in society even though they are illegitimate, or if legitimate are not codified in law.

Question 3: How are a village, town and city distinguished from each other? (4marks)
Answer:

Villages are a unit of the rural community, where rural life upholds itself and perform its functions. It is simple community based on agriculture. Villages are the end product of nomadic ways of life based on hunting, gathering food and transient agriculture to a more settled form of life. Social changes are slow and gradual.

In contrast, a **city** has a large population, high density of population, heterogeneity predominantly engaged in non-agricultural occupations. Their life is complex and multidimensional. These are mostly commercial hubs. Social changes in cities are quick and drastic.

A **town** on the other hand is different from a city in terms of its administrative definition. A town and city are basically the same sort of settlement, differentiated by size- a town being much smaller than a city.

Question 4: What are some features of social order in rural areas? (6 marks, any 4 points-4marks)

Answer:

- Villages are **small in size** so they usually permit more **personalized relationships**; it is not unusual for members of a village to know all or most other members by sight.
- The **social structure** in villages tends to follow a more **traditional pattern**: institutions like caste, religion, and other forms of customary or traditional social practices are stronger here.
- For these reasons, unless there are special circumstances that make for an exception, **change is slower** to arrive in villages than in towns.
- The **subordinate sections of society** have much less scope for expressing themselves in rural areas than their counterparts in cities. The lack of anonymity and distance in the village makes it difficult for people to dissent because they can be easily identified and 'taught a lesson' by the dominant sections.
- The **relative power of the dominant sections** is much more because they control most avenues of employment, and most resources of all kinds, so the poor have to depend on the dominant sections since there are no alternative sources of employment.
- If there is a **strong power structure** already in place in a village, it is **very difficult to dislodge it**. Change in the sense of shifts in power are thus slow and late to arrive in rural areas because the social order is stronger and more resilient.
- Change of other sorts is also slow to come because **villages are scattered** and not as well connected to the rest of the world as cities and towns are.
- **Communication links** of other sorts (road, rail) have also generally **improved** over time so that a few villages can really claim to be 'isolated' or 'remote'.

Question 4: What are some features of social order in urban areas?

Answer:

- **High population density** places a great premium on space and creates very **complex problems of logistics**. It is the primary task of the urban social order to ensure the spatial viability of the city.
- This means the **organization and management of things** like: housing and residential patterns; mass transit systems for transporting, large number of workers to and from for work; arranging for the coexistence of residential, public and industrial land-use zones.
- All the **public health, sanitation, policing**, public safety and monitoring are needs of **urban governance.** These function as a huge undertaking in itself and present formidable challenges of planning, implementation and maintenance.
- The **divisions and tensions of class, ethnicity, religion, caste** and so on are also present and active.
- **Lack of housing for the poor leads to homelessness**, and the phenomenon of 'street people' – those who live and survive on the streets and footpaths, under

bridges and flyovers, abandoned buildings and other empty spaces. It is also the leading cause for the emergence of slums.

- **Because of the absence of 'settled' property rights** of the kind seen elsewhere, slums are the natural breeding ground for 'dadas' and strongmen who impose their authority on the people who live there.

Short Answer Type Questions on the sub topic of Social order

Question 1: Define authority.
Answer: Authority refers to a person who has inherent power to give reward and punishment. According to Max Weber, authority refers to legitimate power.

Question 2: What is traditional authority?
Answer: Traditional authority emphasises on social values, beliefs and continuity. Family based on kinship are its example.
It maintains the social order and brings desired changes according to social demands.

Question 3: What is conformity?
Answer:
Conformity is a type of social influence in which individuals change their attitude or behaviour in order to adhere to existing social norms.

Question 4: What do you understand by Ghettoisation?
Answer: Ghettoisation is the process of creation of ghettoes through the conversion of mixed composition neighbourhoods into single community neighbourhoods.

Question 5: What is contestation?
Answer:
It refers to broad forms of insistent disagreement. It is a situation in which people tend to protest against or refuse to conform to existing social norms.

Question 6: What is city?
Ans: A city is the core of metropolitan area. It has a large population, high density of population, heterogeneity, predominantly engaged in non-agricultural occupations.

Question 7: What is a suburb?
Answer: A suburb is a community situated just on the outskirt of a city having low population density and smaller population. It is located in the metropolitan area.

Question 8: Explain why urban areas can be a site for communal tensions? (2mks)

- **Residential areas in cities** all over the world are almost always **segregated by class, and often also by race, ethnicity, religion** and other such variables. Tension

between such identities cause these segregation patterns and are also a consequence.

- For example, in India, communal tensions between religious communities, most commonly Hindus and Muslims, results in the conversion of mixed neighbourhoods into single-community ones.

Question 9: Explain the phenomenon of 'gated communities' found in Indian cities.

The worldwide phenomenon of **'gated communities'** is also found in Indian cities. This refers to the creation of affluent neighbourhoods that are separated from their surroundings by walls and gates, with controlled entry and exit. Such communities also have their own parallel civic facilities, such as water and electricity supply, policing and security.

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct option:

a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and R is the correct explanation of A

b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (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

1. Assertion (A): Dominant groups usually resist social change.

   Reason (R): They benefit from the existing social order.

2. Assertion (A): Socialisation alone can fully guarantee social order.

   Reason (R): Individuals always internalise norms completely.

3. Assertion (A): Authority is a form of legitimate power.

   Reason (R): Authority always comes from written legal rules.

4. Assertion (A): Cities face more social order challenges than villages.

   Reason (R): Higher population density creates complex issues related to space and management.

5. Assertion (A): Crime is any act that breaks an existing law.

   Reason (R): All crimes are morally wrong.

6. Assertion (A): Violence marks the breakdown of social order.

   Reason (R): The state alone has the monopoly over legitimate violence.

7. Assertion (A): Change is slower in rural areas.

   Reason (R): Traditional institutions like caste and religion are stronger in villages.

8. Assertion (A): Slums often develop due to housing shortages in urban areas.

   Reason (R): Urban land is limited and expensive, pushing the poor to settle in informal housing.

9. Assertion (A): Public transport systems influence social life in cities.

   Reason (R): Efficient transport reduces congestion and improves quality of life.

10. Assertion (A): Dominant castes gained power after land reforms.

    Reason (R): Ownership of land was transferred from absentee landlords to intermediate castes.

11. Social order is maintained mainly through:

a. Coercion only

b. Law alone

c. Individual choice

d. Socialisation and power

12. Domination refers to:

a. Stable power relations accepted by subordinates

b. Temporary exercise of power

c. Unstable and violent power

d. Illegal forms of rule

13. A modern state is defined partly by its monopoly over:

a. Taxes

b. Property

c. Legitimate violence

d. Public welfare

14. A slum is BEST described as:

a. A temporary shelter

b. A congested locality lacking proper civic facilities

c. Low-income high-rise housing

d. Migrant camps

15. Gentrification involves:

a. Decline of wealthy neighbourhoods

b. Flooding of rural migrants into cities

c. Conversion of poor neighbourhoods into wealthier areas

d. Creation of industrial zones

16. Which factor increases resistance to change in villages?

a. Strong traditional norms

b. High anonymity

c. Rapid communication systems

d. Mixed population distribution

17. Which of these is NOT a reason for slow mobilisation in villages?

a. Lack of anonymity

b. Strong dominance of elites

c. Small population

d. Abundance of alternative employment sources

18. Urbanisation refers to:

a. Migration from towns to villages

b. Increasing share of population living in cities

c. Growth of agricultural labour

d. Replacement of industry by farming

19. Which of the following BEST describes a gated community?

a. Elite neighbourhood with controlled access

b. Housing for migrant workers

c. Unregulated informal settlement

d. Temporary settlement for displaced people

20. In urban transport, reliance on private vehicles mainly leads to:

a. Lower pollution

b. Less traffic congestion

c. Higher congestion and pollution

d. Better road discipline

21. The dominant feature of rural social structure is:

a. Industrial labour

b. Caste-based relations

c. High anonymity

d. Large-scale factories

22. The primary cause of slum formation is:

a. Surplus agricultural production

b. Low urban migration

c. Excessive public facilities

d. Shortage of affordable urban housing

23. Which statement about urban housing is correct?

a. Cities always have enough housing

b. Housing shortages do not affect social order

c. Housing distribution is linked to class and income

d. Housing has no impact on transport

24. The inability of socialisation to produce perfect conformity is because:

a. Individuals question and reinterpret norms

b. Individuals lack independent thought

c. Norms never change

d. Children never learn social rules

25. Which of the following increases the complexity of urban governance?

a. Homogeneous population

b. Low competition for space

c. High density and diversity

d. Traditional occupations

26. "Street people" refers to:

a. Only beggars

b. Daily wage labourers

c. Vendors selling goods on roads

d. People who live on streets due to lack of housing

27. Contestation refers to:

a. Complete agreement

b. Insistent disagreement or dissent

c. Criminal violence only

d. Legal reform

28. Rural change accelerated in modern times mainly due to:

a. Improved communication and transport

b. Decline of schooling

c. Weakening of political rights

d. Loss of agricultural land alone

29. A metropolitan area includes:

a. Only one large city

b. A city with its suburbs

c. Multiple cities forming a continuous settlement

d. Only rural settlements

30. What directly altered political power in many Indian villages post-Independence?

a. Migration

b. Land reforms

c. Religious reforms

d. Industrialisation

Answer Key

1.a 2.c 3.c 4.a 5.b

6.a 7.a 8.a 9.a 10.a

11.d 12.a 13.c 14.b 15.c

16.a 17.d 18.b 19.a 20.c

21.b 22.d 23.c 24.a 25.c

26.d 27.b 28.a 29.c 30.b