

**Maharashtra State Board**  
**Sociology**  
**Sample Question Paper - 2**  
**Academic Year: 2024-2025**

**Note :**

1. All the questions are compulsory.
2. Figures to the right indicate full marks.
3. Minimum of 4 points are expected for sub-questions of 4 marks.
4. Write answers to each question on a new page.

**Q1. Attempt the following objective type question.**

1. (a) Complete the following by choosing the correct alternative given in the bracket and rewrite it :

1. (a) 1. The Special Marriage Act was passed in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

1. 1950
2. 1952
3. 1954

**Solution**

The Special Marriage Act was passed in the year 1954.

1. (a) 2. Social disparity encourages \_\_\_\_\_.

1. unity
2. divisiveness
3. homogeneity

**Solution**

Social disparity encourages divisiveness.

1. (a) 3. The use of computers to streamline job applications is called \_\_\_\_\_.

1. industrialisation

2. globalisation

3. digitalisation

#### Solution

The use of computers to streamline job applications is called digitalisation.

1. (a) 4. Globalization is basically a \_\_\_\_\_ process.

1. economic

2. political

3. social

#### Solution

Globalization is basically an economic process.

1. (a) 5. In the medieval period, elementary education was imparted in \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Madrasa

2. Maktab

3. Khanqah

#### Solution

In the medieval period, elementary education was imparted in Maktab.

1. (b) Correct the incorrect pair and rewrite it :

1. (b) 1. Correct the incorrect pair and rewrite it.

1. Copying western culture - Modernisation

2. Growth of cities - Urbanisation

3. Increase in production - Industrialisation

4. Radical transformative use of technology - Digitalisation

#### Solution

- **Incorrect Pair:** Copying western culture - Modernisation

- **Correct Pair:** Copying western culture - Westernisation

1. (b) 2. Correct the incorrect pair and rewrite it.

1. Women's Movement – Gender equality
2. International Decade of Women – From 1991-2001
3. Towards Equality – Report on the Status of Women in India
4. Feminist Movements – India after Independence

### Solution

**Wrong pair** - International Decade of Women – From 1991 - 2001

**Correct pair** - International Decade of Women – From 1975 - 1985

1. (b) 3. Correct the incorrect pair and rewrite it.

1. Land Lord - Zamindar
2. Initiative for rural development programme - Community Development Programme
3. The three-tier system of governance - Integrated Rural Development Programme
4. Primary Occupations - Traditional Societies

### Solution

- **Incorrect Pair:** Three-tier system of governance - Integrated Rural Development Programme
- **Correct Pair:** Three-tier system of governance - Panchayati Raj

1. (b) 4. Correct the incorrect pairs and rewrite them.

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - 2009
2. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana - 2015
3. Startup India Initiative - 2016
4. New Education Policy - 2020

### Solution

- **Incorrect Pair:** New Education Policy - 2020
- **Correct Pair:** New Education Policy - 2019

1. (b) 5. Correct the incorrect pair and rewrite it.

1. Tirthankar - Jainism
2. Varna System - Hinduism
3. Langar - Parsi
4. Madrasas - Islam

**Solution**

- **Incorrect Pair:** Langar - Parsi
- **Correct Pair:** Langar - Sikhism

1. (c) Identify the appropriate term for the given option in the box and rewrite it against the given statement :

1. (c) 1. Identify the appropriate term from the given options and rewrite it against the given statement.

Sacred groves in the tribal community.

1. 22<sup>nd</sup> April
2. Gender discrimination
3. Devrai
4. Totalitarianism
5. Egalitarianism
6. class

**Solution**

Sacred groves in the tribal community - **Devrai**

1. (c) 2. Identify the appropriate term from the given options and rewrite it against the given statement.

Worshipping any non-living body in tribals.

1. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
2. Ageing

3. Guru Nanak
4. Guru Govind Singh
5. Westernisation
6. Animatism
7. Naturism

### Solution

Worshipping any non-living body in tribals - **Animatism**

1. (c) 3. Identify the appropriate term from the given options and rewrite it against the given statement.

Instances of white-collar crime.

1. S.A. Dange
2. Urban community
3. Dr. Ambedkar
4. Industrialisation
5. Narcotic drugs
6. Modernisation
7. Medha Patkar

### Solution

Instances of white-collar crime - **Urban community**

1. (c) 4. Identify the appropriate term from the given option in the Options and rewrite It against the given statement.

Leader of Narmada Bachao Andolan.

1. Class
2. Brahmo Samaj
3. Medha Patkar
4. Urban community



5. Digitalisation
6. Harijan Sevak Sangh

### **Solution**

Leader of Narmada Bachao Andolan - **Medha Patkar**

1. (c) 5. Identify the appropriate term from the given option in the Options and rewrite It against the given statement.

It is an achieved status.

1. **Class**
2. Brahmo Samaj
3. Medha Patkar
4. Urban community
5. Digitalisation
6. Harijan Sevak Sangh

### **Solution**

It is an achieved status - **Class**

1. (d) Correct the underlined words and complete the statement :

1. (d) 1. Correct the underlined word and complete the statement.

Ageing is an artificial process.

### **Solution**

Ageing is a natural process.

1. (d) 2. Correct the underlined word and complete the statement.

The custom of worshipping non-living bodies is called animism.

### **Solution**

The custom of worshipping non-living bodies is called animatism.

1. (d) 3. Correct the underlined word and complete the statement.

Individual status in urban society is mostly ascribed.

### Solution

Individual status in urban society is mostly achieved.

1. (d) 4. Correct the underlined words and complete the statement.

The first Kisan Congress held in 1935 led to the establishment of the United Trade Union Congress.

### Solution

The first Kisan Congress held in 1935 led to the establishment of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS).

1. (d) 5. Correct the underlined word and complete the sentence.

Alcoholics Anonymous helps drug addicts.

### Solution

Alcoholics Anonymous helps alcoholic addicts.

Q2. Write about notes. (Any two) :

2. (a) Write a short note.

Negative effects of digitalisation

### Solution

- i. **Data security:** With the help of digital technology, people can now store enormous amounts of data. These data may be of any kind, including information about an individual's personal life or information about an organization. The storage of all of this data is simple. However, given the rise in cyber threats, there is also a chance that the information will be compromised. If the wrong hands come into contact with the breach, it could result in the company or the individual having too much information. It might be the final straw for the business, regardless of the criminals or terrorists.
- ii. **Terrorism and crime:** The dark web, which is a hub for all kinds of criminals and illicit activities, gives a lot of people on the internet the ability to do anything. It is difficult to identify the person or the entity that may be carrying out this activity because terrorists use the internet to spread their message and promote their organizations on the dark web, where identities can be concealed.

- iii. **The concern for privacy:** With everyone having smartphones today, taking pictures of anything, anywhere, and posting them on social media is incredibly simple. People thus run the risk of having their data stolen or even sold. Controlling personal information is now challenging and occasionally impossible.
- iv. **A social disconnect:** People are now feeling a greater need to spend time online rather than in the real world, social media has lowered peoples' expectations, and the ordinary is no longer ordinary. People are rushing to adapt to a lifestyle that may not even suit them as comparisons to other people's lives have increased. The result of everything is a social disconnect. Several psychological disorders are also caused by it. According to some studies, the excessive use of social media has led to a lack of interpersonal interaction, which has led to many mental illnesses in people, including depression and other types.

2. (b) Write short notes.

Importance of Unity in Diversity

**Solution**

- i. There is a great deal of diversity in India based on region, language, religion, caste, and so on. Despite these differences, there are commonalities that allow us as a nation to combine and recombine. The inner strength of India lies in our ability to accommodate variety and multiplicity within the framework of large unity.
- ii. Unity implies oneness or a sense of oneness meaning integration. The bond of unity in relation to India's heritage in a certain underlying uniformity of life has been reflected in the observations of many foreigners too.
- iii. The concept of secularism in the Indian context is particularly useful. In India, secularism implies respect and tolerance for people of all faiths. As a result, in the context of diversity, every aspect matters, and the sense of unity amongst diversity is critical.
- iv. To strengthen and enrich our cultural heritage.
- v. To protect the multiple diversities of Indian society.
- vi. To protect the Human Rights of all citizens.



- vii. To boost workplace, organizational, and community morale.
- viii. For effective and inclusive communication.
- ix. For conflict resolution.
- x. For peaceful coexistence.
- xi. For the welfare of all people irrespective of caste, creed, sex, gender, race, economic class, culture, etc.
- xii. For the prosperity of our land and its people.

2. (c) Write short notes.

Consequences of industrialisation

### **Solution**

- industrialisation means the process of starting and encouraging heavy industries in society.
- Due to industrialisation, a modern class system has emerged in India.
- A spurt in the growth of factories and industries.
- The development of industries led to the mechanisation of workplaces.
- The emergence of the division of labour and specialization.
- The emergence of automation and mechanisation led to capital intensive.
- The process of industrial growth led to the large-scale emergence of factories.
- This in turn resulted in migration to places nearer the factory sites, leading to the growth of metropolitan cities which has resulted in the breakdown of joint families.

**Q3. Write differences (Any three) :**

3. (a) Write differences.

Rural Community and Urban Community

### Solution

No.	Rural community	Urban community
1.	The rural community lives in villages. They have a sense of togetherness.	The urban community lives in towns, cities, and metros with their different way of life.
2.	Villages are comparatively smaller in size and population density. In the Indian context, it has a population of about 5000.	Urban areas are larger in size and characterized by high population density.
3.	Agriculture is the major occupation in villages. The rural community also engages in pottery, carpentry, smithy, basket weaving, etc.	The occupation is mainly non-agricultural, i.e. based on manufacturing, trade and commerce, services, etc.
4.	The rural community maintains primary relations.	The urban community maintains secondary relations.
5.	The rural community is based on primary relations. The relationship is informal, personal, and inclusive. The 'we feeling' helps to build social cohesiveness.	Urban community is based on secondary relations. The cities are characterized by formal interactions and impersonal relationships. There is a lack of 'we feeling.'
6.	Rural communities have similarities in their ways of thinking, behaving, dressing, acting, and living.	Urban community is heterogenous (people with different social backgrounds live in the same territory).
7.	The rural community is built around the institution of the family.	The urban community has nuclear families. More than the family as a unit, an individual is given more importance.

3. (b) Write differences.

Regionalism and Linguism

### Solution

Regionalism	Linguism
1. Regionalism refers to loyalty to one's own State or region before one's nation. This leads to Inter-State rivalries.	Linguism is a form of excess loyalty towards one's own language. This leads to conflict between people based on language.
2. Regionalism emerges due to the desire for people speaking one language to have one State. There is also a strong urge to give priority to the economic development of one's own region.	In every state, there is one dominant language and other regional languages, linguism emerges if the minorities begin to feel that their interests are being disregarded and their welfare ignored.
3. There is a strong desire to put one's own region's economic development first. Rivalries between states result from this.	Linguism has become more serious and intense in recent years. It has resulted in a distinct form of linguistic nationalism, which can provide sufficient impetus for secession in India.
4. When people of any state feel their regional imbalance and lack of socio-economic development this has led to demand for separate states.	Linguistic minorities feel that they are disregarded, and such narrow outlook results in the ill-treatment of the other linguistic group.
5. Regionalism is a divisive force that creates disrespect for people from other regions of the same country. It interferes with national integration to a great extent when the history of a particular region is glorified.	Linguism divides people based on language. It has led to a definite form of linguistic nationalism which can provide enough fuel for separatism in India.



<p>6. Regionalism has led to regional movements for State rights and militant movements for separatism.</p> <p><b>For example</b>, the Jammu and Kashmir issue, the Punjab problem, the Assam issue, etc.</p>	<p>Linguism has led to the unacceptance of Hindi as an official language of the Union across the country.</p> <p><b>For example</b>, the atrocities committed on linguistic minorities, The language issue is central to the boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka.</p>
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3. (c) Write differences.

Rural economy and Urban economy.

### Solution

Rural economy	Urban economy
1. Rural economy is mainly agrarian in nature.	The urban economy is based on markets and financial systems.
2. The occupation is mainly based on agriculture, pastoralism and allied activities.	The occupation is mainly based on manufacturing, trade and commerce, and professional services.
3. Rural population works in villages under the grim shadow of poverty, unemployment as well as pitiable economic conditions. Rural poor are small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans.	The unemployment rate in urban India is approximately 15 to 25% of the total workforce. The rate of unemployment is higher among the urban educated.
4. Rural communities have less technological advancement and still use traditional farming methods and equipment.	Urban areas experience rapid technological advancement. Because of technological advancement, people live more comfortable lives.



5. The rural economy is based on subsistence. It was previously based on the zamindari system, but it is now transitioning to a market economy.	Cities' economic organisation is based on their market and financial systems. It is a profit-seeking market.
6. Since the rural economy is agrarian, it is dependent on natural resources.	Since markets are profit-driven, the profit motive guides most activities.
7. Occupations are not specialised. Unlike the urban economy, the division of labour is not seen.	Occupations are more specialised. There is a widespread division of labour based on skills and knowledge.

### 3. (d) Write differences.

Tribal community and Rural Community

#### Solution

No.	Tribal community	Rural community
1.	The tribal community lives in clusters (padas), generally located in remote forests and hilly areas.	The rural community lives in villages. They have a sense of togetherness.
2.	They are engaged in occupations such as hunting, fishing, food gathering of forest produce, basket making, weaving, ironsmith etc. They also practice simple agriculture and shifting cultivation.	Agriculture is the major occupation in villages. The rural community also engages in pottery, carpentry, smithy, basket-weaving etc.
3.	They face problems such as alienation from forest land, indebtedness, bonded labour and shifting cultivation.	They face problems such as the strong influence of caste, farmers' suicides, lower status of women and family disputes.
4.	The initiatives such as the construction of hostels for tribal students, research	The initiatives such as Community Development Programme (CDP),

	and training for tribal development, Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) etc. aim at tribal development.	Panchayati Raj (Local Self Government), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) etc. aim at rural development.
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3. (e) Differentiate between:

Language diversity and Regional diversity.

**Solution**

	Language diversity	Regional diversity
(i)	In India, multilingualism is a way of life.	A region is a spatial and temporal construct with some cultural homogeneity. This is referred to as regional diversity.
(ii)	Indian states were organised linguistically in 1956. As a result, residents of a specific state speak a specific language.	People in a geographical area identify with the present through their shared history.
(iii)	India's language policy guarantees linguistic minorities protection.	Each region has its own rich and distinct diversity. People in a region vary in terms of race and ethnicity.
(iv)	India's language policy is pluralistic, emphasising the use of one's mother tongue in administration, education, and other areas of mass communication.	Every region has a distinct history that has shaped its present. In Maharashtra, for example, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's role and significance are well established.

Q4. Explain the following concepts with examples. (Any two) :

4. (a) Write a short note.

Communalism

Explain the following concept with examples.

Communalism

### **Solution**

- i. Communalism refers mainly to loyalty to one's own religion before the nation.
  - ii. In India, many religions co-exist side by side. Although it enriches our cultural heritage, it could also become a cause for separatism.
  - iii. Religious antagonism has posed a serious challenge to national integration in India. Our history is fraught with accounts of frequent conflicts due to religious differences.
  - iv. People belonging to different religions feel that their religion is superior. Moreover, religious fundamentalists try to impose their religious practices on others, which leads to situations of conflict.
  - v. Political manipulation often projects one religion against the other. It has resulted in communal riots, mutual distrust, and disintegration.
  - vi. Large-scale illiteracy and superstitions are also responsible for the rise of communal violence.
  - vii. Whatever may be the cause of conflict, the damage it does to the nation is very deep and far-reaching. This can be explained as follows:
    - a. **Social effects:** Communal conflict creates feelings of deep hatred, bitterness, and antagonism between members of different religions.
    - b. **Economic effects:** Communal conflicts retard economic growth and development. This is because resources may have to be diverted for the damage caused by communal riots and clashes.
    - c. **Political effects:** Communal conflict weakens democracy. On the international front, these conflicts India's image adversely.
  - viii. In short, communal conflict is a displeasing factor that severely affects the unity of the nation.
4. (b) Explain the following concept with examples.

Varna system



### Solution

1. The Varna System during Vedic period referred to the social order or class of people. There was flexibility and fluidity with respect to occupation.
2. It was only towards the end of the Vedic period that Varna turned into a rigid jati (caste) hierarchy based on the ideology of 'purity and pollution'.
3. Notions of purity and pollution continue to be followed in everyday practices such as food and water intake, dressing, occupation, worship, social interactions, travel etc.
4. **For Example -**
  1. **Brahmin** - priests, teachers, intellectuals
  2. **Kshatriya** - rulers and warriors
  3. **Vaishya** - Merchants, traders, farmers
  4. **Shudra** - Menial work
5. The first three varnas began to call themselves the upper varnas. They became the 'twice-born' (dvija) because they were entitled to the initiation ceremony (upanayana).

4. (c) Explain the following concept with example.

Ageing

### Solution 1

Ageing implies changes in the body and mind of a person along with its gradual impact on social life and life style. Ageing is a natural and inevitable process.

**Example:** Transformation of an adult to being an elderly person

### Solution 2

Ageing is universal, it occurs in all members of the population, unlike disease.

**Example:**

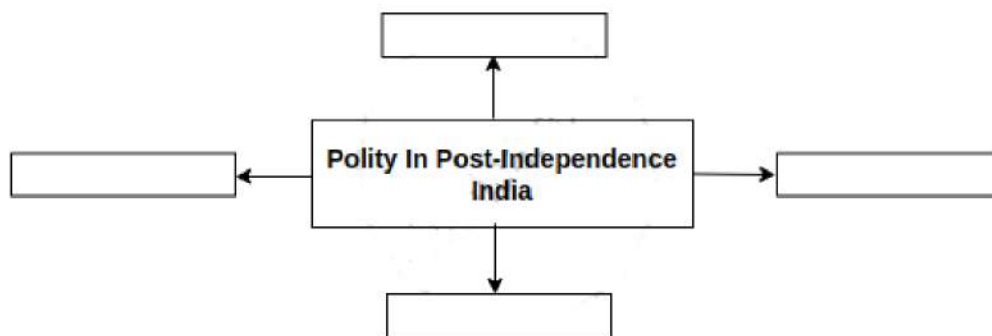
- i. India's population is ageing rapidly as a result of a long-term trend, and as people get older, their physical, mental, and emotional health declines.



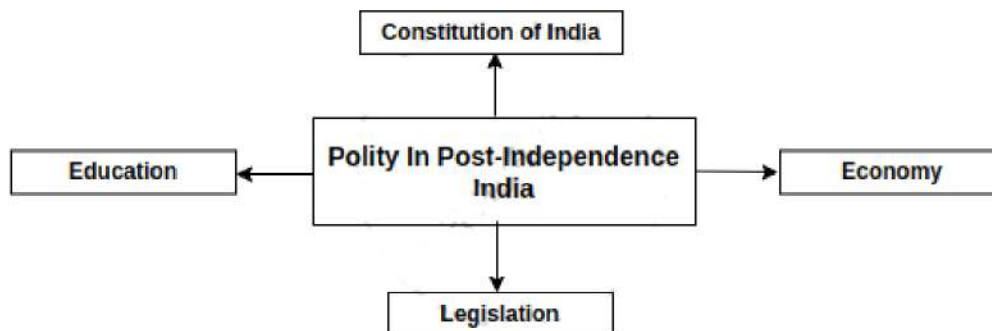
- ii. Elderly people require additional love and care from family members, but instead of this, they increasingly experience loneliness and neglect.
- iii. Elderly people occasionally experience cruelty, abuse, and harassment from family members; sometimes this is due to financial reasons, but there are also other factors that contribute to domestic abuse and violence.
- iv. Additionally, significant mental health problems like anxiety and depression affect older people. The elderly occasionally lack access to either physical or mental health care.

Q5.

5. (a) Complete the concept map:



**Solution**



5. (b) State whether the following statements are true/False With reasons (Any two) :

5. (b) 1. State whether the following statement is True or False with reasons.

Technology is always useful for social progress.

1. True

2. False

### **Solution**

This statement is False.

### **Reason:**

1. Technology is not always beneficial to social progress because it can cause problems in society. Excessive use of mobile phones and the internet can lead to addiction and has several adverse effects. There could also be a misuse of technology. e.g. using satellite images of a region to plan terrorist attacks.
2. Technological development is related to material culture, which is very easy to change, whereas non-material culture is related to the culture's morals, values, and traditions, which are difficult to change. Nonmaterial culture and technological advancement cannot help someone who refuses to accept change.
3. Acceptance of technological advancement by people is also important; otherwise, social progress is useless.
4. Other factors influencing social progress include thought processes, culture, societal population, and so on.

5. (b) 2. State whether the following statement is True or False with reason.

Globalization has created several problems.

1. True

2. False

### **Solution**

This Statement is True.

### **Reason:**

The process of globalisation in the Indian context received an impetus in 1991, when Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister of India put into effect the New Economic Policy. It was popularly called the 'LPG Policy' – Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. It is a process that 'opened up the skies' for Indian economy. India became part of a wider global economic world where there could be free trade, free flow of capital and resources, free enterprise etc. This economic policy brought in much scepticism and criticism. Globalisation has had several positive and negative

consequences. Globalisation also led to increase in production. This in turn has led to large-scale marketisation.

5. (b) 3. State whether the following statement is True or False with reasons.

Economic inequality has no effect on society.

1. True

2. False

### Solution

This statement is **false**.

### Reasons:

- i. If a child falls into the below-poverty line category, the family to which he or she belongs influences his or her choices and opportunities. It may be difficult for parents to provide nutritious food. As a result, inequality emerges.
- ii. The economic state with which one identifies and belongs frequently influence educational differences. Many people cannot attend professional courses, cannot afford private school education and cannot afford an international education. As a result, there is inequality in educational opportunities.
- iii. Opportunities are scarce and difficult to obtain. Individual and group purchasing power determines our consumption patterns and extent of consumption.
- iv. Every person has unique abilities and capacities. These are a result of both our individual potential and our societal experiences. For example, a person may have a talent for art, music or acting. However, there is room for improvement in these abilities/skills; however, it may be impossible to use one's talent for individual or social benefit.

Q6.

6. (a) Read the following passage and answer the question given below :

Read the following passage and answer the question given below:

Education, since the coming of the British to India, has been secular in content. By this we mean the content of education did not include the study of sacred texts. Schools were open for all to learn and climb the ladder of vertical mobility. The study



of the English language as well as the opportunity to study in the English medium was available.

It is true that several Indians from certain social and economic strata were the first to access an English education. Many of them later constituted the intelligentsia of our society. They worked for religious, social, and educational reform in Indian society.

Educational opportunities have grown by leaps and bounds in the last 73 years since Independence. One questions if the educated have merely acquired education or if the education has helped citizens become gainfully employed and more importantly, enlightened enough to transform society at the micro level.

It is necessary for the government to consider the interests of all sections of society. Each citizen can play a dynamic role in the development of all people in our society.

1. Explain: English education is a must in day-to-day life.
2. Each citizen can play a dynamic role in the development of all people in our society. Explain.

### **Solution**

1.

- i. The English language has been recognized as a universal language, and the majority of study materials and literature are available in English.
- ii. English education promotes secularism and progressive ideas, which aid in the provision of equal opportunities to all.
- iii. Because of English education, educational opportunities have expanded over the years.

2.

- i. Educational opportunities have grown by leaps and bounds and education has helped citizens become gainfully employed and more importantly enlightened enough to transform society at the micro level.
- ii. As a result, it is every citizen's responsibility to contribute to the development of society.



- iii. Every citizen plays an equal role in society. As a result, everyone should assist one another in the development process.

6. (b) Give your personal response. (Any one) :

6. (b) 1. Give your personal response.

Why is it important to raise social concerns through social movements?

### **Solution**

1. In democratic societies, collective voice on various issues like rights, welfare, and well-being of people has brought changes in the society.
2. Social movements are collective actions of organised groups who have goals or a demand to change the existent system.
3. For instance, during the women's movement when various issues of consent like equal rights, education, women's empowerment were raised they demanded a change in the existing system of authority.
4. The result of their protest brought various changes. The Constitution of India and Indian law laid down measures for the protection of women's rights, all these have improved the position of women in present times.
5. So, when a social concern is raised through a social movement, it brings about changes in all aspects of society.

6. (b) 2. Give your personal response.

Why is there lack of community feeling in cities?

### **Solution**

In cities, there is a lack of a sense of community. This statement is relevant for a variety of reasons.

- i. People from various backgrounds and cultures reside in cities. The city area becomes more cosmopolitan as a result of their hard work and attempts to raise their standard of living, which makes the people appear to have less of a sense of community.
- ii. People in cities tend to maintain relationships primarily for their second line of work, so there are fewer formal and primary relationships. Therefore, if most

relationships in a community are secondary, then there will undoubtedly be a lack of a sense of community.

- iii. In urban areas, social mobility is widespread. People frequently change their locations and move around, so it stands to reason that they will not be familiar with a given area.
- iv. Because the nuclear family system is prevalent in urban areas, it is clear that residents have less affection for the neighbourhood in which they reside.

**Q7. Answer One of the following questions in detail in about 150 to 200 words :**

**7. (a) Explain the challenges to National Unity.**

### **Solution**

India has always been seen by scholars as a unique example of unity in diversity. The diversities in terms of communities, races, classes, languages, and sub-cultures are bound to pose obstacles to the achievement of national integration.

**The following factors impede the development of national sentiment:**

- i. **Casteism:** Casteism refers to loyalty to one's own caste before loyalty to the nation. Caste ties are so strong that people are inclined to think in terms of caste before the nation.
- ii. **Communalism:** Communalism refers mainly to loyalty to one's own religion before the nation. India is one of the countries in the world where so many religions co-exist side by side. Communal conflict is one of the worst blots on national reputation.
- iii. **Regionalism:** Regionalism refers to loyalty to one's own state or region before one's nation. This interferes with national integration to a great extent. Regionalism emerges due to the desire for people speaking one language to have one state. It leads to Inter-State rivalries.
- iv. **Linguism:** Linguism has its origin in the linguistic division of states and the linguistic minorities within the states. Linguism today has acquired seriousness and intensity. It has led to a definite form of linguistic nationalism which can provide enough impetus for separation in India.
- v. **Economic Inequalities:** In India, all the states are not equal in resources. Management and organization, fertility of the land, distribution of wealth, etc.,



and this leads to economic imbalances. Unequal distribution of wealth within a state causes tension and conflict. Wealth concentration in the hands of a few has an impact on the development of society and prevents healthy competition. So, these are the challenges identified as impediments to national unity.

**7. (b)** Discuss why farmers' suicide is a social problem today. Suggest suitable socio-economic measures to support the farmers.

### **Solution**

In India, Farmers are a significant percentage of the agrarian workforce. The past decade has witnessed an increasing number of farmer suicide. Farmer suicide is a serious social problem.

#### **Causes of farmer's suicide:**

- i. In India, we have in recent times seen instances of flooding and drought simultaneously in different parts of the country and also in Maharashtra. Under such situations, crops get completely destroyed and it creates adverse conditions wherein farmers find it extremely difficult to engage in gainful agricultural activity.
- ii. The impact of globalization has led to increasing in marketization and the resultant rise in consumerism. The dumping of agricultural produce in India due to the free-trade policy has adversely affected the pricing of local products.
- iii. Farmers who take loans from government agencies, private individuals, or organizations, are often unable to repay loans and their interest if the crops fail for one or more seasons. The impoverished farmers live a life steeped in debt.
- iv. Farmers may not be aware of new technologies and farming methods. This lack of awareness becomes an impediment to their progress.

#### **The socio-economic measures to support farmers are as follows:**

1. **Support to farmers in distress:** It is necessary to have support systems to help farmers tide over crises caused by failed monsoons, crop failure, indebtedness, etc.

2. **Water harvesting:** Effective measures for water harvesting and water management are necessary. It will help to use water resources with great discretion.
3. **Insurance:** Life insurance for distressed farmers and their families as well as crop insurance against crop failure, failure of monsoons, destruction of produce by viruses, etc. should be provided.
4. **Multi-cropping:** It is an alternative to monoculture. There also needs to be a strong support system to provide training to farmers as well as supply good quality seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides at subsidized rates.
5. **Provision for direct sales from farmers to buyers:** The middlemen and agents grab a large share of the profits of farming produce leaving a meagre sum, especially for small and marginal farmers. Removal of the middlemen will help to eliminate such exploitation.
6. **Role of banks:** Banks and Cooperative Credit Societies need to set up their systems in farmer-friendly ways so as to discourage borrowings from private money lenders. Banks can also encourage saving habits among farmers.