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SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 2099)

Name of Candidate	Tannu Khanna		
Medium Eng/Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	1051062
Center	Online	Date	4 Sep '22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1 (a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
2 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
3 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
4 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
5(a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
6(a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
7 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
8(a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	

Total Marks Obtained:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. The Candidate should **attempt FIVE Questions out of EIGHT questions** strictly in accordance with the instructions given under each question printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

SECTION - A

1. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

(a) The statement 'Sociology as a discipline stands apart from Psychology', doesn't hold any merit today'. Comment.

Sociology as a discipline focuses on social action and social structures whereas Psychology focuses on the individual and their mental processes.

Sociology and Psychology have come closer in many ways:

↳ Phenomenology : A theoretical framework practiced by Peter Berger, it analyses subjective phenomena and the creation of social structures through them.

↳ Symbolic Interactionism of G.H. Mead delves into an analysis of the mind and creation of the self as social processes, thereby coming very close to Psychology.

However, to say that they are the same, would be an overstatement:

↳ J.S. Mill: He refused to acknowledge the social, and claimed that analysing individual action through Psychology is enough to explain it.

↳ Biological understanding: Psychology focuses on biological knowledge about the brain and its processes whereas Sociology focuses on the action, motives and meanings.

While Sociology and Psychology have both benefitted from interdisciplinarity, they still remain as distinct disciplines.

1. (b) Ethnomethodologists explore the question of how people account for their behaviours. Discuss.

Ethnomethodologists like Harold Garfinkel pay utmost attention to the people's language, their concepts and their culture regarding objects and behaviours.

Rather than creating abstract social structures or interpreting their motives, they explore how the people's common sense accounts for their behaviour. This provides several benefits:

↳ Common Sense drives most of our daily actions, beliefs and relationships.

Exploring it is imperative for a full understanding of it. For eg. Garfinkel's study of suicide by understanding people's beliefs, their routine, etc.

↳ Practical: The research is practical

, grounded in the real world and hence can be very useful. eg. Garfinkel's research was used to design suicide prevention programmes unlike Durkheim's study on suicide.

This method of researching behaviour has some drawbacks:

↳ Only manifest functions can be explored through people's accounts of their behaviour.

↳ It is often called undirected research and may involve significant bias.

Through their studies, ethnomethodologists offer a richer understanding of social behaviour along with positivist, interpretivist and interactionist methods.

1. (c) What is critical social research? Discuss the main features of critical social research.

Critical social research includes all research projects which involve the analysis of high-impact social structures or critical intentions which need to be judged.

The main features of such research are:

↳ Real world impact: The results of the study will be used to design interventions or prevent certain phenomena like violence, suicides, drug use, etc. Therefore, it is not just a theoretical venture.

↳ In collaboration with the state or civil society: These actors use the research to plan their actions which would affect many citizens.

↳ Objectivity: It needs to uphold high standards of objectivity as any bias would severely damage the recipients of future action.

1. (d) Explain the 'latent' and 'Manifest' outcomes of 'work from home' culture.

Work from home culture, a product of the pandemic lockdowns, involves usage of modern communication technology to perform one's work duties.

Its manifest ~~functions~~ outcomes are:

↳ Convenience: By eliminating travel time and office formalities, it has made office work convenient for employees.

↳ Cost-saving: For both employees as well as the company.

↳ Higher productivity is expected of its employees in their comfortable home environment.

↳ Reduce alienation at work by being close to one's family.

However, the latent & outcomes present a different picture:

- ↳ Higher control over employees as they are now perpetually ready to work.
- ↳ Role-conflict at home between being a parent, a spouse, or an employee.
- ↳ Reduced worker collusion: As they cannot socialise at work, discuss their situations and form a worker's consciousness which may harm the company.
- ↳ Increased alienation from work as well as distance from family.

The outcomes of work from home culture have many manifest and latent aspects which are analysed through interpretation and reflexivity.

1. (e) Stratification can weaken social integration by giving a feeling of exclusion to the members of lower strata. Critically evaluate the statement.

Stratification is a process of differentiating people's access to rewards and life-chances by arranging them in a dynamic organisation by ranking.

It has potential to weaken social integration :

↳ Social closure: People at the top of the hierarchy often create barriers and self-perpetuate their hegemony over those positions - leading to a feeling of exclusion. For eg. upper class english educated Indians

↳ Mobility: Through the Oxford Mobility Study, it was shown that mobility is usually only short-range, unlike the promise of modernity and its meritocracy.

However, stratification may prevent this feeling as well:

↳ Aspirational class: Weber's analysis of the new middle class shows a strong aspiration for mobility which is possible through secular and state guaranteed education and employment.

↳ Motivation: According to Davis and Moore, stratification provides motivation for talented people across strata to compete for functionally important positions.

Therefore, while stratification may lead to feelings of exclusion, it also provides opportunities for development unlike strict hierarchies.

4. (a) What is social closure? How social closure is manifested through various forms in society? 20

Social closure is the practice of people in the upper echelons of a stratified society erecting barriers of entry and self-perpetuating their hold over those positions. For eg. Upper class elites in Ivy league schools like Harvard.

Social closure manifests through various forms in society:

↳ Caste: As caste loses its rigid control over its members, the upper castes have resorted to social closure in critical institutions of education, employment, administration. For eg., A recent study that shows the dismally low SC/ST acceptance

rates of the PhD programmes at IITs and IIMs as they involve selection by existing members.

↳ Gender: Through patriarchal structures, men practice social closure in many spheres:

↳ Parliament: Only 14% of LS members are women, as political parties field mainly male candidates.

↳ Education: Women are discouraged from STEM programmes by constant demotivation and hostile environments as a technique of social closure.

↳ Corporations: The 'glass ceiling' as well as the 'glass cliffs' are techniques to prevent women from reaching leadership positions and succeeding.

↳ Class is almost a universal parameter of social closure as according to the elite theory, upper class individuals maintain a hold over powerful positions in the military, administration, and corporations.

↳ Social Capital: Pierre Bourdieu explains through the concept of social and cultural capital - how even in open societies through accumulation of such capitals, the elites put up barriers of entry in upper positions as well as functionally important positions.

↳ Exclusive clubs : Are an age-old form of blatant social closure against any non-upper class citizens of the country.

Social closure enables collusion amongst the elites as well as an informal power to sustain their hold over these positions.

4. (b) 'Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.' Discuss. 20

Research is an adventure, ~~not~~ not through unexplored jungles, but through the mundane, exploring what others may have missed.

The process of sociological research clearly reflects this principle:

↳ Problem formation: Research begins with identifying a problem. It is often built on one's experience or a real world issue. One decides to dive deeper into a concept that everyone sees already. eg. Dumont decides to study features of caste.

↳ Literature analysis: In this part the researcher thoroughly reads

and understands prior research on the subject. This enables them to not only see what others have seen but also explore the unknown that previous researchers have dived into. For eg., Durkheim explores the prevailing theories about explanation of suicide rates.

↳ Hypothesis formation : It is here that the magic begins. Now the researcher has seen what others have seen, and is ready to delve deep into the unknown. The hypothesis guides the research.

For eg., Max Weber hypothesises a causative link between Protestantism and the rise of Capitalism.

↳ Experimental methods : These can be qualitative or quantitative. A quantitative method may show a general pattern with objectivity whereas a qualitative method may show a specific pattern missed by others. For eg. Srinivas' study on the Coorgs of Mysore showing a dynamic and competitive caste structure.

↳ Data Analysis : Here the researcher looks for patterns, correlations, causations among the variables, to discover a relationship. For eg., Durkheim discovers a relationship between prevailing social currents and the rates of suicide.

Ultimately, the research may not reveal a new fact or a new pattern. But each new research is a new way of thinking about the same problem. Fostering this culture leads to seninal works in all fields, propelling us forward as a society.

4. (c) Deviance is relative, wherein deviant today may be considered morally correct tomorrow. Do you agree? Give reasons. 10

Deviance refers to the process of fostering ideas or actions that are considered to be against a community's collective conscience.

Merton's understanding of deviance was a dynamic and contextual one, which posits it as relative, for the following reasons:

↳ It is cultural: And culture is relative. Being homosexual is perfectly acceptable in one culture whereas banned and blasphemous in another.

↳ Cultures evolve over time: As the Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality in 2017, we as a society portrayed our evolution into a progressive

Society which accepts people as they are.

↳ Deviance is on a spectrum : There is an amount of deviance that society tolerates as it is natural for humans to not be mindless rule-following machines.

↳ Deviance may be desirable : Most innovators, social activists are considered deviants, but they are responsible for propelling society forward.

Deviance is relative across time, across cultures and even across people.

Therefore, it must not be accepted or decried fully.

SECTION - B

5. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

(a) How pluralist and elitist perspective differ in their deliberations on state and power?

Pluralist and elitist perspectives offer two alternate explanations of the distribution of power in society.

The elitist perspectives posit power as a zero-sum game:

↳ C. Wright Mills: He posited that power is closed off by institutions of the military, administration, and corporates. The upper echelons of these share power amongst them without letting the people access it.

↳ Pareto and Mosca: Their conception of elites posits a circulation of elites whereby people with residues for power end up holding positions of power in the state regardless of the formal political structure.

Pluralist theories on the other hand conceive power as a non-zero sum game:

↳ functionalists: They posit that the state holds power on behalf of the people and ultimately work towards the people's aspirations as they hold the power to elect them.

↳ post-modernists conceive a diffused distribution of power throughout society and not just the state.

Therefore, pluralists and elites present alternate conceptions of power structures in society.

5. (b) Climate change is deeply intertwined with global patterns of inequality. Comment.

Climate Change is a global emergency and yet some countries suffer more than others. This can be seen through the following effects:

↳ The top 10 countries at risk due to rising sea level contribute to less than 0.1 % of global CO₂ emissions.

↳ Small island states face risk of submergence, rising extreme weather events - and they often don't possess the technology or means to mitigate its impact.

↳ Sustainable development as being pushed by western developed economies onto smaller developing economies leads to obstacles in

development as well as continued prosperity in developed nations.

These impacts clearly showcase patterns of global inequality:

↳ Responsibility: The developed economies created pollution and caused the climate change and now push responsibility on developing economies.

↳ Multilateralism is hijacked by stronger nations, forcing smaller nations to hurt their own public interest.

✱ As per Wallerstein's World Systems Theory, these power structures in the global economy are a deliberate means to perpetrate their powerful sway in geopolitics.

5. (c) Is religion a solution of social problems or a cause of it? Give theoretical strands in support of your answer.

Religion is one of our oldest social institutions, and as such has been analysed by many sociologists.

The following theoretical strands posit it as a solution to social problems:

↳ Durkheim's analysis of religion of the Arunta tribe portrays religion as a strong integrating force. In times of peril due to nature or anxiety, religious rituals offer a way to develop a close-knit integrated community.

↳ Parson's emphasizes religion's role of tension management in society, which is seen in modern revival of sects and cults which apparently help people deal with the tensions of modern life.

However, many posit it as a cause
of social problems:

↳ Conflict theory (Marx) called
religion an 'opium of the masses'.
It prevents true class consciousness
as people ignore worldly oppression
for other-worldly promises of
salvation.

↳ Identity politics is rising in society,
which leads to a breeding ground
for communalism. Tensions, riots,
hate crimes are all caused by such
communal social currents.

Religion is an important social
institution that in many contexts has
been used to cause as well as solve
social problems.

5. (d) Discuss the issues faced by elderly population in contemporary industrialised societies.

The elderly in society are a vulnerable social group which gets larger as societies industrialise.

They face a host of issues:

↳ Loneliness: Due to nuclearisation of families as well as rising individualism, they face unprecedented levels of loneliness, coupled with weak social relations in urban centres.

↳ Economic insecurity: Marx's analysis of labor structures shows that the superstructure supports the base.

Therefore, once people cross the age of productive labor, they are seen as useless by society and not

provided any avenues of development.

In fact, through a dependency culture, they are provided a small pension to barely get by.

↳ Healthcare and disabilities: George Simmel's analysis of mental life in cities shows the effect ~~of~~ on people's mental health. Moreover, they suffer through disabilities that leads to further separation from society.

The disengagement theory posits that it is desirable as old people wish to disengage from society. However, their vulnerability in modern society is unparalleled and must be dealt with.

5. (e) Globalisation is transforming industrial cities and giving rise to global cities. Explain.

The bijnor GIFT city inaugurated recently has been branded as a global city.

This trend is on the rise with the proliferation of globalisation. It can be seen through the following manifestations:

↳ 'Make in India' : Rather than developing industries for domestic needs, there is a push to be a part of global supply chains to invite investment.

↳ Cultural globalisation : with rising cultural contact, workers in industries and their families are becoming global citizens and practicing acculturation with new forms of entertainment, fast food, clothes, etc.

↳ Informalisation: Global industries are also pushing for more informalisation which allows them to hire labor on favorable terms without offering many social security benefits.

↳ Ease of doing business: To attract business, there is a 'race to the bottom' by reducing taxes, reducing environmental regulation and reducing labor protections.

While global cities increase employment, remuneration and trade, their effect on domestic economies and labor must be kept in check.

7. (a) Educational Institutions teaches the skills required by the future capitalist employers through the hidden curriculum. Analyse from Marxist point of view.

20

Education is an important social institution which provides early childhood development, socialisation, skilling as well as personality development of students.

However, the Marxist perspective doesn't see it as just an altruistic functional system for society.

↳ Superstructure: Education is a part of society's superstructure along with the law, religion, the state and much more. The purpose of the superstructure is to support the power structure of the economic

base. This structure is formed by differential ownership of the means of production and the relations of production.

Therefore, education's purpose is to ensure that the 'haves' continue to own the means of production and the 'have-nots' continue to perform their labor without developing a class consciousness.

Educational institutions achieve this by the following methods:

↳ Privatisation of education: By creating exclusive private schools, the upper class bourgeoisie passes on their

Social and cultural capital along with practical state of the art education to enable self-recruitment in industry management as well as administration.

↳ Public schools don't receive the same quality of education or the brand recognition, which keeps lower class people from practicing mobility.

↳ School socialisation : According to Althusser, schools are a great ideological state apparatus. Through censorship and edited textbooks as well as "Deshbhakti" curricula, the state aims to instill nationalism.

in the students.

Along with that schools instill a need for respecting authority without questioning, accepting differential rewards in society due to merit based tests.

All these features create pliable and dedicated potential employers for the industries, which according to Marx is the fundamental purpose of modern education.

7. (b) Discuss the feminist rejection of structural functionalist understanding of family. Illustrate this in context of India. 20

In most sociological analyses of society, either family has been used as an atomic unit or as a functional unit in our social structure.

Some of these are:

↳ Parson's analysis of family as a tool of latency and tension management.

↳ ~~Marx~~ Engel's analysis of family as a means to pass on private property and rising nuclearisation.

↳ Mead's analysis of a development of 'self' through socialisation, primarily by one's family.

However, feminist critical theorists

like Ann Oakley, Sylvia Walby,
Veena Das, Uma Chakraverty and
many more, have analysed the
dysfunctional nature of families
for women and girls.

Their rejection is as follows:

↳ Veena Das' 'devi-dichotomy':

Veena Das mentions how women
treated as devis in our scriptures
are sufferers of constant violence
and abuse in Indian families.

↳ Familial Abuse: In India, 1 in
3 women have faced some form of
~~se~~ violence in their lives, a majority
of which is by their intimate partners.

Families are portrayed as structures

for tension management whereas for women they cause the biggest problems in their life.

↳ Legal conception of families follows a structural-functional approach, therefore women who seek divorce are often not allowed to do it.

In fact, marital rape is still legal in our country, showcasing the bleak protections of women in their own house.

↳ Nutrition and development: Young girls in families face neglect and a shortage of nutrition which reflects poorly on their cognitive development.

Early child marriages exacerbate the problem. A familial structure

which is supposed to prepare a girl
for the future becomes the reason
for her downfall.

Through all these experiences,
family no longer remains a
functionalist structure but a
patriarchal suppression of women.

7. (c) Give a sociological narrative on the role and control of mass media. 10

Mass media is a product of modernity that has enabled an unprecedented level of broadcasting information.

Their role and control is analysed as follows:

↳ Althusser's ideological state apparatus: As channels become privatised, they tend to present one-sided divisive news in order to align people with the state as they fulfil aspirations of the corporations in crony capitalism.
eg. hostile takeover of NDTV by Adani

↳ Echo chambers: As media becomes social media, people can be targeted with news, which ends up creating

echo chambers that are conducive
to development of divisive and
one-sided narratives.

↳ Role of media as the fourth
pillar of democracy is to keep the
state in check and protect public
interest

↳ Fake news : As a tool to spread
~~the~~ communalism and hate.

The media is a great tool to
ensure a politically conscious public
but in the hands of the elite, it
will be used as a tool for self
benefit.

8. (a) Welfare state reflects the collective will and aspirations of the society and work for the betterment of the citizen by empowering them socially and economically. Explain. 20

Welfare states are a modern conception of capitalist economies once it was realised that the benefits in a laissez-faire economy do not trickle-down adequately.

The benefits of a welfare state are multifold:

↳ collective will and aspirations: welfare states are democracies, which according to pluralist theories of power - spread power in society. As such, the people choose the representatives that best envision their goal for society.

↳ Betterment of the citizens: welfare

states recognise several rights of the citizens and promise public services in a fair and just manner.

- ↳ Provide work : For eg. MGNREGA guaranteeing work for all unskilled labourers.
- ↳ Provide social security through minimum wages, pensions, maternity leaves, etc.
- ↳ Skilling through programmes like PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana provide training to citizens to empower them in the job market.
- ↳ Self Help Groups and Cooperatives are encouraged and hand-held by the state so that people can collectivise and empower themselves socially and economically.

These are just some of the welfare measures of the state. However, there are alternate views about welfare states:

↳ Dependency culture: Many argue that welfare creates a dependency culture which disempowers citizens leaving them dependent on state handouts.
eg. ongoing debate on 'freebies'

↳ Marxist views: A.R. Desai argues that it often feels like the state does not truly want to eradicate poverty, but wants to keep them poor to maintain a votebank.

↳ feminist views: Major recipients of such welfare are women, and

many argue that such schemes leave them more vulnerable as patriarchal structures implement them.

While the welfare state is a valuable conception, the definition of true welfare is under strict scrutiny in our zeitgeist.

8. (b) Women are no longer restricted to the domestic hearth, but have the whole society in which to roam and be exploited. Discuss in context of changing nature of Patriarchy.

20

Patriarchy is a resilient social structure that enables domination of men over women or any gender in all spheres of a human life.

Our society has undergone significant changes in the last few decades, which have liberated sections of women from the domestic hearth.

↳ Universal Adult Franchise brought women out to vote and decide their political representatives.

↳ Right to Education brought girls to school.

↳ Reservation in local governing bodies created grassroot democratic women leaders including our president Draupadi Murmu who started her career in the

Ratnangpur Nager Panchayat.

~~However~~ With these changes the patriarchal structure, at least in urban centres, has changed from a rigid one to a more subtle structure.

However, by no means has the structure disappeared:

↳ Rising sexual violence in cities showcases a violent manner of emphatically asserting men's right over the public sphere.

↳ Glass ceilings: in corporations are invisible barriers created by men in higher positions to prevent women from reaching positions of power and challenging patriarchy.

↳ Glass cliffs: In some corporations, women are promoted to higher positions in times of peril so as to pin the blame of failure on them as an easy target.

↳ Development imbalance: Even now, the freedom of women from the domestic hearth is a dream for most. Khap panchayats, bride burning is rampant in many rural areas.

Patriarchy as a structure, rather than resisting modernity, has learnt to adapt to it, thereby creating social closures and a hostile environment for women. Therefore

despite a theoretical freedom, women
are made to feel unwelcome in
all spheres but the domestic one.

Veena Das highlights the hypocrisy
in her theory of the 'devi-didaktomy'.

8. (c) Discuss whether Identity politics is divisive or unifying force through examples. 10

Identity politics is a form of political campaigning and mobilisation whereby the candidate and voter's identity guides their vote as opposed to concrete issues and promises.

It can be a unifying force:

↳ Minorities: In a multicultural society, minorities suffer due to majoritarian decisions. Therefore, the presence of a representative with their identity provides solace and confidence.
eg. Telangana Rashtriya Samithi

↳ Cultural protection: Identity politics guarantees protection of one's culture, be it their language, their food, their beliefs.

eg. Sarna religion politics for tribals

However, it can be a sharp divisive force as well:

↳ Development of communalism, as people believe the interests of other communities are antithetical to theirs. eg. Hindu-Muslim riots

↳ Distraction from social issues like corruption, poverty, hunger as people rally behind their identity.

↳ Mob mentality is aggressive and unaccountable. This is exacerbated by an identity driven mob.

Therefore, identity politics is a double-edged sword that must be used carefully and constructively.