

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-04
Change and Development in Industrial Society

General Instruction:

- Question 1-5 carries two marks each.
 - Question 6-8 carries four marks each.
 - Question 9-10 carries six marks each.
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1. What is 'knowledge economy'?
2. What are some of the problems faced by mine workers?
3. What does trade unions refer to?
4. Differentiate between a strike and a lockout.
5. What were the demands of workers in the Bombay textile strike of 1982?
6. Why are government jobs popular in India? OR What has been the role played by government jobs in Indian industrialization?
7. Describe some of the consequences of industrialisation.
8. What is the impact of 'time slavery' in the IT sector?
9. How are the factory workers recruited?
10. The use of machinery actually deskills workers. Explain.

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-04
Change and Development in Industrial Society

1. Knowledge economy is used to describe the growth of the IT (Information Technology) in India. Many thinkers consider that knowledge-based work like IT leads to greater skills in society. However, others like Harry Braverman argue that the use of machinery actually deskills workers. For example, earlier architects and engineers had to be skilled draughtsmen but now the computer does a lot of work for them and thereby reducing their work skills.
2. Workers in underground mines face very dangerous working conditions, due to flooding, fire, collapse of roofs and sides, the emission of gases and ventilation failures. Many workers develop breathing problems and diseases like tuberculosis and silicosis. Those workers working in over ground mines have to work in both hot sun and rain, and face injuries due to mine blasting and falling objects. The rate of mining accidents in India is very high compared to other countries.
3. Trade unions refer to an organisation of workers that work towards overcoming many problems of workers such as regionalism, casteism and fight for better wages. Many workers are part of trade unions.
4. A strike is called by workers in response to harsh working conditions like low salary and absence of job security and safety of workers. Calling a strike is a difficult situation for the workers as managers may try to use substitute labour. Workers may also find it hard to sustain themselves without wages. On the other hand, lock-out is called by the management. During lock-out the management shuts the gate and prevents workers from coming as they refuse to listen to worker's demands.
5. The workers in the Bombay textile strike of 1982 demanded better wages and also wanted the right to form their own union.
6. After independence, very few Indians have access to secure jobs with benefits. Of those who do, two-thirds work for the government. This is why government jobs are so popular.

The rest are forced to depend on their children in their old age. Government employment in India has played a major role in overcoming boundaries of caste, religion and region. One sociologist has argued that the reason why there have never been communal riots in a place like Bhilai is because the public sector Bhilai Steel Plant employs people from all

over India who work together.

7. Industrialisation in India has both positive and negative consequences.

Firstly, it leads to new job opportunities for many people in urban areas in the service sector like banks, hotels. On the other hand, we see that very few people in India have access to secure jobs, with even the small number in regular salaried employment becoming more insecure due to the rise in contract labour.

Secondly, secure employment in large industry is declining. Though the government is embarking on a policy of land acquisition for industry, these industries do not necessarily provide employment to the people of the surrounding areas, but they cause major pollution. Many farmers, especially adivasis, who constitute approximately 40% of those displaced, are protesting at the low rates of compensation and the fact that they will be forced to become casual labour living and working on the footpaths of India's big cities.

8. The 'time slavery' in the IT sector was subject to Taylorist labour process.

i) Long working hours are central to the industry's 'work culture' and overwork is built into the structure of outsourced projects.

ii) Extended working hours are legitimised by the common management practice of 'flexi-time', which in theory gives the employee freedom to choose his or her working hours (within limits) but which in practice means that they have to work as long as necessary to finish the task at hand.

iii) As a result of these working hours, in places like "Bangalore, Hyderabad and Gurgaon, where many IT firms or call centres are located, shops and restaurants have also changed their opening hours, and are open late.

iv) If both husband and wife work, then children have to be put in crèches. The joint family, which was supposed to have disappeared with industrialisation, seems to have re-emerged, as grandparents are roped in to help with children.

9. Job recruitment as a factory worker takes a different pattern.

i) In the past, many workers got their jobs through contractors or jobbers.

ii) In the Kanpur textile mills, these jobbers were known as mistris, and were themselves workers.

iii) They came from the same regions and communities as the workers, but because they had the owner's backing they bossed over the workers.

iv) On the other hand, the mistri also put community related pressures on the worker.

Nowadays, the importance of the jobber has come down, and both management and

unions play a role in recruiting their own people.

v) Many workers also expect that they can pass on their jobs to their children. Many factories employ badli workers who substitute for regular permanent workers who are on leave.

vi) Many of these badli workers have actually worked for many years for the same company but are not given the same status and security. This is what is called contract work in the organised sector.

10. The famous sociologist Harry Braverman argues that the use of machinery actually deskills workers.

i) For example, whereas earlier architects and engineers had to be skilled draughtsmen, now the computer does a lot of the work for them.

ii) One important debate in sociology is whether industrialisation and the shift to services and knowledge-based work like IT leads to greater skills in society.

iii) We often hear the phrase 'knowledge economy' to describe the growth of IT in India.

iv) But the skills of a farmer who knows how to grow many hundreds of crops relying on his or her understanding of the weather, the soil and the seeds, cannot be compared with the knowledge of a software professional.

v) Both are skilled but in different ways. And, use of machinery deskills such workers as their indigenous knowledge becomes redundant and they become entirely dependent on machines.