

UPSC Mains Sociology Optional Paper-I Syllabus

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

1. Sociology - The Discipline:

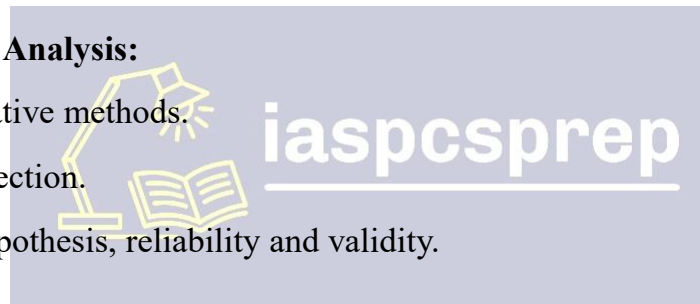
- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

2. Sociology as Science:

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique.
- (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non-positivist methodologies.

3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.



4. Sociological Thinkers:

- (a) Karl Marx -Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- (b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- (c) Max Weber Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- (d) Talcolt Parsons - Social system, pattern variables.
- (e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
- (f) Mead - Self and identity.

5. Stratification and Mobility:

- (a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.
- (b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
- (c) Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.
- (d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

6. Works and Economic Life:

- (a) Social organization of work in different types of society - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society.
- (b) Formal and informal organization of work.
- (c) Labour and society.

7. Politics and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of power.
- (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties.
- (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

8. Religion and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of religion.
- (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage.
- (b) Types and forms of family.
- (c) Lineage and descent.
- (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
- (e) Contemporary trends.

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of social change.
- (b) Development and dependency.
- (c) Agents of social change.
- (d) Education and social change.
- (e) Science, technology and social change.