

## OPSC OCS Sociology Optional Syllabus

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### Paper 1

#### 1. Sociology – The Discipline:

- Sociology as a science and as an interpretative discipline
- Impact of Industrial and French Revolution on the emergence of sociology
- Sociology and its relationship with history, economics, political science, psychology and anthropology

#### 2. Scientific Study of Social Phenomena:

- Problem of objectivity and value neutrality.
- Issue of measurement in social science;
- Elements of scientific method-concepts, theory and fact, hypothesis
- Research designs-descriptive, exploratory and experimental, content analysis.

#### 3. Techniques of data collection and Analysis:

- Participant and quasi-participant observation
- Interview, questionnaire and schedule, case study, sampling-size, reliability and validity, scaling techniques-social distance and Likert scale

#### 4. Pioneering contributions to Sociology:

- **Karl Marx** – Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- **Emile Durkheim** – Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion, and Society.
- **Max Weber**- Social action, Ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- **Talcott Parsons** – Social system, pattern variables.
- **Robert K. Merton**- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.

#### 5. Marriage and Family:

- Types and forms of marriage; family-structure and function
- Personality and socialization
- Social control; family, lineage, descent and property
- Changing structure of family and marriage in modern society; divorce and its implications; role conflicts

#### 6. Social Stratification:

- Concepts-hierarchy, inequality and stratification
- Theories of stratification-Marx, Davis and Moore and Melvin Tumin's critique; forms and functions
- Class, different conceptions of class; class-in-itself and class-for-itself

- Caste and class; caste as a class

#### 7. Social Mobility:

- Types of mobility-open and closed models, Intra-and intergenerational mobility; vertical and horizontal mobility
- Social mobility and social change

#### 8. Economic System:

- Sociological dimensions of economic life
- The impact of economic processes on the larger society
- Social aspects of division of labour and types of exchange
- Features of pre-industrial and industrial economic systems
- Industrialisation and social change
- Social determinants of economic development

#### 9. Political System:

- The nature of power-personal power, community power, power of the elite, class power, organisational power, power of the unorganised masses
- Authority and legitimacy
- Pressure groups and political parties; voting behavior
- Modes of political participation-democratic and authoritarian forms

#### 10. Educational System:

- Education and Culture; equality of educational opportunity
- Social aspects of mass education; problems of universalisation of primary education
- Role of community and state intervention in education
- Education as an instrument of social control and social change
- Education and modernisation

#### 11. Religion:

- Origins of religious beliefs in pre-modern societies
- The sacred and the profane; social functions and dysfunctions of religion
- Monistic and pluralistic religion
- Organised and unorganised religions
- Semitism and antisemitism
- Religion, sect and cults; magic, religion and science

#### 12. Social Change and Gender Issues

- Social construction of gender
- Equality v/s. Differences
- Impact of globalization on women

- Emergence of feminist thought
- Gender issues

## **Paper 2**

### **1. Historical Moorings of the Indian Society:**

- Traditional Hindu social organisation
- Socio-cultural dynamics through the ages
- Impact of Buddhism, Islam, and the West, factors in continuity and change

### **2. Caste System**

- Origin of the caste system
- Cultural and structural views about caste
- Mobility in caste
- Caste among Muslims and Christians
- Change and persistence of caste in modern India
- Issues of equality and social justice
- Views of Gandhi and Ambedkar on caste
- Backward Classes Movement
- Mandal Commission Report and issues of social backwardness and social justice
- Emergence of Dalit consciousness
- Backward caste movement

### **3. Class Structure**

- Class structure in India, agrarian and industrial class structure
- Emergence of middle class
- Emergence of classes among tribes
- Elite formation in India

### **4. Marriage, Family and Kinship**

- Marriage among different religious and tribal groups, its changing trends and its future
- Family-its structural and functional aspects-its changing forms
- Regional variations in kinship systems and its socio-cultural correlate
- Impact of legislation and socio-economic change in marriage and family
- Generation gap

### **5. Agrarian Social Structure**

- Peasant society and agrarian systems
- Land tenure systems-historical perspectives

- Social consequences of land reforms and green revolution
- Feudalism-semi-feudalism debates
- Emerging agrarian class structure
- Peasant movements

#### 6. Industry and Society

- Path of Industrialisation, occupational diversification, trade unions and human relations
- Market economy and its social consequences
- Economic reforms liberalisation, privatisation and globalization

#### 7. Political Processes

- Working of the democratic political system in a traditional society
- Political parties and their social base
- Social structural origins of political elites and their orientations
- Regionalism, pluralism and national unity
- Decentralisation of power
- Panchayati raj and nagarpalikas and 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments

#### 8. Education

- Directive Principles of State Policy and primary education
- Educational inequality and change
- Education and social mobility
- The role of community and state intervention in education
- Universalisation of primary education
- Total Literacy Campaigns
- Educational problems of disadvantaged groups

#### 9. Religion and Society

- Size, growth and regional distribution of different religious groups
- Educational levels of different groups
- Problems of religious minorities
- Communal tensions; secularism
- Conversions
- Religious fundamentalism, religious reform movements

#### 10. Tribal Societies:

- Distinctive features of tribal communities and their geographical spread
- Problems of tribal communities-land alienation, health and nutrition, education
- Tribal development efforts after independence

- Tribal policy-isolation, assimilation and integration
- Issues of tribal identity

### 11. Social Change and Development:

- Endogenous and exogenous sources of change and resistance to change
- Processes of change- sanskritization and modernisation
- Agents of change-mass media, education and communication
- Problems of change and modernisation
- Structural contradictions and breakdowns
- Migration, Determinants and consequences of population growth, population policy and family welfare programmes, child welfare programmes

### 12. Major Social Issues

- Poverty, indebtedness, bonded labour, unemployment, depletion of forests, development related displacement, corruption, alcoholism, AIDS, drug addiction, violence against women, dowry
- Child labour
- Maternal and infant mortality rate in Odisha



**Sleepy Classes IAS**  
Awakening Toppers