



Sleepy Classes IAS

Awakening Toppers

Sociology Test Series

Half-Length Test - 2

Ques 1. To what extent does the concept of the underclass provide a comprehensive understanding of social inequality in contemporary society?

Ques 2. Analyse the impact of 'specialisation' on Labour and Society?

Ques 3. "To what extent does contemporary bureaucracy contribute to or hinder social progress and equitable outcomes in society?"

Ques 4. Difference between Authoritative and Diffused power?

Ques 5. Elucidate how Civil Society is vital for a community. Also, highlight the role of civil society in a democracy.

Ques 6. Write a short note on Feminisation of Poverty.

Ques 7. Discuss how social media platforms have enabled circumvention of authoritarian gatekeeping and brought new voices into the public sphere.

Ques 8. Despite their criminal convictions, why godmen continue to enjoy enormous popularity and moral power. Discuss

Ques 9. Analyse the how concepts of faith and science apply to the health sector.

Ques 10. In what ways has education can be leveraged to promote activism and social accountability at the local level?

(All the Questions shall be answered in not more than 150 words)

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Answer Question in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit for each in the Parenthesis.
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Q1

Underclass was a concept given by Charles Murray to depict those groups of social structure, which face the worst form of social inequality.

→ Underclass - concept presenting extent of societal inequalities

① Natural differences become social inequalities when socially evaluated as per Besseman, this leads to stratification.

② social strata composed of this underclass generally have women & minorities who are beyond social vulnerabilities.

③ They face unequal access to social resources thus aggravating their deprivation.

④ Economic & social deprivation lead to lack of inclusion in services, social activity etc

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this multiple deprivation.

↳ feminization of Poverty as Ruth Lister

discussed. is an effect of this.

↳ Sachae committee presents marginalization

of Muslim community due to lack of socio-

economic capital - Bourdieu

⑤ Women also face Harmonic Inequality -

Beteille - where in their oppression &

deprivation is supported by cultural elements

of patriarchy.

⑥ Religious minorities also go through

status inverts deprivation due to 'status

crystallisation' of majority as majority possesses

all- social, symbolic & cultural capital.

Hence, social mobility & well fairness

is need of the society to curb any anomic behaviour
by these groups.

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Q2

'Specialization' is based on the concept that due to increase in organic solidarity in modernized society, Division of labour has become more specific & complex. Thus it affects labour & society simultaneously.

⇒ Impacts on Labour

① Alienation -

Due to increased specialized, labour is isolated further from one's peers, product, process & oneself. - KARL MARX

(eg) some workers fitting bolt into

Mercedes car is isolated & alienated from process & product

② Compartmentalization of work & rationalized

organization of work → RITZER'S McDonaldization

Although efficient but labour is in 'iron cage of rationality'

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③ Efficient scientific management increases the productivity of labour & standardization.

④ Fordism & Automation changes the nature of labour. ~~from~~ → need for new skills.

→ Impact on society

① Society experiences more organic solidarity & interdependence as per Durkheim.

② Handy, in his "Raincoat" talks about 'skill portfolisation' of the work.

③ Brauerman argued that such specialized organisation of work 'Deskills' the worker further increasing their dependence on capitalisation.

④ However, society experiences more diversified avenues for social mobility.

Hence, specialisation can have functions & dysfunctions.

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Q3

Bureaucracy, is most rational legal authority as per Weber. It is hierarchically designed, rationally organised to fulfill numerous administrative goals & organizational task.

→ It contributes to social progress & equitable outcome -

① Paul Du Gay opined that it is the best form of organisation due to its ethos of equality & impartiality, treats everyone equally irrespective of caste, race religion.

② Weber also applauded bureaucracy for certain characteristics that makes it suitable for contemporary soci. modern society

L Rationality	L Objectivity	} ensure social progress
L stability	L impartiality	

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③ Stewart Clegg argued that bureaucracy is crucial in provision of social services because of its unique role - despite electronic modernization, it is still used to manage everything.

Challenges

① Hampers social progress by adhering strictly to internal rules → 'Iron Cage of rationality' becomes specialists w/o spirit. WEBER

② Red tapism is one of the eg given by Robert Merton in his 'ritualism' typology of deviance, w.r.t bureaucracy.

③ Balzac calls bureaucrats as 'giant pygmies wielding power' (eg) use of discretion for corruption. not for social policy & service.

④ Bureaumania (GOURNAY) (eg) Recently, IAS couple vacated ground for their dog.

Yet, Weber suggests a strong accountability can ensure better bureaucracy.

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Q4

Power is one's ability to influence thoughts & actions of others. It can be exercised in various ways like -

- 1) legal rational - (eg) Bureaucracy.
- 2) Through knowledge & discourse - FOUCAULT
- 3) Ideological apparatus - ALTHUSSER

However, two crucial forms of power given are -

Authoritative

1) This is a form of power that directly wields influence over the subject.

(eg) govt's influencing people to pay tax due to their legal authority

Diffused

1) form of power that is not wielded directly rather its influence is indirectly exercised.

(eg) corporates as pressure groups influencing govt to reduce taxes → indirect authority over people

by making them pay more

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2)
It is explicitly
ordered.

3) It can't be ignored
due to legal backing.

2)
Implicit / hidden
command.

3) can not be followed.
If subjects don't feel
to comply.

Hence, both are understood
as a source of exercising control over
others in social political sphere. but
not as zero sum game of Weber rather
variable sum game of Parsons.

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Q5

Civil society is a community of citizens that voluntary comes together to represent public interest & opinions.

eg) NGOs.

→ Civil society - vital for community

① It helps people to get the rights that are naturally given to them. - LOCKE

eg) Right to life & liberty.

② Community's interests against state & market are ~~so~~ transmitted by civil society → As Pt is a ground outside sphere of state & market → prevents their collusion & crony capitalism - Anthony Giddens

③ It makes democracy more vibrant, stable & complements it. - TÖCQUEVILLE

eg) By supporting govt in bringing positive change like Beti Bachao, Swachh Bharat, Against Domestic Violence etc.

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④ Scrutinizes the govt policy & checks.
It is in interests of public esp vulnerable groups.

eg) Developmental policies in tribal areas - shouldn't disrupt their rights.
Forest rights act, 2006.

⇒ Role in democracy

① Reggie Scruton contends that true personal & political freedom can only be realized when Democracy & civil society exists together.

② opinions & desires of different sections are presented, while ensuring justice & fairness to them. eg) Narmada Bachao.

③ ~~ensures~~ keeps check on 'authoritarianism' of state.

Hence, both need to come together to form vibrant democracy.

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Q6

Feminisation of Poverty

Poverty is one of the factors that leads to stratification in society.

Poverty leads to other social inequalities as well. Women are overrepresented among such poor. argued Ruth Lister

Thus called "feminization of poverty"

① Factors of

①

→ As per a UNDP data

- women for half of population of world
- two third of work force
- one tenth income
- and one-hundredth of the property

↳ Thus implying some of the reasons for poverty among women.

② other factors responsible are - unpaid paid, Patriarchal state & household [Shyama Prasad]

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•) cultural factors & social constraints
↳ not allowed to attain higher education & skills due to their early marriages.
↳ Not given adequate opportunities to work outside - thus remain financially dependent. (only 22% labour participation)
↳ Poor nutrition leads to poor cognitive ability among girls & women. (53% women anemic)

3) Those who are employed even they remain poor due to
↳ employment in informal sector → found out by Nirmala Banerjee (87% of them work informally)

↳ form Reserve army of labour. VERONICA BEECHEY

↳ Karuna Ahmad posited that women face exploitation, get low paid & in lower rungs. (Glass ceilings)

Thus, gender sensitive work policies & sharing of household responsibilities are way ahead.

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Q7

Social media is a source of disseminating information, opinions, content etc transcending national & global borders thus affecting social & political sphere.

How it is circumventing gatekeeping

- ① Authoritarian state may have control over social media as Marxists claim it is only a tool they can easily ^{use} ~~control~~ to shape minds & ideologies.
- ② Yet, social media, freedom of speech & expression have led to social media revolution in many incidents
(eg) #MeToo against sexual assault
- ③ It allows people to express dissent against state's functioning & mobilises support.
(eg) during COVID-19 handling by govt, it was criticised.

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⇒ New voices

① Vulnerable groups like women, Dalits etc have been given new, free space to express their opinions.

② Socially deprived communities & considered socially immoral LGBTQ+ can represent & collectively mobilize support in patriarchal society.

③ 'Citizen journalism' is increasing the participation of people in democratic processes & holding state accountable.

Challenges

① Digital divide (only 37% women use internet)

② Less inclusive - only elite & middle class presence.

③ Dysfunctions of social media → Polarization, fundamentalism, increasing inequalities, cybercrimes

Hence, a more regulated & secure social

media needed; to give free space to social groups.

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Q8 India is a cultural & spiritual capital of the world. Religion in India is an impactful tool to mobilize public. Hence, the popularity & moral power reside with those having privileged position in this sphere like godmen.

→ Why despite criminal convictions they enjoy such status.

- ① Their moral power is associated w/ Michel Mann's 'concept of social power' where he talks about 'ideological power'
- ② Godmen in India wield 'extensive power' over communities related to sect & cults.
- ③ Due to importance given to Religion, Godmen use it as a tool to psychologically appeal to people in rapidly changing times.

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④ They head various cults & sects which are 'Theodicy of disprivileged' - WEBER. This gives them support, of those who are oppressed & depressed. (eg) Ram, Rahim - Dera Sacha

Sauda promising to relieve caste atrocities
⑤ Religious revivalism & fundamentalism are also the reasons for their popularity.

Critique

① Secularization of society due to modern democratic values → reduction in attendance in religious institutions. - Bryan Wilson

② Pluralism in society, diverting the attention from one dominant ideology

③ People resorting to other means for 'Solace'
(eg) Yoga & meditation therapy.

Thus, in India it might be possible that till religion carries on, Godmen will exist.

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Comte proposed through his evolutionary perspective of society that modern society would depend intellectually on science rather than religion or any metaphysical concept.

However, this seems to be falsified by growing relation of science & faith.

→ Concept of faith & science in health sector

↳ Contrary to Weber's prediction that science & faith are poles apart, even modern world believes in certain unfathomable force beyond science; on failure of scientific ingenious in health, faith is resorted to.

(eg) Use of prayers when ^{medical} science fails to cure the patient.

2) Recently, faith has also affected the discovery & rejuvenation of traditional medicines

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eg) AYUSH system - medicines related to it being promoted.

③ During COVID-19, many people were drawn to faith & religion due to chaos & uncertainties despite trials by scientific medical community to discover vaccine.

④ Religious communities still resort to faith & beliefs for curing. eg) Muslims wearing amulets (Tabeez) for fever; Tribals use witchcraft etc - ANIMISM.

Challenges

① Faith has dysfunctions → lead to dogmas & superstitions in medical therapy.

eg) Muslims denying to use vaccines.

② It may harm the scientific temper of society as "Pseudo science".

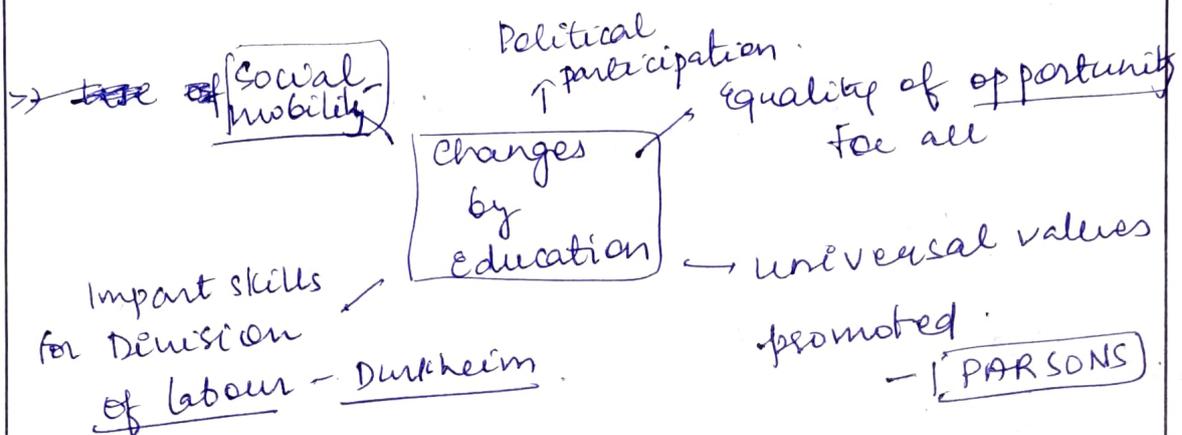
Hence, faith & science can exist together in health sector but shall ensure pragmatism.

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Q10

Education is a process that can change behaviour of society & enable one to participate + contribute to progress of society. - [FRANCIS BROWN]



→ Use of education in promoting activism & social accountability at local level.

① Education imparts knowledge to individual & groups thus enhancing capacity to participate in accountability mechanisms.

⊙ social audits, RTI etc.

② It makes people more aware about their rights + duties. (civic + political citizenship)

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③ Education brings confidence among hitherto depressed communities thus activating their representation.

④ Economic prosperity enhances their social status thus their questions are addressed.

⑤ Implementing agencies can be influenced by people using various civil society, legal tools etc.

Challenges

- ① education provides limited avenues of social mobility
- ② Political participation is white washed in a casteist & patriarchal society
- ③ Sarpanch proxies.

③ elites are accessible to elites only due to commercialization of education - thus depriving Have Not's. - Marxists

④ Education used as ideological state apparatus thus, training people to not question state.