

**Instructions to the candidate:**

- There are 5 Questions.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- You should download the question-and-answer booklet, take its print-out, attempt the questions and then scan the same using various mobile apps like Cam Scanner etc. on your mobile, Convert the file using these apps to PDF and upload.
- You will be able to upload the file from where you had downloaded the question-and-answer booklet.
- In case you face any difficulties, you can write to us at [sleepy.classes@gmail.com](mailto:sleepy.classes@gmail.com).
- Those candidates who are not writing on the printed booklet are to leave margins on their answer sheet for comments.
- The above-said candidates are to then make their own evaluation sheet in the format stated below to be uploaded with the answer.
- Compulsory to name your PDF file in the following format (Student Complete Name\_Test Number) e.g.: (Kriti Rathor\_Mains Test-5)

**Comments for the purpose of evaluation of Answer Writing:**

Relevance to the question	
Structure of Answer	
Content	
Presentation (Neatness, charts, diagrams as required)	



**Sleepy Classes IAS**  
Awakening Toppers

## Sociology Test Series

### Test - 1

**Question 1.** Broadly explain G.H. Mead's ideas and their shortcomings. How can Mead's ideas be applied to Indian society? (10 Marks)

**Question 2.** How is the understanding of social action of Parsons and Weber different? (10 Marks)

**Question 3.** Merton has defined bureaucrats to be 'ritualistic' while in today's scenario, we require bureaucrats who are 'rebel'. Examine. (10 Marks)

**Question 4.** How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change? (10 Marks)

**Question 5.** Farmer suicides is a major issue facing Indian agricultural society. Evaluate the same using Durkheim's theory of suicide and offer ways out of this issue. (10 Marks)

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





Question 1. Broadly explain G.H. Mead's ideas and their shortcomings. How can Mead's ideas be applied to Indian society? (10 Marks)

G.H. Mead was pioneer of the symbolic interaction perspective of the interpretative strand of sociology and was influenced by Herbert Blumer and C.H. Cooley.

Mead's Ideas

- ① He talked about the pragmatic evolutionary approach and said 'Self and Society are twin born'
- ② Devised the idea of 'I' and 'Me' and infused Psychology with Sociology

- ③ Talked about the stages of Self development
- ↳ Play Stage: actor interact with 'particular others' and develop partial self

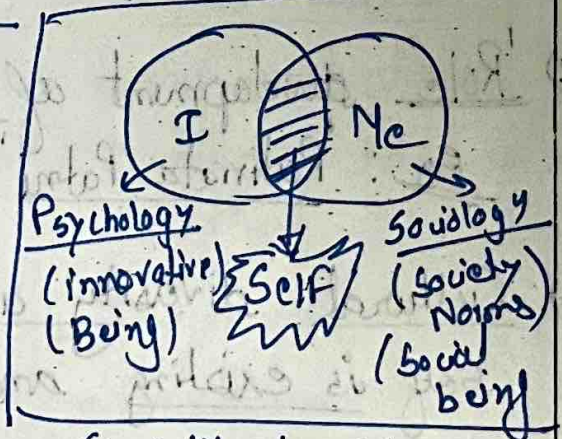
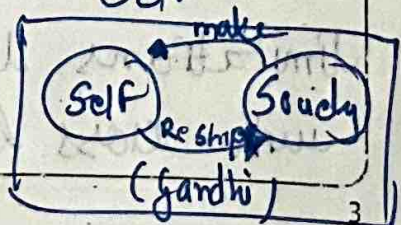


Fig: Mead's idea of Self

- ↳ Game Stage: interact with generalised other, - Complete Self







## Shortcomings of Mead's Idea

- 1) Turner advocates that Mead overlooks the role of structure and power orientation
- 2) Patrick Baert, Mead considered social life as too consensual and minimum conflict
- 3) Failed to explain the origin of meaning of symbols

## Mead's ideas on Indian Society

- 1) Deviance behaviour can be explained with 'I' overpowering 'Me'. (Eg: Crime rates, Suicide, Rape incidents etc)
  - 2) 'Role' development of women due to Socialisation  
Eg: 'Pativrata Patni' idea of Tulsi Patel
  - 3) Cultural diversity and unity is due to the Self is existing and Society presupposes individual
- Mead's idea despite having limitations led to interdisciplinary approach with cross fertilisation of ideas





Question 2. How is the understanding of social action of Parsons and Weber different? (10 Marks)

Parsons and Weber were the pioneers of the post-positivism strand and understanding social reality in terms of social action (SA), but through different lenses.

Difference between Max Weber's and Parson SA

Weber

Parson

Interpretivist  
idea

Perspective

Structural  
functional idea

Social Action is  
driven by the  
means and  
motives of the actor

Scope

Social Action  
having motivational  
orientation towards  
others

- ① Traditional SA
- ② Affective SA
- ③ Wert Rational SA
- ④ Zweck Rational SA

Types of SA

- Instrumental SA
- Emotional SA
- Moral SA





## Weber's idea of Social Action

↳ Subject matter of Sociology is Social Action, driven by the interpretation of the text and content.

Social Action guides human behaviour, which results into a pattern which is studied by sociology.

Weber used the Ideal Type approach to develop model of Social Action and categorise it into different societies.

## Parsons idea of Social Action

↳ Social Action involving the interaction among the actors and forming of Status-Role complex.

↳ Social Action drives towards the Value Consensus for maintaining the equilibrium of the social system, which is consequence of social action.

Thus, both Weber and Parsons provided different perspective for the expansion of horizon of study social reality.





Question 3. Merton has defined bureaucrats to be 'ritualistic' while in today's scenario, we require bureaucrats who are 'rebel'. Examine. (10 Marks)

Merton in his work "Social Structure and Anomie", gave the deviance theory based on the differences between the culturally prescribed goals and means.

	Means	Goals	Examples
Conformists	+	+	School Student
Ritualists	+	-	Bureaucratic personality
Retreatist	-	-	Drug Addicts
Innovators	-	+	Criminals
Rebellion	- → +	- → +	Charismatic Individuals

Fig : Merton Deviance Theory

### Merton's view on Bureaucrats - Ritualist

He considered Bureaucrats who conform to the means rather than the goals and driven by the procedural hierarchy.





and written rules rather than the abstract ends of the social reality!

Eg! Red Tapism in Bureaucracy leading to "Chalta hai Attitude" and inefficiency

However, Modern Bureaucracy needs - Rebel

Rebels are those who discard the existing goals and means and desire New methods and new means for achieving the goals.

Modern Bureaucracy is more creative, solution oriented, inclusive, with emotionally intelligent character.

⊗: Bureaucratic Attitude towards Covid Management

Thus, the Modern Bureaucracy should be a synthesis of Rebel and Ritualist to be driven by Rationality for public welfare.



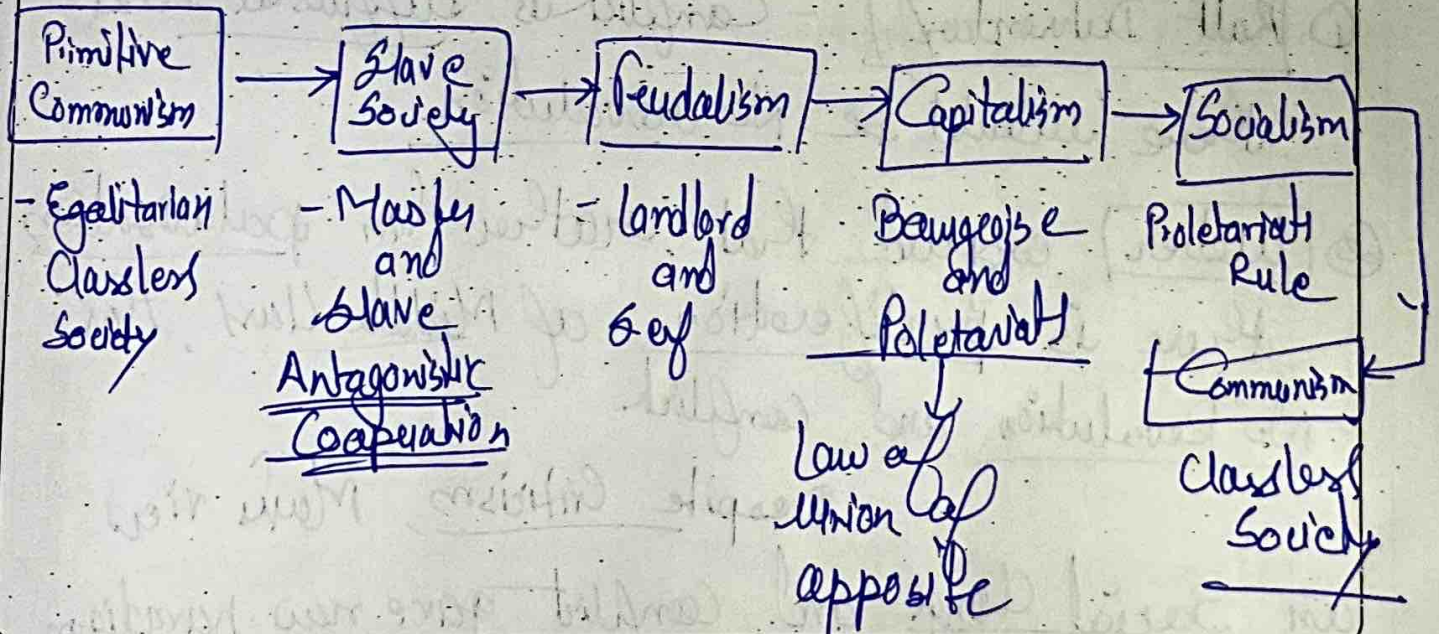


Question 4. How does Marx view social conflict as an essential element in social change? (10 Marks)

Karl Marx was the pioneer of the conflict perspective and considered social change due to the inherent contradiction leading to change in the economic infrastructure which further reshapes the superstructure

Social Conflict is essential element of social change

Marx view of evolutionary perspective of social change due to changing Mode of Production







Social Conflict as per Marx leads to inherent contradiction, initiating the process of homogenisation and polarisation

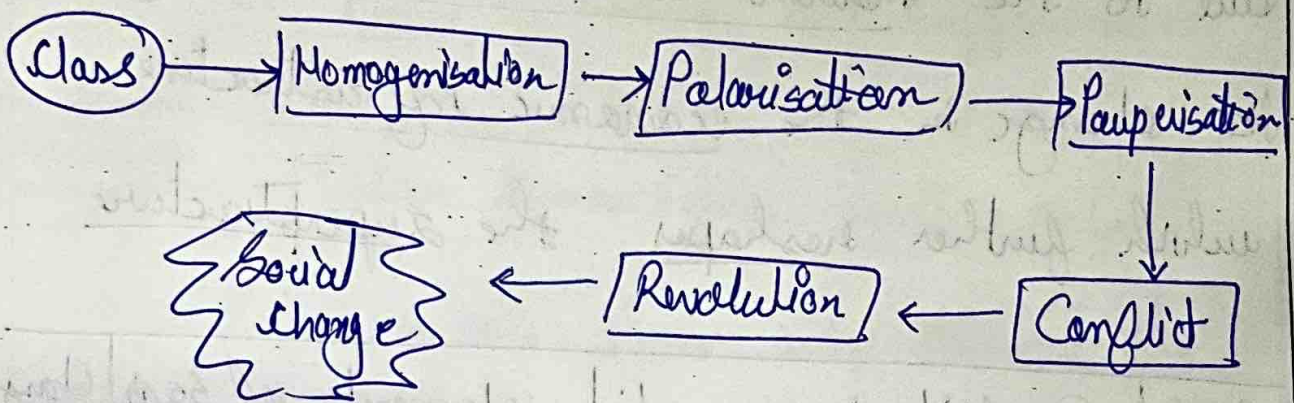


Fig.: Social Change Theory - Marx

However, some Critique Marx as -

- ① Ralf Dahrendorf - Conflict is diffused and there would be No revolution
- ② Weber argued that rather than polarisation there is proliferation of Middle Class, thus No Revolution and Conflict

Despite Criticism, Marx's view on Social Change and Conflict gave new paradigm to Sociology





Question 5. Farmer suicides is a major issue facing Indian agricultural society. (Evaluate the same using Durkheim's theory of suicide) and (offer ways out of this issue) (10 Marks)

Durkheim in his seminal work 'Le Suicide', defined suicide as a phenomenon where individual knows that the positive or negative acts would lead to desired result.

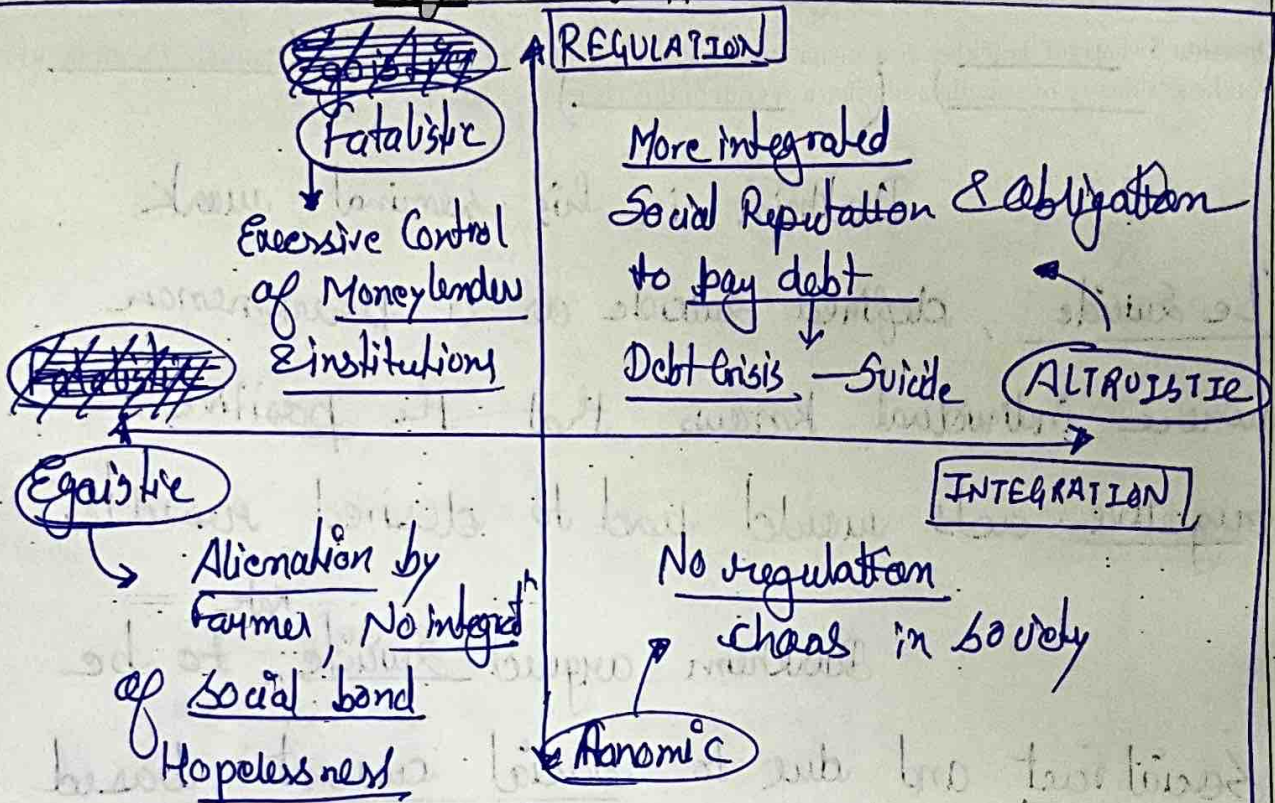
Durkheim argued suicide<sup>Rate</sup> to be social fact and due to social current based on degree of integration and regulation individual commit suicide.

P. Sainath advocates that farmer suicide is the important social issue of rural India and agrarian society.

Farmer Suicide through Durkheim Study

Farmer suicide in India is due to various reasons and can be classified into each category of suicide.





## Fig: Farmer's Suicide Analysis

However, Always Farmer's Suicide can't be placed into the Durkheim's framework like death of farmers in Farmer Protest, mental stress etc

### Way Out - Solution

- ① Evergreen Revolution for Annadate - Doubling Income
- ② Social and Emotional Support to farmer
- ③ Diversification of income - Annadate to Upadate
- ④ formalisation of credit and support - PM KISAN