



**Sleepy Classes IAS**  
Awakening Toppers

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HLT-2

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**Instructions to the candidate:**

85 Min

- There are 10 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)	



## 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)



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

Underclass according to Karl Marx is a class that lies at the bottom of the pyramid and he says it is the result of unequal access to means of production.

- The presence of underclass in society provides for the existence of class inequality.
- According to Marxists it is due to the exploitation and unequal relations that the capitalist class impose.
- Underclass gives us an idea of the differences in the relations in terms of surplus being appropriated by the capitalist class.
- Also according to Louis Althusser in his 'Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus' it is the ideological state apparatus which help maintain and sustain the underclass.



Further Karl Marx notes the underclass lack  
true consciousness and is therefore a  
hindrance to class struggle.

He says only when the class consciousness  
develops the underclass becomes aware of  
inequalities and will lead to class struggle  
and this class struggle will lead to change  
in mode of production and Marx says  
underclass will end in communism.



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

Specialisation is the process through which work in a society is specialised in terms of increased organisation and efficiency.

There are various perspectives on specialisation's impact on Labour and Society.

Davis and Moore in their some principles of social stratification see this specialisation as functional for the society as it leads to increased well being, mobility, efficient role allocation to all i.e. society.

Parsons make similar observation in his evolutionary universals theory i.e. he says adaptive capacity increases.

Marxists on the other hand say specialisation is a capitalist construct and Henry Brannen noted it leads to deskilling of the workers.



Marx noted it will act as hindrance to Class Struggle.

Frank Parkin and Ralf Dahrendorf noted it is functional to the society also helps in social mobility of people.

On the other hand feminist scholars argue that specialisation leads to occupational ~~segregation~~ segregation where jobs are branded as masculine and feminine - Ann-Oakley

Despite diverse perspectives post modernist argue that society is increasingly moving towards specialisation and no all encompassing theory can explain the impact, it has multitude of effects.



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

Bureaucracy as defined by Weber is the most legitimate and rational way of exercising authority and is superior to any other form in its discipline, stringency and efficiency.

→ Contribution to <sup>social</sup> progress and equitable outcomes:-

1. Paul du gay notes it has unmatched ethos and treats everyone equally in improving the society. Eg) In implementation of a Social Benefit Scheme

2. Weber too argues it is most efficient to the present capitalist system.

3. Robert Dahl in 'who governs' notes it acts as a bridge between government and people. Ex) In policy formulation and implementation

→ Hinders social progress and outcomes

1. Robert Michels in his Political Parties notes it becomes Iron law of oligarchy and serves vested interest.

(g) Politicisation of Bureaucracy



2. R.K Merton noted that it becomes Ritualist in nature subverting goals of the organisation

eg) Red Tapism

3. Marxist Louis Althusser argues it becomes the part of Ideological State apparatus forwarding capitalist interests

eg) Crony Capitalism

Despite the shortcomings a determined and efficiently organised Bureaucracy will work for social progress and for the Ideal Bureaucracy weber visualised.





Ques 4. Difference between Authoritative and Diffused power?

Power according to Weber is defined as a chance by which a group of men exercise their own will in a communal action even against the will of others in the social action.

Power can be Authoritative i.e. power that is concentrated and is exercised by few and through coercion and is not inclusive

Pareto gave the concept of Elite circulation in which the power is authoritative and not a democratic outcome in his Mind and Society

Similar concepts have been given by CW Mills who say power is exercised by few institutions that are functionally important and they lack any accountability in his The Power Elite



On the other hand Diffused power is the one that is spread across plurality of elite and is more inclusive and more accountable and by democratic wall.

Robert Dahl in his Who Governs? has noted power in modern democracies is diffused among various sections like pressure groups.

Similarly Karl Mannheim also noted that power and policy making involves pull and push pressure from various sections.

It can be said in Raymond Aron's words government of today is a business of compromise and similarly contrasting view by Robert Michels in his political parties says power even when diffused is exercised by few as Iron law of oligarchy.



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

According to Hegel Civil Society plays a key role in transition from an unconscious family life to a conscious ethical public life.

Civil society is defined as an organisation voluntarily formed i.e. non state, nonkin, secular and strives for a social change.

Vital for a community:-

Civil society becomes the voice of the community when needed as per Banishkar Mukherjee.

Civil society undertakes positive social change when inequality increases - Gail Stuvett

Civil society provides for social solidarity according to Durkheim.

Feminists see civil society driving patriarchy out by questioning the notions of patriarchy.



## Role in Democracy

1. According to De Tougenille civil society is an indicator of health of the democracy.
2. Locke says civil society helps in realising democratic rights of the people.
3. Cohen and Arato notes that civil society takes an active role in policy formulation and implementation in a democracy.
4. According to Amartya Sen in his Argumentative India civil society acts as vehicles of democratic participation.

Civil society in all is vital for a democracy in ensuring a participative democracy and ensuring voice of even marginalised is not ignored.



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

Feminisation of Poverty is the social situation in which share of women who are poor is increasing.

According to Rusini this trend has been observed due to patriarchal nature of society.

Further various feminists have given various view points.

1. Styura Walby notes patriarchy leads to oppression of women and women are paid low in formal jobs and unpaid at home.
2. Karuna Ahmed notes Women are confined to only few low status jobs and it leads to gender pay gap.
3. T-S Papola notes restrictions imposed on women during promotions leads to them leaving jobs and being unemployed.
4. Marxists notes women form part of Reserve army of labour who are exploited.



## → Impact of Feminisation of Poverty

1. This leads to women not having access to resources leading to inequality, exclusion and deprivation.
2. Further they are pushed into agriculture in traditional areas leading to feminisation of agriculture.
3. They suffer from various issues like lack of access to health, subjected to violence (Wolby) and denial of rights.

To address these things various measures like enforcing laws like minimum wage and regulating informal labor and addressing the gender pay gap and breaking glass ceilings are way forward.



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

Social Media refers to the channels on cyber space through which information, ideas and views are shared.

Role of Social Media in Circumvention of gatekeeping and bringing new voices

1. Social Media provides for more democratic way of expression beyond traditional media
2. There are little chances of imposing restrictions
3. It also helps in holding accountability - Eg) Campaigns against <sup>on</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>lockdown</sup> ~~lockdown~~
4. Social media is more equitably accessible to everyone i.e. gives voices to all.
5. It is easy to realise new ideas and spread ideologies on social media.  
Eg) #metoo
6. It also provides avenues for new social movement and has wider reach i.e. global in nature.  
Eg) Climate change fight Campaigns



But social media do have certain shortfalls

- 1) Jean Baudrillard notes of hyperreality which makes people differentiate between reality and simulation
  - 2) Michael Foucault noted of growing new forms of state surveillance
  - 3) Social media is also becoming echo chambers of hate, spreading fake news, propaganda
  - 4) Also subverting democracy eg) Cambridge Analytica
  - 5) Leading to Amisic due to excessive addiction
- Despite providing voice to all, social media lacks self regulation and is a double edged sword and needs to be used with caution





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

Godmen are those individuals who yield great popularity and power in traditional societies by tapping people's moral and religious values.

→ There have been many instances of criminal convictions. eg) Dera Baba incident, Asaram Bhabha but still their popularity and moral power does not sway away.

→ Reasons for continuity.

1. Weber's Theory of Theodicy of disprivilege the godmen provide for sense and explanations that are convincing to the disprivileged sections.

2. Bryan Wilson → events of rapid social change lead to traditions being challenged and these godmen provide alternatives to the believers.



3. The rigidity and inequality of the conventional systems (religious) leads to people going towards godmen → i.e. exclusion from one group leading to inclusion in another  
It can be Merton Anomie Theory
4. Political support to these godmen also helps them in continuing the power and popularity
5. The economic power they have and the donations and welfare activities that they undertake also attract the poor.
6. Even the religious belief of the people when held dear ensure they respect the godmen out of fear and love and for social solidarity → Durkheim  
Godmen continue to have popularity despite the criminal convictions but growing secularism and rationalism is challenging their legitimacy at the same time.



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

Faith system relates to ones beliefs, values and is mostly associated with ones culture and religion. It can be saved aspect of life.

on the other hand science is a body of knowledge based on rationality, empiricism and theoretical thinking. It is associated to profane aspect of life

→ Both these apply to health sector.

→ Science in Health sector :-

1. It provides for discovery of various interventions to diseases and treatments
2. Science gives a logical, tested explanation to health issues
3. Science believes in human intervention in solving health issues
4. Science believes the possibility of even impossible or unimagined in health.



## Faith in health sector

1. Faith provides for emotional support during health crisis.
2. Faith provides explanation based on untested beliefs
3. Faith believes in divine interventions and influence in health
4. Faith believes everything is construct of the divine.

While early sociologists has seen faith and science as two extremes like Comte, Malinowski, EB Taylor even said science is the 'inevitable'.  
and But later sociologists like Durkheim felt both serve human need and are functional for the society.



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

Education is process through which human broadens ones perspective and actively contributes to the society.

Education can help in accepting social change, it provides new perspectives, shapes perception and promotes efficient division of labour.

→ Education in promoting activism and social accountability at local level.

1. Durkheim believed education transmits values and norms of the society thereby can help in promoting values of accountability and activism
2. Parsons argued education provides universalistic orientation which promotes modern outlook, evaluates world on modern basis at local level
3. Education promotes egalitarian, rational values and reduces inequalities at local level



4. Education also provides awareness about one's rights, duties, responsibilities as a citizen and it is important to ensure local level activism and accountability.

5. Further education also provides social mobility and increases bargaining power and provides voice to the erstwhile voiceless.

But Marxists on the other hand criticise education as part of hidden curriculum Bowles and Gintis and part of ideological state apparatus Louis Althusser and thereby promotes capitalist interest and state interests.



## PL2 ANSWER

1) Is the structuring of answers of OK or BAD → PL2 Mention which Ans was OK & can follow the same

2) Doublet

↳ for a 10 Marker is it always important to write multiple dimension i.e. contrast to one asked becoz of word limit?

3)