



Instructions to the candidate:

17th Aug

- 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.
- 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)	



Question 1 - [Compulsory]

a) How does sociology's focus on interaction differ from common sense? (10 Marks)

Sociology is the systematic study of social institutions, phenomenon, actors and their interactions.

Whereas Weber defined common sense as the routine knowledge that we have from our everyday experience.

Sociology focus on interaction differ from common sense

1. Sociology takes into consideration organised Scepticism to acquire concepts
Common sense takes what seem appear on surface
2. Sociology is change oriented, empirical
Common sense is status quo & Non empirical
3. Sociology is based on testing, theories, established concepts
Common sense has no concepts
4. Sociology is Objective (Positivists)
Common sense is intuitive



5 Sociology is more scientific & based on evidence, common sense is based on assumption

But they are mutually reinforcing too

1. Sociology examines common sense knowledge to build concepts
2. common sense helps in hypothesis building which is tested (eg -
3. common sense questions sociological findings & helps it enrich the findings
4. Sometimes sociological knowledge itself becomes common sense - Anthony Giddens

Hence the relation between both is a combination of repulsion and reinforcement.



b) Briefly discuss various feminist perspectives challenging the traditional research methodology? - 10 Marks

George Lundberg has defined research methodology as at least having three basic steps the systematic collection, observation and interpretation of facts

Feminist Perspectives - challenging traditional Research Methodology

1. Feminists have criticised these methods are performed by men, for men, using male friendly methods
2. They also criticise them for failure to see the fact that social phenomenon is perceived differently by different genders
3. Criticised for considering female as part of household not independent person in research
eg) In Income Studies → Husband Income & Status = wife Income & Status



4. Further even theories of social change have been criticised for failure to see or measure impact of women
5. The methods are called as Not friendly to women

→ Feminists Solution 4

1. They call for distinct feminist perspective in research methods, when women specific research is undertaken
2. Ann Oakley → called for ensuring a women friendly method
3. Dorothy Smith called for reflexivity in research

Their criticism helped in changes in the method as well as certain gender specific terminology,
Stereotyping to end



c) What were the contributions of the counter-Enlightenment to the development of sociology? (10 Marks)

Ironing Zeitlin notes sociology emerged as a reaction to enlightenment. while enlightenment brought new ideas that changed the society in political, economical and cultural sphere

Soon the counter enlightenment proponents questioned these changes → contributing to sociology

1. They questioned growing individualism
This prompted early sociologists to study & focus on collective conscience - Durkheim
Division of Labour in Society 1893

2. They questioned the chaos of the Industrial Revolution
This led to Marx → give solution to ^{working} class problems
↳ class struggle by class consciousness



3. They questioned the rise of nationalism
posing threat to tradition institutions

→ Sociologists focussed on traditional institutions

& their importance → Religion - Durkheim

Elementary forms of Religious life 1912

4. They demanded an explanation to the causes
of French revolution → fallout of feudalism
to New democratic institutions

→ Weber (Economy & Society, 1922) gave Power,
Authority (Legitimate Power) & Bureaucracy

to say how it is functional by Positivism
rational institutions

↑
gave Methods

Hence while enlightenment led to → Problems

counter-enlightenment → questioned them

↓
Gave Subject Matter
& area of Study

↓
to development of
Sociology



d) Is objectivity desired in sociology? Comment (10 Marks)

Robert Binstedt defined objectivity as the findings arrived by investigation without any pre disposition by the researcher

Objectivity Desired in sociology

- 1) Positivists who wanted to make sociology mother of all sciences (Comte - Principles of Positive Philosophy)
- 2) Desired objectivity & believed it was possible in sociology
- 3) Durkheim in his (Rules of Sociology Method 1895) even highlighted objectivity in study of social facts
- 4) They argued objectivity would ensure credibility, acceptability, consistency (Reliability), Validity of sociological Research → Making it a scientific Discipline
- 5) They even posited use of quantitative methods Eg) Durkheim - Le Suicide - Multivariate Analysis



But soon it was argued objectivity is not desirable & not feasible by the Non Positivists

1. Peter Berger & Luckmann (The social construction of reality)
argued sociology cannot be scientific in nature
2. Alfred Schütz - human consciousness cannot be studied objectively → There is no objectivity beyond subjective understanding of individual
3. CTH Mead - proposed symbolic interactionism & to focus on individual meaning & significant symbols
4. Garfinkel → proposed study of commonsense & rejected pure objectivity.

Hence sociology and objectivity has a fluidic relationship based on the perspective that is chosen



e) Examine the salient features of Weberian Bureaucracy. (10 Marks)

Weber in his Economy & Society 1922 defined Bureaucracy as the legal rational authority and superior than any other form in its discipline, precision, stability & provides for highest degree of calculability of results to its members.

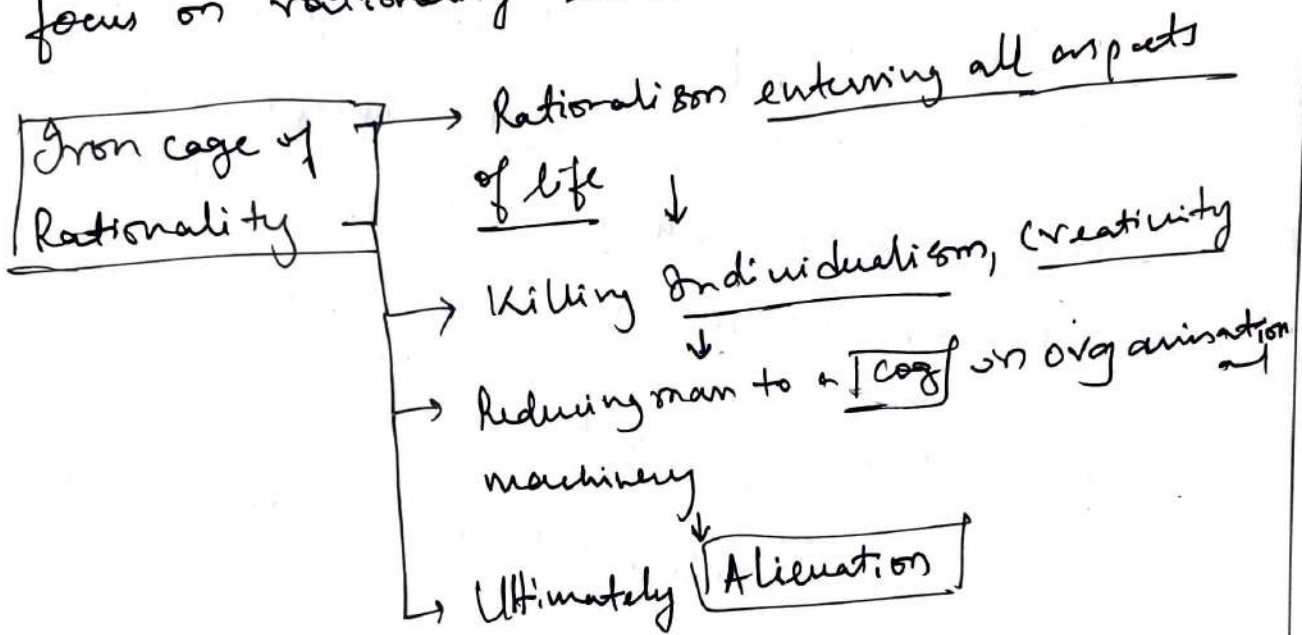
He further gave its Ideal type as:

1. It is a formal, rule based organisation based on rationality
2. It is hierarchical, specialised organisation
3. Members are recruited on merit, permanent, paid in cash & are to treat work as vocation
4. Members are trained in specialisation
5. Work and office & position should not be appropriated



He believed in Modern industrial society
Bureaucracy would be most efficient organisation

But he was also sceptical about its excess
focus on rationality he said it will lead to



Even Merton highlighted Bureaucrats would turn

Ritualists → lead to Red tapism

→ Robert Michels "Political Parties" 1911, → lead to Iron

Law of Oligarchy

But despite all these Paul Du Boy highlighted
in "The Praise of Bureaucracy", it has unmatched class



Question 2

a) Identify three functional postulates given Robert K Merton. Explain with examples. 20 marks

R. K Merton a Neofunctionalist has focused on giving more empiricism to the grand postulates given by the functionalists and he has bridged the gap between theory and empiricism through his Latent, Manifest, functions, Middle range theories etc

Functional Postulates of Merton

1. Modification of Postulate of Functional Unity

According to this Merton highlighted that what ever exist in society does not provide for unity to society as proposed by functionalists



He stressed on studying or identifying the dysfunctions and even non functions of these social phenomenon

Eg) Durkheim said region is functional as it provides order, collectivity, a moral community

But Merton highlighted in a Multireligious society religion leading to disunity, conflict

Eg) Steve Bruce - Fundamentalism

or Religious clashes in India - 2002 Godhra Riots

2. Modification of Postulate of functional Indispensability

According to Parsons or Mallinowski, there are certain functions that are indispensable performed by only a particular institution.

But Merton highlighted that there are

Functional Alternatives which can do the same roles



Eg) While functionalists argue it is only institution of Marriage which can provide emotional stability - Parsons - [Stabilisation of Adulthood]

Now these institutions have evolved there are new forms like live-in or even alternative institutions like Therapy Centres which do the same function

3. Modification of Postulate of Universality of a Function

According to functionalists what ever exists is universal & exists in all the societies and has same meaning attached to it

Eg) Social facts Durkheim

But Merton highlighted these are changing or even do not hold universal meaning

Eg) Family is changing forms & is not a same institute as was before.



Hence in this way Merton has brought in more empiricism by his emphasis on those aspects never looked at by functionalists - like disfunctions, alternatives, latent & manifest.

His theories helped sociologists explore Multiple layers of social reality.



b) The use of positivism in sociology made it an important discipline all across the world. Do you agree?
Elaborate your answer (20 Marks)

Positivism in sociology is a Perspective that aims to make sociology a scientific discipline and study it using methods of the science.

Main Postulates of Positivism

1. Focus on external truth & empiricism - Eg) Social Facts, Durkheim
2. Emphasis on objectivity
3. Predictability - Deterministic - [Comte] - Law of Three Stages
4. Develop Theories using Scientific methods
5. Establish cause & effect
6. Importance to testing & empirical investigation

Made it an important discipline around world

1. Its emphasis on objectivity led to more



Credibility, acceptability, reliability of the discipline

It gave theories like suicide in a sociological sense

2. Its importance to cause & effect led to take it closer to science & explain various social phenomenon of the post enlightenment period.

Eg) Division of labour - as a cause - consequence by Durkheim

3. Use of scientific methods and applying them to sociological concepts & making predictions about evolution also attracted people towards sociology

Eg) Herbert Spencer - social Darwinism - social evolution theory

4. It studied various social phenomenon using natural science methods doing



indirect experimentation, giving a logical explanation

eg) Duikhim - Religion

5. They also studied & gave solution to problems of the society

eg) Marks - Mode of Production

But soon other disciplines emerged which ^{filled gaps of Positivism} also contributed to making sociology important

1. Interpretativist approach - focus on individual subjective meanings & interpretations & focussing on micro aspects to make the discipline more formalistic led to specific

Subject matter & even gave unique methods

eg) Weber - Verstehen

2. Phenomenologists → Alfred Schütz → focussed on

life world, Typifications which the

Positivists ignored.



3. Symbolic Interactionism - Head focussed on individual meaning, symbols in social situations and gave concepts like Mind, Self, I, Me & bridged gap of Psychology, Sociology
4. Carful in Ethnomethodology laid emphasis on taken for granted knowledge, indexicality & reflexivity.

In this way while Positivism had taken sociology away from clutches of biology, philosophy and gave a scientific orientation, the Non positivists gave unique concepts further making it an important discipline across the world.



c) Explain how phenomenology challenged the fundamental principles of positivism. (10 Marks)

Phenomenology as given by Alfred
Schutz is the study of phenomenon as experienced
by the person

Phenomenology challenged Principles of Positivism

1. Alfred Schutz - said the subject matter of sociology is human conscious ness & hence objectivity is not possible as positivists argue
2. Edmund Husserl - Phenomenological Reduction
Rejected positivist / deduction approach instead
said observe the phenomenon & describe
3. Schutz focussed on subjective meaning in
his lifeworld unlike external facts of Durkheim



4. Peter Berger - criticised social facts of Durkheim & said they were context specific & do not fall from sky
5. Berger & Luckmann - In "Social Construction of Reality"
- ↳ criticised scientific method of positivists
 - ↳ Instead called for understanding of the subjective meanings & understanding of individual

Criticism of Phenomenology

1. Considered to be mere extension of common sense
2. No concrete concepts
3. Pure subjective Not reliable, not valid

Despite these the concepts like Typifications, Lifeworld are unique contributions of phenomenologists to sociology



Question 4

a) What, according to Merton, is the difference between 'unanticipated consequences' and 'latent functions'? Give examples to elaborate. (20 Marks)

Merton, a Neo functionalist has expanded the paradigm of functionalists by giving concepts of unanticipated consequences, latent functions.

Unanticipated consequences according to Merton are those outcomes which are not manifested or perpetuated by the actor

They are not subjective dispositions of an actor, rather the actor is not aware of them

These are different from Manifest functions which include those



which are deliberately formed by an actor

Further the Unanticipated consequences include Latent functions, Latent dysfunctions and Non functions.

The Latent functions include those functions which are not intended but are functional.

They actors are not aware & only a specially trained researcher can understand them

Eg) The Trobriand Islanders ~~Pray~~ ^{Worship} before the sea fishing is done for controlling their anxiety but it also ensure their social solidarity. Here the social solidarity is an Unintended consequence & Latent function as well.



Eg) A Bureaucrat given a security of
tenure → Manifest function is his
confidence, objective working but
those with no integrity would
use it to corrupt the system.

This is an unintended consequence
which is a latent dysfunction

In this way Merton highlighted the
existence of multiple layers of reality &
enriched the functional perspective &
addressed the criticism it was
subjected to.



b) Examine Parson's 'Cybernetic Hierarchy of Control'. Substantiate your answer with example (20 Marks)

Parsons in his "Social Structure 1951"
"The Structure of Social Action 1937" has
explained the concept of social system.
He defined social system as a plurality
of actors interacting in an environment
to maximise gratification.

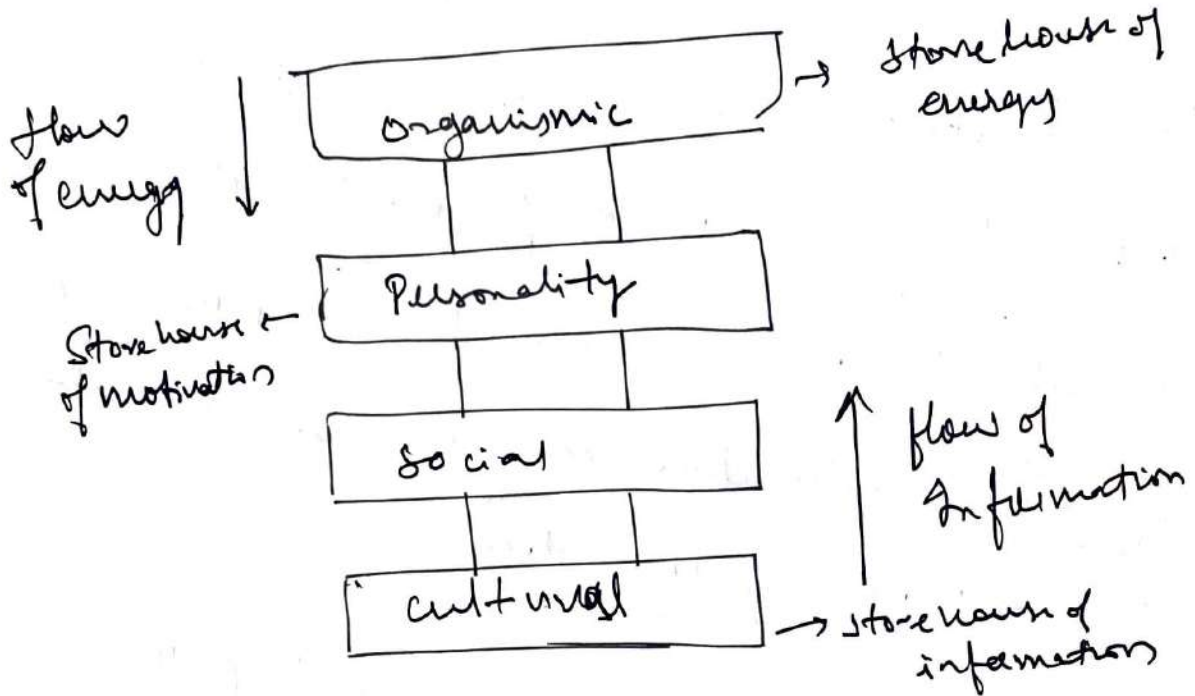
This social system he said is part of the
Action Systems which are abstract tools

He said social system exists independent
of the other systems but at same
time is also connected to the
other systems through flow of the

Energy, information this he called as
Cybernetics hierarchy of control



Cybernetics hierarchy of control



According to Parsons this flow if disturbed would lead to change in the system.

And the social system of Parsons is restorative and brings back the system into equilibrium i.e. Moving Equilibrium



The socialisation - transfer of norms, values
and social control - prevent deviance &
as roles are institutionalised & through
value consensus the flow of energy
& information is maintained according
to Parsons



c) Hierarchy is the necessary evil in the society. Illustrate. (10 Marks)

Louis Dumont in his How Hierarchy 1966
has defined Hierarchy as principle in
which members / elements of whole are
ranked in relation to the whole.

Hierarchy a Necessary evil

1. Hierarchy has been considered as
inevitable in society by Davis & Moore
in their Some Principles of Stratification
due to functional importance &
structural differentiation
2. Weber also saw hierarchy in
Bureaucracy as important
3. Power elite theorists also saw it as
needed as society is always



divided into ruling elite & ruled non elite
In a hierarchy

The evil aspects has been highlighted by

1. Marxists who see exploitation of have-nots
by the haves
2. Feminists who see Patriarchy &
gender hierarchy → perpetuating
Violence
3. Critical → argue power misused
Theorists to forward personal
interests.

Hence as noted by Robert Michels
Hierarchy leads to Iron law of oligarchy
but as noted by Parsons it also leads
to effective functioning of society



Question - 5 [Compulsory]

a) What do you understand by the term Power Elite, Illustrate with example. (10 Marks)

Power elite is the term given by C.W. Mills in his "The Power elite". According to Mills Power elite are those who hold important positions in few organisations. His theory was a reaction to ^{classical} elite theories of Mosca, Pareto who saw elite as based on personality traits instead Mills saw elite is an institutional phenomenon.

He examined the American society and saw few important institutions playing a key role in society.

These include Government, military, ^{corporate} organisations and he believed it is these who hold positions of power in these organisations that become elite → The Power elite



He was also skeptical of lack of accountability of such elite & how they come from similar social background and have similar interests

Eg) Indians case the instances of crony capitalism & collusive corruption of elite indicate this

Critical Analysis

1. Robert Dahl - Who Governs?

↳ Argued power in society is diffused and Mills confused actual power with political power

2. Arnold M Rose → Economic & Political elite net always go together

3. Anantya Sin - Argumentative Indian

↳ Middle class new public policy think tanks hold power in a way

Despite these Mills concept has wide usage & application in diverse disciplines



b) Analyze the challenges and benefits of using the social survey method in social research. (10 Marks)

Social survey is a method of collection of information from a large number of people using a questionnaire or interview

Benefits

1. It can be used for large sample size
2. It is time and cost saving
3. Data obtained can be used for comparative and longitudinal studies
Eg) ASER Annual studies on education
4. It can be used to get insights on various social phenomenon and even understand the context when ^{we} employ interview
5. It can be used for hypothesis testing & even theory building



Challenges

1. The selection of the sample → lead to errors
sampling error → either over or under representation
2. Issues with Non Sampling errors
↳ on the research design
3. Challenges of social desirability bias by people
4. Survey instrument and terms, language, used in them plays a key role, might skew the results → selecting right words
5. There are chances of No response & Response bias at times as well

But despite these social survey has a wide usage in policy formulation and it even

contributed to birth of the discipline - T.B

Bottomore



c) Identify the characteristics of the social organization of work in post-industrial society. (10 Marks)

Social organisation of work is the normative structure of the society that governs the various aspects of work.

Post Industrial Society - Social organisation of work

1. High division of labour and increasing structural differentiation
↓
Durkheim | Division of Labour in Society 1893
↓
Leading to organic solidarity
↓
Parsons
↓
evolutionary universal
2. Morax also highlights high alienation and now it is technology driven alienation - Robert Blauner
3. The Major source of power in such society is capital & technology
4. The relations are more formal, contractual, transitory (Gesellschaft - Tonnies)
5. The Social Mobility is high → Kipset Zuberger Thesis



6. The society is stratified into multiple strata and even individualised inequalities exist - Beek & Bourdieu

7. Further the family is no more unit of production and work has exchange value rather than use value

→ Few Negative trends have been highlighted

1. Arlie Hochschild - "The Managed Heart"

↳ Commodification of emotions in service industry

2. Henry Braverman - Deskilling of labour

3. Growth of informal sector - Informalisation of labour

4. Feminisation of informal sector - Kaareena Ahmed
"Educated working women in India"

Post Modernists argue the post industrial social organisation of work cannot be fit into

a single framework



d) Religion is not always antithetical to process of secularization. Evaluate. (10 Marks)

Secularisation has been defined by W. N. Srinivas as a process in which those that were once considered as religions are now none and also an increasing differentiation of various aspects of social life from religion.

Religion antithetical to secularisation

1. The rise of fundamentalism (Steve Bruce), communalism pose threat to secular idea → They directly seek control of state → fundamentalist

2. Religion also strongly exerts strong influence on culture and other aspects & does not tie in vacuum

3. Promotes irrationality, fetters, all of which oppose secularisation

Since classical evolutionary theorists believed religion



would be replaced by science [Comte - Law of three stages]

Religion Not Antithetical - To secularisation

1. Religion also promotes pluralism → Peter Berger
2. Religion now has become more an individual affair - "The Invisible Religion" - Peter Berger, Luckmann
so do not pose a threat
3. Religion - Civic Religion (Robert Bellah) promotes secularism & civic spirit
4. Religions now are more concerned with moral values eg) American way of life etc
5. Rise of New Religious movements Roy Wallis
focus more on individual experiences not a threat to secularisation

Hence religion has both roles it plays in the society & it is ever evolving as societies evolve



e) What are same sex families? Discuss from functionalist viewpoint. (10 Marks)

Same sex families are those families in which both the parents are of same gender or sex. It is against classical definition of family given by Mudbrook in his "Social Structure" as man & woman making a family.

Functionalist Perspective on same sex family

1. They see this as functional for the society where giving individual freedom would ensure more integration into society
2. They say it would increase social solidarity
3. Further according to them it is a natural process of evolution of society
4. But the role, the functional pre-requisite of



family has to continue

5. To functionalists → anything that exists has to ensure it is functional for the society

Criticism

1. They would fail to see the dysfunctional aspects of such change
2. They would ignore the micro level aspect of such family on kids, as members of family

These functionalist views is more focussed on integration and order that same sex family would bring in



Question - 6

a) Write the characteristics of first world and third world countries. Discuss them from a Marxist perspective. (20 Marks)

First world and third world countries are generally a terms used to describe the developed and developing countries.

Characteristics

1. First world countries

1. They have levels of development in all spheres in political, economic, social
2. high standards of living, also high GDP, GDP per capita
3. high end technology, knowledge based economies

Third World countries

1. Poor development indicators, and backwardness in social, political, economic sphere



- 2 Comparatively low standards of living
- 3 lower GDP, GDP per capita
- 4 Based on Primary, Secondary sectors

From Marxist Perspectives

1. Marxists consider the first world as haves and the third world as have nots

2 They see both these being in an exploitative situation

3 Andre G Frank - In his "Development of Underdevelopment"

↳ Highlight how the colonialism, globalisation led to 1st world exploiting 3rd world

↳ He says the poverty, underdevelopment of 3rd world is artificial design, deliberately done by 1st world countries

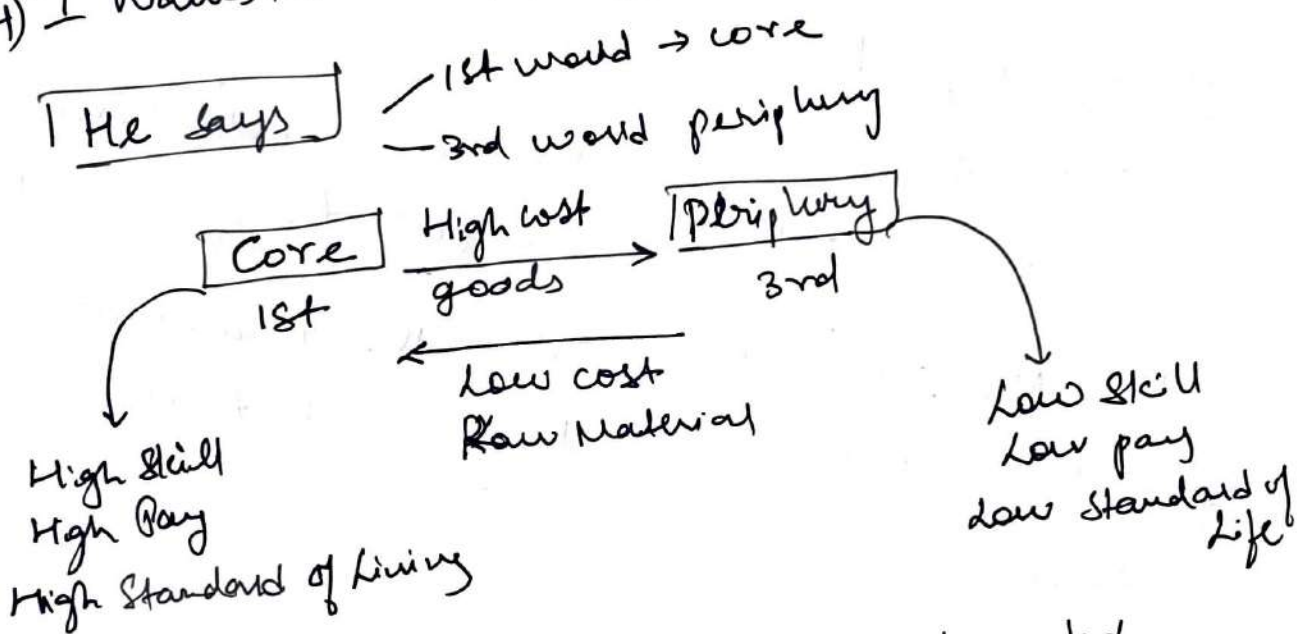
↳ He sees the world trade favouring



- ~~But~~ 1st world countries at cost of 3rd world

Similar observations made by

4) I Wallerstein - In "The Modern World Systems"



He sees how colonialism has integrated world countries in a Subservient manner

and created Master & Slave notes

5) Neo dependency Theories also argue the Conditional (a) loans of IMF (1st world) to Developing countries (3rd world)

5) The WTO Negotiations - Unequal Nature



are all characteristics of this unequal, exploitative relations

Critical Analysis

1. Gunnar Myrdal - 'Asian Drama'

says it is the values and institutional deficiencies that lead to poverty of 3rd world

2. Further Marxist fail to explain the development of many rest Asian countries, Latin American countries

Despite then the Marxists have applied their distinct conflict perspective at global scale which explains the relation between these countries



b) Examine the challenge of maintaining objectivity and value-neutrality in the context of Social Research. Elaborate with suitable example.. (20 Marks)

Objectivity as defined by Robert Bierstedt is the results conclusions arrived as a result of investigation in which there is no predisposition of the investigator

Objectivity pre suppresses value Neutrality

Early sociologists who wanted to make sociology a scientific discipline have called for

pure objectivity and focusing on facts

eg) Durkheim - Social facts - as natural facts

But it was soon highlighted that maintaining objectivity is a challenge in sociology

1. Weber was the first to highlight it saying that researcher is



an individual who has values and it is impossible to have complete value free sociology

So instead he called for Value Neutrality i.e. accepting the values and the researcher should not be focused on outcome.

2. But even this is a challenge as at various stage of the research the values creep in Stage

1) Problem & Perspective

2) Hypothesis formulation

3) Collection of data

4) Interpreting

5) Theory formulation & Testing

Objectivity Compromised

→ Value Bias

→ Personal opinions

→ Method of collection

→ Subjectivity in interpretation

→ View point & Tools for testing

3. Further Phenomenologists like Schutz argued that human consciousness cannot be studied in an objective manner



4. Challenges of ensuring a controlled experiment
in sociology is also a dent on objectivity
Eg) Study of human behaviour in a social setting → cannot be controlled
5. In methods like Ethnography the researcher is bound to lose in the process as noted by William Whyte when he started as a Non participant observer ended up as a Participant Non observer.
6. Even in other qualitative methods like interview or focus group technique the interviewee or moderator bias might creep which will lead to objectivity compromised.
7. The objectivity is also compromised if the method chosen is more prone to value bias of own individual.



Critical Analysis

But because objectivity is difficult does not mean it should be shunned away but various sociologists have given methods to ensure objectivity

1. Weber - Verstehen → Objective analysis of subjective meanings
2. Dorothy - Smith → Reflexivity → the researcher should be aware of bias & should be careful
3. Norman K Denzin - Triangulation - use of multiple methods, researchers, data, etc
4. Peer review → opening up research to criticism
5. Member check → To allow the observant to be the critic

Hence as noted by Hammerkey a unique method to ensure objectivity in sociology is possible



c) Write a short note on Sects and Cults (10 Marks)

Sect - Peter Berger has defined it as a group that is tension with the larger religion and is closed against it

Sect generally has a reformist agenda and seeks to challenge the existing religion

The rise of sect can be either rapid social change when people search for explanations as noted by Bryan Wilson Eg) Methodism

Or Theodicy of Disprivilege - Weber → attract the marginalised or an escape from major religion

It is also a manifestation of New Religions movements - Ray Wallis

Sect generally has strict membership criteria and based on strong loyalty



Cult on the other hand are groups based on charismatic authority cult. They seek to achieve some personal experience, spiritual experience & not challenge the church as set do

They have an open membership criteria & do not command strict loyalty

Olbridge notes they are more about solution in present life & give solution to mundane problems

Ray Wallis notes they are of three types like World affirming, accommodating & rejecting

A cult when it gets more stronger might evolve into a set