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.*
- *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)	

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

1. As Covid hit the world, what impact do you think the lockdown had on people with respect to dimensions like Caste, Class and Gender? Support your answer with suitable examples

The Covid pandemic hit the world in late March 2020 and periodic lockdowns have been a feature of the post COVID Society esp. with waves of peaking transmissibility of cases.

It has had vareid yet a common effect of deprivation on people, of various backgrounds.

Impact with respect to Class →

1) As highlighned by various studies, eg, (OXFAM – Inequality virus; Azim Premji Foundation) ⇒ many lost their jobs and fell into poverty. This class represented those at the lower strata. eg- Those seeking NREGA works.

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2) The Middle Class on the other hand, fell back on the lower class and had downgraded <u>social mobility</u>.

3) The upper class (Guy Standing - <u>The Global Elites</u>) multiplied their wealth by many times in the lockdown.

<u>Impact with respect to Caste</u> →

1) Caste and Class Identities Intersect (Max Weber). Therefore, economic status of lower caste even fell. eg - Sanitation workers.

2) Increased Violence against women, ~~etc~~ in lower caste households (Oscar Lewis - Culture of Poverty)

3) Upper Caste - generally work from home etc. (But if lower class ⇒ affected).

<u>Impact with respect to Gender</u> →

1) Increased burden of Care Work.

2) Double Burden if working.

3) Violence against Women Cases rose.

Therefore, the lockdown has had a mixed impact on different sections, although <u>alienation</u> & <u>deprivation</u> was felt by all in differing degrees.

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis
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2. Discuss the Sociology of Social Distancing
Elaborate your answer in context of India
(10)

Social Distancing refers to the
practice of keeping oneself aloof or in
minimal contact / Interactions with
members of a particular class, caste,
race background, fully or partially.

In India, the concept can be
linked to GS Ghurye's conception of
Pollution & Purity manifested in
different forms — in the type of jobs,
in the nature of social relations etc,
where lower caste are supposed to
be excluded or maintained as an
underclass.

In Andre Beteille's Study of
village sripuram, he was not allowed
to visit the lower caste because of

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Social Distancing considerations.

Even in our cities, and metropolis, the developement of slums and ghettos of people belonging to particular Social groups either of caste/ Class/ Religion highlight Sociology of social Distancing.

Social Distancing on Class lines is also seen, whereby Lower Class are excluded from upper Class Interactions. Marx characterizes it as False Class Consciousness.

Marriage Rules (Endogamy/ Exogamy); Nature of Roles (Instru-mental/ Affectine etc) also highlight Social Distancing phenomenon, in Indian soceity.

UPSC

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3. Domestic Worker are a form of Informal Worker. Discuss the <u>unregulated nature of the work</u>, the <u>problems</u> faced By them and how successful have been the <u>labour laws</u> in protecting them? (10)

Domestic Workers Constitute a Class of workers, typically women, who Work in people's households in an Informal arrangement, typically receiving piece-meal remunerations, with little to no social security.

<u>Unregulated nature of work</u> →

1. Informal economy with easy entry, and low skills with low payments (Keith Hart)

2. No Social security benefits.

3. No All India Data ⟹ hence no policy measures.

4. No Unionisation (fragmented group)

UPSC

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5. Typically women ⇒ Violence, rape etc faced. ⇒ with minimal legal resolution.

Problems faced By Them →

1. Intersectionality of Class - Gender (unique Issues) ⇒ Lower Dignity, less remuneration.

2. No Social Security / Maternity Benefits

3. Violence common.

4. Unheard (since representation almost nil)

Labour laws & Domestic Workers

1. Policy decision to undertake 1st ever survey of Domestic workers (Ministry of labour) ⇒ good step.

2. Labour laws typically non-sensitive or non-inclusive for Domestic workers, although Code on Social Security for Gig workers offers hope.

Therefore, Recognition and then Inclusive policies based on data, critical for emancipation of Domestic workers

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4. Deep rooted Biases and gender stereotypes have been major hurdles in women empowerment. What role can society play to help women break down the glass walls of STEM (10)

Women are steretyped in almost every sphere of human activity — education to nature to role to desired looks — posing major hurdles to women empowerment.

STEM education is one of the prominent dimensions where stereotyping is visibly present. In the Indian context, it presents a pardoxical case where almost 40% of women take up STEM education, but only about 14% do STEM jobs.

This missing 'STEM women' highleights how soceital structures like Patriarchy, stereotyping, care

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economy become a hurdle in women's educational pursuit. In this context,

Role of Society in helping women break down glass walls of STEM

1. Soceital Morality — must rise to the level of Constitutional Morality, where everyone is seen as equal.

2. Structures of Patriarchy — must be Shackled. (Allowing women to step out of house beyond fixed timings).

3. Stereotyping in terms of age for marriage, having children etc. Should change.

4. Burden of Care Economy be recognized, reduced & redistributed.

B. ~~Therefore~~, In addition, other aspects like Individual's own perception of self, the national policies, the structural Barriers are as essential to bringing the change.

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5. what do you mean by 'Deschooling Soceity'? Critically discuss how the rise of edtechs in addition to highlighting the glaring digital divide in India, has also led to commodification of education (10M)

'Deschooling Soceity' refers to the process of allowing one to reinvent, knowledge and education, whilst freeing themselves of the explicit or implicit notions / biases they inherited through formal/Informal Schooling.

Deschooling Soceity is critically linked to the rise of Edtechs, revolutionising the education Sector with interactive approach and unique pedagogy.

However, it has its own Challenges.

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- Digital Divide amplified.
- Commodification of Education
- Drop in Quality
- Affordability and Access (for all sections) not present.

EdTechs & Commodification of Education

Commodification means assinging the role of a commodity, having a money value.

Evidences: ① EdTechs thriving on page views/ followers than Quality.

② Affordability compromised ⟹ leading to exclusion.

Therefore, the way forward is to maintain a healthy balance between rising edtechs and their Sociological Sustainability.

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