



Sociology Optional 2025 Schedule

Focus Areas: Content + Regular Answer Writing

Topic	Date
Introduction to the Course	
Introductory-cum-Orientation Lectures	Must Watch
Paper - 1 Paper 1 content will be uploaded on Oct 21, 2024.	
1. Sociology - The Discipline:	
(a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.	Week 1
(b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.	
(c) Sociology and common sense.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
2. Sociology as Science:	
(a) Science, scientific method and critique.	Week 2
(b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.	
(c) Positivism and its critique.	
(d) Fact value and objectivity.	
(e) Non- positivist methodologies.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
3. Research Methods and Analysis:	
(a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.	Week 3
(b) Techniques of data collection.	
(c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
4. Sociological Thinkers:	
(a) Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.	Week 4
(b) Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(c) Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.	Week 5
(d) Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(d) Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables.	

(e) Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.	Week 6	
(f) Mead - Self and identity.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
5. Stratification and Mobility:		
(a) Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.	Week 7	
(b) Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.		
NO TEST		
(c) Dimensions- Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.	Week 8	
(d) Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
Half-Length Test-1 (10 Questions Test)		
ONE WEEK'S BREAK		
6. Works and Economic Life:		
(a) Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial / capitalist society.	Week 9	
(b) Formal and informal organization of work.		
(c) Labour and society.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
7. Politics and Society:		
(a) Sociological theories of power.	Week 10	
(b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.		
NO TEST		
(c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.	Week 11	
(d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
8. Religion and Society:		
(a) Sociological theories of religion.	Week 12	
(b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.		
(c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
9. Systems of Kinship:		
(a) Family, household, marriage.	Week 13	
(b) Types and forms of family.		
(c) Lineage and descent.		
(d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.		

(e) Contemporary trends.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
10. Social Change in Modern Society:		
(a) Sociological theories of social change.	Week 14	
(b) Development and dependency.		
(c) Agents of social change.		
(d) Education and social change.		
(e) Science, technology and social change.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
Half-Length Test-2 (10 Questions Test)		
ONE WEEK'S BREAK		
Paper - 2 Content will be uploaded on Dec 1, 2024.		
Introduction to Paper - 2		
A. Introducing Indian Society:		
(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society:		
(a) Indology (GS. Ghurye)	Week 15	
(b) Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas)		
(c) Marxist sociology (A R Desai)		
(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:		
(a) Social background of Indian nationalism.		
(b) Modernization of Indian tradition.		
(c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.		
(d) Social reforms.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
B. Social Structure:		
(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:		
(a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.	Week 16	
(b) Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.		
(ii) Caste System:		
(a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.		
(b) Features of caste system.		
(c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives.		
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice		
(iii) Tribal communities in India:		
(a) Definitional problems.		

(b) Geographical spread.	Week 17
(c) Colonial policies and tribes.	
(d) Issues of integration and autonomy.	
(iv) Social Classes in India:	
(a) Agrarian class structure.	
(b) Industrial class structure.	
(c) Middle classes in India.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(v) Systems of Kinship in India:	
(a) Lineage and descent in India.	
(b) Types of kinship systems.	
(c) Family and marriage in India.	
(d) Household dimensions of the family.	
(e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.	
(vi) Religion and Society:	
(a) Religious communities in India.	
(b) Problems of religious minorities.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
Half-Length Test-3	
ONE WEEK'S BREAK	
C. Social Changes in India:	
(i) Visions of Social Change in India:	Week 19
(a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.	
(b) Constitution, law and social change.	
(c) Education and social change.	
(ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India:	
(a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.	
(b) Green revolution and social change.	
(c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture .	
(d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:	Week 20
(a) Evolution of modern industry in India.	
(b) Growth of urban settlements in India.	
(c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.	
(d) Informal sector, child labour.	
(e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(iv) Politics and Society:	

(a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.	Week 21
(b) Political parties, pressure groups , social and political elite.	
(c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.	
(d) Secularization	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(v) Social Movements in Modern India:	
(a) Peasants and farmers movements.	Week 22
(b) Women’s movement.	
(c) Backward classes & Dalit movement.	
(d) Environmental movements.	
(e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(vi) Population Dynamics:	
(a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.	Week 23
(b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.	
(c) Population policy and family planning.	
(d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductivehealth.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:	
(a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.	Week 24
(b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.	
(c) Violence against women.	
(d) Caste conflicts.	
(e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.	
(f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.	
2 Questions for Answer Writing Practice	
Half-Length Test-4	Week 25
Full Length Test-1	Week 26
Full Length Test-2	Week 27
1. The last date for test submission is September 20, 2025. 2. Students can attempt the tests at their own pace, but it is advised to attempt them along with the schedule. 3. All the tests can be attempted only once	