



Sleepy Classes IAS
Awakening Toppers

UPSC

SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL

SYLLABUS WITH

 Video links

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298 Marks
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This document is a comprehensive compilation of the complete UPSC Sociology Optional syllabus (Paper 1 & Paper 2), integrated with topic-wise video lecture links.

It is designed to provide a structured and streamlined approach to your preparation.

Each topic in the syllabus has been carefully mapped with relevant lectures, enabling you to navigate the course efficiently, avoid confusion, and save time.

This compilation will serve as a one-stop resource for learning, revision, and tracking your progress.

Students are advised to follow this document systematically to ensure complete syllabus coverage, conceptual clarity, and effective preparation.

UPSC Sociology Optional – Syllabus

Compilation with Video Links

Paper 1

1. Sociology – The Discipline:

- a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Sociology and common Sense. ([Video Link](#))

2. Sociology as Science:

- a) Science, scientific method and critique. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Positivism and its critique. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Fact value and objectivity. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Non – positivist methodologies ([Video Link](#))

3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- a) Qualitative and quantitative methods ([Video Link](#))
- b) Techniques of data collection. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity. ([Video Link](#))

4. Sociological Thinkers:

- a) Karl Marx – Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Emile Durkheim – Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion, and Society. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Max Weber- Social action, Ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Talcott Parsons – Social system, pattern variables. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups. ([Video Link](#))
- f) Mead- Self and identity. ([Video Link](#))

5. Stratification and Mobility:

- a) Concepts – equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Theories of Social stratification – Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility. ([Video Link](#))

6. Works and Economic life:

- a) Social organization of work in different types of Society – Slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Formal and informal organization of work. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Labour and Society. ([Video Link](#))

7. Politics and Society:

- a) Sociological theories of Power. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution. ([Video Link](#))

8. Religion and Society:

- a) Sociological theories of religion. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Types of religion practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, and cults. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism. ([Video Link](#))

9. System of Kinship:

- a) Family, household, marriage. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Types and forms of family. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Lineage and descent. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Contemporary trends. ([Video Link](#))

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- a) Sociological theories of social change. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Development and dependency. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Agents of social change. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Education and social change. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Science, technology and social change. ([Video Link](#))

Paper 2

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society:

- a) Indology (G.S. Ghure). ([Video Link](#))
- b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas). ([Video Link](#))
- c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai). ([Video Link](#))

(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:

- a) Social background of Indian nationalism. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Modernization of Indian tradition. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Protests and movements during the colonial period. ([Video Link](#))

B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

- a) The idea of Indian village and village studies. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Agrarian social structure – evolution of land system, land reforms. ([Video Link](#))

(ii) Caste System:

- a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Features of caste system. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives ([Video Link](#))

(iii) Tribal Communities in India:

- a) Definitional problems. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Geographical spread. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Colonial policies and tribes. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Issues of integration and autonomy. ([Video Link](#))

(iv) Social Classes in India:

- a) Agrarian class structure. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Industrial class structure. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Middle classes in India. ([Video Link](#))

(v) Systems of Kinship in India:

- a) Lineage and descent in India. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Types of kinship systems. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Family and marriage in India. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Household dimensions of the family. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour. ([Video Link](#))

(vi) Religion and Society:

- a) Religious communities in India. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Problems of religious minorities. ([Video Link](#))

C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Constitution, law and social change. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Education and social change. ([Video Link](#))

(ii) Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India:

- a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Green revolution and social change. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration. ([Video Link](#))

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

- a) Evolution of modern industry in India. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Growth of urban settlements in India. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Informal sector, child labour. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas. ([Video Link](#))

(iv) Politics and Society:

- a) Nation, democracy and citizenship. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Regionalism and decentralization of power. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Secularization.

(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

- a) Peasants and farmers movements. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Women's movement. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Backward classes & Dalit movements. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Environmental movements. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Ethnicity and Identity movements. ([Video Link](#))

(vi) Population Dynamics:

- Population size, growth, composition and distribution. ([Video Link](#))
- Components of population growth: birth, death, migration. ([Video Link](#))
- Population Policy and family planning. ([Video Link](#))
- Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health. ([Video Link](#))

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

- a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability. ([Video Link](#))
- b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities. ([Video Link](#))
- c) Violence against women. ([Video Link](#))
- d) Caste conflicts. ([Video Link](#))
- e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism. ([Video Link](#))
- f) Illiteracy and disparities in education. ([Video Link](#))

Learn Sociology with India's Leading Mentor: **Shekhar Dutt**

Shekhar Dutt, co-founder of Sleepy Classes and one of India's most trusted Sociology mentors, has guided thousands of UPSC aspirants to 300+ scores and top ranks, including AIR 2, AIR 5, & AIR 13. His unmatched expertise combines deep subject knowledge with exam-oriented strategy.

- 15+ years of teaching experience in Sociology
- Mentor of toppers like Animesh Pradhan (AIR 2, 2023), Ujjwal Priyank Air 10 2025 & Srushti Deshmukh (AIR 5, 2018)
- Proven record of 280+ average scores among students
- Unique blend of conceptual clarity, current affairs integration & strategic answer writing



Shekhar Dutt
(Director, Sleepy Classes IAS)

