



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	<p>Most answers stay highly relevant to the questions, with apt inclusion of sociological thinkers and examples. They reflect a clear understanding of core concepts. Minor improvement can be made by avoiding overlapping points to ensure maximum impact.</p>
Structure of Answer	<p>The structure of your answers is strong and impressive. Logical flow, appropriate use of subheadings, and bullet points ensure clarity and readability. but in questions like 2 and 4 content is not upto the mark</p>
Content	<p>The content is okay, but it can be better if you add names of thinkers and real examples. Try to give clear and strong points instead of general ideas.</p>
Presentation (Neatness, charts, diagrams as required)	<p>The overall presentation is clean and organized with neat spacing and diagrams. However, the word limit is being exceeded, which is a negative aspect. Practice shorter, crisp answers to improve readability and meet mains exam requirements.</p>

overall answers are good. All the best, Keep Writing !

Sociology Mains Test Series

Test 2 (Chapter 4)

Question 1. Outline the key ideas of G.H. Mead along with their limitations. How are Mead's theories relevant in understanding Indian society? (20 Marks)

Question 2. Why does Marx consider class conflict essential for bringing about social change? (10 Marks)

Question 3. Merton viewed bureaucrats as bound by rituals and procedures, but in today's dynamic governance landscape, a rebellious mindset is preferred. Discuss. (20 Marks)

Question 4. To what extent does Durkheim's theory of Division of Labour hold significance in modern times? (10 Marks)

Question 5. Compare the perspectives of Parsons and Weber on the concept of social action. (10 Marks)

**(10 Marker Questions shall be answered in not more than 150 words
20 Marker Questions shall be answers in not more than 250 words)**

Question 1. Outline the key ideas of G.H. Mead along with their limitations. How are Mead's theories relevant in understanding Indian society? (20 Marks)

G. H. Mead was a social psychologist who contributed greatly to the study of social identity, behaviour and communication.

His key ideas include symbolic interactionism, self and 'I'/'Me'.

KEY IDEAS OF G.H. MEAD

1. Symbolic Interactionism

- A framework for understanding how society is created and preserved through repeated social interactions

- Symbols such as language and gesture facilitate individuals to communicate, share experiences and engage in complex social processes. **good point**

- Symbols should have a collective meaning in a social group for social life to proceed in the right direction.

(eg) Person 1 $\xrightarrow{\text{says hello}}$ Person 2 $\xleftarrow{\text{returns the greeting}}$ [Here language becomes a significant symbol]



2. Theory of Self

- Mead defined 'self' as 'the thoughts of an individual about the unified whole of his/her body, emotions, thoughts and actions.'

- He divided the process of development of self into three stages:

Imitative phase (0-2 years)	Play Stage (2-7 years)	Game Stage (>7 years)
<p>(i) Newborn child has no self</p> <p>(ii) Can only <u>mimic</u> the words and <u>actions</u> of others without understanding their <u>roles</u>.</p>	<p>(i) Child learns to use <u>significant symbols</u>, and <u>inner conversation</u> starts.</p> <p>(ii) He/she sometimes plays the role of <u>significant others</u> (parents/teachers/grandparents), etc to evaluate themselves in <u>other roles</u></p>	<p>(i) Child interacts with a larger variety of <u>people</u> (<u>Generalized other</u>)</p> <p>(ii) Learns to understand the role of <u>all individuals</u> in an <u>organized group</u></p> <p>(iii) <u>Reflective intelligence</u> develops</p>

no need to explain these stage in detail. just briefly mention them

these arguments are relevant but need to write in less words

- Mead stresses on the idea of non-dualism, combining body, mind, self and society.



3. 'I' and 'Me': Distinctive Phases of the Self

I	Me
1. <u>Psychological</u> self, consisting of impulses, desires and emotions.	1. <u>Social</u> self, which evaluates the actions of I
2. Initiates <u>change</u> and inspires <u>creativity</u>	2. Promotes <u>status quo</u> and enforces <u>conformity</u>
3. We are not aware of the ' <u>I</u> ' — it only manifests <u>after</u> an <u>action</u> is committed	3. We are always <u>conscious</u> of the ' <u>Me</u> '

this is relevant but need to write in less words

CRITICISM

1) Roper criticises Mead for considering social activities as discrete entities

without historical continuity.

2) Baert claims that Mead's idea of social world is too consensual.

3) He does not give adequate biological and genetic factors in influencing behaviour.

- Overemphasis on micro-level importance
- Idealistic view of socialization
- Less attention to conflict and power
- Lack of empirical testing

4) Like other symbolic interactionists, Mead does not explore the origin of meanings.



Relevance in Understanding Indian Society

1. Caste Dynamics

- For a lower caste individual, the 'I' may wish to make independent choices regarding career and marriage, but the 'Me' refrains from it due to occupational rigidity and endogamy.

decent

2. Traditional vs Modern Socialization

- In the past, the child was brought up in joint families where grand parents, aunts etc were also significant.
- Presently, due to nuclear families and working parents, socialization depends more on peers, mass media and social media.

relevant arguments

"Generalized other" can explain how caste values get internalized through daily interactions and rituals.

3. Role of symbols and gestures

- Gestures such as 'namaste' to greet others, touching the feet of elders, and symbols such as 'sindoor' in marriage, crackers in Diwali, etc are important parts of social interaction.

Role-taking helps explain how children learn respect for elders, gender roles, and caste norms within joint families.

overall decent answer. keep an eye on the word limit

Thus Mead's ideas brought a new paradigm of thinking and enriched the fields of Sociology, social psychology and Communication Studies.

Despite criticism, Mead's theory remains relevant today, especially in understanding social media and influencer culture, where identity, role playing, and symbolic interaction shape how individuals present and perceive themselves.

Question 2. Why does Marx consider class conflict essential for bringing about social change? (10 Marks)

According to Marx, the ^{History of} ^{the history} ^{of} ^{the} ^{class} ^{struggle} is ^{the} ^{motor} ^{of} ^{the} ^{history} ^{of} ^{the} ^{class} ^{struggle}. He considers ^{the} ^{motor} ^{of} ^{the} ^{history} ^{of} ^{the} ^{class} ^{struggle} as the ^{motor} ^{of} ^{the} ^{history} ^{of} ^{the} ^{class} ^{struggle} conflict and an essential driver of social change.

in the intro define class

Karl Marx defined class based on a person's relationship to the means of production — that is, whether they own productive resources (like land, factories, tools) or only sell their labour.

Necessity of Class Conflict
for Bringing About
Social Change

this case 1 and case 2 approach not needed

Case 1: Absence of Class Conflict (Class in Itself)

- Only the objective manifestation of class
- No awareness of belonging to a common
- No value attachment
- This is not conducive for a revolution, and exploitation will continue.

mention words like - economic base (forces and relations of production) determines the superstructure (institutions, values, laws)

Ancient Mode	Feudal Mode	Capitalist Mode
→ <u>Slaves</u> , though treated as property of <u>masters</u> , believe that they still have some control over production	→ <u>Serfs</u> , though not owners of land, are left with surplus after paying rent to <u>feudal lords</u>	→ <u>workers</u> demand <u>quantitative</u> <u>changes</u> like <u>wage</u> <u>likes</u> from <u>capitalists</u>

can mention various classes involved in various stages and how social change happened during early primitive societies, feudalism etc.



- Case 2: Presence of Class Conflict (Class for Itself)

As the working class becomes conscious of its exploitation—a stage called class consciousness—they begin to organise, resist, and challenge the existing capitalist system.

→ This happens when workers become aware of their collective exploitation and restricted mobility.

→ Subjective manifestation of value attachment

try to understand the demand of question in better manner

criticism part missing

Overemphasis on economy, neglects culture - Gramsci

Revolutionary change rarely happens as predicted - Aron

Ancient Mode	Feudal Mode	Capitalistic Mode
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population increases, slaves are pressurised to produce more, and feel exploited Finally, they revolt and some of them leave to work in fields as agriculture emerges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yet again, population increase leads to exorbitant rent demand from serfs by feudal lords, leaving them unable to meet basic needs They again revolt and some begin to work in new factories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class solidarity often replaced by identity - Giddens Workers will yet again revolt to overthrow the system, giving way to socialism and communism (a classless, stateless, egalitarian society)

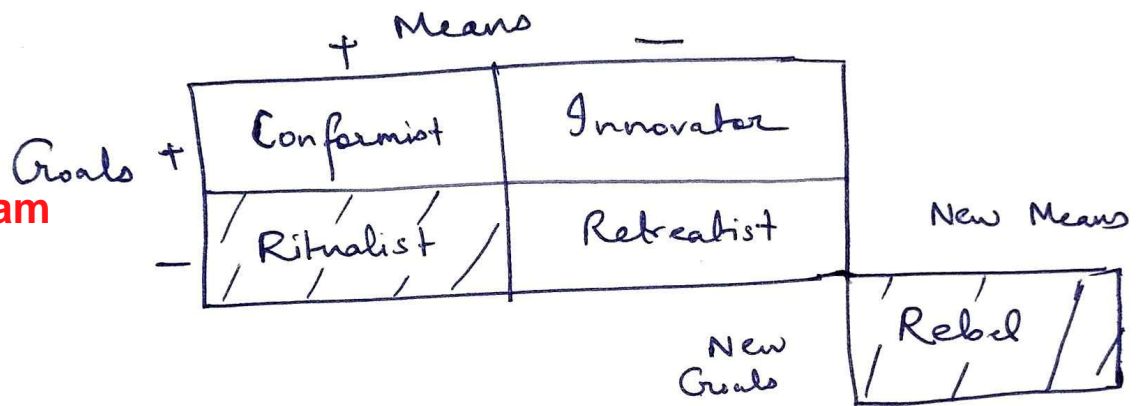
Thus, across history, one mode of production is replaced by another due to inherent contradictions and class conflict. Therefore communism will be the 'End of History' because there will neither be any classes, nor any antagonism.

Question 3. Merton viewed bureaucrats as bound by rituals and procedures, but in today's dynamic governance landscape, a rebellious mindset is preferred. Discuss. (20 Marks)

In Merton's theory of deviance ("social structure and Anomie"), a ritualist is one who accepts socially acceptable means but fails to understand culturally prescribed goals. On the other hand, a rebellious person exists with existing goals and means and comes up with new ones.

Talk about institutionalised means and cultural goals

good diagram



Ritualism in Bureaucracy

1. Bureaucrats often subordinate themselves to rules and procedures, forgetting their bigger goal of dedication to public service.

good points

2. Rule-bound behaviour drives them to act in self-preservation, i.e. following processes to the tee to avoid disciplinary action

3. They treat their office as a job rather than a service.

4. They do not go an extra mile to help someone by working around the rules without violating them.

can merge certain arguments. overall decent points

5. They become status quoist and do not adopt creative approaches.

Implications

1. Ineffective public service delivery

2. Marginalized sections may not be adequately assisted

(eg) A destitute lady without proper documents will not be given a subsidy by a ritualist bureaucrat

3. Red tapism

4. Perception of irresponsiveness to the public

However, today's dynamic governance landscape and complex nature of service delivery



would benefit more from a rebellious mindset.

Rebellion in Bureaucracy

1. New Goals

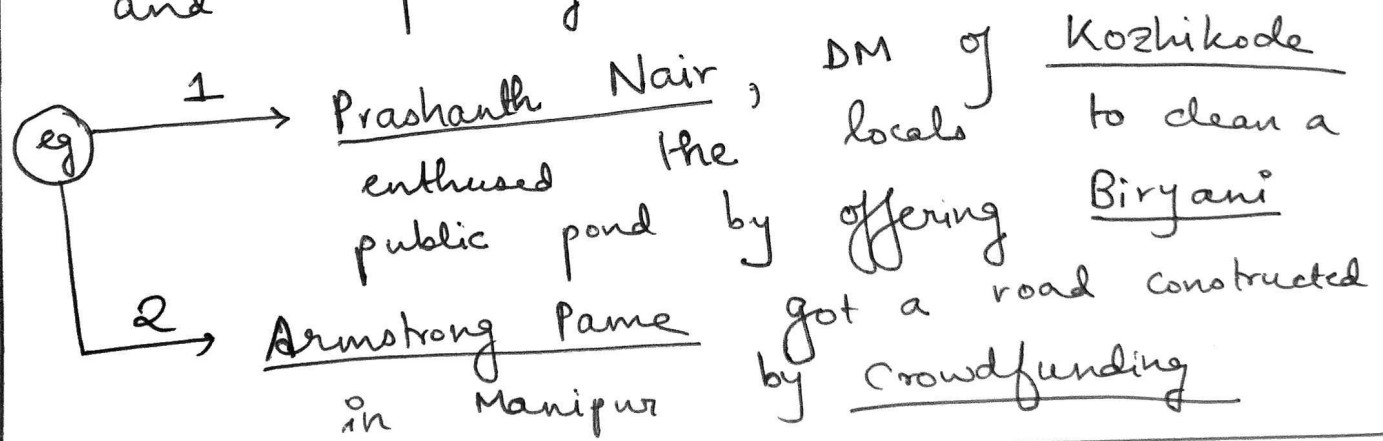
Public servants today do not just implement policies but also contribute to formulation, thus acting as advocates of the marginalized.

but bureaucrats were formulating policy earlier also

2. New Means

Going beyond innovative methods and finding the help the masses. Giving subsidy negligibly above the poverty line and even making it as a reasoned order

Today's bureaucrats are expected to be change agents—willing to challenge outdated systems, propose new goals (transparency, inclusivity), and adopt new means (e-governance, decentralization, participatory models). This aligns with Merton's rebellion category—rejecting both old goals and means to build new, progressive frameworks.



Before writing conclusion ,
need to mention criticism of
the theory

Implications

1. Bureaucrats react more flexibly to situations.
2. Their actions take into account the changing needs of society personality, and values of individuals.
3. They can utilize their strengths to compensate for weaknesses
4. They can earn public trust

Alvin Gouldner highlighted power and hierarchy shaping bureaucratic behavior.

Therefore, a rebellious mindset can be more functional than a bureaucratic mindset. It can more effectively ensure social order and integration.

Merton ignores bureaucratic strengths emphasized by Weber's ideal type.

decent conclusion

Question 4. To what extent does Durkheim's theory of Division of Labour hold significance in modern times? (10 Marks)

Durkheim describes his ideas regarding Division of Labour (DOL) in his doctoral thesis,

"Division of Labour in Society (1893)". This **need to mention what is mechanical and organic solidarity**

means the splitting up of an activity into smaller parts or processes.

explain what is division of labour

SIGNIFICANCE OF DOL THEORY IN MODERN TIMES

1. Globalization and Organic Solidarity

- The idea of need-based interdependence is evident in today's globally connected society.

decent point

(eg) Issues on global health, international trade among diverse, specialized

● **Functional interdependence:** Modern society runs on deeply specialised, mutual roles. **require coordination**

● **Bureaucratic systems** need structured division of labour.

2. Multi-disciplinary Research

- There is often collaboration from different disciplines, relies on the unique strengths to achieve common outcomes.

● **Restitutive law sustains modern contractual social order**

Fr smartphones like the iPhone, design may occur in California, parts manufactured in South Korea or Taiwan, and assembly in China

(eg) Climate change Experts, economists,

The international team behind the COVID-19 vaccines included virologists, engineers, logisticians, and supply chain experts from multiple nations



3. Crig Economy

- It signifies new forms of DoL characterised by fragmentation of tasks and hyperspecialized workers.

need concrete examples

- Their job insecurity and lack of collective regulations also reflects anomie.

LIMITATIONS IN EXPLAINING MODERN PHENOMENA

1. Technological disruptions

- The advent of Artificial Intelligence, digital platforms and automation threatens jobs in various sectors, raising concern about social stability that the theory does not address.

this looks like a GS arguments add thinkers

● **Marx: Ignores class conflict in work division structure.**

● **Weber: Overlooks power and authority in labour roles.**

● **Gouldner: Assumes harmony; neglects organisational internal conflicts.**

● **Feminists: Ignores gendered labour division and inequality.**

- Workers in developing countries, facing outsourced factories, long hours and low wages.

3. Fragmentation and Cultural Divides - overemphasis on social solidarity, the theory cannot explain trends like the growing political divide between progressives & conservatives.

Thus Durkheim's ideas of specialization and differentiation, though still relevant, require Some reinterpretations in the present context.

Question 5. Compare the perspectives of Parsons and Weber on the concept of social action. (10 Marks)

Weber introduced the concept to emphasize subjective meaning behind individual actions, Parsons built on it to develop a systematic framework of how actions are structured and integrated within society.

can write better definitions

Parsons defines social action as consciously performed acts that are attached to subjective meanings by individual actors.

COMPARISON ON CONCEPT OF SOCIAL ACTION

1. Parsons Verstehen accepted the use of Weber's ideas to studying social action.
2. Parsons explain the motivational orientation uses Weber's ideas to social action.
3. Parallels can be drawn between their typologies
 - (i) Instrumental (P) \equiv Zweck-rational (W)
 - (ii) Moral (P) \equiv Traditional + Wert rational (W)
 - (iii) Expressive (P) \equiv Affective (W)

decent arguments

SIMILARITY

DIFFERENCES

P.O.D.	Weber	Parsons
1. Meaning	- Sees in terms of <u>meanings</u> attached by actors	- Considers <u>social goals</u> and <u>norms</u> also important

Definition

meaning by individual

guided by social norms

Method

Interpretive, verstehen

Structural-functional,

Action type

Four types based on motivation

Value-oriented role-based behaviour

Unit of analysis

Individual and subjective intent

Status role within social structure

Social order

Shared meanings guide behaviour

Norms ensure system stability

View of society

Multiple realities, actor-centred

Integrated, value-consensus system

Criticism

Ignores structure, too individualist

Ignores agency, too deterministic

2. Nature of Society

Weber

Parsons

(i) Micro approach
(ii) Social action to be studied in individual context

(i) Combines micro and macro
(ii) Social reality is a combination of collective interactions

Weber focuses on individuals and their subjective intentions as the foundation of social explanation. Parsons analyzes status-roles within the social system as core components of structured social behavior.

relevant arguments

3. Study of Society

(i) Against pure, abstract theorizing
(ii) Reality is too vast and disorganized to study in totality.

(i) Gives general theories
(ii) Theories are applicable in different societies

4. Methods used

- Ideal types

- System nature

5. Application

- Every action in reality is a combination of the ideal types

- Uses it to explain the conflict between motivational and value orientation.

Both these thinkers widened the ambit of sociology by giving scientific methods of study. They each explain, in different ways, how individual actions structure different aspects of society.