



Instructions to the candidate:

- There are 10 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)	



Question 1. Discuss how technology has accelerated both the process of development and dependency. (10 Marks)

Technology plays a crucial role in innovations and discoveries that lead to development. However, at the same time, dependence upon dominant nations like china for semiconductors, can reinforce imbalanced power relations.

[Technology and development]

- Economic growth

As per Joseph Schumpeter, technology drives economic growth through development of new industries and new markets for technologically advanced nations.

For ex - Rise of digital marketplace models like uber, urbanclap, etc.

- Global supply chains (GSCs) - Technology enabled Integration within GSCs through e-commerce and logistics has enabled "Asian Tigers" to fuel their growth.

- Bridging Infrastructural gaps

As per, Amartya Sen, technology helps in bridging gaps leading to inclusive growth specially among the marginalised sections.



For ex - JAM trinity in India to promote financial inclusion
or Mobile Banking in Kenya.

Technology and dependency

- ↳ As per Alb Frank, the import of technology from developed nations, furthers the relations of dependency for cutting-edge technologies like AI, Internet of things, etc.
Ex - US-China was for supremacy of technological development through AI, renewable energy equipments, etc.
- ↳ Technology transfer reinforces the core-periphery relations as per Immanuel wallerstein. Further, it lead to increasing vulnerability of developing nations to cyberattacks and raises security concerns.
- ↳ Hence, at one hand, technology has the potential for inclusive growth and soft-power influence like cultural export by Korea. At the same time, it shall be used in a balanced way to avoid "technological hegemony" of dominant nations.



Question 2. How do rules of descent and alliance in kinship differ from each other? Illustrate. (10 Marks)

Both descent and alliance are crucial for studying kinship relations. Descent refers to tracing one's ancestry through consanguineal ties, while alliance is the social relationship between a person and their in-laws.

Rules of descent and alliance

• Rules of descent

→ As per Levi Strauss, descent identifies inheritance patterns and passage of social status among kims. It can be of two types :-

- Unilineal descent - Either from father's side - Patrilineal or from mother's side - matrilineal. Patrilineal is the most common form of descent. while, matrilineal is also observed among Khasis (Meghalaya), Nairs (Malabar region).

- Cognatic - It refers to tracing descent from both father's and mother's side. Ex - Samoans of Polynesia.

→ Descent dictates whom one should not marry. Ex-



Sapinda exogamy in India.

⇒ Further, descent can be traced with respect to a real ancestor (i.e. Vamsha/lineage) or an imaginary ancestor (i.e. kula).

• Rules of alliance

- ⇒ As per Murdoch, alliance rules dictate "whom one should marry" i.e. the conjugal and affinal ties.
 - ⇒ Alliance in that sense, can be expanding kinship relations outside the descent group.
 - ⇒ As per Irawati Karve, rules of alliance differ substantially on a regional basis in India.
For ex - hypergamous marriages in north India, while preferential marriages in south India.
- Hence, descent is majorly associated with biological ties, while alliance is more about social and cultural ties among people.



Question 3. Do all global religions exhibit patriarchal characteristics? Provide illustrative examples to support your argument. (10 Marks)

Religion and patriarchy are interlinked social institutions, generally having mutually-reinforcing ties. However, patriarchal characteristics offering privileges to men, have evolved over time within several religions as opposed to their inherent belief system.

Global religions with patriarchal features

⇒ Subjects of worship - As per Giddens, god is usually a father-like figure and a male. Since, religion is a reflection of society, it showcases patriarchal inclination of "malestreaming religious deities".

⇒ Acts of worship - As per Simone De Beauvoir, it is the women, who perform majority of religious acts, however the same religion pushes them to subordination. A study by Susan Crawford showed how women have accepted subordination by making religion as their private sphere, while public sphere being dominated by men.

⇒ Brahmanical Patriarchy (Uma Chakravorty)

The ritualistic importance given to Brahmins in Indian caste system perpetuates patriarchal structures within Hinduism.

- Idea of motherhood - Religious dictations often perpetuate the image of ideal femininity intertwined with procreative sexuality, household work and childcare responsibilities.

Critical analysis

⇒ Pre-historic societies show the genesis of religion was highly egalitarian with female worship.

Ex - Mother goddess worship by IVC in India.

⇒ Karen Armstrong in her work on Islam, examines how the first ummah in Medina highly participated in public life.

⇒ Rig Veda traces creation of world to feminine energy.

Hence, majority of the religions have "turned" patriarchal due to evolution besides socio-cultural landscape dominated by "male hegemony".



Question 4. Discuss major sociological imperatives on Education as an ideological state apparatus. (10 Marks)

Education as an ideological state apparatus (ISA) was seen by Louis Althusser, where he describes how education is used to promote "ruling class ideologies" and prevent any form of counter-hegemonic resistance.

Sociological imperatives on Education as ISA

- Karl Marx considered education as a part of superstructure shaped by underlying economic relations and used to spread false consciousness among masses.
For ex - Education inculcates passive subservience to the bourgeoisie at working place.
- For Bowls and Gintis, "hidden curriculum" of education produces employees for the capitalist market. Hence, concealed curriculum of education as per Ivan Illich promotes the interests of dominant groups.
- For Bourdieu, education acts as a means to sustain "cultural capital" through reproduction of existing social hierarchies in the society.



- As per Michel Foucault, as power and knowledge are interlinked, control over better resources of education by the elites leads to increment in their power.
- further, even online education can reinforce existing divisions as per Manuel Castell's idea of digital divide.

Critical Analysis

- ↳ Education can go against the interests of bourgeoisie as well. For ex - several Marxists themselves have been university graduates.
- ↳ As per Karuna Ahmed, education can bring ideational change, challenging traditional belief systems.
- ↳ Education can lead to massive changes in workings of state if utilized properly. Ex - BR Ambedkar used his knowledge to create an equal constitution for all in society.
- ↳ Hence, education can act both as an ISA as well as a facilitator of change depending upon the individual motivation and existing societal context.



Question 5. How have women's protest movements evolved over time, and what role have they played in challenging gender inequality and advocating for women's rights? (20 Marks)

As per Anthony Giddens, "women's protest movements can be defined as collective attempts of reformers with common interests oriented towards a common desired goal." According to Sylvia Walby, "patriarchal structures" contribute to women issues, hence these movements arise out of structural strain within traditional systems of patriarchy.

Evolution

(i) First phase of feminist movement

Reformers like Harriet Martineau emphasized the demand for granting "right to vote" to women. Hence, it was focussed towards public and political participation of women.

(ii) Second phase

It dwelled into several issues concerning women like sexual division of labour, employment, education, sexuality,



reproductive rights, etc. Authors like Betty Friedan in her "feminist mystique" argues how social stereotypes have relegated to women to household works and childrearing.

iii) Third phase

It focussed upon developing nuanced understanding of gender roles and tackling the failure of 2nd wave movements.

Judith Butler propounded the idea of gender as "social construct" and fluidity in its nature.

Intersectionality was taken into account in understanding multiple burdens upon women.

iv) Fourth Phase

It took into account the use of new media and digital tools by the women movements to voice their concerns. For ex - the MeToo movement gathered immense visibility due to its digital nature and also helped in preserving anonymity of aggrieved women.



Evolution in India

- ↳ From colonial times, reformers like "Savitri Bai Phule" opened girls schools and worked for welfare of widows.
- ↳ Scholars like Uma Chakravorty emphasize upon intersection of caste and gender exacerbating women's conditions.
- ↳ Minidita Menon talked about how rape is seen as the violation of family honour rather than an issue of female dignity, leading to victim blaming.

Criticism

- ↳ Huge difference between evolution in east and west leading to divergence of opinions and objectives.
- ↳ In spite of so many attempts, patriarchal structures dominate in powerful spheres like politics and corporate world.
- ↳ Lack of infiltration upto the lower class women, hence these movements remained urban middle class phenomena.
- However, in spite of these challenges, the movements have been successful in igniting a war against



Sleepy Classes IAS
Awakening Toppers

patriarchy and instilling collective consciousness among women. Measures like Vishakha Guidelines and POSH act to curb sexual harassment at workplace were direct results of these movements.



Question 6. Contemporary social movements are often short lived, in this context briefly discuss the changing nature of social movements. (20 Marks)

As per Giddens, contemporary/new social movements are centred around broader issues of peace, democratic rights (free speech), worker's rights and environmental issues. These movements involve an enhanced use of new media to gain visibility and garner mobilization.

Short lived and changing nature

• Leadership - It is necessary for clear articulation of interests and clarifying goals of the movement. However, new social movements (NSMs) have "dispersed leadership" due to online nature and social media use.

For ex - The Metoo movement gradually lost appeal due to absence of a strong leadership.

• Ideology - As per Neil Smelser's strain theory, generalised beliefs are necessary for the sustained actions within the movement.



Due to broader themes of NSMs like human rights, peace movements, etc. clear definitions are not possible.

For ex - Lack of coherent definition of "free speech" often dissipates the issues related to it after a short span.

Recent cases of Kunal Kamra and Ranveer Allahbadia show how immediate agitations gradually lost appeal.

- Organisation and Mobilization → Garnering support from online platforms has its own merits and de-merits. The pace with which support is gained, is the same with which appeal is lost.

For ex - social media algorithms keep changing the issues around which movements revolve. As per Robert Blauner,

"technology leads to alienation". Lack of face to face organisation weakens "collective solidarity".

- Progress of movements

Traditional movements have been marked by protests and agitations pressurizing state action. However, NSMs



have rather become "opinion wars" surfacing over internet rather than any groundwork.

for ex - Author Lia Tolentino argues how over social media, "opinions become an end in themselves, rather than being the first step towards change."

• Membership - NSMs revolve around issues of urban middle class like environment and climate change, losing connect with marginalised sections of society.

for ex - Industries providing employment to workers, are in conflict with environmental issues.

Critical Analysis

↳ In spite of the challenges, NSMs have been successful in widening the horizons of movements from mere economic / political interests to multi-dimensional issues facing human rights.

↳ New Media platforms are important for providing "voice to the subaltern" who are neglected by traditional media



Hence, inspite of problems, NSMs have the potential to use digital tools to their advantage and garnes higher support for emerging interconnected issues.



Question 7. Define the concept of 'foster families' How is it different from adoption? Has India truly accepted the concept? (20 Marks)

foster families refer to temporary relations among children and their care-takers with an aim of reunification with biological parents or permanent adoption. Adoption, on the other hand, is legal transfer of custody of children.

Difference between foster families and adoption

Basis	Foster families	adoption
Nature of relations	<u>temporary</u> , <u>care-based</u> relations with children.	<u>permanent</u> relations having <u>wide</u> dimensions of <u>parental responsibilities</u> .
Final Aim	objective of <u>reunification</u> with <u>biological parents</u> or finding permanent parents for <u>adoption</u> .	No such objective is there. The children become part of one's <u>kinship relations</u> .
Legal custody	Foster parents have <u>limited rights</u> over children.	Adoption process <u>entails</u> <u>complete legal</u> rights over the children.



Financial Support	foster care homes often receive <u>state support</u> , support from <u>NBOs</u> and <u>charities</u> from donors.	with adoption, the complete <u>financial responsibility</u> , whether its <u>schooling</u> , <u>health</u> , etc. falls on the new parents.
Impact upon children	Temporary homes might make children feel <u>deprived</u> and <u>lonely</u> among others.	Permanent adoption gives <u>welcoming feeling</u> of a <u>settled</u> home and <u>family</u> improving <u>child wellbeing</u> .

Hence, there are substantial differences between adoption and foster care when it comes to nature of relations and functional obligations:

(Adoption of foster families in India)

Recent guidelines regarding foster care (2024) have made it easier for individuals to foster children and also streamlined the process of adoption from foster care.



This has reduced legal hurdles and ambiguity in fostering by allowing single individuals to become foster parents as well. Although, there is a growing presence of foster homes in India, the following challenges inhibit complete adoption of this concept $\Rightarrow$

- Stigma (Erving Goffman) - High preference to consanguineal relations in Indian society, decreases appeal for fostering kids, by attaching stigma to such relations.
- Concept of lineage (vamsha) - The preference of families to take their lineage forward and cultural transmission of familial values, discourages foster care.
- Further, cultural lag theory of Ogburn explains the material advancement in society regarding newer forms of kinship ties. However, societal values lag behind recent developments.



Hence, it is essential to spread awareness regarding foster care to provide rehabilitative and safe environments to abandoned children through reforming societal attitudes by altering public discourse.



Question 8. How does the rise of EdTech reflect the idea of 'Deschooling Society'? Discuss with reference to digital divide and commodification of education in India. (20 Marks)

Rise of edtech platforms in the form of online classes, digital interactions with educators, online career mentorship, plethora of courses being offered and even digital performance assessment is posing challenges to traditional school-based education.

Deschooling of society

For several sociologists, ~~the~~ "schooling leads to reproduction of existing social hierarchies present within the society."

Pierre Bourdieu argues how education leads to reproduction of culture and promotes "elitism" in the society.

Hence, idea of deschooling has the following benefits :-

• Anonymity and impersonal interactions

"Classrooms in India have become caste rooms." In that light, digital platforms offer unbiased education promoting meritocracy.

• Increased flexibility

Digital platforms offer potential for "creative learning" as opposed to "rote learning" of schools.

For ex - use of smartboards, digital tools, images and videos etc. to instigate interest among students.

• Effect of Pandemic

Co^{vid}-19 drastically increased the proliferation of ed-tech as agent of deschooling, as even schools were shifted to online mode. In that regard, wide variety of "choices" offered by ed-tech platforms seem to be more student-friendly.

[Digital divide and commodification of education]

However, all the above benefits of deschooling suffer due to inadequate realisation considering "digital divide".

Internet penetration in India is somewhere around

[55%] only, reflecting structural inequalities.

• Network society (Manuel Castells)

Due to the replacement of 'traditional structures' by new forms of structures driven by technology, there



is potential of reinforcing existing social hierarchies.
As, upper class children have better access to higher
internet connectivity and digital devices.

• Age of Informationalism

As per Daniel Bell, post-modern societies are dominated
by information and control over knowledge. In that
regard, digital divide can lead to further exclusion
of marginalised students.

• Commodification of education

courses offered on edtech platforms seem to commodify
education under the garb of flexibility.

For ex - selling the same course to thousands of students
worldwide shows tendencies of mass-production and
"industrialization of education".

For Marx, this commodification changes the purpose of
education from enlightening to fulfilling mere materialistic
needs.



- Increased alienation - As per Robert Blauner, Increased use of technology and impersonal relations induces alienation among both students and teachers, hence affecting quality education.

Hence, edtech platforms have both merits and demerits.
As of now, both schools and digital education are needed to make education inclusive and accessible.



Question 9. Religious revivalism poses a challenge to the secular foundations of modern nation-states. Comment with suitable contemporary examples. (10 marks)

Religious revivalism refers to increase in religious institutions, number of followers and re-entry of religious belief systems in multiple domains. As per Jose Casanova, modern society witnesses re-entry of religion in several unprecedented forms.

Challenges to secular nation-state

- Religious nationalism - Intermixing of religion with nationalism; moves towards ethno-nationalism as opposed to civic-nationalism. This creates majoritarian politics while endangering minority rights.
For ex - Nations like Pakistan centred around religious nationalism face higher instability and polarization.
- Fundamentalism - As per Michel Sandel, complete ignorance of religion by the modern secular state, breeds fundamentalist organisations promoting terrorism and violence around the globe.



• Communal politics

As per the concept of "unhappy valley" of Bruce Berman and John downsdale, formation of state as a social process, takes place besides administrative state building.

For ex - Activities of Gau Raksha Dal (GRD) in India lead to "community policing" and "vigilantism" challenging state monopoly over policing and hence seeming like a "parallel government".

[Critical analysis]

However, religious revivalism is not always harmful for the state. As per Stark and Bainbridge, revivalism in the form of sects and cults is often in response to the needs of most marginalised in the society. For Peter Berger, this kind of pluralism often leads to secularization in the society.

Hence, despite of some mild forms, religious revivalism can pose threats to process of secularization and lead to rise of communalism in defining nation state.



Question 10. What are some sociological perspective that advocates for broader public participation in scientific and technological processes as a means to achieve equitable development. (20 Marks)

"Democratization" of scientific and technological processes by enhancing public participation can aid inclusive growth leaving no section of society as marginalised.

Sociological perspectives

- Michel Foucault's power and knowledge - By providing greater information access to people regarding technological processes will empower them, ending existing divides arising out of information asymmetry.

& - use of technology by marginalised sections in social movements to voice their concerns.

- Promoting social mobility - As per Karl Marx, use of technology for development can elevate status of down trodden.

For ex - Open-AI models can be accessed by students irrespective of their social location leading to educational empowerment.



- Social Inclusiveness - As per capability approach of Amartya Sen, digital tools can bridge infrastructural gaps.
for ex - online education cutting across geographical barriers to make learning accessible and available.
- Knowledge as Public Good - As per Jurgen Habermas, open discourse and communication are essential for equitable growth. For instance, open-access journals promoting spread of information leading to discourse regarding important public issues like quality of education, caste reservation etc. shaping contemporary policies.
- Smart Hall's cultural diversity $\Rightarrow$ online platforms can act as media for proliferating diverse views in the society promoting comprehensive creation of policies.
for ex - Platforms like twitter act as constructive criticism for the government.
- Political Participation - use of measures like e-voting for elderly, people with physical disabilities, etc. can promote inclusive democracy.



(Challenges for equitable growth)

- Digital divide and poor Internet penetration hampers participation of the most marginalised and lead to unequal benefits.
- Use of technology for shaping public discourses can be counter-effective due to biased algorithms.
for ex - Social Media platforms acting as echo chambers for perpetrating hate speech and communal content.
- As per Wallerstein, core-periphery relations are reinforced through technology.
for ex - Dominance of western-tech companies setting up monopolies over information around the world.
- Concentration of technology and resources with the upper classes as analyzed in "myth of meritocracy" by Michael Young often perpetuates inequality in society.
Hence, responsible integration of technology and public participation can aid equitable growth by overcoming infrastructural challenges and biased algorithms.