



**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](mailto: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:**

<b>Relevance to the question</b>	
<b>Structure of Answer</b>	
<b>Content</b>	
<b>Presentation (Neatness, charts, diagrams as required)</b>	



Question 1. Vertical Mobility brings structural change even in a closed system. Comment. (10 Marks)

Vertical mobility is referred to as downward / upward movement within the socio-economic stratification.

For Giddens, vertical mobility changes socio-economic conditions of people.

### Vertical mobility in closed system

As per Parsons pattern variables, closed system can be characterised as ascriptive, collective oriented and particularistic values, like caste system based upon "birth" in a particular family. Such features provide very less avenues of social mobility, but still possibility cannot be denied as :-

- Historical instances of mobility due to gaining political power like Mauryas or sanskritization practices by dominant castes like Kayasthas (Mughal time period).

- Weakening of mechanical solidarity (Durkheim)

Due to increasing division of labour and occupational differentiation, traditional ties have been weakened.



Formation of new organic solidarity has led to more interdependence resulting in socio-economic mobility of people at lower levels of stratification.

• Selective Modernization (Andre Beitelle)

Caste system in India has weakened due to rise of new occupations, modern education, marketization of land, Panchayati Raj institutions leading to shift in "power dynamics" and social mobilization.

However, there is a trend of open systems becoming "closed" as highlighted by Michael Young in his book "Trap of Meritocracy" highlighting concentration of wealth and resources in the upper layers of society.

Hence, vertical mobility is present both in closed and open systems, however, with changing nature due to different societal contexts.



Question 2. The increasing importance of the tertiary sector has weakened the formal organization of the work in the recent times. Examine the statement. (20 Marks)

Tertiary sector refers to providing services like IT services, BPO, consultancy, etc. and is primarily a knowledge and skills oriented sector. As per David Bell, Post-industrial society is "service and knowledge-based", hence, demonstrating increasing importance of tertiary sector.

Weakening formal organisation of work

Formal organisation is characterised by written rules and regulations and job security along with social security measures like paid leave, medical insurance, etc.

However, with rise of tertiary sector it is weakening as:-

① Rise of Gig Economy

Gig economy is characterised by short-term employment on per-task basis with no guarantee of future employment.

Since, skill set required for tertiary sector is becoming increasingly "specialised", gig workers who bring



"wealth of experience" and "efficiency" to the organisation, are hired for particular tasks. As per Ralf Dahrendorf, it is characterised by "decomposition of labour".

Ex → hiring code developers or graphic editors on a specific assignment as "freelancers".

### (i) Post-pandemic impact

Rise of digital marketplace models like urban clap for providing niche services of beauty and grooming at the home of people, has led to growing preference for hiring skilled people for an assignment basis.

### (ii) Changing work culture

changing youth preferences for "work-life" balance and switching between variety of jobs to gain new experience and realise their potential, has led to growing informalisation of tertiary sector.

As per marx, "work is an expression of human creativity."



Further, according to Goldthorpe and Lockwood, work has become a "means" to an end, like for better lifestyle. Hence, more people prefer gig platforms for flexible work operations and even creating some start-up side by side.

(v) Feminization of labour - entry of women into tertiary sector has mandated the need to have flexible operations, like "work from home" changing work culture. Further, cheap labour of women has led to increased tendency to hire them on a contractual basis.

### Limitations

In spite of benefits of informalization, there are several limitations as :-

↳ As per Keith Hart, lack of formalisation results in low paid nature of employees.

↳ As per Kasuna Ahmed, feminization is only clustered



in low paid and low status jobs, termed as "pink collarisation"

⇒ Gig economy might pose challenges for those following traditional career paths.

Hence, lack of formalization in tertiary sector has both limitations and potential for redefining working spaces and realisation of human creativity.



Question 3. While gender continues to exist as a form of stratification in society, transgenders face a bigger problem of social exclusion. Discuss this in relevance to the openness in contemporary society. (20 Marks)

Gender as a form of social stratification sets "role expectations" within concrete definitions of "masculinity" and "femininity" with no place for other gender identities like transgenders, LGBTQI+, etc.

In the words of Judith Butler, "Gender is a social construct which is performative and consolidated through repetitive actions."

### Social exclusion of transgenders

social exclusion refers to "cut off" of transgenders from a  wider society leading to marginalisation and non-participation in political, economic and social spheres.

#### ① Prejudices and stereotypes

Heteronormative bias of the society decreases its

openness and acceptance of transgenders that

do not fit into traditionally defined "binary concept"



of gender.

Howard Becker's labelling theory in describing transgenders as "deviants" further adds to their exclusion.

### (ii) Problem of intersectionality

Several stratifications create cumulative discrimination against transgenders. For ex - A dalit transgender is at a more vulnerable stage as compared to an upper caste transgender.

### (iii) Lack of educational and employment opportunities

Due to lack of inclusiveness in schools, transgender students might face heightened trauma affecting educational attainment.

Further from Ruth deVries, perspective on "Inclusive Society", integration into paid market is essential to ward off social exclusion.

Recent case of removing Jane Kaushik, a transgender teacher from work demonstrates lack of inclusive work culture.



(iv) Lack of social amenities - Lack of civic amenities like inclusive toilets for transgender has led to rising kidney diseases among them due to social discomfort caused by traditional "men-women toilets."

(v) Legal safeguards - In spite of the NALSA judgement 2014, there is a lack of reservation enforcement for transgenders. Further, National education policy, 2020 has provisions for queer students, but not for queer teachers.

Further, as per Merton's strain theory, since transgenders lack the means to achieve culturally defined goals of good lifestyle, they are forced into informal sector jobs, sex work, prostitution, etc.

Hence, inclusion of transgenders shall be emphasized through administrative and legal safeguards, inclusive economy and greater acceptance in society.



Question 4. Examine the gendered dimensions of labor, both paid and unpaid. How do societal expectations and power structures contribute to the devaluation of work traditionally performed by women? (20 Marks)

Gendered stratification in terms of labour provides positions of power, preference and privileges to men over women both in paid and unpaid scenarios. It is based upon "patriarchal structures" as described by "Sylvia Walby" in terms of paid work, household dimensions of work and gender-based socialisation.

### Gendered dimensions of labour

#### ① paid work

• pink collarisation (Karuna Ahmed) - Majority of the women are employed in low paid and low status jobs leading to clusterization.

For ex → low paid jobs of receptionist, or customer care in call centres.

• Societal expectations - Traditional biases regarding "care work" as the domain of women has led to feminization of teaching and nursing jobs.



For ex - majority of the primary teachers are women, but there is gradual inversion of gender when, grades of classes increase upwards.

o Occupational Segregation - Kaartman's theory suggests historical bias in defining occupations in terms of gender.

For ex - STEM fields are men's domain, while humanities are seen as women's domain.

o Concept of emotional labour

Ardie Hochschild examines the hiring of women to sell their emotional labour as a traditional bias towards their societal identities.

For ex - Flight attendants greeting people happily in spite of their own emotional disposition being in turmoil.

o Looming Gender Pay Gap

Due to low skill attainment and educational status because of patriarchal biases.



Further, "motherhood penalty" being paid by women due to lack of flexibility at work and proper care infrastructure.

## ② Unpaid work

Household work is seen as "primary responsibility" of women, that is both undervalued and acts as a deterrent to women's career advancement.

Arlie Hochschild calls this as "SECOND SHIFT".

### • Undervalued care work

Due to lack of proper care economy, care work is primarily shouldered upon women.

Reeta Wolfson's femonomics demonstrates responsibility of children majorly on women.

Hence, for advancement of women, there is a need to reform both household work dynamics and paid labour markets through inducing flexibility.

As per Clodi Claudia Goldin, sharing of household responsibilities by both men and women is required.



Question 5. Do you think Talcott Parsons gave an adequate theory of social change? Justify your answer. (10 Marks)

Social change refers to change in social structures, social relationships and patterns of actions and interactions.

Being a structural-functionalist, Talcott Parsons provided an evolutionary and functional theory of change.

Dynamic Equilibrium and social change

◦ Systemic view - In Parson's ABT framework, social change can occur in various systems, either from within or due to external influences. Whenever, there is a change in flow of energy / information, change as a "restorative measure" takes place and establishes equilibrium again.

Here, internalisation of values and institutionalisation of new thoughts stabilize the system.

◦ Evolutionary view - For Parsons, changes occur due to "adaptive energy" of the social system and are unilinear in direction.



Forces of differentiation, specialization and integration work in tandem to generalize social change. Parson's took the example of family to explain how cycles of birth, maturity, adulthood and death, creates new roles, more differentiation and leads to integration.

### Limitations

↳ van den Berghe criticized functionalist view to see change as gradual and restorative process. Rather, change can be disruptive and revolutionary as well.

↳ For Merton, change can have latent dysfunctions also, hence Parson's theory is criticized of being abstract and little practical utility.

↳ As per social and psychological theories, Parson's paid less attention on individual innovations and discoveries.

Hence, Parson's gave a systemic and grand view of social change, but lacked an in-depth and detailed analysis at the micro-level.