

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

Examiner's Expectations and Evaluation Guidelines

Examiner's Expectations

What the examiner expects in the answer? The answer to this question lies in the question itself. If one reads the question carefully, he/she can read the mind of the examiner. As a general rule, one must focus on the keywords and phrases used in the question. One must also try to sense the overall tone of the question.

Question asked on 23 November 2025

Q. In social research, it is the bias that is unethical and not the subjectivity. Do you agree with the statement? Substantiate your argument with theoretical and methodological insights. (20)

Key words and phrases: 'bias', 'unethical', 'subjectivity', 'theoretical and methodological insights'

In this question, the examiner expects a clear understanding of the objectivity-subjectivity debate in sociology. Candidate must be able to convince the examiner that how subjectivity is multidimensional and unavoidable in totality. On the other hand, bias can be and must be checked by the researcher in view of the ethical guidelines of conducting social research.

Evaluation Guidelines

Sociology as a science and significance of objectivity in social research – in introduction (10%)

Understanding of theoretical debates centering on objectivity (Durkheim, Weber, Myrdal, Gouldner, Mills, etc.) (20%)

Unavoidability of subjectivity at various levels of research – discuss with the help of methods of research employed for collecting data (in light of the theoretical debates discussed above, especially that of Gunnar Myrdal) (30%)

Discussion on possibility of bias in social research (particularly on the part of the researcher) and how it is unethical and comprises the scientific character of sociology (30%)

Concluding remark on the limitations imposed by the unique subject matter of sociology and the possibility of ‘contextual objectivity’ (10%)

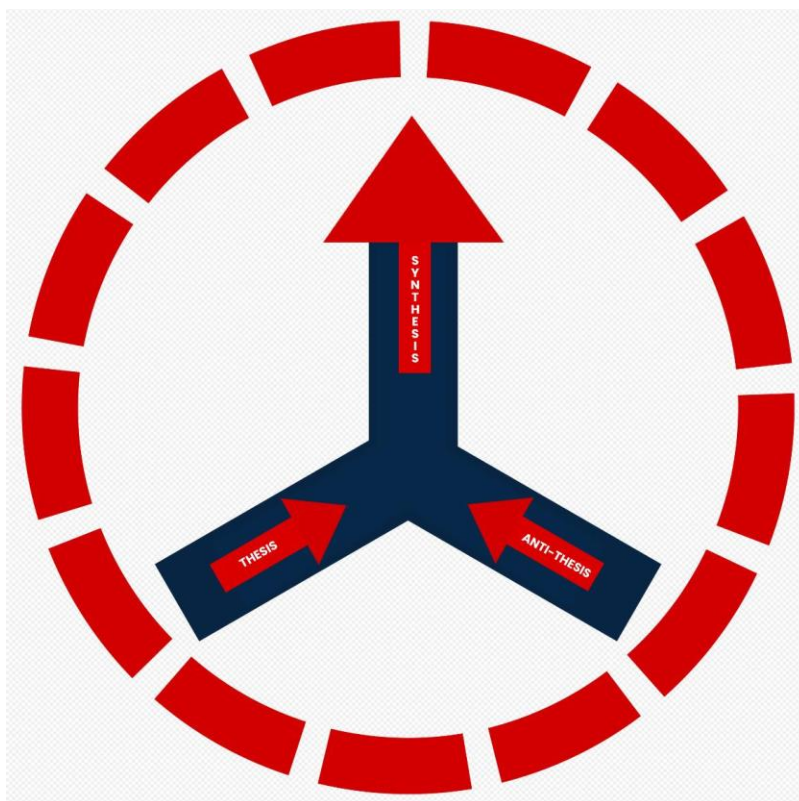
Credits: Prof. B. Mohan

Result

Out of the 7 answers received by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, only one answer (by Mudit) could secure 40% marks. Most candidates lacked the conceptual understanding of the theoretical and methodological nuances related to objectivity in social research.

Practice Questions are posted every Sunday.

Best wishes



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