

# Dialectics IAS

## For One-To-One Mentorship

### 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 9 November 2025

Q. Sociology emerged as a conservative reaction to the Enlightenment. Comment.

(20)

**Key words:** 'emerged', 'enlightenment', 'comment'

**Phrase:** 'as a conservative reaction'

The examiner expects from the candidate a basic understanding of social conditions in Europe that influenced the emergence of sociology as a discipline. A deeper and more analytical understanding is expected from the candidate on the intellectual conditions, particularly during the early period of emergence of sociology, that shaped the initial theoretical and methodological thrust in sociology. Last, but not the least, this initial theoretical and methodological focus in sociology needs to be discussed within the overall context of philosophical debates taking place during the period of enlightenment. The candidate must clearly highlight that how sociology as a discipline emerged 'as a conservative reaction' to the enlightenment. Answer should be analytical, rather than descriptive.

### Evaluation Guidelines

Meaning of enlightenment and conceptual clarity of social and intellectual conditions that influenced the emergence of sociology (30%)

Concern among conservatives (Maistre and Bonald) as well as early social theorists about the spread and threat of revolutionary ideology in Europe, particularly after Industrial Revolution and French Revolution (10%)

Enlightenment philosophers emphasized on ‘individual’, ‘freedom’ and ‘autonomy’ but early sociologists emphasized on ‘society’ as a unit of analysis, focused on the process of socialization, interdependence among parts of society for the maintenance and sustenance of equilibrium in society (functionalism), highlighted the significance of scientific research for corrective social legislations to bring about social reforms – gained support from the governments in Europe (30%)

Discretion of the examiner with regard to sociological articulation and presentation by the candidate (10%)

**Credits: Prof. H. Narain**

### **Result for the Practice Question asked on 9 November 2025 (Sunday)**

Out of the 14 answers received by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, 12 November 2025, only one answer (by Aditi Ranjan) could secure 40% marks. Most candidates failed to answer the key component of the question i.e. how emergence of sociology could be explained as a conservative reaction to the Enlightenment? Candidates are requested to go through the references mentioned in a previous file for a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

**Practice Questions are posted every Sunday.**

**Best wishes**

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