

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I

3. Research Methods and Analysis

- Q. What is hypothesis? Critically evaluate the significance of hypothesis in social research. (2025/10)
- Q. What is a variable in social research? What are their different types? Elaborate. (2025/10)
- Q. What is sampling in the context of social research? Discuss different forms of sampling with their relative advantages and disadvantages. (2025/20)
- Q. How do you view and assess the increasing trend of digital ethnography and the use of visual culture in sociological research? (2024/20)
- Q. What do you understand by 'mixed method'? Discuss its strengths and limitations in social research. (2024/20)
- Q. What are the different dimensions of qualitative method? Do you think that qualitative method helps to gain a deeper sociological insight? Give reasons for your answer. (2023/20)
- Q. What are the ethical issues that a researcher faces in making use of participant observation as a method of collecting data? Explain. (2023/10)
- Q. What are variables? How do they facilitate research? (2023/10)
- Q. What is the distinctiveness of the feminist method of social research? Comment. (2023/10)
- Q. The difference between information and data in social science is subtle. Comment. (2022/10)
- Q. What is reliability? Explain the different tests available to social science researcher to establish reliability. (2022/10)
- Q. Explain the different types of non-probability sampling techniques. Bring out the conditions of their usage with appropriate examples. (2022/20)

- Q. Suggest measures to minimize the influence of the researcher in the process of collecting data through focus group discussion. (2022/10)
- Q. How do qualitative and quantitative methods supplement each other in sociological enquiry? (2021/20)
- Q. Discuss the challenges involved in collecting data through census method. (2021/10)
- Q. Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of social survey method in social research. (2020/10)
- Q. Discuss the importance and sources of hypothesis in social research. (2020/10)
- Q. Methodology is a system of rules, principles and procedures, which forms scientific investigation. Comment. (2020/10)
- Q. Bring out the significance of Ethnography in social research. (2019/20)
- Q. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection with suitable examples from Indian society. (2018/10)
- Q. Explain with examples, the explanatory and exploratory designs of social research. (2018/10)
- Q. Illustrate with example the significance of variables in sociological research. (2017/10)
- Q. Examine epistemological foundations of qualitative methods of social research. (2017/10)
- Q. How can one resolve the issue of reliability and validity in the context of sociological research on inequality? (2017/10)
- Q. "Participant observation is the most effective tool for collecting facts." Comment. (2016/20)
- Q. "Hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two or more variables". Elucidate by giving example of poverty and illiteracy. (2016/10)
- Q. Analyse the importance of qualitative method in social research. (2016/10)
- Q. Why is random sampling said to have more reliability and validity in research? (2015/20)
- Q. What are variables? Discuss their role in experimental research. (2015/10)
- Q. Discuss the relevance of historical method in the study of society. (2015/10)
- Q. Which research technique would be most suitable for the study of consumer behaviour and its social correlates? Explain. (2014/20)
- Q. In what way biographies could be used to study social life? (2014/10)
- Q. Analyse the limitations of quantitative methods in social research. (2013/20)
- Q. Write short note: Comparative Method (2012/12)

- Q. Differentiate between the Qualitative and Quantitative methods in Research (2012/20)
- Q. Write short note: Reliability and Validity (in about 150 words) (2011/12)
- Q. What is subjective method in social research? Examine Focus Group Discussion (FGD) as a technique for data collection, with suitable examples. (2011/30)
- Q. Write short note: Content Analysis (2010/15)
- Q. Write short note: Nomothetic and Idiographic Methods (2010/15)
- Q. Distinguish between probability and non-probability sampling methods. How many types of sampling designs are there? (2009/30)
- Q. Write short note: Importance and sources of hypotheses in social research (2008/20)
- Q. What is the importance of sampling in sociological studies? Distinguish between simple random sampling and stratified random sampling. (2008/60)
- Q. Utility of reliability and validity in social research (2003/20)
- Q. What are the uses of Bogardus' social distance scale and of Likert scale? (2002/60)
- Q. Write short note: Limitations of questionnaire as a technique of data collection (1999/20)
- Q. Write short note: Reliability of a sample (1998/20)
- Q. Write short note: Participant observation (1990/20)
- Q. Write short note: Measurement of Attitudes (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Experimental design (1988/20)
- Q. Write short note: Techniques of data collection (1987/20)
- Q. Write short note: Techniques employed in measuring attitudes (1986/20)
- Q. Write short note: Interview as a method of social research (1985/20)

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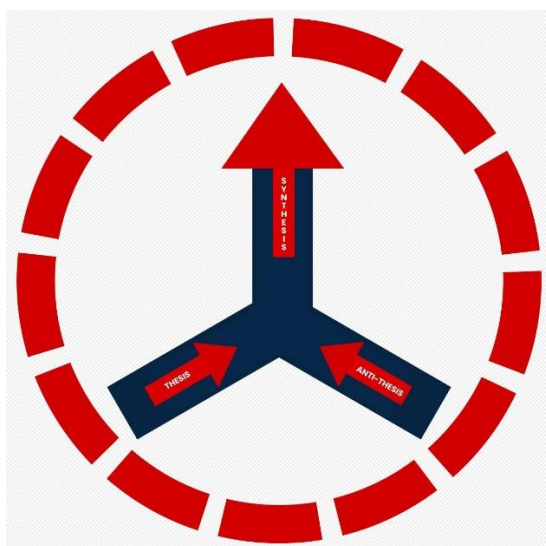
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