

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I

4. Sociological Thinkers: Emile Durkheim

- Q. How do theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? Explain. (2025/20)
- Q. Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is the rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim? (2024/10)
- Q. Discuss the concept of animism and differentiate it from naturism. (2024/10)
- Q. Highlight the differences and similarities between totemism and animism. (2023/10)
- Q. Durkheim argued that society is more than the sum of individual acts. Discuss. (2022/10)
- Q. Critically examine the relevance of Durkheim's views on religion in contemporary society. (2022/10)
- Q. Critically examine how Durkheim and Merton explicate Anomie. (2022/20)
- Q. Explain whether Durkheim's theory of Division of Labour is relevant in the present-day context. (2021/10)
- Q. What are the problems in observing social facts in Durkheim's views? (2020/10)
- Q. According to Durkheim, "The major function of education is the transmission of society's norms and values." Discuss. (2020/20)
- Q. Critically analyse Durkheim's views on elementary forms of religious life and role of religion. Also discuss the consequences of religious revivalism in contemporary society. (2020/20)
- Q. Explain Durkheim's basic argument on suicide. Can you analyse high suicide rates of contemporary Indian society with Durkheim's theory? (2018/20)
- Q. Does collapse of functionalism and bankruptcy of Marxism coincide with the rupture of modernity? Discuss. (2018/20)
- Q. In what way did Durkheim perceive religion as functional to society? (2018/10)
- Q. Discuss distinct sociological method adopted by Emile Durkheim in his study of 'suicide'. (2017/20)
- Q. Give an assessment of Durkheimian notion of 'sacred' and 'profane' in sociology of religion. (2017/10)
- Q. Elaborate the views of Durkheim on "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life". (2015/10)
- Q. "According to Durkheim, the essence of religion in modern society is the same as religion in primitive society." Comment. (2014/10)

- Q. Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of 'division of labour'. (2013/20)
- Q. Write short note on the following, keeping sociological perspective in view:
Sacred and Profane (2012/12)
- Q. Show how Durkheim through the study of totemism demonstrates the reality of religion. (2012/30)
- Q. 'Social fact is to be treated as a thing.' Discuss. (2012/20)
- Q. Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of 'division of labour'. (2010/30)
- Q. Write short note on Subject-matter of Sociology, according to Emile Durkheim. (2009/20)
- Q. Elaborate Emile Durkheim's analysis of the Elementary Forms of Religious Life and role of religion in society. How does he explain existence of religion in modern industrial societies? (2007/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social facts (2007/20)
- Q. What according to Emile Durkheim is the nature of relationship between the individual and society? Explain this with the help of his analysis of division of labour in society. (2006/60)
- Q. Give a critical review of Emile Durkheim's Theory on Religion and Society. To what extent does it explain the contemporary scenario in Asia? (2004/60)
- Q. Write short note: The sacred and the profane (2002/20)
- Q. Examine the nature of social facts as understood by Durkheim. (2002/60)
- Q. What is the focus of sociological analysis in the contributions of Emile Durkheim? Give your answer with the help of any one of his contributions. (2001/60)
- Q. Emile Durkheim had argued that the function of division of labour in society is that of the promotion of social solidarity. Elaborate the statement and analyze the distinction between two forms of solidarity discussed by him. (2000/60)
- Q. Write short note: Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft types of communities (1999/20)
- Q. "Not all facts about human behavior are necessarily social facts." State the meaning of 'social facts' and the methods of studying them with reference to this statement. (1996/60)
- Q. Write short note: Division of labour and the differentiation of social structure. (1999/20)
- Q. Write short note: Anomie (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social fact (1995/20)
- Q. Write short note: Organic analogy (1995/20)
- Q. Write short note: Pathological form of division of labour (1995/20)

Q. Describe the functional analysis of religion given by Durkheim. Is this analysis applicable to the modern industrialized societies? (1993/60)

Q. What are the basic questions which inspired Durkheim to study the division of labour in society? Critically comment on his conclusions. (1992/60)

Q. Write short note: Concept of social structure (1992/20)

Q. 'Why does the individual, while becoming more autonomous, depend more upon society'? (Durkheim). How has the author tried to answer this question? (1991/20)

Q. Write short note: The sacred and the profane (1991/20)

Q. Is the Durkheimian concept of religion entirely different from that of his predecessors? Why and how? (1989/60)

Q. In what respects do you think Weber's conception of sociology differs from that of Durkheim? Which one of the two is more satisfactory? Substantiate your answer. (1988/60)

Q. Write short note: Collective Representations (1987/20)

Q. Discuss Durkheim's concept of Division of Labour. In what way does it differ from that of classical and neoclassical economists. (1986/60)

Q. Discuss the contributions of Durkheim to sociology. How far did his methodology influence sociological traditions? (1985/60)

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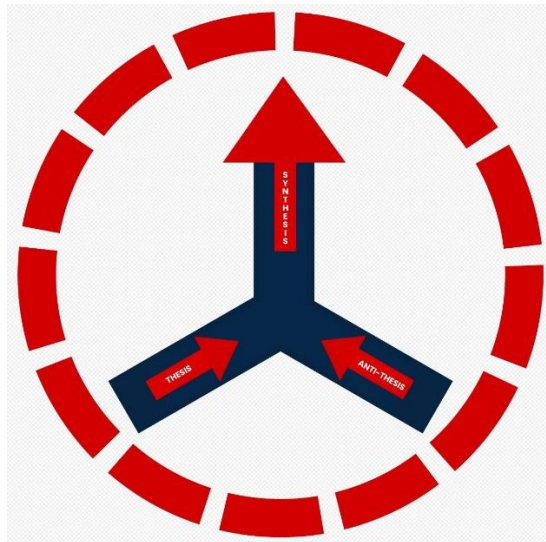
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