

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I

4. Sociological Thinkers: Robert K. Merton

Q. Can Merton's reference group theory be relevant in understanding 'identity making' in digital world? Explain. (2025/10)

Q. Is reference group theory a universally applicable model? Elucidate. (2023/10)

Q. With suitable examples, explain how conformity and deviance coexist in a society as propounded by R.K. Merton. (2021/10)

Q. What are the reactions of R.K. Merton to the functionalism of social anthropologists? Bring out the limitations of latent functions. (2020/20)

Q. How, according to Merton, are deviant subcultures generated? (2019/20)

Q. What, according to Merton, is the difference between 'unanticipated consequences' and 'latent functions'? Give examples to elaborate. (2019/10)

Q. What is the difference between anomie in Merton and Durkheim? Explain. (2018/10)

Q. Analyze the manifest and latent functions of 'security of the tenure of bureaucrats' in the light of Merton's theory. (2016/20)

Q. "Anomie is rooted in social structure." Explain with reference to R.K. Merton's contribution. (2015/10)

Q. Using Merton's concepts of 'manifest' and 'latent' functions, explain the persistence of corruption in Indian society. (2014/10)

Q. How could one use Merton's concept of deviance to understand the traffic problem in urban India? (2014/10)

Q. How can we use reference group theory to understand fashion in society? (2014/10)

Q. To Robert Merton, deviant behavior is a result of *anomie*. Analyse his sociological theory of deviant behavior, with a special reference to his formulation of types of deviance. (2009/60)

Q. What is Merton's view of relationship between social structure and deviance? In what sense is a deviant also a conformist? (2008/60)

Q. Write short note: Robert Merton's view on manifest & latent functions (2007/20)

Q. What are the reactions of Robert Merton to the functionalism pioneered by social anthropologists? Indicate the limitations of his idea of latent functions. (2006/60)

Q. Write short note: Primary and reference groups (2003/20)

Q. Critically analyse the concept of Anomie. Elaborate, with suitable examples, the theoretical relationship between nature of Anomie and types of Social Deviations as have been formulated by R.K. Merton. (2003/60)

Q. Write short note: Manifest and latent functions (2001/20)

Q. How does social structure produce a strain toward anomie and deviant behavior? Examine it with reference to Robert K. Merton's contribution to this field of study. (2000/60)

Q. Write short note: Relative Deprivation (2000/20)

Q. Write short note: Social structure and Anomie (1999/20)

Q. Write short note: Pattern variables (1998/20)

Q. Write short note: Middle-range theories (1995/20)

Q. Bring out the strength and the weakness of Robert Merton's advancement over the classical functionalism. (1995/60)

Q. In modern structural-functionalism, Merton's effort to develop a "Paradigm" for functional analysis is the most significant one. Evaluate this statement. (1994/60)

Q. What is the importance of Merton's 'Middle Range Theory' in sociology? Discuss critically. (1991/60)

Q. What does R. K. Merton mean when he admits that not everything works out for the best of everyone in society? What is his improvement on functional theory? (1990/60)

Q. Write short note: Conformity and deviance. (1990/20)

Q. Discuss the relation between social structure and anomie as presented by R. K. Merton. Attempt a critical appraisal of this analysis. (1988/60)

Q. Critically assess R. K. Merton's views on the contributions of research to the development of sociological theory. (1986/60)

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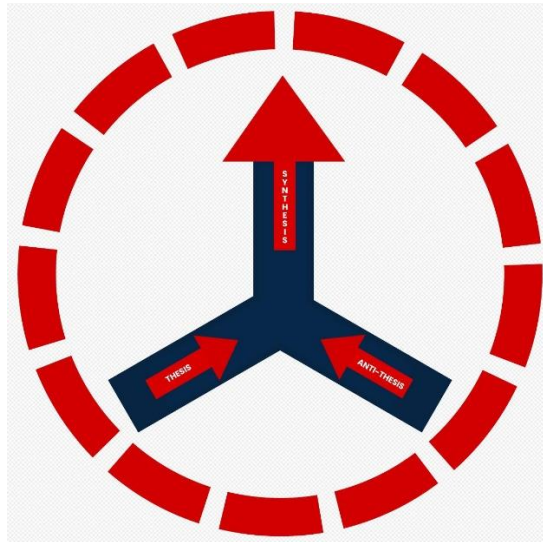
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