

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I

4. Sociological Thinkers: Max Weber

- Q. How do theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? Explain. (2025/20)
- Q. How is 'power' different from 'authority'? Discuss various types of authorities as theorized by Max Weber. (2024/10)
- Q. Describe the main idea of Max Weber's book, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" as a critique of Marxism. (2024/20)
- Q. Is Weber's idea of bureaucracy a product of the historical experiences of Europe? Comment. (2023/10)
- Q. Explain Max Weber's theory of social stratification. How does Weber's idea of class differ from that of Marx? (2023/20)
- Q. Do you agree with Max Weber's idea that bureaucracy has the potential to become an iron cage? Justify your answer. (2021/10)
- Q. Critically examine Max Weber's theory of Social Stratification. (2021/10)
- Q. 'Ideal Types' of Max Weber are mental constructs. They do not correspond to the reality. Give your views. (2020/10)
- Q. Differentiate between 'Life-chances' and 'Life-style' with suitable examples. (2019/10)
- Q. Compare and Contrast the contributions of Marx and Weber on social stratification in capitalist society. (2019/20)
- Q. How well do you think Tonnies, Durkheim, Weber and Marx predicted the character of Modern society? Critique. (2019/10)
- Q. Distinguish between fact and value in Weber's Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism. (2018/10)
- Q. What is Weberian critique of Marxist notion of social stratification? (2017/20)
- Q. How is Durkheim's theory of religion different from Max Weber's theory of religion? (2016/20)
- Q. Examine Max Weber's method of maintaining objectivity in social research. (2016/20)
- Q. Which concepts did Weber use to analyse the forms of legitimate domination? (2015/10)
- Q. Discuss the role of Calvinist ethic in the development of Capitalism. (2015/20)

- Q. How does Weber use the notion of 'ideal types' in his theory of bureaucracy? (2014/20)
- Q. "According to Max Weber, 'class' and 'status' are two different dimensions of power." Discuss. (2014/20)
- Q. Examine the salient features of Weberian bureaucracy. (2013/10)
- Q. 'Power and authority go together,' Examine. Explain the various types of authority also. (2012/30)
- Q. Explain how Weber's characterization of capitalism is different from those of Marx. (2012/30)
- Q. Write short note on The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, keeping sociological perspective in view. (150 words) (2011/12)
- Q. Define Ideal Type and explain Weber's concept of 'Verstehen' for understanding social phenomena. (2011/30)
- Q. What, according to Max Weber, is the role of "particular religious ideas" in the emergence of modern capitalism? (2009/30)
- Q. Using Max Weber's theory, discuss what ethical and religious ideas produced capitalism in certain societies and how? (2008/60)
- Q. What is the subject-matter of Sociology according to Max Weber? Which major methods did he suggest for social science research? Illustrate your answer with his sociological contributions. (2007/60)
- Q. Write short note: Concept of Ideal Type and its Limitations. (2006/20)
- Q. Discuss Max Weber's ideal types and the role of authority in bureaucracy. (2005/60)
- Q. Critically examine Max Weber's theory of the Protestant ethics and the spirit of the Capitalism.' Could it be the otherwise possibility that the tenets of the Capitalism must also have effected the emergence of the Protestant ethics? Comment with suitable examples. (2003/60)
- Q. Critically examine Weber's theory of protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism. (2002/60)
- Q. State the meaning and characteristics of an ideal type. What, according to Max Weber, is the use and significance of the 'Ideal type' in social science research? (2001/60)
- Q. Critically examine Max Weber's theory of social action and its limitations. (1997/60)
- Q. Explain the origin and characteristics of bureaucracy according to Max Weber. Illustrate the structural sources of dysfunctions of bureaucracy. (1996/60)
- Q. Critically examine the role of formal and informal structures of bureaucracy in economic and social reconstruction of the developing societies. (1995/60)
- Q. What did Max Weber mean by Interpretative understanding? Why did he believe that to model sociological researches exclusively on strategies and ambitions of natural sciences was a serious mistake? (1994/60)

- Q. Write short note: Ideal Types (1994/20)
- Q. Write short note: Authority (1994/20)
- Q. Write short note: Methods of Sociology according to Max Weber (1993/20)
- Q. Write short note: Protestant Ethic (1991/20)
- Q. What does Weber mean by ideal types? How is the concept relevant in sociology?
(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. Attempt a comparative analysis of the Weberian and Marxian theories of social change. Which do you think is more relevant to the Indian society at present? Give reasons for your answer. (1988/60)
- Q. Do you agree with Max Weber that the Protestant ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism are correlated? What are the alternative theories suggested by other academics? (1987/60)
- Q. Write short note: Ideal Types (1987/20)
- Q. Write short note: Ideal types and social analysis (1984/20)

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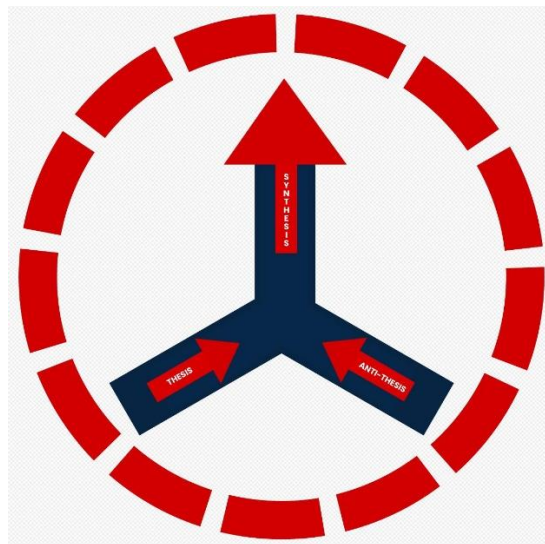
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