

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I

2. Sociology as Science

- Q. What is positivism? Critically analyze the major arguments against it. (2025/20)
- Q. What do you mean by reliability? Discuss the importance of reliability in social science research. (2025/10)
- Q. How does Weber's *Verstehen* address the objectivity-subjectivity debate in sociology? (2025/10)
- Q. What is science? Do you think that the methods used in natural sciences can be applied to sociology? Give reasons for your answer. (2025/20)
- Q. Do you think 'objectivity' is an over-hyped idea in sociological research? Discuss the merits and demerits of non-positivist methods. (2024/20)
- Q. What are the characteristics of scientific method? Do you think that scientific method in conducting sociological research is foolproof? Elaborate. (2023/20)
- Q. What are the shortfalls of positivist philosophy that gave rise to the non-positivist methods of studying social reality? (2022/20)
- Q. How does a researcher achieve objectivity in interpretative research? (2022/10)
- Q. How far are sociologists justified in using positivist approach to understand social reality? Explain with suitable illustrations. (2021/20)
- Q. Do you think ethnomethodology helps us in getting reliable and valid data? Justify your answer. (2021/10)
- Q. Is sociology a value-free science? Discuss. (2020/10)
- Q. Phenomenological perspectives in sociology reject many of the assumptions of positivism. Comment. (2020/20)
- Q. Discuss the importance of interpretative understanding of social phenomena and explain its limitations. (2019/20)

- Q. Does scientific method make Sociology a science? Illustrate your answer with Durkheim's method. (2018/10)
- Q. Is non-positivistic methodology scientific? Illustrate. (2018/20)
- Q. Examine ethnomethodological and phenomenological perspectives as critique of positivism. (2017/10)
- Q. Examine the basic postulates of positivism and post-positivism. (2017/20)
- Q. Elaborate the main tenets of interpretative perspective in sociology. (2017/10)
- Q. Describe the basic postulates of scientific method. How far are these followed in sociological research? (2016/20)
- Q. What is 'value-free' sociology? Clarify. (2016/10)
- Q. "Non-positivistic methodology is essential for understanding human behaviour." Discuss. (2015/20)
- Q. Examine the problems of maintaining objectivity and value neutrality in social science research. (2015/20)
- Q. Is Sociology a Science? Give reasons for your answer. (2015/10)
- Q. In what way 'interpretative' method is different from 'positivist' approach in the study of social phenomena? (2014/20)
- Q. How is objectivity different from value neutrality? Discuss with reference to Weber's views on methodology. (2014/10)
- Q. Critically examine positivistic approach in sociological studies. (2013/10)
- Q. Critically examine the functionalist tradition in Sociology. (2013/20)
- Q. Write short note: Interpretative Sociology (2012/12)
- Q. Write short note: Fact, Value and Objectivity (2012/12)
- Q. Write short note: Fact and Value (in about 150 words) (2011/12)
- Q. Write short note: Serendipity (2010/15)
- Q. Comment on the reasons why neo-idealists and symbolic interactionists are critical of 'positivism' in Sociology. (2009/30)
- Q. Write short note: Problems of objectivity in sociological research (2009/20)
- Q. Write short note: Role of values in sociological enquiry (2008/20)
- Q. Write short note: Sociology as a science of society (2007/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social research design (2005/20)
- Q. Write short note: Objectivity and Value Neutrality in Social Research (2004/20)

Q. Highlight the problem of objectivity and value-neutrality in social research. Elaborate, with suitable examples, the limitations associated with the tools of measurement in social science research.	(2003/60)
Q. Write short note: Theory and Fact	(2002/20)
Q. Write short note: Sociology as a science	(2002/20)
Q. Write short note: Problem of objectivity in social research	(2000/20)
Q. Write short note: Value neutrality in social science	(1998/20)
Q. Write short note: A good hypothesis	(1997/20)
Q. Is it possible to study social phenomenon scientifically? Give a critical answer.	(1997/60)
Q. Write short note: Value-free sociology	(1996/20)
Q. Write short note: Methods of Science and Sociology	(1995/20)
Q. Write short note: Comparative method in Sociology	(1994/20)
Q. Write short note: Significance of objectivity in sociological research	(1993/20)
Q. Write short note: Design of sociological research	(1992/20)
Q. Write short note: Methods of scientific investigation	(1991/20)
Q. Write short note: The problem of objectivity	(1991/20)
Q. Write short note: Bearing of research on theory	(1988/20)
Q. Write short note: The problem of objectivity in Sociology	(1986/20)
Q. Write short note: Research Design	(1985/20)
Q. Write short note: Sociology as a science of society	(1985/20)
Q. Write short note: Rapport and objectivity in social science research	(1984/20)

Under New UPSC Regulations

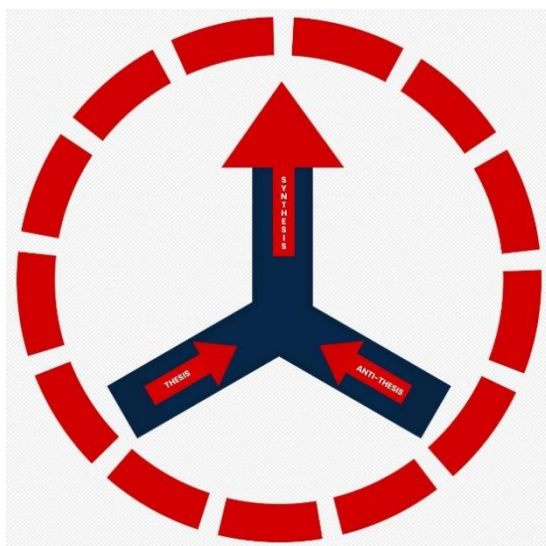
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