

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I. Topic 5. Stratification and Mobility

Paper II. C. (vii). (b) Poverty, Deprivation and Inequalities

Q. What are the Indian government's schemes launched for poverty alleviation after the United Nations's Declaration of 'Sustainable Development Goals – 2015'? Briefly describe. (2025/10)

Q. Do you think that the formal workspaces are free of gender bias? Argue your case. (2025/10)

Q. Does the structural-functionalist perspective on social stratification promote a status quo? Give reasons for your answer. (2025/10)

Q. Is the social stratification theory gender-blind? Elucidate. (2025/10)

Q. Discuss the dimensions of power in the construction and maintenance of social hierarchies in a society. (2024/10)

Q. What is social mobility? Critically examine the classification of 'closed' and 'open' models of social stratification. (2024/10)

Q. How is poverty a form of social exclusion? Illustrate in this connection the different dimensions of poverty and social exclusion. (2023/20)

Q. Do you think that the boundary line between ethnicity and race is blurred? Justify your answer. (2023/10)

Q. Social stratification is claimed to contribute to the maintenance of social order and stability in society. Critically assess. (2022/20)

Q. Discuss social mobility on open and closed system. (2022/10)

Q. Explain the concept of social mobility. Describe with suitable illustrations how education and social mobility are related to each other. (2021/20)

Q. Critically assess social mobility in closed and open systems. (2020/10)

Q. How are Hierarchy and Exclusion the major impediments in the transformation of societies? Discuss. (2020/20)

Q. Compare and contrast the contributions of Marx and Weber on social stratification in capitalist society. (2019/20)

Q. Why is gender a dimension of social stratification? How does gender intersect other dimensions of inequality based on caste, class, race and ethnicity? (2019/20)

- Q. Modernization presupposes class society; however, caste, ethnicity and race are still predominant. Explain. (2019/20)
- Q. Present a sociological review on the 'new middle class'. (2019/10)
- Q. Davis and Moore made it clear that social stratification is a functional necessity and also an unconscious device. Discuss. (2019/10)
- Q. What is 'social security'? Examine recent security measures adopted by the Government in India. (2019/10)
- Q. What is the difference between natural and social inequality examples from caste and class dimensions. (2018/10)
- Q. Evaluate if social stratification is functional for society. (2018/10)
- Q. Schooling does not ensure upward mobility of all members of this society. Discuss with reference in class societies. (2018/20)
- Q. Is social mobility possible in closed systems of stratification? Illustrate from research work. (2018/10)
- Q. What, according to you are the two fundamental axes of social discrimination in Indian society? Are they changing? (2017/20)
- Q. What is Weberian critique of Marxist notion of social stratification? (2017/20)
- Q. What, according to you, are the two fundamental axes of social discrimination in Indian society? Are they changing? (2017/20)
- Q. Explain the issues relating to ethnicity and sub-ethnicity. (2017/10)
- Q. Write a short note on 'changing means of production and increased rural poverty.' (2017/10)
- Q. Can we equate 'poverty' with 'poor living'? Elaborate your answer. (2017/10)
- Q. Examine gender, ethnicity and race as major dimensions of social stratification. (2017/20)
- Q. "Vertical mobility brings structural change even in a closed system." Comment. (2016/10)
- Q. Elucidate the basic premises of Davis' structural- functional theory of social stratification. How far is it relevant in understanding contemporary Indian society? (2016/20)
- Q. Discuss the relationship between poverty and social exclusion. (2016/10)
- Q. Discuss the emerging forms of 'inequalities' and 'acute poverty' as major challenges of social transformation in India. (2016/20)
- Q. "No society can either be absolutely open or absolutely closed." Comment. (2015/10)

- Q. Explain the inter-linkages between poverty, deprivation and inequality. (2013/15)
- Q. How do Karl Marx and Max Weber differ in terms of their analysis of social stratification? (2013/20)
- Q. Distinguish between people being socially excluded and people excluding themselves socially in societies? (2013/10)
- Q. How are open and closed systems of stratification undergoing transformation in the emergence of new hierarchical social order in societies? (2013/20)
- Q. Write short note on the following from a sociological perspective: Stratification of Classes (2012/12)
- Q. In our society hierarchical relations are influenced by social mobility. Explain how? (2012/20)
- Q. What is class? Do you think that Weber's contributions to social stratification are different from that of Marx? (2011/30)
- Q. What do you mean by social mobility? Discuss the major sources and causes of mobility? (2011/30)
- Q. Examine how open and closed systems of stratification are undergoing transformation in the emergence of new hierarchical social order in societies. (2010/30)
- Q. Distinguish between people being socially excluded and people excluding themselves socially in societies. (2010/15)
- Q. What are the reasons for calling Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore's theory of social stratification a functional theory? (2009/30)
- Q. Do you think that poverty, deprivation and inequalities are the major challenges in the process of social transformation? What are your suggestions to address and resolve these problems? (2009/60)
- Q. How does hierarchy get built into the systems of natural and social inequalities? (2008/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social mobility in open and closed systems (2008/10)
- Q. Write short note: Role-conflict and its resolution (2007/20)
- Q. Write short note: Caste-system as a principle of social stratification (2006/20)
- Q. Write short note: Vertical social mobility (2006/20)
- Q. How is vertical and horizontal social mobility problematic in society? Suggest solutions. (2005/60)
- Q. 'Socialization and social control are complementary to each other in maintaining social order.'
– Elucidate your answer with appropriate illustrations. (2004/60)
- Q. Write short note: Class within Caste and Caste within Class (2004/20)
- Q. Briefly discuss the conflict perspective on social stratification and examine the view that social inequality in India is the function of rigid social stratification system. (2004/60)

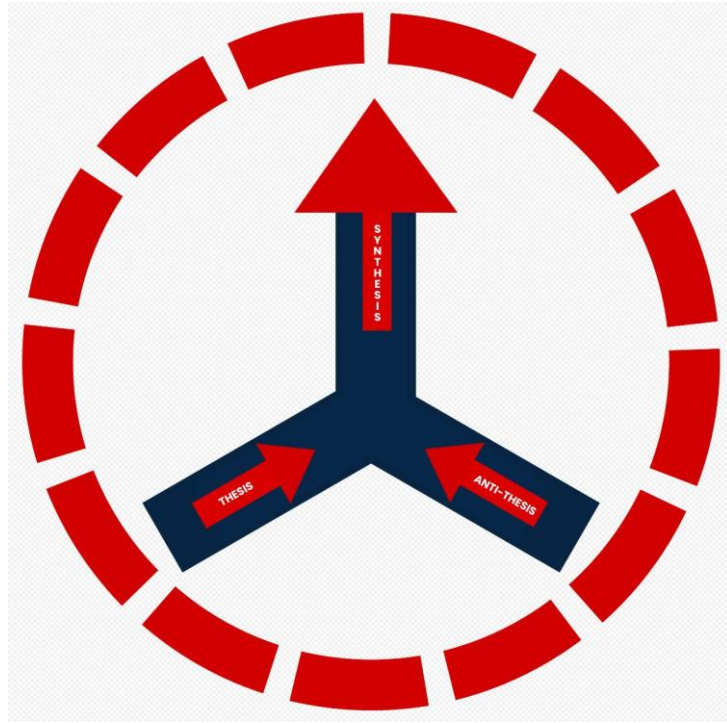
- Q. Examine the conceptual distinction between social inequality and social stratification. How do the nature and forms of the social stratification system determine the patterns of social mobility? (2003/60)
- Q. Explain Melvin Tumin's critique related to the theory of social stratification. (2002/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social mobility and social change (2002/20)
- Q. Write short note: Inter-generational mobility (2000/20)
- Q. Write short note: Role conflict (2000/20)
- Q. Discuss the nature and characteristics of social mobility. Can the nature and the rate of social mobility be treated as an index of economic development? (1999/60)
- Q. How would you distinguish between the stratified and the unstratified social position? What explanation would you prefer for the universal existence of the social stratification in human society? (1999/20)
- Q. Write short note: Role conflict as a source of deviation (1999/20)
- Q. Analyze critically the functional theory of social stratification (1998/60)
- Q. Write short note: Caste as a class (1998/20)
- Q. Write short note: Vertical and horizontal mobility (1998/20)
- Q. Write short note: Types of mobility (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Role-Conflict and its resolution (1996/20)
- Q. Describe the factors responsible for increasing economic inequalities in India and discuss their social consequences. (1996/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social class and social status (1995/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social class and vertical mobility (1993/20)
- Q. 'Social inequality is the device by which societies ensure that the most important positions, are filled by the most qualified persons.' Explain this view point and state the grounds on which it is refuted. (1992/60)
- Q. Elaborate the concepts of 'status-consistency' and 'status-inconsistency'. State the factors responsible for status-inconsistency in modern societies. (1992/60)
- Q. Write short note: Functional theory of stratification (1991/20)
- Q. Write short note: Intergeneration mobility (1991/20)
- Q. Write short note: Status inconsistency (1990/20)
- Q. Write short note: Open and Closed Models of Mobility (1989/20)

- Q. Write short note: Functional theory of stratification (1988/20)
- Q. Write short note: Intergenerational mobility in a caste society (1986/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social Mobility (1985/20)

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