

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I 7. Politics and Society

Paper II C. (iv) Politics and Society

Q. Discuss the social bases of political mobilization in Independent India. Has some change occurred in these during the last 60-70 years? (2025/10)

Q. What do you mean by nation building? What is the role of religion in nation building? Elaborate your answer. (2025/20)

Q. How do 'Civil Society Organizations' such as 'NGOs' and 'Self-Help Groups' contribute to grassroot level social changes? Discuss. (2025/20)

Q. How can you assess the significance of social movements in the digital era? Explain. (2025/10)

Q. What would you identify as the similarities and differences in the elite theories of Mosca, Michels and Pareto? Discuss their main/crucial issues. (2025/20)

Q. Are pressure groups a threat to or a necessary element of democracy? Explain with suitable illustrations. (2025/20)

Q. What are pressure groups? Discuss their role in decision-making in democracy. (2024/10)

Q. Discuss the changing nature of political elites in India. (2024/10)

Q. What do you understand by decentralisation of power? What is its role in strengthening the roots of democracy in India? Elaborate. (2024/20)

Q. Underline the role of social media in contemporary social movements and describe its challenges. (2024/20)

Q. Democracy needs a vibrant culture of civil society in order to strengthen its foundation of citizenship. Comment. (2024/10)

Q. Do you think that the social media has brought significant changes in the forms of protest? Argue your case. (2023/20)

- Q. How is civil society useful in deepening the roots of democracy? (2023/10)
- Q. What, according to Robert Michels, is the iron law of oligarchy? Do lions and foxes in Vilfredo Pareto's theory, essentially differ from each other? Substantiate. (2023/20)
- Q. Discuss the changing nature of structure of political elites. (2022/10)
- Q. Discuss the role of pressure groups in strengthening democracy. (2022/10)
- Q. Examine different understandings of secularization in India. (2022/10)
- Q. Illustrate with examples the role of pressure groups in the formulation of social policies. (2022/10)
- Q. Analyse the nature of transition from ideology to identity politics in India. (2022/20)
- Q. Write a note on global trends of secularization. (2022/10)
- Q. Is social democracy a precondition for political democracy? Comment. (2021/10)
- Q. Does regionalism essentially lead to decentralization of power? Substantiate your answer with relevant examples. (2021/10)
- Q. What do you understand by democratic federalism? How does it promote decentralization of power in India? (2020/10)
- Q. Analyze the issues related to the citizenship in contemporary India. Give suitable illustrations. (2020/10)
- Q. What is civil society? Present a note on civil society engagement with science and technology policy in India. (2019/10)
- Q. What are the theoretical models of societal power? Which one of them is most applicable in advanced industrial societies? (2019/20)
- Q. Discuss the concept of circulation of elite. (2019/10)
- Q. Discuss the implications of 'Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan'. Do you think that civil society has a role to play here? Substantiate your answer with example. (2019/20)
- Q. Comment on the changing democratic profile of India. (2019/10)
- Q. What is caste politics? Substantiate your answer with examples of how identities are defined by caste dynamics. (2019/20)
- Q. What, according to Pareto, are the basic characteristics of elites? Discuss. (2018/10)
- Q. Are social movements primordial in means and progressive in agenda? (2018/10)
- Q. Has caste system hindered democracy and adult franchise in India. Discuss. (2018/20)

- Q. Has Green Revolution led to the formation of new power elite in rural India? Elaborate your answer. (2018/20)
- Q. Elaborate the concept of constitutional morality as given by B.R.Ambedkar. (2018/10)
- Q. Media is the fourth pillar of democracy. Discuss. (2018/10)
- Q. To what extent does nation building depend on strengthening of pluralities in Indian society? (2017/20)
- Q. Examine the dynamics of Pressure groups in multi-party political system. (2017/10)
- Q. Explain the concepts of 'dominant caste' and 'vote bank', giving examples from specific regions. (2017/20)
- Q. Discuss the changing interface between state and civil society in post-independent India. (2017/10)
- Q. Discuss the importance of 'power elite' in democracy. (2016/10)
- Q. To what extent revolution replaces the existing order of society? Discuss. (2016/10)
- Q. "Globalization involves deterritorialization." Examine with reference to the nation-state. (2015/20)
- Q. Caste ideology appears to have strengthened democracy. Comment. (2015/10)
- Q. Define secularization. What are its major dimensions in the modern world? (2015/20)
- Q. Explain the conditions under which a collective action transforms into a social movement. (2015/20)
- Q. "Ideology is crucial for social transformation in a democracy." Discuss. (2015/10)
- Q. Discuss B. R. Ambedkar as a wise democrat. (2015/20)
- Q. Write a brief note on the Freedom of Press. (2015/10)
- Q. Who are the elites? Discuss their roles in bringing social transformation. (2014/10)
- Q. "Power is not a zero-sum game". Discuss with reference to Weber's and Parsons's views. (2014/20)
- Q. What do you understand by social movement? How has the mobilization by Scheduled Castes helped them in constructing a new identity? (2014/10)
- Q. Discuss T. H. Marshall's views on citizenship. (2014/10)
- Q. Distinguish between Political Parties and Pressure. (2014/10)
- Q. Examine the role of pressure groups in parliamentary democracy. (2013/10)
- Q. Evaluate how do civil society and democracy mutually reinforce each other (2013/20)
- Q. Critically examine the role of civil society in democracy. (2013/10)

- Q. Define social movement. Elucidate the role of reformist movements in social change. (2013/10)
- Q. Write short note on the following from a sociological perspective:
Citizenship and Civil Society (2012/12)
- Q. Are social movement always influenced by ideologies? Discuss. (2012/20)
- Q. What do you understand by nation? Is the nation same as the state? Discuss. (2012/20)
- Q. Write short note with a sociological perspective on the following:
Regional political elites and the democratic process. (2012/12)
- Q. Critically examine the concepts of nation and citizenship in the context of globalization. (2012/20)
- Q. "Protective discrimination not only protects but also discriminates." Comment. (2011/30)
- Q. Distinguish between 'secularism' and 'secularisation'. Analyse the nature and extent of secularisation in contemporary India. (2011/30)
- Q. Write short note on Power Elite from a sociological perspective. (2011/12)
- Q. Highlight prerequisites of social movement. Bring out the difference between social movement and revolution. (2011/20)
- Q. "Collective action in politics can bring integration and disintegration in society." Comment. (2011/20)
- Q. Explain the concept of Participatory Democracy. What conditions are assumed to be conducive to participation? (2011/20)
- Q. Write short note on Identity Politics. (2010/12)
- Q. List the sources of power and explain the various indicators based on which power can be measured. (2010/30)
- Q. Evaluate how civil society and democracy mutually reinforce each other. (2010/30)
- Q. Write short note on Factors responsible for increasing demands for the formation of separate states. (2010/20)
- Q. Identify the reasons for the resilience of democratic system in India. (2010/30)
- Q. Write short note on New rural elite and leadership (2009/20)
- Q. Write short note on C. W. Mills' Power Elite. (2009/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social movement as an expression of protest (2008/20)
- Q. Explain the meaning and modes of political participation. What are the factors preventing people's participation in politics in India? (2007/60)

- Q. Write short note: Regionalism (2007/20)
- Q. Discuss the social base of political parties in India. What has been its impact on Indian democracy? (2005/60)
- Q. Write short note: Pluralism and national unity (2005/20)
- Q. Discuss modes of political participation and voting behavior in India. (2005/60)
- Q. Write short note: Power elite in society and the emergence of new elite in power structure. (2005/20)
- Q. Write short note: Authority and Legitimacy (2004/20)
- Q. Write short note: Bureaucracy in New Capitalist Economy (2004/20)
- Q. "The 73rd and the 74th constitutional amendments have motivated social mobilization in rural India." – Discuss. (2004/60)
- Q. Differentiate between pressure groups and interest groups. Describe the role of some prominent pressure groups in contemporary Indian politics. (2003/60)
- Q. Write short note: Regionalism (2003/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social Structure and Political Participation (2003/20)
- Q. Write short note: Community Power (2002/20)
- Q. Write short note: Reservation and Panchayat Raj institutions (2002/20)
- Q. Elaborate the concept of political elite. Explain how social structural origins of political elites influence their political orientations. (2001/60)
- Q. What is meant by democratic decentralization? Assess the working of Panchayati Raj in India. (2001/60)
- Q. Write short note: Informal structure of Bureaucracy (2001/20)
- Q. Write short note: Sources of legitimacy of power (2001/20)
- Q. Write short note: Role of pressure groups in democracy (2000/20)
- Q. What have been the functions of democracy in India? Has democracy been successful in eliminating some of the traditional social inequalities? (2000/60)
- Q. Discuss 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments with reference to decentralization of power. (1999/60)
- Q. Write short note: National Unity (1999/20)
- Q. Impact of the democratic political system on the traditional social structure (1999/20)
- Q. Explain the concept of power. Distinguish between power and authority. (1998/60)

- Q. Write short note: Implications of emergence of regional political parties (1998/20)
- Q. Describe the socio-cultural background of the political elites of contemporary India. What has been the influence of the background on their political orientations? (1997/60)
- Q. Write short note: Pluralism and national unity (1997/20)
- Q. Discuss the meaning and role of voluntary organizations in the efforts of transformation of society through state-action. (1996/60)
- Q. Describe the traditional power structure in rural India. Discuss the factors that have contributed to its changing pattern in recent years. (1996/60)
- Q. Write short note: Role of pressure groups in Indian politics (1996/20)
- Q. It is often alleged that the social situation in India is not conducive to the efficient functioning of a democratic polity. Comment. (1995/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social disorganization (1995/60)
- Q. Write short note: Changing social origins of political elites in India (1994/20)
- Q. Evaluate the role of state in social and economic reconstruction of Indian Society since independence. (1994/60)
- Q. Write short note: Decentralisation of power and local development (1994/20)
- Q. Evaluate the functioning of political parties in the democracies of the Third World. (1993/60)
- Q. Write short note: Dysfunctions of bureaucracy (1993/20)
- Q. Write short note: Panchayati Raj and rural leadership (1993/20)
- Q. Write short note: Pressure groups on Indian politics. (1993/20)
- Q. Discuss the executive measures and peoples' participation in implementing various development programmes at the village level in India. (1993/60)
- Q. Explain how emerging rural-urban nexuses are reshaping the character of Indian political elite and functioning of political institutions. (1992/60)
- Q. Write short note: Informal structure of bureaucracy (1992/20)
- Q. Write short note: Merits and demerits of secret ballot in democracy (1992/20)
- Q. What role can the power of unorganized masses play in bringing about social change in a democratic society? (1991/60)
- Q. Is legitimacy of key political institutions declining in India? Discuss this issue in the context of the process of nation-building. (1991/60)

- Q. Write short note: Social responsibility of political elites (1991/20)
- Q. Write short note: Bureaucracy and economic development (1990/20)
- Q. Write short note: Community power structure (1990/20)
- Q. Write short note: Formal and Informal Structure of Bureaucracy (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Power of the Elite (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Electoral Reform in India (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Democratic Decentralisation (1988/20)
- Q. Discuss the role of the State in restructuring Indian Society since Independence. Examine the effectiveness of such interventions. (1988/60)
- Q. What do you understand by community power structure? Discuss the major changes in recent times in the pattern of the distribution of power in Indian society. (1988/60)
- Q. Critically examine the statement, "A study of power inevitably involves an investigation of social class". (1987/60)
- Q. Write short note: Authoritarian Personality (1987/20)
- Q. Write short note: Legitimacy (1987/20)
- Q. Write short note: Bureaucracy in developing societies (1986/20)
- Q. Write short note: the emerging pattern of rural leadership (1986/20)
- Q. Write short note: Problems of nation building in developing countries (1986/20)
- Q. Write short note: Protective discrimination: its sociology and politics (1985/20)
- Q. Write short note: Power (1985/20)
- Q. Explain the role of community power structure in the political decision-making processes in the society. Are power and authority getting broad based in India today? (1984/60)
- Q. Write short note: Power of the elite and the masses in democratic societies (1981/20)
- Q. Write short note: Pressure groups and economic development (1982/20)

**UPSC: Previous Years' Questions
Paper II**

A. (ii). (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period

(d) Social reforms

C. (v) Social Movements in Modern India

(a) Peasants and farmers movements

(b) Women's movements

(c) Backward classes and Dalit movement

(d) Environmental movements

(e) Ethnicity and Identity movements

(vii). (a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability

Q. How Dalit movements in India have facilitated their Identity formation? Analyze. (2025/10)

Q. Analyse the trilogy between environmental movement, development, and tribal identity. (2024/20)

Q. Trace the social and historical origins of Dalit movements in modern India. (2024/10)

What is your assessment about the recent farmers' movement in India? Elaborate. (2024/10)

Q. Do you think that the decades of Dalit political mobilizations and movements have helped in strengthening India's democracy? Substantiate your arguments with facts. (2023/20)

Q. In the face of rising global climatic concerns, how do you contextualize the relevance of Chipko Movement and its Gandhian tone? Answer analytically. (2023/20)

Q. Citing some case studies, expand the concept of Development-induced Displacement? (2023/10)

Q. Examine the relevance of corporate social responsibility in a world marked by increasing environmental crises. (2023/10)

Q. Analyse the sociological interconnections between Social Media and Mass Mobilization in India. (2023/10)

Q. Critically examine the dialectics between 'development and environment'. (2022/20)

Q. Bring out the various issues involved in Dalit movements in India. (2022/20)

Q. Discuss how 'environmentalism' can be explained with new social movements approach. (2022/20)

Q. The problem of displacement is inherent in the idea of development. Analyze the statement critically. (2021/20)

Q. What is identity politics? Discuss the main trends in Dalit movement in India. (2021/20)

Q. Colonial administrators helped to construct the very traditionalism which marked the Indian society as 'backward'. Comment critically. (2020/20)

Q. Are the contemporary farmers' movements in India changing their course? Discuss. (2020/10)

Q. Evaluate the nature and scope of anthropogenic influence on climate in India and also analyze the environmental movements arising out of it. (2020/20)

Q. "Banning practice of 'Sati' is attributed to annihilation of a major social evil in colonial India." Comment. (2020/10)

- Q. Highlight the roles and functions of civil society in a democratic system. (2021/10)
- Q. Explain how political parties and pressure groups are dialectically related to each other in terms of achieving their goals. (2021/20)
- Q. Critically examine the relevance of Vilfredo Pareto's theory of Circulation of Elites in the present scenario. (2021/10)
- Q. Examine how social movements come to an end. Illustrate with examples. (2020/10)
- Q. According to Mills, "Elites rule in institutional terms rather than psychological terms." Comment. (2020/20)
- Q. Explain democracy as an order of society. What are the factors preventing people's participation in politics? (2020/10)
- Q. Do you agree that social movements are caused by opportunity structures that are generated by media? Why? (2019/10)
- Q. Has reduction of green cover affected ecological degradation leading to global warming? Elaborate your answer with illustration. (2019/10)
- Q. Highlight the main features of the 'Inter-linking of Rivers' project in India. What could be its probable advantages to Indian agriculture? (2019/20)
- Q. Elucidate the concerns of growing urban displacement dynamics in India. (2019/10)
- Q. Discuss the challenges in implementing the Rural Development Programmes in India. (2019/10)
- Q. Illustrate the contribution of the Tebhaga Movement to the peasants struggle in India. (2019/10)
- Q. Comment on the growing assertion of tribal community for autonomy in India. (2019/10)
- Q. Do you think that the Indian saints have brought about social reform and awareness in Indian society? Explain. (2019/10)
- Q. Elaborate various forms of Dalit assertions in contemporary India. What are its implications on the Indian political system? (2018/20)
- Q. Explain the dynamics of neo-farmers' movement in contemporary India. (2018/10)
- Q. Elaborate the 'Me Too' Movement and its impact in India. (2018/10)
- Q. Examine the sociological dynamics of Champaran Peasant Movement in colonial India. (2018/20)
- Q. Discuss development-induced displacement in the context of tribal uprising in India. Substantiate your answer with any one detailed illustration from India. (2018/20)

- Q. Discuss some of the striking issues of development induced imbalances that need urgent attention. (2017/20)
- Q. The main objectives of socio-religious movements during the colonial rule in India were reforming and synthesizing Hinduism. Write on any two such important movements. (2017/20)
- Q. What is new in 'new social movements'? Elaborate your answer with special reference to India. (2017/20)
- Q. What are the factors accounting for the resurgence of ethnic identity movements in India? (2016/10)
- Q. Discuss the various forms of environmental movements waged in India? (2016/10)
- Q. Different forms of Dalit assertion (2016/10)
- Q. Comment on the increasing significance of caste in politics. (2016/10)
- Q. Anti-Brahmanical movements during the colonial period. (2016/10)
- Q. Examine the role of protest movements in changing the status of dalits in India. (2016/10)
- Q. Effect of displacement through development on the rural landless and marginal farmers. (2015/10)
- Q. Discuss the main features of farmers' movements in Independent India. (2015/20)
- Q. Write some of the important social reforms in India for the removal of untouchability. (2014/10)
- Q. Dynamics of Contemporary Dalit movements (2014/10)
- Q. Rural landless labourers and development induced displacement (2014/10)
- Q. Discuss the 'Chipko movement' as an example of eco-feminism. (2014/20)
- Q. What is Dalit movement? Examine the issues highlighted by it. (2013/20)
- Q. Discuss the sociological aspects of movements for separate States. (2013/15)
- Q. Bring out the main features of farmer's movements in Modern India. (2013/20)
- Q. Other Backward Classes (2013/10)
- Q. Satya Sodhak movement of Mahatama Jyotiba Phule (2013/10)
- Q. Examine the social dimensions of displacement induced by development. (2013/10)
- Q. Write short note on the following from a sociological perspective: Millenarian Movements (2012/12)
- Q. Do you think that some policies and laws relating to environment have retarded the development process? Give examples. How can an ideal balance between environmental protection and development goals be brought about? (2012/30)

- Q. Write short note on Structure of a social movement. (2009/20)
- Q. How do you define development? What are your suggestions to resolve the issues of displacement and environment related to development? (2008/60)
- Q. Write short note: S.N.D.P. Movement (2008/20)
- Q. What are the structural elements of a social movement? State how a social movement comes to its end. Illustrate your answer with example. (2007/60)
- Q. Write short note: Structure of a social movement (2006/20)
- Q. Write short note: Environmental pollution in urban areas (2006/20)
- Q. Discuss the social factors responsible for the emergence of Dalit consciousness in India. What have been the social consequences of this phenomenon? (2006/60)
- Q. Describe the ideological changes that have ushered in modern society due to social movements in India. (2005/60)
- Q. Write short note: Ideology and Strategy of Social Movement (2004/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social change and social movement (2002/20)
- Q. What social conditions cause a social movement? Explain with illustrations, the career of a social movement. (2001/60)
- Q. Is ideology an essential component of a social movement? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples from some contemporary social movements. (2000/60)
- Q. Bring out the commonality between a social movement and a revolution. Would you agree with the view that each revolution is preceded by a social movement? Give reasons. (1999/60)
- Q. What are the structural conditions under which movements emerge? Discuss with reference to any one theory of genesis of social movements. (1998/60)
- Q. Write short note: Concept of social movement (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Reformative social movements (1996/20)
- Q. Write short note: Types of social movements (1994/20)
- Q. Write short note: Protest movements (1993/20)
- Q. Trace the Psychological and Sociological roots of social movements in society today. Do social movements facilitate social change? (1990/60)
- Q. Write short note: Types of social movements (1988/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social Movement (1987/20)

Q. Discuss the social consequences of economic development in India. Do you share the view that it has increased economic inequality and failed to promote social justice?

(1984/60)

Under New UPSC Regulations

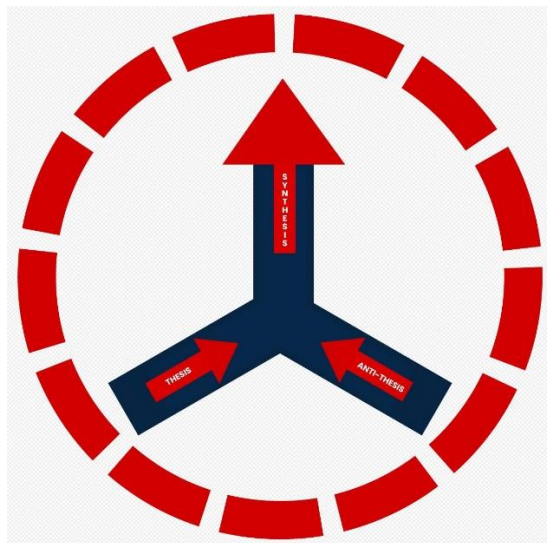
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