

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I 8. Religion and society

Paper II B. (vi) Religion and society

C. (vii). (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism

Q. What is the nature of relationship between science and religion in modern society? Analyze with suitable examples. (2025/10)

Q. How do religious communities contribute to the cultural diversity of India? (2024/20)

Q. How do you understand the phenomena of the mushrooming of sects and cults in contemporary society? Discuss the factors responsible for the trend. (2024/20)

Q. How does a multicultural society accommodate diversities of all kinds—ethnic, linguistic, and religious? Discuss its major challenges. (2024/20)

Q. Do modernization and secularization necessarily go together? Give your views. (2024/20)

Q. How do you account for the increasing significance of religion in public and personal spheres in the context of secularization thesis in India? (2023/20)

Q. What are new religious movements? Elaborate emphasizing their forms and orientations. (2023/20)

Q. What functions does religion perform in a pluralistic society? (2023/10)

Q. Define ethnicity. Discuss the factors responsible for the growth of ethnic movements in India. (2022/20)

Q. Discuss the problems of religious minorities in India and suggest measures to solve them. (2022/10)

Q. Rising 'ethnocentrism' is leading to conflict in our society. Assess this statement with appropriate reasons. (2021/20)

Q. Discuss the role of social media in communal polarization. Suggest ways to combat it. (2021/20)

Q. Write a note on 'cultural pluralism' in multi-religious society like India. (2020/10)

Q. "Secularism was an outcome of 20th century humanistic radicalism." Comment. (2020/10)

- Q. Explain the growing salience of ethnicity in the contemporary world with illustrations. (2021/10)
- Q. Critically compare the views of E.B. Tylor and Max Muller on religion. (2021/10)
- Q. What is cult? Explain the growth of cults in the contemporary world. (2021/10)
- Q. Give your comments on the growth of religious revivalism in the present day context. (2021/10)
- Q. State the reasons for the various religious beliefs and practices in pre-modern societies. (2020/20)
- Q. Are all world religions patriarchal? Substantiate your answer with examples. (2019/20)
- Q. Do you think that the Indian saints have brought about social reform and awareness in Indian society? Explain. (2019/10)
- Q. What is ethno-nationalism? Examine the critical factors responsible for tribal discontent in India. (2019/20)
- Q. How do you understand the 'minority' question? Examine the violence and discrimination against the religious minorities in India. (2019/20)
- Q. What are sects? Discuss their role in multi-religious societies with empirical examples. (2018/20)
- Q. In what way did Durkheim perceive religion as functional to society? (2018/10)
- Q. Discuss the challenges thrown by religious revivalism to a secular nation-state? (2018/10)
- Q. Assess the impact of ban on 'Triple Talak' on marriage and divorce among the Muslim community in India. (2018/10)
- Q. Write a critical narrative on the concerns of religious minorities in India. (2018/20)
- Q. Discuss the growth of religious sects in India. (2018/10)
- Q. With increase in education and economic development is Indian society becoming more secular? (2018/10)
- Q. Give an assessment of Durkheimian notion of 'sacred' and 'profane' in sociology of religion. (2017/10)
- Q. What is Cultural Revivalism? Give some examples from performing arts, language dissemination and arts and crafts in recent times? (2017/20)
- Q. Problematised the concept of secularism in the present context. (2017/10)
- Q. Elaborate on various types of religious practices prevalent in Indian society. (2017/10)
- Q. What are the distinct features of Islam as practiced in India, and how have they changed over time? (2017/10)

Q. The main objective of socio- religious movement during the colonial rule in India were reforming and synthesizing Hinduism. Write an any two such important movement. (2017/20)

Q. To what extent does nation building depends on strengthening of pluralities in Indian society? (2017/20)

Q. Is religion playing an important role in increasing fundamentalism? Give reasons for your answer. (2016/10)

Q. “Religious pluralism is the order of present-day societies.” Explain by giving suitable examples. (2016/20)

Q. Elucidate the concepts of ‘majoritarianism’ and ‘minoritarianism’ in accentuating communal tensions in India? (2016/20)

Q. Distinguish between sects and cults with illustrations. (2015/10)

Q. What are the major concerns of ethnic identity and religious identity in India? (2015/20)

Q. What are the basic tenets of Hindu religion? Is Hinduism based on monotheism or polytheism? (2015/20)

Q. How is religious revivalism different from communalism? Elaborate with suitable examples from the Indian context. (2014/20)

Q. Gandhi’s efforts on communal harmony (2014/10)

Q. Discuss the problems of religious minorities in India. (2014/20)

Q. Is religion antithetical to science? Comment. (2013/10)

Q. “Science has empirical means to logical ends and religion has non-empirical means to logical ends.” Comment. (2013/10)

Q. Analyse the role of communalism in undermining democracy in India. (2013/15)

Q. Examine the impact of secularization on various religious communities in India. (2012/30)

Q. Discuss the factors leading to growing religious revivalism in the contemporary world. (2012/20)

Q. Write short note on Cultural Pluralism from a sociological perspective. (2011/12)

Q. Define sect, cult and religion. In what way do Weber’s views on religion differ from those of Durkheim? (2011/20)

Q. How are the issues of ethnicity and nationalism related? Discuss in the context of the emergence of ethnonationalism in India. (2011/30)

Q. Write short note with a sociological perspective on The Parsi community and its contribution to Indian society. (2010/20)

Q. Examine the social dimensions of religious revivalism and fundamentalism in the context of globalization. (2010/30)

- Q. Write short note on Positive Religion. (2010/15)
- Q. "Science has empirical means to logical ends and religion has non-empirical means to logical ends." Comment. (2010/15)
- Q. "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Comment on this statement critically in the light of emerging sociological contexts in Europe, USA and India. (2009/60)
- Q. Write short note on Secularization of societies in the modern world. (2009/20)
- Q. Can religion form a sufficient basis of forming cultural identity in India? (2009/20)
- Q. In what important ways can religion be a force both for social stability and social change? Discuss. (2008/60)
- Q. Write short note: Religious revivalism (2008/20)
- Q. Discuss the major problems of religious fundamentalism in contemporary India. Give suggestions to tackle these problems. (2007/60)
- Q. Write short note: Problems of religious minorities (2007/20)
- Q. Describe the indicators of secularism. In your opinion, is it being practiced in letter and spirit in present day Indian society? (2006/60)
- Q. Write short note: Religious fundamentalism (2005/20)
- Q. Examine the functional as well as dysfunctional aspects of religion in a pluralistic society taking India and the United States of America as illustrative models. (2004/60)
- Q. Examine the functional as well as dysfunctional aspects of religion in a pluralistic society taking India and the United States of America as illustrative models. (2004/60)
- Q. Write short note: Role of religion in civil society (2004/20)
- Q. Describe the socio-economic factors responsible for communal tensions in India. What suggestions will you give to control them? (2003/60)
- Q. Is Secularism a weak Ideology? Critically analyse the reasons for anti-secular trends in India. (2002/60)
- Q. Write short note: Problems of Hindu minority in Kashmir (2002/20)
- Q. Write short note: Inequality among Brahmins (2002/20)
- Q. Explain the concept of secular state and discuss the problems of India as a secular state. (2001/60)
- Q. Write short note: Religion and Science (2001/20)
- Q. Critically examine functional and dysfunctional aspects of religion. (2000/60)
- Q. Write short note: Religious fundamentalism (2000/20)

- Q. Define religious minority. Discuss the problems of religious minority in India. (1999/60)
- Q. Write short note: Secularism (1999/20)
- Q. Elaborate on the social of religion. Discuss the relationship between religion and science. (1999/60)
- Q. Write short note: Religious pluralism (1998/20)
- Q. Discuss the constitutional safeguards for religious minority groups and account for increasing religious fundamentalism in India. (1998/20)
- Q. Write short note: Communal tensions in India (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Fundamentals of religion (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Pattern of secularism in India (1996/20)
- Q. Write short note: Minority status and religious conversions (1994/20)
- Q. Explain issues emerging from inter-religion interaction in India today. Evaluate them in the context of secularism in India. (1993/60)
- Q. Write short note: Primitive Communism (1993/20)
- Q. Write short note: Minority groups and communalism (1993/20)
- Q. What is happening to religion in the face of challenges of science in modern societies? Elaborate your answer with the help of sociological literature. (1992/60)
- Q. Write short note: Plural society and secularism (1991/20)
- Q. "Religion is said to have emancipated human beings on the one hand but it also alienates them in the other". Bring out the paradoxical functions religion plays in a modern secular society. (1990/60)
- Q. Write short note: Religion and national integration in India (1990/20)
- Q. Critically evaluate the role of religion and ethnicity in Indian politics since the First General Elections in 1952. (1990/60)
- Q. Write short note: Secularism as a scientific concept (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Linguistic Conflicts (1988/20)
- Q. Discuss the role of religion in the world today. Has the super growth of science any de-mystifying effect on religion? (1986/60)
- Q. Write short note: Communal tensions: their economic and social background (1986/20)

- Q. Discuss the factors responsible for the growing feeling of alienation among the religious minorities in India. How can they be made to overcome this feeling? (1986/70)
- Q. Write short note: Religious and ethnic conflict in India (1985/20)
- Q. Write short note: Religion and Society (1985/20)
- Q. Write short note: Religious factor in economic development (1984/20)
- Q. Write short note: Religious and scientific world views (1983/20)

Under New UPSC Regulations

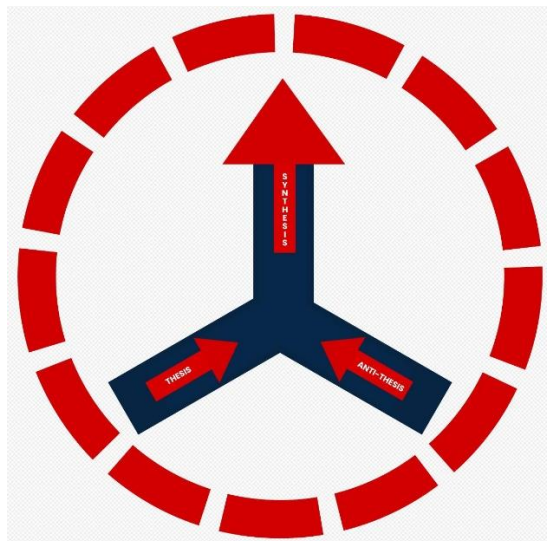
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