

Dialectics IAS

For One-To-One Mentorship

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I

10. Social change in Modern Society

Q. To what extent can education and skill development be an agent of social change? Critically analyze. (2025/10)

Q. Discuss various theories of social change. Explain the limitations of unilinear theory of social change. (2024/20)

(c) Critically examine the World-Systems theory of Immanuel Wallerstein in terms of development and dependency of various nations. (2024/10)

Q. Critically examine the roles of science and technology in social change. What is your opinion on their increasing trend in 'online' education and teaching? (2024/10)

Q. Examine the role of science and technology in addressing age-old taboos and superstitions. (2023/10)

Q. Assess critically A. G. Frank's 'theory of development of underdevelopment'. (2023/10)

Q. Sociologists argue for democratization of science and technology for inclusive development. Comment. (2022/20)

Q. Are traditional social institutions getting weakened as a result of agents of social change in the contemporary society? Substantiate. (2022/20)

Q. Trace the trajectory of development perspectives on social change. (2022/10)

Q. Critically examine the contribution of dependency theories in understanding the present global scenario. (2021/20)

Q. Describe the role of science and technology in enabling us to face the challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. (2021/20)

Q. Technology has accelerated the process of development and dependency. Discuss. (2020/20)

Q. How can skill development programme induce social change? Illustrate. (2020/10)

- Q. Is humanity at the mercy of Nature, Science and Technology? Comment in the light of pandemic situation. (2020/20)
- Q. Discuss the issues of access and exclusion in higher education in India. (2019/10)
- Q. How well do you think Tonnies, Durkheim, Weber and Marx predicted the character of modern society? Critique. (2019/10)
- Q. Critique A.G. Frank's 'development of underdevelopment'. (2019/10)
- Q. What is affirmative action? Substantiate theoretical positions on affirmative actions with example. (2019/10)
- Q. How is terrorism a new form of asymmetrical warfare? What are some of the challenges in trying to win the war on terrorism? (2019/10)
- Q. Is the theory of cultural lag valid in present times? Discuss. (2018/10)
- Q. Schooling does not ensure upward mobility of all members of this society. Discuss with reference in class societies. (2018/20)
- Q. Critically analyse the role of science and technology in bringing about social change. (2017/20)
- Q. Assess the role of mass media as an agent of social change. (2017/10)
- Q. Examine any two theories of social change in detail. (2017/20)
- Q. "Social conflict is both a cause and a consequence of social change." Explain. (2016/10)
- Q. "Social change can be brought about through development." Illustrate from the contemporary situation of India. (2016/20)
- Q. Examine the dialectical relation between tradition and modernity in the study of social change. (2015/20)
- Q. Explain the relevance of the idea of 'cultural lag' in understanding social change. (2015/10)
- Q. Write a short essay on the Latin American perspective on 'dependency'. (2014/20)
- Q. How is the increasing use of technology changing the status of women in Indian society? (2014/20)
- Q. Examine science and technology as agents of social change. (2013/10)
- Q. Illustrate the conflicts and tensions experienced by societies undergoing social change. (2013/20)
- Q. Critically examine the cultural theories of social change with suitable examples. (2013/20)

- Q. Write short note on the following from a sociological perspective: Theory of Cultural Lag-Ogburn and Nimkoff (2012/12)
- Q. 'Revolutionary changes have some specific characteristics.' Discuss with examples. (2012/20)
- Q. Write short note on Development and Dependency from a sociological perspective. (In about 150 words) (2011/12)
- Q. "Social support mechanism needs to be strengthened for effective implementation of development programmes." Comment. (2011/20)
- Q. Discuss World System Theory in the context of modern society. (2011/20)
- Q. "Science and Technology are major forces accelerating the process of social change." (2011/20)
- Q. "There has been a substantial decline in labour class and increase in labour force in non-manual jobs with the advent of new technological revolution." Critically examine. (2010/30)
- Q. Examine the social dimensions of displacement induced by development. (2010/15)
- Q. Comment on the critics' charge that Immanuel Wallerstein's dependency theory is simplistic and wrong. (2009/30)
- Q. Write short note: Education as an agent of social change. (2008/20)
- Q. State significance of social policy in social development. Under what conditions a social policy fails to be effective in its performance? (2006/60)
- Q. Human factors involved in directed social change. (2006/20)
- Q. Explain the idea of social responsibility of science. Analyse the social consequences of development of science and technology in the context of removal of backwardness in development societies. (2006/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social consequences of science and technology in India (2005/20)
- Q. Discuss mass education as an instrument of social change and modernization. (2005/60)
- Q. Bring out a comparative analysis of Marxian and Parsonian views of social change and examine the relevance of each view for social development in the contemporary India. (2004/60)
- Q. Write short note: Science and social Responsibility (2004/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social Impact of New Technologies in India (2003/20)
- Q. Write short note: Ethos of Science (2002/20)

- Q. Define 'social policy'. Evaluate the performance of social policy in modernization of developing societies. (2001/60)
- Q. Pitrim A. Sorokin sees the course of history as a continuous but irregular fluctuation between two basically different kinds of culture. While explaining this stand of Sorokin, analyse whether it is appropriate to characterize such a notion of change as a cyclical theory of social change. (2000/60)
- Q. Elaborate in the concept of structural change. Discuss the endogenic factors of structural change in a society, with suitable examples. (1999/60)
- Q. Examine social consequences of changes in technology. Illustrate your answer with examples from new productive processes and equipment. (1998/20)
- Q. Critically examine the impact of traditional social structures on the development and functioning of a democratic policy. (1996/60)
- Q. Explain the classical concept of social change and critically examine the contribution of the linear theories of social change. (1995/60)
- Q. What is social policy and its relevance to social development? Under what circumstances social policy becomes a hindrance in social development? (1994/60)
- Q. Write short note: Modernisation (1991/20)
- Q. Write short note: directed social change. (1990/20)
- Q. How far are social policies and directed social change effective in social development? (1989/90)
- Q. Write short note: Science and Social Behaviour (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Theory of underdevelopment. (1988/20)
- Q. Write short note: Planned development in a democracy. (1985/20)
- Q. Has development been successful in removing poverty? Can you relate development to progress? (1985/60)
- Q. Examine the relationship between social structure and social change. Has the Indian social structure facilitated or hindered the process of change? (1984/80)

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I 10. (d) Education and Social Change

Paper II C. (i). (c) Education and Social Change

(vii) (f) Illiteracy and Disparities in Education

Q. Highlight the salient features of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. (2023/10)

Q. "Instead of promoting equality in society, the present system of education itself has contributed to increased socio-economic disparities." Comment. (2022/20)

Q. Explain the sociological significance of the New Education Policy and its thrust on vocationalization and skill development. (2021/20)

Q. How does the New Education Policy, 2020 aim to eradicate disparities in the system of education in India? (2020/10)

Q. Discuss the issues of access and exclusion in higher education in India. (2019/10)

Q. Comment on the critical issues of commercialization of higher education in India. (2019/10)

Q. Assess the role of the state in promoting education of girl child. (2018/10)

Q. With increase in education and economic development is Indian society becoming more secular? (2018/10)

Q. Write a note on Education and Equality in India. (2017/10)

- Q. Give an account of the problems relating to the creamy layer. (2017/10)
- Q. "Education is a major source of social mobility in contemporary society." Discuss. (2016/20)
- Q. Privatization of education and increasing inequalities (2016/10)
- Q. Empowerment through 'Right to education' (2016/10)
- Q. Human development approach affirms that education and health-care growth are more important than economic growth. Discuss this issue in the light of post-liberalized Indian society. (2015/15)
- Q. Write short note with a sociological perspective (in about 150 words): Important components of National Education Policy in India (2015/10)
- Q. "Education helps in perpetuating social and economic inequalities." Critically examine the statement. (2015/20)
- Q. Education is often viewed as an agency of social change. However in reality it could also reinforce inequalities and conservatism. Discuss. (2014/20)
- Q. Write short note with a sociological perspective (in about 150 words): Impact of privatisation on educational disparities (2014/10)
- Q. Discuss the salient features of right to education. (2013/15)
- Q. Write short note with a sociological perspective on the following: Education and Dalit empowerment (2012/12)
- Q. Write short note with a sociological perspective on the following: Education and removal of inequality. (2012/12)
- Q. Write short note: Disparities in education (2008/20)
- Q. Write short note: Education and social mobility (2007/20)
- Q. Write short note: Inequality in Education (2005/20)
- Q. Critically evaluate education as a tool for social justice. (2004/60)
- Q. Discuss in detail impact of mass media and education on India Society. (2004/60)
- Q. Write short note: Educational problems of weaker sections (2003/20)
- Q. Write short note: Education and social mobility (2001/20)
- Q. Critically examine the protective discrimination policy for the disadvantaged groups in India. Would you suggest any change in this policy? (2000/60)
- Q. Write short note: Educational inequalities in India (2000/20)
- Q. Write short note: Total literacy Campaign (TLC) (1999/20)

- Q. Write short note: Problem of adult illiteracy in India (1998/20)
- Q. Describe the role played by education in social mobility. Do you think that education has been the most important factor in accelerating social mobility in modern Indian society? Give arguments in favour of your answer. (1997/60)
- Q. Write short note: Problem of education among 'Backward classes' (1996/20)
- Q. Discuss the main problems of national integration in India and delineate the role of education in tackling these problems. (1995/60)
- Q. Explain the relationship of human resource development and education in modern context. (1994/60)
- Q. Discuss the educational problems of weaker sections in India. What are the measures adopted to solve these problems? (1993/60)
- Q. Write short note: Mass media and education (1992/20)
- Q. Write short note: Educational inequality and social change (1990/20)
- Q. Delineate the contents of the New Education Policy. Has it made any dent in the educational system? (1989/60)
- Q. Write short note: Reservations: Need and achievement (1987/20)
- Q. Write short note: Unequal access to education (1987/20)
- Q. Education for development: The sociological implications of the new education policy (1986/200)
- Q. Write short note: Education for social equality (1985/200)

Under New UPSC Regulations

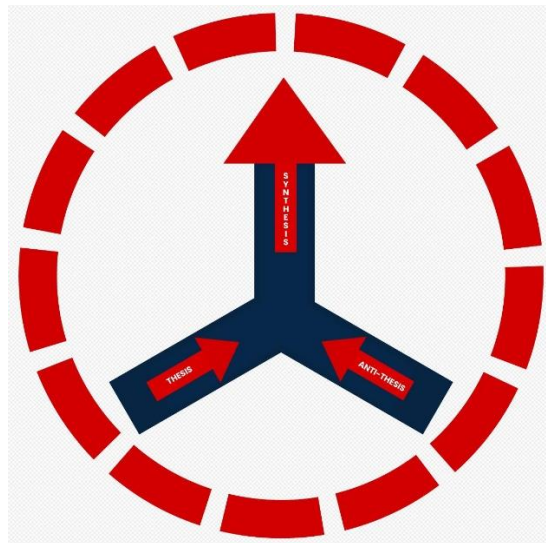
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