

Mains 2026

Test 2

[Paper I – Sectional Test 2]

Sociological Thinkers

Time allowed: **Three** Hours

Maximum Marks: **250**

Question Paper Specific Instructions

- ❖ There are **EIGHT** questions divided in two **SECTIONS**.
- ❖ Candidate has to attempt **FIVE** questions in all.
- ❖ Questions no. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** from each section.

SECTION A

Q1. Write short notes on the following: (10×5=50)

- a) Class-in-itself and class-for-itself
- b) 'Social fact is to be treated as thing.' Discuss.
- c) *The Structure of Social Action*
- d) Relative Deprivation
- e) Authority

Q2. (a) What is the focus of sociological analysis in the contributions of Emile Durkheim? Give your answer with the help of any one of his contributions. 20

(b) 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. 20

(c) How could one use Merton's concept of deviance to understand the traffic problem in urban India? 10

Q3. (a) Compare Karl Marx with Emile Durkheim with reference to the framework of 'division of labour'. 20

(b) "It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary it is their social being that determines their consciousness." Examine Karl Marx's notion of mode of production in the light of this statement. 20

(c) Critically examine the contributions of Weber to the understanding of industrial bureaucracy. 10

Q4. (a) Do you agree that Marxism offers a prefabricated theory of social change? Discuss. 20

(b) Attempt a comparative analysis of the Weberian and Marxian theories of social change. Which do you think is more relevant to the Indian society at present? Give reasons for your answer. 20

(c) Discuss how Merton's paradigm for functional analysis is an advancement over the classical functionalism. 10

SECTION B

Q5. Write short notes on the following: (10×5=50)

- (a) Objectivity and value-neutrality
- (b) Dialectical approach
- (c) Manifest and latent functions
- (d) Theoretical discourses on alienation
- (e) *Mind, Self and Society*

Q6. (a) Talcott Parsons' theory of social system has been criticized as a veiled status quoist ideology. Critically examine how valid and justified is this criticism. 20

(b) Identify the similarities and differences between Marx's theory of 'alienation' and Durkheim's theory of 'anomie'. 20

(c) What is the difference between anomie in Merton and Durkheim? Explain. 10

Q7. (a) 'The history of the hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggle'. Critically analyse the statement. 20

(b) Define Ideal Type and explain Weber's concept of 'Verstehen' for understanding social phenomena. 20

(c) Why Parsons' theory is called as neo-evolutionary theory of social change? Discuss. 10

Q8. (a) "According to Durkheim, the essence of religion in modern society is the same as religion in primitive society." Comment. 20

(b) What is 'social action'? What is its place in the analytical frameworks of Max Weber and Talcott Parsons? 20

(c) Write a short note on interactionist perspective on deviance. 10

11a

97
250

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Very carefully written answer
no attempt made to raise the level of analysis
line of argument is not convincing
examiner

Karl Marx used historical materialism to analyse different modes of production. He found broadly two classes in every mode, based on ownership of forces of production.

These two are Haves (who have the ownership) and the Have nots (who lack ownership).

In the capitalistic mode, he stated that the Have nots lack true consciousness of similarity of their situation and thus, just for a "class-in-itself".

He called upon the Have-nots (Proletariates) to see the similarity in their exploitation in the hands of Haves (Bourgeoisie) based upon surplus.

It is not specific to Capitalism

homogenisation
pauperization
poletisation

generation, formation of Reserve army of labour, and alienation from product, process, fellow workers and self. When they recognise these similarities, they will gain true consciousness and form "class-for-itself".

Thus the Proletariates of the world will unite to bring Revolution. Revolution is necessary as state and capital both are in control of capitalists. Thus, they will usher in "dictatorship of Proletariate" temporarily in form of socialism. Later they too will give up control and create communism. Here, there will be no private ownership and thus no class and human will become "Total Man".

Thus, the concepts of class in itself and class for itself form the explanation of the solution of capitalism by Marx.

help
explain
revolutionary social change

106
Emile Durkheim, the founder of academic sociology, considered social facts as subject matter of sociology.

He defined it as the way of feeling, thinking and acting that is —
(2) external to the actor and has (3) coercive power over him, in his work "The Rules of Sociological Methods".

① generally present in the society,

He stated that they should be observed and treated as things, and not as originating from individuals or theologically, as though earlier.

Why?

- wanted to mould sociology on the lines of natural sciences

He wanted that social facts should be studied in line with natural sciences based on principles of objectivity and empiricism.

since there was general acceptability of science in society

social facts are things, can be

quantitative data can be generated

empirical observation

data collection

understood by the characteristics of the social facts itself:—

① ^② External — they exist before a person and he is born into a society that is already made up of it.

eg) social institutions of religion, family etc.

② ^③ Coercive — they have a moral authority over the person and he should conform to them.

③ ^① Generalised — they are collective in nature and not individualised.

④ Independent — they are sui-generis in nature and ~~one social fact originates from another.~~

However, thinkers like Weber have criticised this as they consider humans attach meanings to their actions and have agency.

Overall, social facts concept was central to laying foundation of sociology upon which later thinkers built upon.

helped in delineating the sub. matter of a newly emerging discipline

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avoid
repetition
here

4

instead
cite an
example

study
of
social
facts

sub. matter

social action

interpretative
understanding

Pls read the Q carefully
Pls take the suggestions seriously

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Talcott Parsons' famous work
"The Structure of Social Action" describes
occurrences and patterns in social
Action in society. He builds upon the
Weberian Social Action.

Parsons described social
Action as any act which is consciously
performed. He noted two orientations
of any social Action:—

① Motivational — based on actors need

↳ Eating when hungry.

② Value — actions driven by norms
and rules of society.

Further, he also gave types of
Social Actions:—

① Instrumental Actions — based on norms
and values of society. closely

definition?

these ideas
were
developed
in later
works

40 Traditional Action of Weber.

② Instrumental Action — these are rationally driven. Ex) Office work.

③ Affective Action — driven by emotions. Ex) Mother caring for baby.

Action System

Parson noted that no action occur in isolation, rather ~~can~~ occur in constellations called ~~social~~ ^{Action} system.

All action systems can be divided into:-

① Cultural system — contain norms and values of system.

② Social system — interactions of units occur in it.

③ Personality system — contain internal qualities of system like emotions, stress etc.

④ Organismic system — contain physical and biological aspects. Store house of Energy.

All these formed the understanding of social Action by Talcott Parsons.

100
Context - Marx - cumulative deprivation

- noted in economic factors
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Relative Deprivation is the situation where a group or individual feel that they lack certain essential resources or aspects of life, when they compare themselves with other group or individuals.

(eg) Indians comparing cleanliness in Singapore with Delhi.

Reference group theory

To better understand Relative deprivation, reference group theory by Merton is useful.

Reference groups are own or other group that one refers to evaluate own achievements and aspirations.

Causes of Relative Deprivation

(1) Having other Reference groups, that

Samudra
straffer
in the American
Soldier

Labordar &
link
relative
deprivation
with it

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posses traits that one idealises.

- ② inability or difficulty in achieving these traits, as that other group may be closed for outsiders.

eg Tightening of visa norms in USA.

- ③ Own actual or perceived lack of resources.

Result of Relative Deprivations

- ① Generates aspirations in motivated group of people.

eg Aspirants preparing for competative exams.

- ② Can create "Marginal Man", who gets Anticipatory socialisation but fails to become part of that other group and simultaneously rejected by own group.

- ③ Social disharmony eg Naxalism to demand land right for Tribals.

Indian Constitution creates platforms for Indians to overcome it.

XXX-X-GSI/20

this is how
you must
contextualize
your
argument

in open
society

in
closed
society

relate
it
clearly

how
?

4

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1(e)

Context — Power Vs Authority

Max Weber described Authority as the "legitimate form of dominance".

eg state's ability to create laws and implement them.

Pre conditions for any Authority

- ① Existence of ruler and ruled.
- ② Willingness of ruler to rule.
- ③ consensus of ruled to give up certain right to allow ruler to rule.
- ④ Existence of form of legitimacy for ruler to rule.

eg Constitution of India legitimise Indian state.

This essential separates Authority from Power, which can be coercive in nature too. Further, this show authority is visible to all parties.

Is authority only about "rule"?!

too simplistic
make your arguments analytical

?

need to take the level of discussion

Weberian Authority - Ideal Types

Max Weber gave Ideal Types of Authority to study it in different contexts:—

Link them with Ideal types of Soc of Action

① Traditional Authority — based on norms and rules that are transferred from one generation to another and its historical existence legitimise it.

eg Monarchy in UK, Japan etc.

② Charismatic Authority — based on special characteristic of a leader, which his followers consider valuable.

eg Gandhi as mass leader.

③ Rational legal — based upon laws and rules that are clearly written.

eg Police, Judge etc, Bureaucracy etc.

how they may exist & in contemporary Soc of?

In reality, all three may exist together. eg Roosevelt in his 3rd term become tradition and already has charismatic & rational legal authority.

Thus, Authority explains power structures in various societies.

eg examples

- Khep Pandharyaji
- Mahatma Gandhi / Mother Teresa etc.
- Constitution of India

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5(a)

The early sociologists like Saint Simon, Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim etc wanted to establish sociology on the lines of natural science.

Thus, in social research, they emphasised upon objectivity like the scientific research.

Objectivity can be described as removal of own personal biases and opinions as well as of subjects, in conducting a research. Further ensuring detachment of researcher and subject!

Dr E. E. Schattschneider, African-American researchers discouraged from conducting studies in Africa.

However, Max Weber noted that humans have consciousness and

Line of Argument

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Sociology

to gain wider acceptability in academia

scientific method

Natural Sciences

L matter

empirically observed & quantified & laws

cause-effect relationship established

social sciences

L social facts

(Ignoring subjective dimension of human behaviour)

need to focus on the line of argument as per demand of the

XX-X-GSK/20

thus attach meaning to their actions.
He advocated for decoding these
meaning in his Interpretive sociology.
This made him to move beyond earlier
emphasis of objectivity to value
relevance in research. He noted
that researcher can have values
in determining the topic of the study.
But later, he should remove his
values during the study and ensure
value neutrality.

5

For this he gave the method
of Verstehen (empathetic understanding)
and the tool of Ideal type (one sided
exaggeration and a heuristic tool).

This shift of objectivity ~~denoted~~
to value neutrality denoted the needs
of sociology as a study of society,
in which the researches also lives and
acceptance of human agency. This
opened the gate for non-positivist approach.

total objectivity
not possible
Value neutrality

XXX-X-GSI/20

reflexive
sociology
values are
important
world
sociology

5(b)

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Dialectical approach study
changes based on contradictions and
conflicts.

Hegel was one of the earliest
proponent of it. He gave the concepts
of thesis (existing norms and understanding),
Anti-thesis (opposite to thesis) and
Synthesis (merge of thesis and Anti-thesis).
This leads to social changes. He
gave Dialectical Idealism, due to his
emphasis on ideas and philosophies.

Later, Karl Marx too used
the dialectical approach in his study
of society, inspired by Hegel. But he
rejected the centrality of ideas and
adopted Fuerbach's Materialism, giving

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in
simple
words
1
class English
and
social change

ROP
change in
revolutionary
manner

Envision
Should be
aimed at
Diversity
App.



578

Responding to
classical functionalism,
Merton suggested that -

- 3 questionable
postulates?

(functional unity,
universal functionalism,
indispensability)

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विचारना चाहिए
must not
think in
this manner

R K Merton picked the limitation of earlier structural functionalists study of function, of 'what' it does and emphasised need to also study what are its objective consequences.

Intro
can be
improved
here

classical functionalism
criticized
or consensus
of status quo

for this he gave the concepts of manifest and latent functions.

Manifest functions

Why?

- ① It is the intended consequence of the actions of the actor.
- ② Actor is well aware of the function of that action.
- ③ Researcher can directly study the consequences in this case.

(Subjective)

This was inspired by the Weberian approach of discovering the subjective meanings.

Latent function

- ① These are ~~not known or intended~~ ^{unintended} by the actor. - objective consequences
- ② Researcher has to study them on his own.

④ Hopi tribe rain dance is supposed to please rain god (manifest function) but it actually help strengthen social cohesion (latent function). This is why, it is performed even when it doesn't rain.

functions & dysfunctions

Through, these two concepts, Merton tried to bridge the gap between the Micro approach (Manifest function) and the Macro approach of ~~earlier~~ scholars like Durkheim (latent function).

Using both, one is able to holistically understand various social phenomena.

What is function for one group could be dysfunction for the another group in society

Merton's paradigm of functional analysis

5(d)

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Alienation was popularised
by Karl Marx in his "Economic
and Philosophical Manuscript". It is
a situation of disenchantment and
estrangement with social situation and
self.

However, even before Marx,
alienation was used by other scholars
too like Hegel. Hegel gave concept of
"self alienation", where one fails to
to achieve the superior spirit due to
lack of connect with self.

lack
of
sublation

— Feuerbach —

alienation
concept
of
God

Marx's Alienation — source - institution
Marx showed existence of
alienation in capitalist society in
4 major forms :-
of private property

① Alienation from product → workers do not control quantity, quality, price or of product.

② Alienation from process → ~~work~~ process is designed by capitalist and worker just man one of its part.

③ Alienation from fellow workers → due to competitions, fellow workers do not have meaningful interaction.

④ Alienation from self → finally the worker loses purpose and meaning of life and work.

Marx suggested de-alienation through revolution and ushering communism.

But, scholars like Durkheim and Merton differed. They noted existence of Anomie in place of Alienation.

This way discourse on Alienation has refined over the years.

explain

?

briefly

Mills - alienation
in society

Marx

Blauer

Mead - in response
to ~~radical~~ behaviourism
offered his
social behaviourism
theory

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50
G.H. Mead's academic work is
written down in "Mind, self and
society".

single
para

He gave the school of symbolic
interactionism, which considers that
society emerges through interaction of
individuals.

This is based on his concept
of self, which is a dynamic social
process that emerges through interactions,
made up of internal dialogue between
creative "I" and conformist "Me".

The internal dialogue is the
mind. The mind evolves along self, as
much as it did in emergence of self.

how?

clarity?

Similarly, the self and
society are "twin born", as both

create and evolve together.

As Individuals Interact with each other, they create and modify meanings attached to things, this help create significant symbols, which have shared meaning. Through this process of meaning creation, the members of society interpret and understand the society, which modifies the society.

Further, each person has different combinations of I and Me, based upon which they contribute to development of both self and society.

This is how a person gets socialised over his life, from Preparatory to Play to Game stage.

GH Meads this approach inspired CH Cooley's looking glass-self, Giddens's structuration and many more.

then,
how this
is different
from
Durkheim's
social facts

3

pls
revise

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(a)
Emile Durkheim was a
structural functionalist, who helped
lay the academic foundation of
sociology.

To do this, he tried to
differentiate sociology from other
existing disciplines. This majorly
defined his contributions.

Focus of sociological analysis in
his contributions

- ① He gave separate subject matter
for sociology, which is "social
facts".
- ② Emphasised on using scientific
research approach in study of
society based on objectivity and
empiricism.

Focus
① social realism
social reality
is "emergent"
as a system
(whole is more
than sum
of its parts)

② positivist
app

③ social
solidarity

He advocated for comparative analysis of social phenomena.

- ③ He differentiated sociology from all other natural sciences and social sciences, to make it a distinct body of knowledge.

Illustration through one of his contribution — Rate of suicide

Durkheim studied rate of suicide ("le suicide") in Western Europe, to demonstrate his concept of social facts and distinction of sociology as a discipline.

- ① He didn't study "suicide" as a phenomena, which can be individualistic, rather studies "rate of suicide", which is quantifiable and studied objectively, at social level.

- ② Used quantitative data from the official records.
- ③ Made comparative analysis across different groups like Bachelor vs Married, Protestant vs Catholic etc.
- ④ Observed that rate of suicide is constant within a group but vary across the group.
Bachelor > Married, Protestant > Catholics etc.
- ⑤ He concluded that it is not a psychological rather sociological phenomena.
- ⑥ Further, it is suicogenic and dependent upon other social fact i.e. "Suicogenic Forces" (regulation and interdependence)

This way Durkheim showed how society can be studied and theories and understandings of it can be built.

anti-theory?
Conclusion?

briefly

(b)

Social change can be broadly explained ^{as} changes in social structures and social practices.

Thinkers have differed upon the speed, degree and mode of social changes. Two ^{such} major ~~such~~ discourses are of Marxian and Parsonian.

Comparative Analysis

Basis:

Marxian

Parsonian

① Used dialectical approach, specifically ~~the~~ "Historical Materialism" of Karl Marx.

② Identified contradictions and conflicts in society.

① Parsons used structural functionalism in study of social change.

② considered dynamic equilibrium in the society.
Sub-system Compatibility
internal dynamics

Source/Cause
of change

Nature of change
Consequences

Measures suggested

XXX-X-GSI/20

Marxian

③ Studied different Modes of Production which evolved from one to another due to inherent contradictions, leading to social revolts.

④ Gave the method for social change through Revolution by proletariates in capitalism.

⑤ Put emphasis on economic factors in social changes.

Parsonian

③ Studied social changes in more gradual and stable way due to Institutional differentiation over the years.

④ Gave "Functional prerequisites" that maintain and adjust the society. It is called AGIL Model (Adaptation, Goal attainment, Integration and Latency).

⑤ Emphasised on Organismic (energy), cultural, social, personality as factor in driving change.

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change
could be
triggered
at any
sub-system

Relevance in India

A) Marysian

Relevant

① AR Desai described material factors behind Indian Nationalism

② Increasing social inequality leading to social movements

eg farmer's protest and withdrawing of 3 laws

Not Relevant

① Communist parties adopted democracy and capitalist investment
eg CP(M) in Kerala

② Tradition factors Ideas creating social changes

eg Bhakti Movement superficial situations

B) Paresonian

Relevant

① Role of Political parties in adjustment based social change.

eg OBC leaders emerged without Revolution

② Transfer of Power (Independence)

Not Relevant

① Various protests and power dynamics

eg DJP Narayan movement and Emergency

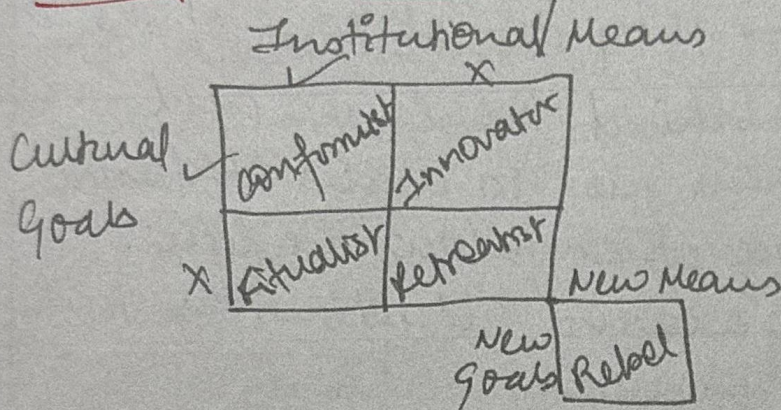
↳ but society as a system didn't break down

Both approaches are relevant to understand different social changes in different societies.

Too much use of tables often restrict your language expression

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R K Merton gave concept of deviance as a adaptive response to structural strain between institutional means to achieving cultural goals.



All response except conformist is deviance.

Understand Traffic Problem in India

- ① Conformist — most of the people tend to follow the traffic rules majorly. eg. stopping at Red lights, wearing helmet, avoiding calls etc.

— more in
private localities
with
personal cars
—
better
infrastructure
available

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② Innovators → they invent own different means to adhere to the laws of traffic.

Jumping/crossing
Hyper lights,
changing lanes

eg) Permanently placing seat belt in its holder, placing sunlight stopping nets in place of films etc.

to reach
on time

③ Ritualist → they do not care of the reasons behind the laws and follow them just to avoid challan or because other follow the law.

eg) wearing helmet without closing it properly.

④ Recreativists → these are the regular offenders, who feel rules are useless.

bike riders
at night
for fun

eg) Not wear helmet, not driving in lane etc.

⑤ Rebel → they feel the rules are imposed on them.

eg) covering number plates.

can fooling
sensors/electronic
vehicles
etc

This understanding can help the law enforcement better monitor traffic and reduce violations.

XXX-X-GSI/20

— how different people located at different structural location react differently while commuting in urban centres

Division of labour is splitting of work or task into smaller and simpler tasks and assigning each to different person or group, based on their specialisation.

this is too simple to explain!
! theorise your intro

Karel Marx on Division of Labour

① In his historical materialism study of different modes of production he showed growing division of labour in each mode.

forces of production are dynamic

② He saw it as degradation of work, as dividing work leads to disconnecting the labourer from expression of creativity he finds in his work.

exploitation

③ In capitalism, it is very high, as

leading to alienation

Detailed Division of labour, where work is divided to increase productivity of labour and generate high surplus.

④ It creates false consciousness among Proletariat, who see ~~them~~ their class as heterogeneous and thus not unit to bring revolution.

who?

⑤ It leads to Alienation ^{in capitalism} from product, process, fellow workers and self.

⑥ He finds it universal across different societies and suggest revolution to bring communism, in which one become 'Total Man' (fish, man, cattle etc all by each person).

Emile Durkheim

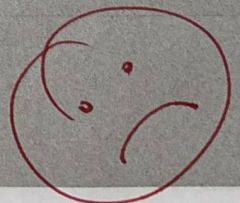
① He related it with solidarity and collective consciousness in the society.

② As it increases, the society shift

how alienation arising out of it can be solved?
link your arguments logically

pls don't just write points

develop a logical line of argument



from mechanical to organic solidarity in the modern society.

③ It leads to interdependence of individuals on each other, that enhances solidarity in society.

④ He did identify pathological DoL in forms of:-

(i) Anomic — lack of norms
eg) Gig Economy.

(ii) Inadequate organisation — lack of coordination
eg) departmental silos in government.

(iii) forced labour — eg) caste based occupations.

⑤ But he suggested Professional Association to provide code of conduct and enforce collective consciousness as solution.

Thus, Marx saw it negatively and highlighted its downfall and Durkheim highlighted benefits. Both together help improve it in current society.

Similarities but both responding to the challenges of modern society
both explored DoL as a structural phenomenon
both shared the concern of modern society
both shared the concern of modern society

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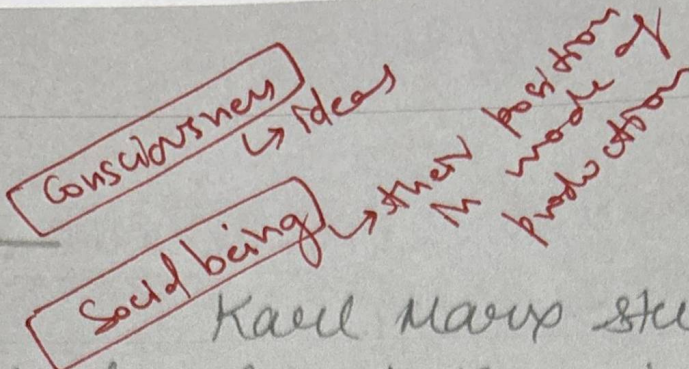
relate it
to the
previous
argument

pls don't
write
casually

Make some
effort in
engaging
the
examiner

18

(b)



Karl Marx studied various modes of production using historical materialism approach.

He noted that the society has had control over the act of production by individuals rather than he himself. This he ~~to~~ said has robbed him of his creativity.

This is because of the structure of mode of production itself. Mode of production are made up of 2 parts:

① Forces of Production — these contain the tools, capitals, land etc, that are used in process of production.

② Relation of Production — humans establish social relations among themselves in order to produce.

ownership class
Non-ownership class

But these have led to

creation of two classes, i.e.

① Have — who own the forces of production.

② Bourgeoisie own capital in capitalism.

② Have nots — they lack ownership of forces of production

③ Proletariate sell their labour to capitalist for wages.

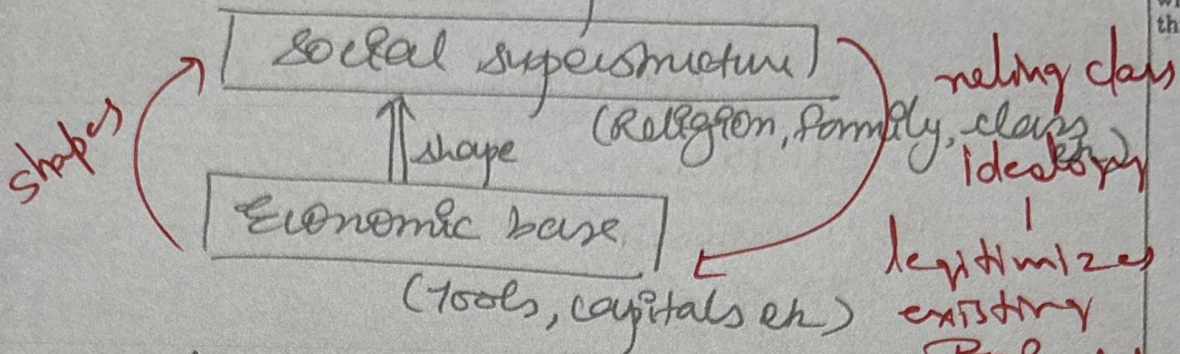
These two classes have been in an antagonistic relation of production in each mode of production so far. This leads to exploitation of the have nots by have. ~~As the~~ have leading to Alienation of have nots.

Further each mode of production contain Economic based and social superstructures, where the economic

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base control the superstructure.



All these have led to false consciousness in proletariates, perpetuated by Bourgeoisie control of social superstructure through economic base

and exploiting proletariates, who accept it. For instance Marx called Religion is "opium of the masses".

To Transform from social Being to "Being", he proposed Realization through true consciousness and forming class for itself and bringing Revolution. In Communism, man will gain his creativity.

This proposition inspired Revolutions of Russia, China, Cuba etc.

XXX-X-GSI/20

Max Weber described Bureaucracy
as the purest form of Rational legal
authority.

— Social reality is infinitely complex

hence need for

exercising
selectivity

Ideal Type

Features of Industrial Bureaucracy

- ① Hierarchical structure of organisation.
- ② Written rules to be followed by all members.
- ③ Actions are recorded and maintained.
- ④ Members need training and specialisation for each position.
- ⑤ NO member can claim the position they hold, as position are permanent and member temporary in nature.

Weber ~~can~~ give this as
an Ideal Type of Bureaucracy. All
these are based on rationality, that
is central feature of Industrial society.

Max Weberian critique

He predicted "Iron cage of

Rationality", where the bureaucrat will only be concerned with rationality following the rules and will lose human touch. He will become just a "cog in the machine". He saw it as unavoidable.

critique by Merton,
Burrows & Stalker, Peterson

Other critique

① Bureaucracy can lead to unquestioned loyalty and perpetuating injustice.

eg Eichmann (Nazi) reason of "only following order" during Holocaust.

eg Factory employee producing counterfeit medicines.

② Robert Michels "Iron Law of Oligarchy", shows bureaucracy concentrate power and become oligarchy.

Overall, Weber's conception still used to study bureaucracy across modern societies.

→ multiple forms of authorities coexisting in contemporary society

This statement is the ~~open~~ opening of "Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx.

Karl Marx studied various mode of productions that led to the capitalist mode. In each of these he found two major classes based on the ownership of forces of production:-

- ① Haves → they own the forces of production.
- ② Have not → they do not own the forces of production.

Both of these have been in an antagonistic relationship as their interests differ.

History so far has been of class struggle can be understood by

study of historical modes of production

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- ① Primitive ~~social~~ Communism → here
no private ownership existed,
so no classes.

with the
emergence of
institution of
private property
of classes started to emerge.
But as surplus increased,

- ② Ancient → Two classes of Masters and
slaves emerged. The Masters controlled
the slaves and extracted labour
from them.

The slaves revolted (eg: Spartacus
in Roman empire), leading to social
change.

- ③ Feudalism → Lords owned the land
and serfs were attached to each
lord.

While serfs received payment in
kind, they lacked freedom. this created
class struggle.

- ④ Capitalism → currently, Bourgeoisie own the
capital and proletariat sell their labour
for wages.

Proletariat are exploited for generating profits, which creates alienation.

Marx predicted the future will be free of class struggle in communism, where no private ownership will exist, thus no classes. This will be end of history.

However, Marx conception has its limitations:-

① Durkheim saw solidarity in society as mechanical (tradition society) and organic (modern society).

② Max Weber saw existence of status and party besides class, which dilute presence of class struggle.

③ Pareto saw decomposition of capital (sharemarket) and labour, thus no revolution.

But, Marx conception has been used by polymakers to correct shortcomings of society.

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how
this is
related
to your
arguments?

Contextualize
it with
the help of
language

7

(b)

found

Max Weber gave the Interpretive school of sociology, whose aim is to study the meaning attached by actors to their action.

found
positivist
methods
inadequate

To uncover, these meanings, he gave the tool of Ideal Type and the method of verstehen.

Ideal Type — why needed?

These are one sided exaggeration used by researchers to ~~not~~ understand the complex society.

how
does it
lead to
objective
study of
society

① These are not reality but abstract constructs, which are use as heuristic tools.

② These are used as measuring rods to make comparative analysis of social phenomena.

③ They help understand different contexts without generalising them.

④ They ~~are~~ don't have values attached to them i.e. they are neutral.

This ~~to~~ be used to create ideal types of social Action (Traditional, Wert ration, Zweck ration etc), Authority (Tradition, Charismatic, Rational legal), Bureaucracy etc.

Verstehen

Weber proposed going one layer deeper than the objective and statistical studies, to discover the subjective meanings behind social actions.

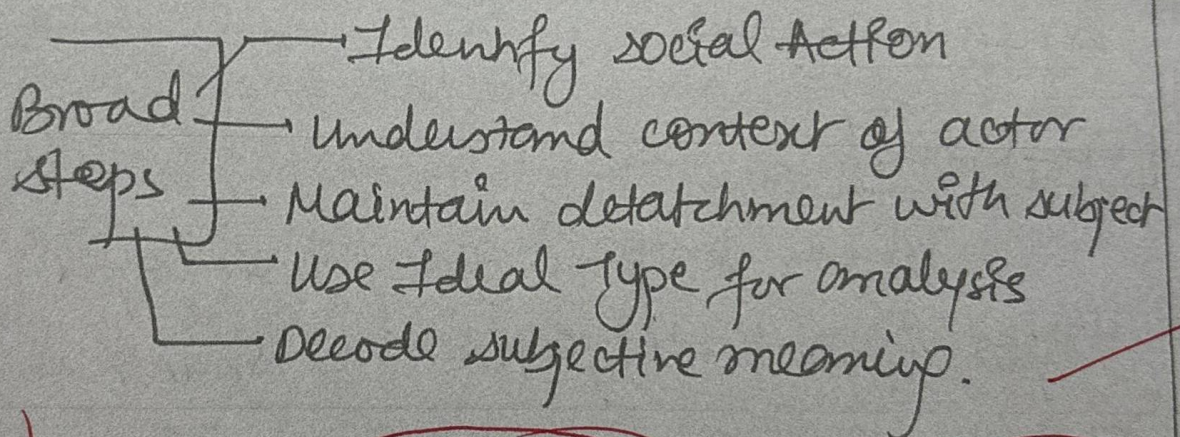
~~Here~~ for this he gave Verstehen or Empathetic Understanding. It provides two levels of understanding:-

① Objective understanding → "what" is happening.

② Understanding meaning → "why" it is happening.

Thus moving beyond earlier

functionalist approach of decoding just "what" (social facts by Durkheim) to decoding "why" and "how" also.



Both Ideal types and verstehen

help ensure value neutrality in research which build credibility of study, while dealing with subjective meanings.

Support your arguments with studies

careful for limit of generalisation

Talcott Parsons understood
social change based on structural
functionalist approach.

He saw dynamic equilibrium
in society, as the society adapt and
adjust to stimuli. He noted various
functions in the society that help
maintain the society. He called them
"functional prerequisites" (AGIL model).

Thus, rather than traditional
evolutionary theories which saw the
society itself changing, Parson saw
parts within society shifting equilibrium.

This he showed through
differentiation of social institutions
like religion, which governed all aspects

Cybernetic
Hierarchy
Control

evolutionary
cycles
(diffusion)

system
upgrading

in traditional society but now its
secular functions have been taken over
by other institutions like schools,
hospitals, judiciary etc.

AGIL Model

- ① Adaptation → society adapt to its environment and takes resources from it.
eg) economy in society.
- ② Goal Attainment → goals are decided based on consensus and resources mobilised to achieve them.
eg) Political parties.
- ③ Integration → preservation of internal structure and norms.
eg) Religion.
- ④ Latency → preservation of motivation and energy.
eg) socialisation by family.

3
This departure from earlier theories gave him tag of Neo-evolutionary theory.

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