

SOCIOLOGY – HIT 2014

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FOR THE 6TH TIME IN A ROW (2009.....2014)

ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGY TOPPERS SINCE 2011

Mentored
by

S.SIVARAJAVEL

AII INDIA INTERVIEW TOPPERS – 2013
(With Sociology Optional)



Mr.Selvanagarathinam
Interview Marks - 225/275
AIR - 129

ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGY TOPPERS



2011-Mr.Ramkumar, IFS



2012-Mr.Bhaskaran, IPS



Ms.Akta Jain
Interview Marks - 225 / 275
AIR - 136



2013-Mr.Selvanagarathinam, IPS



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UPSC – 2014 (SOCIOLOGY) QUESTIONS		SOCIOLOGY TEST BATCH - TEST		HIT LIST - 2014	
No	Questions	Test No. - Question No./ Date	Questions	Short Notes/Long Answer No.	Topics
PAPER I					
1) a)	How is objectivity different from value neutrality? Discuss with reference to Weber's views on methodology.	Test 1 - 1 (a), 4 (a) 18/9/2014	1 (a) Sociology as an interpretative discipline, 4 (a) Critically assess the possibility of objectivity and value neutrality in sociological research.	SN-3	Problems of objectivity.
		Test 3 - 1(a), 1(d) 2/10/2014	1 (a) Verstehen method, 1 (d) Sociology as an interpretative discipline.		
		Test 9 - 1 (c) 20/11/2014	1 (c) "Objectivity is a challenge to the sociologist". Elucidate		
		Test 11 - 1 (c) 29/11/2014	1 (c) Problems of objectivity and value neutrality in social science research		
b)	How did the emergence of industrial society change the family life in Western Europe?	Test 7 - 4 (a) 06/11/2014	4 (a) Discuss the alternatives to traditional marriage and family life.	SN-10 (Paper 2)	Industrial class structure -Working class mobilization.
		Test 9 - 1(e) 20/11/2014	1 (e) Family and diversity		
		Test 10 - 5 (b) 27/11/2014	5 (b) "Joint family may be a matter of past but family jointness is a social fact". Explain with suitable examples.		
		Test 12 - 5 (b) 29/11/2014	5 (b) Changing structure and function of family is not making family less relevant. Explain with suitable examples.	LA-5	Family Changes in India Today
c)	How is sociological approach to human actions different from that of psychological approach?			Page No. 6 & 7	Our Website Materials- Sociology with other social science
d)	In what way biographies could be used to study social life?			Page No.225 & 226	Sociology Material Paper-1 (Volume) 2

e)	How can we use reference group theory to understand fashion in Society?	Test 5 - 2 (c) 16/10/2014	2 (c) Reference Group Theory	SN-9	Reference groups
		Test 11 - 2 (c) 29/11/2014	2 (c) Reference group behavior		
2) a)	Which research technique would be most suitable for the study of consumer behavior and its social correlates? Explain			SN-5	Techniques of data collection
b)	Identify the similarities and differences between Marx's theory of 'alienation' and Durkheim's theory of 'anomie'	Test 3 - 3 (c), 5(b) 2/10/2014	3 (c) Alienation and Anomie, 5 (b) Work in capitalism mortifies an individuals body and ruins his mind. Critically evaluate the assertion.	LA-5	Alienation (Karl Marx)
		Test 5 - 5 (c) 16/10/2014	5 (c) Durkheim on Anomie		
c)	How could one use Merton's concept of deviance to understand the traffic problem in urban India?	Test 5 - 4 (b) 16/10/2014	4 (b) "Deviance is the result of social structure" Explain.	LA-8	Social structure and anomie(R.K. Merton)
		Test 9 - 4 (a) 20/11/2014	4 (a) Deviance resulted from the culture and structure of society. Critically analyse the statement with suitable illustrations.		
		Test 11 - 2 (b) 29/11/2014	2 (b) "Deviants are not psychopaths.They are conformists".Critically analyse the statement in th light of Mertonian theory of anomie		
3) a)	What do you understand by gender? How does i shape 'male' identity?	Test 7 - 3 (c), 3 (e) 06/11/2014	3 (c) Gender and mobility, 3 (e) The structure of patriarchy.		
		Test 9 - 2 (b) 20/11/2014	2 (b) Explain the origin of gender inequalities from major sociological strands. Also discuss how it continues even in 21st century.		
		Test 12 - 2 (b) 29/11/2014	2 (b) Globalisation has only accentuated gender based inequalities in Indian society. Examine with illustration		

b)	“According to Max Weber, ‘class’ and ‘status’ are two different dimensions of power.” Discuss.	Test 3 - 4(a) 2/10/2014	4 (a) Critically bring out the differences in the approach of Karl Max and Max Weber to the study of class structure in Industrial capitalist society.	SN-13	Power Elite
		Test 7 - 2 (a) 06/11/2014	2 (a) Compare and contrast Marxian and Weberian theories of social stratification.		
		Test 8 - 1 (c) 13/11/2014	1 (c) Power Elite		
		Test 9 - 3 (a), 4 (b) 20/11/2014	3 (a) The power elites, 4 (b) Discuss the different faces of power from sociological stand points and their relevance today.		
		Test 11 - 4 (a) 29/11/2014	4 (a) The power elites		
c)	Using Merton’s concepts of ‘manifest’ and ‘latent’ functions, explain the persistence of corruption in Indian society.	Test 5 - 1 (e) 16/10/2014	1 (e) Manifest and latent functions	SN-10	Manifest and Latent Function
		Test 9 - 1 (d) 20/11/2014	1 (d) Manifest and Latent function		
		Test 11 - 5 (c) 29/11/2014	5 (c) Manifest and latent functions		
4) a)	How does Weber use the notion of ‘ideal types’ in his theory of bureaucracy?	Test 3 - 1(c), 3(d) 2/10/2014	1 (c) Ideal type of bureaucracy, 3 (d) Ideal type of Authority.	SN-7	Ideal types
		Test 9 - 3 (d) 20/11/2014	3 (d) Inequalities and identities.		
		Test 11 - 3 (c) 29/11/2014	3 (c) Ideal type and its limitations		
b)	In what way ‘interpretative’ method is different from ‘positivist’ approach in the study of social phenomena?	Test - 1(a), 2(b), 3(a)	1 (a) Sociology as an interpretative discipline 2 (b) Critically examine the scientific status of sociology, 3 (a) Positivism and sociology.		
		Test 5 - 5 (b)	5 (b) Explain how G.H.Mead contributes for symbolic interactionism.		

c)	Using Mead's theory of symbolic interactionism, discuss the stages in the formation of gender identity.	Test 9 - 2 (b) 20/11/2014	2 (b) Explain the origin of gender inequalities from major sociological strands. Also discuss how it continues even in 21st century.		
5) a)	For Marx, class divisions are outcomes of 'exploitation'. Discuss.	Test 3 - 2(a) 2/10/2014	2 (a) "Capitalism contains the seeds of its own self destruction" Analyse critically the statement in the context of global economic changes today.	LA-6	Class struggle (Karl Marx)
		Test 11 - 3 (b) 29/11/2014	3 (b) Is class conflict inevitable for resolution of exploitation caused by capitalism? Critically analyse.		
b)	What are the distinctive features of social organization of work in slave society? How is it different from feudal society?	Test 3- 5(a) 2/10/2014	5 (a) "As individuals express their life so they are what they are therefore, coincides with their production, with what they produce and how they produce it" - Discuss.		
c)	Discuss T.H. Marshall's views on citizenship.	Test 7 - 4(a) 06/11/2014	4 (a) Discuss the alternatives to traditional marriage and family life.	Ref Page No.106 & 107	Sociology material Paper 1 (Volume-2)
		Test 8 - 1 (a) 13/11/2014	1 (a) Citizenship and its dynamics		
d)	Distinguish between Political Parties and Pressure Groups.	Test 8 - 1 (d), 5 (c) 13/11/2014	1 (d) Role of Pressure Groups in democracy, 5 (c) Pluralists view of power.		
		Test 12 - 4 (a) 29/11/2014	4 (a) Pressure groups in India today		
e)	"According to Durkheim, the essence of religion in modern society is the same as religion in primitive society." Comment.	Test 1 - 5(b) 18/9/2014	5 (b) How far do you agree with Durkheimian conception of religion as society divinized? Give suitable illustration to justify your opinion	LA-4	Religion and society(E.Durkheim)
		Test 8 - 5 (a), (b) 13/11/2014	5 (a) Critically evaluate the role of religion in a scientific society, 5 (b) Is religion an instrument of change or continuity?		

		Test 11 - 3 (a) 29/11/2014	3 (a) Discuss the contribution of Emile Durkheim in methodological tradition of sociology using any of his works		
6) a)	“Power is not a zero-sum game”. Discuss with reference to Weber’s and Parsons’ Views.	Test 8 - 3 (e) 13/11/2014	3 (e) Constant Sum and Zero Sum concept of power.		
b)	Critically examine the functionalist views on the institution of family. How do those help us in understanding family in the present times?	Test 4 - 2 (b) 9/10/2014	2 (b) Discuss the nature of structural and functional changes in Indian families today		
		Test 7 - 5 (a) 06/11/2014	5 (a) Discuss the role of family in society from any three sociological perspectives.		
c)	What do you understand by institutionalization of ‘live-in relationship’?	Test 7 - 4(a) 06/11/2014	4 (a) Discuss the alternatives to traditional marriage and family life.		
7) a)	How is religious revivalism different from communalism? Elaborate with suitable examples from the Indian context.	Test 6 - 4 (b) 30/10/2014	4 (b) Communalism destroys social fabric of Indian Society. Comment	LA-11 (Paper 2)	Communalism, religious revivalism and Ethnic conflicts
		Test 8 - 2 (a) 13/11/2014	2 (a) Discuss the Nature of religious revivalism today?		
		Test 9 - 5 (a) 20/11/2014	5 (a) Critically evaluate secularization thesis in the light of religious revivalism in contemporary times.		
		Test 11 - 5(a) 29/11/2014	5 (a) “Sacred and secular are not polar opposites.They lie in a continuum” . Critically evaluate the statement in the light of world today.		
b)	Education is often viewed as an agency of social change. However in reality it could also reinforce inequalities and conservatism. Discuss	Test 8 - 3 (c) 13/11/2014	3 (c) Education and social change.	SN-15	Education and social change.(Agents of social change)
		Test 6 - 3 (c) 30/10/2014	3 (c) Disparities in Education		
		Test 9 - 3 (e) 20/11/2014	3 (e) Capitalism and Education.		
		Test 11 - 6 (c) 29/11/2014	6 (c) Agents of social change		

c)	According to Marx, capitalism transforms even the personal relationships between men and women. Critically examine with illustration from the contemporary Indian context.	Test 3 - 2 (b), 5 (b) 2/10/2014	2 (a) Class in itself and class for itself, 5 (b) Work in capitalism mortifies an individuals body and ruins his mind. Critically evaluate the assertion.		
8) a)	How is the increasing use of technology changing the status of women in Indian Society?	Test 7 - 3(c),3 (e) 06/11/2014	3 (c) Gender and mobility, 3 (e) The structure of patriarchy.	LA-14 (Paper 2)	Women's movement
b)	Write a short essay on the Latin American perspective on 'dependency'	Test 8 - 4 (a) 13/11/2014	4 (a) Critically Analyse how development and dependency are inter related	LA-16	Development and dependency
c)	What do you understand by social movement? How has the mobilization by Scheduled Castes helped them in constructing a new identity?	Test 8 - 1 (e) 13/11/2014	1 (e) Structure of social movement	LA-9	Social and political elites
		Test 9 - 3 (d) 20/11/2014	3 (d) Inequalities and identities.		
PAPER 2					
1) a.	Gandhi's efforts on communal harmony			Page No.117	Sociology material Paper 1 (Volume-2)
b.	Modernisation of Indian traditions	Test 2 - 4 (b) 25/09/2014	4 (b) Critically analyse Yogendra Singh's view on modernisation of Indian tradition.	LA-3 (Paper 2)	Modernization of Indian tradition
		Test 10 - 3 (a) 27/11/2014	3 (a) Has Indian tradition modernized in your opinion? Explain		
c.	Types of kinship systems in India	Test 4 - 3 (c) 9/10/2014	3 (c) Regional variations of kinship system in India		
d.	Features of caste system	Test 2 - 1(c) 25/09/2014	1 (c) Caste as a social system	LA-4 (Paper 2)	Perspectives on the study of caste systems: GS Ghurye ,Louis Dumont
		Test 10 - 1 (e) 27/11/2014	1 (e) Caste and race in India		
e.	G.S.Gyurye's Indological approach to understand society in India	Test 2 - 3 (b) 25/09/2014	3 (b) Indology and sociology		
		Test 10 - 1 (e) 27/11/2014	1 (e) Caste and race in India		

2) (a)	Analyse the different views on integration and autonomy of tribes in India.	Test 4 - 2 (a) 9/10/2014	2 (a) Examine the problems of tribes in the light of post independent policies with suitable illustrations.		
(b)	Discuss the social background of Indian nationalism.	Test 2 - 2 (a) 25/09/2014	2 (a) Critically analyse A.R.Desai's view on social background of Indian Nationalism. Give suitable illustrations.	LA-1 (Paper 2)	Marxist sociology (Social Background of Indian Nationalism - A .R .Desai)
(c)	Define Patriarchy. How does it impact the overall entitlement of a girl child in India?	Test 4 - 5 (c) 9/10/2014	5 (c) Patriarchy and entitlements		
		Test 10 - 1 (c) 27/11/2014	1 (c) Law and Women		
3) (a)	Give a sociological analysis of the problems of migrant urban poor.	Test 6 - 1 (b), 1(e) 30/10/2014	1 (b) Problems of migration, 1 (e) Slums and deprivation in Urban areas		
(b)	Discuss the problems of religious minorities in India	Test 4 - 2 (c) 9/10/2014	2 (c) The problems of religious minorities	SN-7 (Paper 2)	Problems of religious minorities
		Test 12 - 1 (c) 29/11/2014	1 (c) Problems of religious minorities		
(c)	Write some of the important social reforms in India for the removal of untouchability.	Test 2 - 1 (d) 25/09/2014	1 (d) Perspectives on untouchability	SN-6 (Paper 2)	Untouchability Today
4) (a)	Discuss the status of women among the emerging urban middle class.	Test 4 - 5 (b) 9/10/2014	5 (b) Discuss the emergence of middle class in India with suitable examples.		
		Test 10 - 2 (a), 2 (b) 27/11/2014	2 (a) Trace the evolution of middle classes in India. Discuss its sociological consequences, 2 (b) Globalisation has only accentuated inequalities in Indian society. Examine with illustration.		
		Test 12 - 2 (b) 29/11/2014	2 (b) Globalisation has only accentuated gender based inequalities in Indian society. Examine with illustration		
(b)	Describe the impact of land reforms on the peasants of Indian Society.	Test 6 - 1 (a) 30/10/2014	1 (a) Consequences of Land Reforms	SN-8 (Paper 2)	Land reforms and social change

(c)	What is the idea of ‘Indian Village’? Explain.	Test 2- 3 (c) , 5 (a) 25/09/2014	3 (c) Indian villages as little republics, 5 (a) Discuss the importance of village studies to explain Indian society.		
		Test 10 - 4(e) 27/11/2014	4 (e) Sociology of Village studies		
5) (a)	Trends of Infant Mortality Rate among females	Test 6 - 5 (b) 30/10/2014	5 (b) Critically analyse the emergence of dalit consciousness today.		
(b)	Domestic Violence Act, 2005			SN-17 (Paper 2)	Violence against women (Domestic Violence Act 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013
(c)	Dynamics of Contemporary Dalit movements	Test 6 - 5 (b) 30/10/2014	5 (b) Critically analyse the emergence of dalit consciousness today.		
(d)	Impact of privatization on educational disparities	Test 6 - 3 (c) 30/10/2014	3 (c) Disparities in Education	SN-15 (Paper 2)	Illiteracy and disparities in education
		Test 9 - 3 (e) 20/11/2014	3 (e) Capitalism and Education.		
		Test 12 - 4 (b) 29/11/2014	4 (b) Right to Education		
(e)	Rural landless labourers and development induced displacement	Test 6 - 4 (a) 30/10/2014	4 (a) Development causes displacement and problems of rehabilitation. Critically analyse the statement with suitable illustrations.	LA-18 (Paper 2)	Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability
6) (a)	What are the main features of the second wave of Women’s movement in the Indian context?	Test 6 - 5 (a) 30/10/2014	5 (a) Discuss the emergence of feminist movements in India will adequate illustration.	LA-14 (Paper 2)	Women’s movement
(b)	Discuss the ‘Chipko movement’ as an example of eco-feminism.	Test 6 - 5 (a) 30/10/2014	5 (a) Discuss the emergence of feminist movements in India will adequate illustration.	LA-15 (Paper 2)	Environmental Movements

(c)	Discuss the impact of globalization on the workers in the Informal sector.	Test 11 - 1 (e) 29/11/2014	1 (e) Informal organization of work	SN-12	Informal organization of work
7) (a)	What are the demographic projections for the ageing population (60+) for the next decade? What are the implications for formulating policy for them?	Test 6 - 3 (a) 30/10/2014	3 (a) Sociology of the Aged	SN-11 (Paper 2)	Ageing
		Test 12 - 1 (d) 29/11/2014	1 (d) Sociology of Ageing		
(b)	What are the possible underlying causes of the spurt of increased violence against women in public spaces in the last decade?	Test 10 - 1 (c), 3 (b) 27/11/2014	1 (c) Law and Women, 3 (b) Critically analyse why violence against women has been on the rise in contemporary India.	SN-17 (Paper 2)	Violence against women (Domestic Violence Act 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013)
		Test 12 - 4 (e) 29/11/2014	4 (e) Violence against women		
(c)	How do caste and class come together in creating the category of extreme poor?	Test 2 - 2 (c) 25/09/2014	2 (c) Caste, Class and Power.		
8) (a)	'Many caste conflicts are between castes which are close to each other on the hierarchical scale' Give a sociological explanation for this phenomenon.	Test 12 - 1 (b) 29/11/2014	1 (b) Dominant Caste		
(b)	'Tribal conflicts based on ethnic differences often camouflage a struggle for political and economic advantage'. Substantiate with examples.	Test 10 - 4 (c) 27/11/2014	4 (c) Tribes as backward Hindus		
		Test 11 - 1 (d) 29/11/2014	1 (d) Ethnic conflicts today		
(c)	Who are the elites? Discuss their roles in bringing social transformation.			LA-20 (Paper 2)	Social and political elites