

PAPER - I
SOCIOLOGY: BASIC CONCEPTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Max.Marks:100

OBJECTIVES:

This Introductory Paper is intended to acquaint the students with sociology as a social science and the distinctiveness of its approaches among the social sciences. It is to be organized in such a way that even students without any previous exposure to sociology could acquire an interest in the subject and follow it.

1. **Introduction to Sociology** **25 hrs**
Definition of Sociology – Nature and Scope of Sociology –Origins and development of Sociology – Founding fathers and their contributions: Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber – Sociology and other social sciences – Sociology in India – Importance of Sociology, Methods of Sociology.
2. **Human Society and Culture** **15 hrs**
Human society, Definition, characteristics and functions – Individual and society- Culture and Personality- Heredity and Environment Distinction between Animal and Human society.
3. **Structure of Human Society** **20hrs**
Social structure and function - social groups and its major types – Community – Association – Institution – Status and Role – Norms, Values and Customs – Power and Authority- Concepts of State, Nation and Society and their differences.
4. **Basic Social Institutions** **20 hrs**
Concept of social Institution and its characteristics. Major social institutions - Marriage, Family and Kinship, Religion, Economy, Education, Polity and Law
5. **Socialization and Social Control** **25 hrs**
Concept of Socialization – Theories of development of ‘Self’ of G.H. Mead, C.H. Cooley and Sigmund Freud – Agencies of Socialization: Family, School, Religion, Peer group, Community and Government- Social Control: Concepts of Anomie, Deviance and Social Control – Means of Social Control: Formal and Informal means.
6. **Social Stratification** **20 hrs**
Social Differentiation – Social Stratification: Theories of social stratification; Functional and Conflict theories – Dimensions of Social Stratification; Class, Caste, Power and Gender.

7. **Social Interaction and Processes** **20 hrs**
 Social Interaction – Social Processes: Cooperation, Competition, Conflict, Accommodation and Assimilation – Social Disorganization
8. **Sociological Perspectives** **25 hrs**
 a. Functional perspective
 b. Conflict perspective
 c. Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

References:

- C.N. Shankar Rao : Sociology
 Principles of Sociology with an introduction to Social thought,
 S. Chand & Co. Ltd., New Delhi.
- T. B. Bottomore : Sociology
 A Guide to Problems and Literature
 Blackie & Son (India) Ltd., / S. Chand & and Co. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Alex Thio : Sociology
- Inkeles, Alex : What is Sociology?
 Prentice Hall of India, New Delhi
- Peter Worsley (Ed) : Introducing Sociology
 Penguin Books.
- M. Haralmbos
 with R. M. Heald : Sociology
 Themes & Perspectives
 Oxford University Press, Delhi.
- N. Jayaram : Introductory Sociology
 Macmilan India Limited.

PEDAGOGY:

While introducing sociology as a social science emphasis should be laid on the distinctiveness of its perspective rather than on its substantive themes of study.

For effective teaching and meaningful learning, illustrations may be drawn from relevant empirical studies.

Throughout the course, conscious effort should be made to drive home the relevance and significance of sociology for understanding society and in attempting to solve its problems.