

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Sociology Ph. D. Entrance Examination

01.07.2013

100 Marks

- I. Write an outline of a research proposal that you wish to take up for your Ph. D. work, setting out clearly the research problem, major objectives and methodology. (20 marks; Page Limit: 5 Pages)
- II. Answer any two of the following. (2 x 15 marks; Page Limit: 4 Pages)
  1. Write an essay on political power, ritual status, and religious values in contemporary India. In doing so comment on the perspective of Louis Dumont who argued that in India power is subordinated to ritual status, and the argument of Ambedkar about political power being subordinated to religious values.
  2. Some sociologists have pointed out that theories of development can also be applied to the study of the human impacts and responses to 'natural' disasters. It is argued that structured inequalities of class, status, and power, and problems of risk, vulnerability, and marginalization are not unrelated to models and processes of development. Elaborate on this approach using an illustration of a recent 'natural' disaster.
  3. Emile Durkheim in his 'Division of Labor in Society' made the distinction between mechanical and organic solidarity. Recently Durkheim's view has been challenged by some critical theorists who tend to confront Durkheim's classical theory, conceiving the formation of solidarity as dialectical synthesis of both universalistic principles and particular emotional orientations. Elaborate the main ideas of Durkheim's thought on solidarity and examine the critique drawing on relevant literatures.
  4. Critically discuss the modes in which Judith Butler's critique of the sex/gender distinction enables a rethink of feminist theory, in general, and contemporary women's movement in India, in particular.
  5. Compare and contrast between Michel Foucault's and Erving Goffman's ideas on total institutions like prisons and asylums. What insight does this comparison give about their respective notions on power?
  6. M N Srinivas argued that the distinction between sociology and anthropology loses relevance in non-Western contexts like that of India. What are the grounds on which he makes this argument and is the argument defensible?
- III. Answer any five of the following. (5 x 10 marks; Page Limit: 2 pages)
  - a) The term 'eve-teasing' trivializes the issue of sexual harassment
  - b) Can whistle blowers be called "saints of secular culture"?
  - c) Case Study Method
  - d) Difference between purposive and convenience sampling

- e) City as a strategic site for new form of citizenship and governance practices
- f) Pierre Bourdieu's notion of capital(s)
- g) Politics of forgetting in urban space in India
- h) Relationship between caste, class and gender
- i) Karl Marx on alienation
- j) Max Weber's typology of authority