

This is last year's question paper and maybe treated as only *representational*. There is no guarantee that this year's paper pattern will be the same.

M.A. Sociology Admission Test 2014

Time: 10.30 am to 1 pm

Marks: 75

Part 1: Answer any *one*

Read the paragraphs and answer the allied questions (500 words) 20 marks

1. The gang rape and murder by hanging of two minor girls in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh are shocking. The crime, horrific in itself, is magnified by the social context in which it happened. The teenagers paid the price on several counts, including for being female in an environment predisposed to gender violence and discrimination and for their economically dire status. The girls had to go out into the fields at night because of the absence of toilets, an elementary human requirement, in their own homes. That policemen, appointed as custodians of law and order, possibly aided and abetted the crime, is another grisly reality in a country celebrated as the world's largest democracy and in a state whose regime proclaims its commitment to social justice. From all accounts, the frightful incident was easily preventable by timely police action. A relative witnessed one of the girls being dragged by her hair and reported it to her family, which rushed to the nearby police *chowki* to lodge a complaint.

(The Hindu, June 5, 2014, <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/abominable-crime/article6075687.ece>)

“Every hour two Dalits are assaulted; every day three Dalit women are raped, two Dalits are murdered, and two Dalit homes are torched”, has become a catchphrase since Hillary Mayell had coined it while writing in National Geographic full 11 years ago. Well, today these figures have to be revised upward as for instance, the rape rate of Dalit women has shot up from Hillary's 3 to well over 4.3, a whopping 43 percent rise. Even the sensex has its ups and downs but the atrocities on Dalits have only shown rising trend. Still it fails to shame us. With characteristic cool we carry on with our business, occasionally demanding stringent legislation knowing well how the Atrocity Act also has been rendered toothless by the justice delivery system.

Can one imagine the temerity of the rapists in Bhagana where four teenage Dalit girls of 13 to 18 years age could be brutally gang-raped entire night and thrown up into bushes in the adjacent state, still hoping that everything would be hushed up? Can one imagine their pain in braving their dishonor, sitting in the capital along with their parents demanding justice for months and no one taking note of them? Can we imagine the suffering of a 17 year Dalit school boy, Nitish of Kharda village in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, the plight of his poor parents whose lone son he was, when he was beaten to death in broad day light just because he dared to speak with a girl who belonged to the dominant community? And can

we imagine what might have befallen those two innocent girls who were devoured by the criminals entire night and then hanged to death? And these are not the only cases.

(‘Enough is Enough’ by Anand Teltumbde, The Hindu June 1, 2014 <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/enough-is-enough/article6070582.ece>)

- a) What are the different issues highlighted in the above paragraphs?
- b) Do you think there is a connection between gender and caste based violence? Explain with suitable illustrations

OR

2. Quote I

“A significant number of India NGOs have been noticed to be using people-centric issues to create an environment which lends itself to stalling development projects...[A]n NGO is set up, funds are obtained from abroad, a few articles are commissioned, a PR firm is recruited and slowly with the help of media an image is created. And then awards are procured from foreign countries to enhance the image after which the government machinery finds it more difficult to act against the awardee”.

Quote II

“NGOs are the voice of informed dissent, and this is required in a democracy. There are so many examples of benefit to civil society because of NGO intervention. There is the Right to Information Act, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, declaration of assets by those standing for public office, environmental laws....so many such benefits”.

Comment on the above quotes reflecting on these words used in the quotes ‘development projects’, ‘NGOs and foreign funding’, ‘people-centric’, ‘NGOs and dissent’.

Part 2: Answer *both* the questions

10+10=20

3. Do you think that the new media technologies of information and communication are significantly influencing political opinion formulations and collective mobilizations in contemporary times? Provide suitable examples from recent national and international political events to justify your answer. **(300 words)**
4. Look carefully at the data given in table below showing sex ratio of total population, child population and population aged 7+ in India and answer the following questions **(150 words each)**

India/States	Sex Ratio (Females per 1,000 Males)					
	Total Population		Child Population in the Age Group 0-6		Populatiion Aged 7 and Above	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
India	933	940	927	914	934	944
Andhra Pradesh	978	992	961	943	981	997
Arunachal Pradesh	893	920	964	960	878	913
Assam	935	954	965	957	929	953
Bihar	919	916	942	933	914	912
Chhattisgarh	989	991	975	964	992	995
Goa	961	968	938	920	964	973
Gujarat	920	918	883	886	927	923
Haryana	861	877	819	830	869	885
Himachal Pradesh	968	974	896	906	980	983
Jammu & Kashmir	892	883	941	859	884	887
Jharkhand	941	947	965	943	935	948
Karnataka	965	968	946	943	968	971
Kerala	1,058	1,084	960	959	1,072	1,099
Madhya Pradesh	919	930	932	912	916	933
Maharashtra	922	925	913	883	924	931
Orissa	972	978	953	934	976	985
Punjab	876	893	798	846	888	899
Rajasthan	921	926	909	883	923	935
Sikkim	875	889	963	944	861	883
Tamil Nadu	987	995	942	946	993	1,000
Uttar Pradesh	898	908	916	899	894	910
West Bengal	934	947	960	950	929	946

Source: Registrar General of India (2011)

- a) Discuss the major trends emerging from the data.
- b) How would you explain the levels of sex ratio in India?

Part 3: Answer any *two*

(300 words each)

10+10=20

Opinion-based, analytical questions on the contemporary social

- Do you think that incidents like Muzzafarnagar riots represent the violence embedded in a multi-cultural society—Give your views
- ‘So big are your eyes, but so small are your views.’ ‘What should an Indian look like?’ ‘Indian, not Chinki.’ ‘Demand inclusion of North-East in national curriculum.’—What are these phrases referring to? Comment on the nature of marginalization that the community in question face.
- The rise of benevolent super-heroes in contemporary Hindi cinema is a significant break from the ways heroes have been conventionally constructed. Comment on the statement with examples.

Part 4: Answer any *three*

(100 words each)

5+5+5=15

Short Notes

- Niyamgiri and Dogria Kondh Tribes
- Are villages withering away?
- Modern Social Relationships are more complicated
- Sociology is a study of society