

CUET PG 2026 Sociology Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :1 Hours 30 minutes	Maximum Marks :300	Total Questions :75
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General Instructions

1. The exam lasts 90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes).
2. There are 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to be answered.
3. +4 marks for every correct answer. -1 mark (negative marking) for every incorrect answer. 0 marks for unanswered or un-attempted questions.
4. For any discrepancy in questions, the English version is considered final (except for language-specific papers).
5. Click one of the four options to choose an answer.
6. You must click "Save & Next" to confirm your response. Only saved answers are considered for evaluation.
7. Use "Mark for Review & Next" to flag a question for later. You can unselect or change your answer using the "Clear Response" button.
8. All calculations must be done on the Rough Sheets provided at the centre. These must be returned to the invigilator after the exam.

1. Who coined the term "Sanskritisation" to describe social change in India?

- (A) Louis Dumont
- (B) M. N. Srinivas
- (C) G. S. Ghurye
- (D) Max Weber

Correct Answer: (B) M. N. Srinivas

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Sanskritisation is a major concept in Indian sociology used to explain the process of social mobility and cultural change within the caste system.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The term was introduced by M. N. Srinivas in his study of the Coorgs in South India.

He defined it as a process by which a "low" Hindu caste, or tribal or other group, changes its customs, ritual, ideology, and way of life in the direction of a high, and frequently, "twice-born" caste.

It involves adopting the practices of dominant or higher castes (like vegetarianism or teetotalism) to claim a higher status in the local hierarchy.

Srinivas argued that this results in a "positional" change for the group within the system, but

does not lead to a "structural" change of the system itself.

Step 3: Final Answer:

M. N. Srinivas is the sociologist who coined this term.

💡 Quick Tip

Sanskritisation is often confused with Westernisation. While Sanskritisation looks "upward" at traditional high-caste values, Westernisation looks "outward" at modern European values.

2. Which amendment to the Indian Constitution provided 33% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions?

- (A) 42nd Amendment
- (B) 44th Amendment
- (C) 73rd Amendment
- (D) 86th Amendment

Correct Answer: (C) 73rd Amendment

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Gender justice and local self-governance are key components of the Indian democratic framework. Specific constitutional amendments were passed to empower local bodies and ensure representation for marginalized groups.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was passed in 1992 and came into effect in 1993.

It added Part IX to the Constitution and gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Under Article 243D, it mandated the reservation of not less than one-third (33%) of the total number of seats and offices of chairpersons for women at all three levels of Panchayats (Gram, Block, and District).

This was a landmark step toward the political empowerment of women in rural India.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The 73rd Amendment is the correct answer.

 Quick Tip

While the 73rd Amendment deals with rural areas (Panchayats), the 74th Amendment deals with urban local bodies (Municipalities). Both provide for 33% reservation for women.

3. According to Robert Merton, what is the term for individuals who accept societal goals but use illegal means to achieve them?

- (A) Conformity
- (B) Innovation
- (C) Ritualism
- (D) Retreatism

Correct Answer: (B) Innovation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Robert K. Merton's Strain Theory explores the gap between culturally defined goals and the legitimate means available to achieve them, leading to deviance.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Merton proposed five types of individual adaptations based on their acceptance or rejection of goals and means:

1. **Conformity:** Accepts both goals and means (most common).
2. **Innovation:** Accepts cultural goals (like financial success) but rejects the institutionalized or legal means. These individuals find "new" (often illegal) ways to succeed, such as theft or white-collar crime.
3. **Ritualism:** Rejects goals but strictly follows the rules/means (the "rigid bureaucrat").
4. **Retreatism:** Rejects both goals and means (e.g., chronic addicts).
5. **Rebellion:** Rejects both and seeks to replace them with new ones.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The mode where goals are accepted but illegal means are used is Innovation.

 Quick Tip

Merton's theory is a classic example of "Functionalist" perspective on deviance, suggesting that the structure of society itself can produce deviance.

4. What is the correct chronological sequence of steps in the social research process?

- (A) Data collection → Hypothesis formulation → Analysis → Conclusion
(B) Problem identification → Hypothesis formulation → Data collection → Analysis → Conclusion
(C) Hypothesis formulation → Problem identification → Data collection → Conclusion
(D) Analysis → Data collection → Hypothesis formulation → Conclusion

Correct Answer: (B) Problem identification → Hypothesis formulation → Data collection → Analysis → Conclusion

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Scientific research follows a logical, step-by-step methodology to ensure that findings are objective and replicable.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The research cycle typically follows this order:

1. **Problem Identification:** The researcher first identifies a gap in knowledge or a social issue to study.
 2. **Hypothesis Formulation:** Based on theory and literature review, a tentative statement is made about the relationship between variables.
 3. **Data Collection:** Information is gathered using specific tools like surveys, interviews, or observation.
 4. **Analysis:** The collected data is processed and interpreted to test the hypothesis.
 5. **Conclusion:** Findings are summarized, and the hypothesis is accepted or rejected.
- Option (B) is the only logical chronological sequence provided.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct sequence is (B).

 Quick Tip

In research questions, always look for "Problem Identification" as the starting point and "Conclusion" or "Reporting" as the end point to eliminate wrong options quickly.

5. In which year was the Dowry Prohibition Act passed in India?

- (A) 1955
(B) 1961
(C) 1976
(D) 1984

Correct Answer: (B) 1961

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Dowry Prohibition Act is a critical piece of social legislation aimed at eradicating the exploitative practice of demanding money or gifts during marriage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Act was passed by the Indian Parliament on May 20, 1961.

It makes both giving and taking dowry a punishable offense.

Although major amendments were made in 1984 and 1986 to make the law more stringent and to address "dowry deaths," the original parent act was enacted in 1961.

1955 is the year of the Hindu Marriage Act, which is a different piece of legislation.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Act was passed in 1961.

 Quick Tip

Sociology papers often ask for the years of social acts. Note: 1955 (Marriage), 1956 (Succession), 1961 (Dowry), 2005 (Domestic Violence).

6. The concept of the "Power Elite" is most closely associated with which sociological thinker?

- (A) Karl Marx
- (B) Max Weber
- (C) C. Wright Mills
- (D) Talcott Parsons

Correct Answer: (C) C. Wright Mills

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The theory of the Power Elite argues that modern societies are governed by a small, cohesive group of people who hold dominant positions in major social institutions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

C. Wright Mills, in his 1956 book "The Power Elite," analyzed the structure of power in the United States.

He identified three interlocking groups: the top leaders of the corporate world (economic), the federal government (political), and the high-ranking military officials.

He argued that these groups share similar social backgrounds and interests, and they make the fundamental decisions that affect the entire society, often bypassing democratic processes.

While Marx focused on the "Ruling Class" (economic owners), Mills looked at institutional positions.

Step 3: Final Answer:

C. Wright Mills developed the concept of the "Power Elite".

💡 Quick Tip

Remember: Marx = Class/Economic; Weber = Status/Party; Mills = Institutional Elite (Military, Political, Corporate).

7. Which term describes the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births?

- (A) Birth Rate
- (B) Mortality Rate
- (C) Infant Mortality Rate
- (D) Life Expectancy

Correct Answer: (C) Infant Mortality Rate

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Demographic indicators are used to measure the health, standard of living, and development of a society.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is specifically defined as the number of infants who die before reaching their first birthday, calculated per 1,000 live births in a given year.

It is considered a sensitive indicator of a country's healthcare system and nutritional status.

Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population.

Mortality Rate is the crude death rate per 1,000 population.

Life Expectancy is the average number of years a person is expected to survive.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The definition provided corresponds to the Infant Mortality Rate.

💡 Quick Tip

Always check the age group in the definition. "Under 1 year" = Infant Mortality; "Under 5 years" = Child Mortality; "At birth" = Life Expectancy.

8. Who authored the famous book The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism?

- (A) Karl Marx
- (B) Emile Durkheim
- (C) Max Weber
- (D) Herbert Spencer

Correct Answer: (C) Max Weber

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This work is a cornerstone of classical sociological theory, investigating the influence of religious beliefs on economic behavior.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Max Weber wrote this book (originally published as a series of essays in 1904-05) to challenge the purely materialist view of history proposed by Marx.

Weber argued that specific Protestant values, particularly those of Calvinism, emphasized hard work, discipline, and frugality as signs of being "chosen" for salvation.

This "ethic" promoted the accumulation of capital and its reinvestment, which Weber called the "Spirit of Capitalism."

He famously concluded that ideas and culture can be powerful drivers of economic change.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Max Weber authored the book.

💡 Quick Tip

Weber's study on the Protestant Ethic is a prime example of "Interpretive Sociology" (Verstehen), focusing on the meanings individuals attach to their actions.

9. What type of sampling ensures that every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected?

- (A) Stratified Sampling
- (B) Systematic Sampling
- (C) Random Sampling
- (D) Purposive Sampling

Correct Answer: (C) Random Sampling

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Probability sampling refers to any sampling method that utilizes some form of random selection. The goal is to obtain a representative sample of a population.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In **Simple Random Sampling**, every single unit or individual in the entire population has an equal, non-zero probability of being included in the sample. This is usually done using a random number generator or a lottery system.

Stratified Sampling involves dividing the population into groups (strata) first, then sampling within them. While it uses randomness, the "equal chance" refers specifically to the definition of a basic random sample.

Systematic Sampling picks every k^{th} unit.

Purposive Sampling is a non-probability method based on the researcher's judgment.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Random Sampling provides an equal chance of selection to every member.

💡 Quick Tip

Random sampling is the "gold standard" for generalizability because it minimizes selection bias.

10. Which movement in India was specifically aimed at protecting trees in the Himalayan region?

- (A) Narmada Bachao Andolan
- (B) Chipko Movement
- (C) Silent Valley Movement
- (D) Bishnoi Movement

Correct Answer: (B) Chipko Movement

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Environmental movements in India often integrate social justice, livelihood protection, and ecological preservation.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The **Chipko Movement** emerged in the 1970s in the Uttarakhand region of the Himalayas. It is famous for the technique of "hugging" trees to prevent them from being cut down by loggers.

Key figures include Sunderlal Bahuguna, Chandi Prasad Bhatt, and Gaura Devi. It highlighted the link between local livelihoods and forest conservation.

Narmada Bachao Andolan is about dams in Central India.

Silent Valley was to save a forest from a hydroelectric project in Kerala.

Bishnoi Movement originated in the 1700s in Rajasthan.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Chipko Movement is the Himalayan-based tree protection movement.

 Quick Tip

The Chipko Movement is widely cited as a classic example of "Eco-feminism," as women were at the forefront of the resistance.
