

SOCIOLOGY (039)
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
Class XII-2025-26

Time: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The question paper is divided into four sections.
2. There are 35 questions in all. All questions are compulsory.
3. Section A includes question No. 1-16. These are MCQ type questions. As per the question, there can be one answer.
4. Section B includes question No.17-25. These are very short answer type questions carrying 2 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 30 words.
5. Section C includes question No. 26-32. They are short answer type questions carrying 4 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 80 words.
6. Section D includes question No. 33-35. They are long answer type questions carrying 6 marks each. Answer to each question should not exceed 200 words each.
7. Question no. 33 is to be answered with the help of the given graphics.

S No.	SECTION-A	Marks
1.	<p>In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason(R). Choose the appropriate answer from the options given below as the correct answer:</p> <p>Assertion (A): Urban norms and standards are becoming well known even in the remote villages, creating new desires and aspirations for consumption.</p> <p>Reason (R): Mass media and communication channels are now bringing images of urban life styles and patterns of consumption into the rural areas.</p> <p>a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false and R is true.</p>	1
2.	<p>In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason(R). Choose the appropriate answer from the options given below as the correct answer:</p> <p>Assertion (A): Some scholars have also argued that there is no coherent basis for treating tribes as “pristine”.</p> <p>Reason (R): They propose instead that tribes should really be seen as “secondary” phenomena arising out of the non-exploitative and colonialist contact between pre-existing states and non-state groups like the tribals.</p> <p>a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true but R is false. d) A is false and R is true.</p>	1
3.	<p>Kerala’s TFR is below the replacement level. This can mean-</p> <p>I. Low population growth rate. II. Increase in population in the age group of 0-15. III. Decreased dependency ratio. IV. Ageing of population.</p>	1

Choose the correct option:

- a) I. and II.
- b) II. and III.
- c) III. and IV.
- d) I. and IV.

4. Which of the following is true for outsourcing? 1
- a) In contemporary times, it is only visible in the private sector.
 - b) It keeps costs low for the company.
 - c) Increase in recruitment of permanent employees.
 - d) Outsourcing is localised in nature.
5. Which of the following is incorrect for *Varna*? 1
- a) *Varna* is a regional classification.
 - b) There are four *Varnas*.
 - c) *Varna* literally means colour.
 - d) *Panchamas* is not a part of the *Varna*.
6. Formation of linguistic states worked in the interest of India because- 1
- a) the then Prime Minister was convinced that language will unite the country.
 - b) it allowed India to escape the identity-based conflicts and civil wars
 - c) it created self-sufficient isolated provincial units.
 - d) it did not transform the political and institutional life of the nation.
7. Cultural diversity can present tough challenges because- 1
- a) cultural identities are not powerful.
 - b) there are different ways to celebrate festivals
 - c) cultural differences are not able to mobilise large number of people.
 - d) steps taken to help one group may anger other communities
8. *Kumudtai's* journey into Sanskrit began with interest and eagerness because- 1
- a) this field of study was easy to understand.
 - b) this field was very accepting of women and dalits.
 - c) this field did not make any distinction based on caste and creed.
 - d) this field allowed her to read original texts about women and Dalits.
9. Legislation alone is unable to transform society or produce lasting social change because- 1
- a) the current legislations have completely solved the problem of social exclusion and discrimination.
 - b) legislations have never been able to solve the problem of social exclusion and discrimination.
 - c) despite legislations, new forms of discrimination and social exclusion emerge and a constant a social campaign to bring awareness is required.
 - d) State alone can solve the problem of social exclusion.
10. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason(R). Choose the appropriate answer from the options given below as the correct answer: 1
- Assertion(A):** Since the 1990s, the government has followed a policy of liberalisation.
- Reason(R):** Licenses are no longer required to open industries.
- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - c) A is true but R is false.
 - d) A is false and R is true.

Read the passage given below

From the very beginning, the discipline of sociology has been interested in social movements. The French Revolution was the violent culmination of several movements aimed at overthrowing the monarchy and establishing 'liberty, equality and fraternity'. In Britain, the industrial revolution was marked by great social upheaval.

Based on the given passage answer Q11 and 12.

11. Why are Social Movements an important subject matter for Sociology? 1
- a) Social movements were initially not considered significant areas of study, and public protests were often excluded from their scope.
 - b) Social movements did not bring lasting changes in society.
 - c) Social movements are never directed against the State.
 - d) Social movements were seen as forces that led to disorder which was an important subject matter for Sociology.
12. Which of the following is not true for the type of social movements? 1
- a) There are three types of social movements.
 - b) Most social movements have a mix of all the three types.
 - c) The Bolshevik Revolution is a redemptive social movement.
 - d) The Ezhava movement is an example of a Redemptive Social Movement.

Read the passage given below

The Constitution of India recognises the possibility that there may be groups other than the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes who suffer from social disadvantages. These groups – which need not be based on caste alone, but generally are identified by caste – were described as the 'socially and educationally backward classes'. This is the constitutional basis of the popular term 'Other Backward Classes' (OBCs), which is in common use today.

Based on the given passage, answer Q13 and 14.

13. Which of the following is not true about OBCs? 1
- a) They are neither part of the 'forward' castes at the upper end of the status spectrum, nor of the Dalits at the lower end.
 - b) Upper OBCs are largely landed castes and enjoy dominance in rural society in many regions of India.
 - c) OBCs are confined to Hinduism only.
 - d) OBCs are a much more diverse group than the Dalits.
14. Put the following statements in the correct order. 1
- I. The OBC issue returned to the central level.
 - II. The Backward Classes Commission headed by Kaka Kalelkar submitted its report.
 - III. Central government decided to implement the ten-year old Mandal Commission report.
 - IV. The OBC issue became a major one in national politics.

Identify the correct order.

- a) I., II., III., IV.
- b) IV., I., III., II.
- c) II., I., III., IV.
- d) III., IV., II., I.

15. Colonialism introduced many structural changes such as the formation of nation-states. 1
Which of the following is true for nation-states?
a) Nation states are closely associated with the rise of nationalism.
b) Nation state pertains to a particular type of state, characteristic of the primitive world.
c) People in nation-states do not exercise sovereign power.
d) Nation-states are not associated with democratic ideas.
16. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason(R). Choose the appropriate answer from the options given below as the correct answer: 1
Assertion(A): In the areas where tribal populations are concentrated, their economic and social conditions are usually much worse than those of non-tribals.
Reason(R): The impoverished and exploited circumstances under which adivasis live can be traced historically to the pattern of accelerated resource extraction started by the colonial British government which was discontinued by the government of independent India.
a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
c) A is true but R is false.
d) A is false and R is true.

SECTION-B

17. "The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race. The vices of mankind are active and able ministers of depopulation." 2
Formulate why Malthusian theory of population is a pessimistic one?
18. 'Disabled-unfriendly' Courts 2
Describing the non-consideration of handicapped persons for the post of Judge as an "exclusive" policy of the higher judiciary, a senior jurist says by continuing to ignore the handicapped, the judiciary is violating a statutory mandate. "The High Court building itself is far from disabled-friendly."
The Hindu Wednesday 2 August 2006.
"The disabled are rendered disabled not because they are biologically disabled but because society renders them so." Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons.
- OR**
- "It is often assumed that social reform for women's rights was entirely fought for by male reformers and that ideas of women's equality are alien imports." Is this assumption true? Give reasons for your answer. 2
19. "Some traditional occupations in the rural society have declined. But increasing interconnection of the rural and urban economies have led to diverse occupations." Is this statement valid? Give reasons for your answer. 2
20. Provide two reasons to support the claim that India has successfully established itself as a democratic nation-state. 2

21. "Social stratification is supported by patterns of belief, or ideology." State in your own words the meaning of this statement. 2
22. Who are minorities in the sociological sense? 2

OR

- What is the dominant trend that marks Indian nationalism? 2
23. "Often we discuss social exclusion and discrimination as though they pertain to differential economic resources alone." 2
How would you prove this statement false?
24. "The more mechanised an industry gets, the fewer people are employed, but they too have to work at the pace of the machine." 2
What would happen if workers began to work at the pace of the machine?
25. "How a social movement is perceived and classified is always a matter of interpretation. It differs from one section to another." 2
Illustrate with an example.

SECTION-C

26. "The large-scale circulation of labour has had several significant effects on rural society, in both the receiving and the supplying regions." 4
State two effects each for the receiving and supplying region.
27. "Indian independence in 1947 marked a big, but ultimately only partial break with the colonial past". Justify the statement. 4
28. Illustrate the crucial importance of civil society in ensuring that the state is accountable to the nation and its people. 4
29. Westernisation involves the imitation of external forms of culture. Is this the only kind of westernisation? Give reasons for your answer. 4
30. The rural social structure was altered by agricultural development since the 1960s and also contributed to the expansion of the urban middle classes. Illustrate how the rural social structure altered as a result of agricultural development. Demonstrate how it led to the expansion of the urban middle class. 4
31. "Just as manufacturing boomed in Britain, traditional exports of cotton and silk manufactures from India declined." Derive the reason for the given statement. 4

OR

- "Western colonialism was inextricably connected to the growth of western capitalism. This had a lasting impact on the way capitalism developed in a colonised country like India." Justify the statement. 4
32. "One of the most significant yet paradoxical changes in the caste system in the contemporary period is that it has tended to become 'invisible' for the upper caste, urban middle and upper classes." Justify the statement. 4

SECTION-D

33. Answer the questions given below based on the reading of the data given in the table- 6

TABLE 3: THE DECLINING SEX RATIO IN INDIA, 1901–2011				
Year	Sex ratio (all age groups)	Variation over previous decade	Child Sex ratio (0–6 years)	Variation over previous decade
1901	972	–	–	–
1911	964	–8	–	–
1921	955	–9	–	–
1931	950	–5	–	–
1941	945	–5	–	–
1951	946	+1	–	–
1961	941	–5	976	–
1971	930	–11	964	–12
1981	934	+4	962	–2
1991	927	–7	945	–17
2001	933	+6	927	–18
2011	943	+10	919	–8

*Note: The sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males;
Data on age-specific sex ratios is not available before 1961*
Source: Census of India 2011, Government of India.

- a) What will be the consequences of gender imbalance? 4
- b) Give reasons for the declining sex-ratio in India before 2001. 2

(Q 33. FOR CANDIDATES WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)

Answer the questions based on the passage given below:

From 972 females per 1000 males at the turn of the twentieth century, the sex ratio has declined to 933 at the turn of the twenty-first century. The trends of the last four decades have been particularly worrying – from 941 in 1961 the sex ratio had fallen to an all-time low of 927 in 1991 before posting a modest increase in 2001. According to Census of India 2011 sex ratio has increased and now it is 943 females per 1000 males.

- a) What will be the consequences of gender imbalance? 4
- b) Give reasons for the declining sex-ratio in India before 2001. 2
34. “Since the 1990s, the government has followed a policy of liberalisation.” 6
Discuss the changes brought about in the Indian industry as a result of globalisation.
- 35 List and explain the features of Social Movements. 6

SOCIOLOGY (039)
Marking Scheme
Class XII- 2025-26

Sr No	SECTION-A	Marks
1.	a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.	1
2.	c) A is true but R is false	1
3.	d) I. and IV.	1
4.	b) It keeps costs low for the company	1
5.	a) Varna is a regional classification.	1
6.	b) it allowed India to escape the identity-based conflicts and civil wars seen in other parts of the world.	1
7.	d) measures to address the inequalities or injustices suffered by one community can provoke opposition from other communities.	1
8.	d) this field would enable her to read in the original what the texts have to say about women and the Dalits.	1
9.	c) despite legislations, new forms of discrimination and social exclusion emerge and a constant a social campaign to bring awareness is required.	1
10.	b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.	1
11.	d) Social movements were seen as forces that led to disorder which was an important subject matter for Sociology.	1
12.	c) The Bolshevik Revolution is a redemptive social movement	1
13.	c) OBCs are confined to Hinduism only.	1
14.	c) II., I., III., IV.	1
15.	a) Nation states are closely associated with the rise of nationalism.	1
16.	c) A is true but R is false.	1
	SECTION-B	
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Malthusian theory, population grows in geometric progression whereas agricultural production can only grow in arithmetic progression. According to him, humanity has only a limited ability to voluntarily reduce the growth of its population. 	2
18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. In a culture that looks up to bodily 'perfection', all deviations from the 'perfect body' signify abnormality, defect and distortion. The common perception views disability as retribution for past karma (actions) from which there can be no reprieve. The dominant cultural construction in India therefore looks at disability as essentially a characteristic of the individual. 	2

	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. • Stree Purush Tulana • Sultana's Dream 	
19.	<p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people living in rural areas are employed in, or have livelihoods based on rural nonfarm activities. • For instance, there are rural residents employed in government services such as the Postal and Education Departments, factory workers, or in the army, who earn their living through non-agricultural activities. 	2
20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful strategies to build "state-nations" can and do accommodate diversity constructively by crafting responsive policies of cultural recognition. • They are effective solutions for ensuring the longer term objectives of political stability and social harmony. 	2
21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No system of social stratification is likely to persist over generations unless it is widely viewed as being either fair or inevitable. • The caste system, for example, is justified in terms of the opposition of purity and pollution, with the Brahmins designated as the most superior and Dalits as the most inferior by virtue of their birth and occupation. 	2
22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sociological sense of minority also implies that the members of the minority form a group – that is, they have a strong sense of group solidarity, a feeling of togetherness and belonging. • This is linked to disadvantage because the experience of being subjected to prejudice and discrimination usually heightens feelings of intra-group loyalty and interests. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Indian nationalism, the dominant trend was marked by an inclusive and democratic vision. • Inclusive because it recognised diversity and plurality. Democratic because it sought to do away with discrimination and exclusion and bring forth a just and equitable society. 	2
23.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People often face discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, language, caste and disability. • For example-women from a privileged background may face sexual harassment in public places. A middle-class professional from a minority religious or ethnic group may find it difficult to get accommodation in a middle-class colony even in a metropolitan city. (Any two examples.) • People often harbour prejudices about other social groups. 	2
24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers get exhausted earlier than otherwise. • Workers will take voluntary retirement. • Increased productivity, efficiency and profit. 	2
25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For instance, what was a 'mutiny' or 'rebellion' for British colonial rulers in 1857 was 'the first war of Independence' for Indian nationalists. • A mutiny is an act of defiance against supposedly legitimate authority, i.e., the British rule. A struggle for independence is a challenge to the very legitimacy of British rule. This shows how people attach different meanings to social movements. 	2
	SECTION-C	
26.	<p>Receiving region-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with native workers. • Low employment for native workers. 	4

	Supplying region- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminisation of workforce. • Greater insecurity for women workers. 	
27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to organise the “depressed classes” and particularly the untouchable castes predated the nationalist movement, having begun in the second half of the nineteenth century. This was an initiative taken from both ends of the caste spectrum – by upper caste progressive reformers as well as by members of the lower castes. • The dominant view in the nationalist movement was to treat caste as a social evil and as a colonial ploy to divide Indians. But the nationalist leaders were able to simultaneously work for the upliftment of the lower castes, advocate the abolition of untouchability and other caste restrictions, and, at the same time, reassure the landowning upper castes that their interests, too, would be looked after. The post-Independence Indian state inherited and reflected these contradictions. On the one hand, the state was committed to the abolition of caste and explicitly wrote this into the Constitution. On the other hand, the state was both unable and unwilling to push through radical reforms which would have undermined the economic basis for caste inequality. At yet another level, the state assumed that if it operated in a caste-blind manner, this would automatically lead to the undermining of caste-based privileges and the eventual abolition of the institution. 	4
28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society is the name given to the broad arena which lies beyond the private domain of the family, but outside the domain of both state and market. • Civil society is the non-state and non-market part of the public domain in which individuals get together voluntarily to create institutions and organisations. It is the sphere of active citizenship where individuals take up social issues, try to influence the state or make demands on it, pursue their collective interests or seek support for a variety of causes. • Today the activities of civil society organisations have an even wider range, including advocacy and lobbying activity with national and international agencies as well as active participation in various movements. • The issues taken up are diverse, ranging from tribal struggles for land rights, devolution in urban governance, campaigns against rape and violence against women, rehabilitation of those displaced by dams and other developmental projects, and so on. 	4
29.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. There were different kinds of westernisation. • One kind refers to the emergence of a westernised sub-cultural pattern through a minority section of Indians who first came in contact with Western culture. This included the sub culture of Indian intellectuals who not only adopted many cognitive patterns, or ways of thinking, and styles of life, but supported its expansion. • Apart from this there has been also the general spread of Western cultural traits, such as the use of new technology, dress, food, and changes in the habits and styles of people in general. • Across the country a very wide section of middle-class homes has a television set, a fridge, some kind of sofa set, a dining table and chair in the living room. 	4
30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One way in which rural social structure was altered by agricultural development since the 1960s was through the enrichment of the medium and large farmers who adopted the new technologies. • In several agriculturally rich regions, well-to-do farmers belonging to the dominant castes began to invest their profits from agriculture in other types of business ventures. 	4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This process of diversification gave rise to new entrepreneurial groups that moved out of rural areas and into the growing towns of these developing regions, giving rise to new regional elites that became economically as well as politically dominant. • The spread of higher education, especially private professional colleges, in rural and semi-urban areas, allowed the new rural elites to educate their children – many of whom then joined professional or white-collar occupations or started businesses, feeding into the expansion of the urban middle classes. 	
31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deindustrialisation • Decline in indigenous urban centres • When British took over Indian states, towns like Thanjavur, Dhaka and Murshidabad lost their courts. • Deindustrialisation led to more people in India going back to agriculture. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalism is an economic system in which the means of production are privately owned and organised to accumulate profits within a market system. • Capitalism in the west emerged out of a complex process of European exploration of the rest of the world, its plunder of wealth and resources, an unprecedented growth of science and technology, its harnessing to industries and agriculture. • What marked capitalism from the very beginning was its dynamism, its potential to grow, expand, innovate, use technology and labour in a way best assured to ensure greatest profit. • What marked it too was its global nature. 	4
32.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For these groups, who have benefited the most from the developmental policies of the post-colonial era, caste has appeared to decline in significance precisely because it has done its job so well. • Their caste status had been crucial in ensuring that these groups had the necessary economic and educational resources to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by rapid development. • In particular, the upper caste elite were able to benefit from subsidised public education, especially professional education in science, technology, medicine and management. At the same time, they were also able to take advantage of the expansion of public sector jobs in the early decades after independence. • In this initial period, their lead over the rest of society (in terms of education) ensured that they did not face any serious competition. As their privileged status got consolidated in the second and third generations, these groups began to believe that their advancement had little to do with caste. • Certainly for the third generations from these groups their economic and educational capital alone is quite sufficient to ensure that they will continue to get the best in terms of life chances. For this group, it now seems that caste plays no part in their public lives, being limited to the personal sphere of religious practice or marriage and kinship. 	4
	SECTION-D	
33.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functioning of family as a social institution will get impaired. • Continuity of society will get affected. • Increased overall pressure on one gender 	6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of crimes 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for male child. • Socio-cultural reasons such as dowry. • Neglect of the girl babies. 	2
	(Q 33. FOR CANDIDATES WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functioning of family as a social institution will get impaired. • Continuity of society will get affected. • Increased overall pressure on one gender • Rise of crimes 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for male child. • Socio-cultural reasons such as dowry. • Neglect of the girl babies. 	2
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private companies, especially foreign firms, are encouraged to invest in sectors earlier reserved for the government, including telecom, civil aviation, power, etc. • Licenses are no longer required to open industries. • Foreign products are now easily available in Indian shops. • Many Indian companies— small and large, have been bought over by multinationals. • Government is following the policy of disinvestment and outsourcing. • Reduction in number of permanent employees. • Expansion of unorganised sector. 	6
35.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained collective action over time. • Directed against the state. • Takes the form of demanding changes on a public issue. • Collective action marked by some degree of organisation. • Leadership and structure required. • Shared objective and ideologies. 	6