

Self-evaluation Lecture 1: What is Sociology?

Objective questions

Instructions: Please read the following instructions carefully before writing your answers:

- 1) Each Question carries 1 mark.
 - 2) There are four alternatives - (A), (B), (C), (D) given against each question out of which only one is the most appropriate answer. If (A) is correct, round on the correct alternative like (A).
 - 3) **The discarded answer if any, must be crossed properly and supported by initial of the candidate.**
 - 4) If a question is answered wrongly or more than one answers are marked, 0.25 marks will be deducted for each such question.
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Q.1. According to the French sociologist Emile Durkheim, sociology is the study of:

- (A) State (B) Social facts (C) Subjective meanings (D) Religious life

Q.2. Analytical sociology focuses on:

- (A) Subjective meanings (B) Sociological methods (C) Interdisciplinary research (D) Mathematical and computer simulation models

Q.3. God is male, cannot be a scientific hypothesis because:

- (A) Sociologists are not interested in religion (B) Religious texts have already decided this issue
(C) There is no need to talk about God's gender (D) It cannot be falsified on the basis of empirical data

Q.4. Which discipline deals with the relationship between social facts?

- (A) Economics (B) Anthropology (C) Biology (D) Sociology

Q.5. According to Emile Durkheim the major cause of suicide is:

- (A) Social change (B) Individual orientation (C) Marital status (D) Anomy or a state of normlessness

Q.6. Who said that society changes from a simple to complex stage?

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

Q.7. Social dynamics studies:

- (A) Stimulation (B) The relationship between society as a whole and parts of society (C) Achievement (D) Relationships between different parts of society

Q.8. The type of suicide which indicates a process of rapid change in the rules of society may be classified as:

- (A) Psychological suicide (B) Anomic suicide (C) Altruistic suicide (D) Pseudo-suicide

Q.9. Max Weber's name is associated with:

(A) Positivist school (B) Analytical school (C) English school (D) German school

Q.10. Karl Marx is known more because he was:

(A) Holistic and revolutionary thinker (B) A Jew (C) A German (D) A sociologist

Subjective questions

Q.1. Who are the founding fathers of sociology? What did they say?

Q.2. What are social facts?

Q.3. Identify a few problems of sociology on the issue of education which require application of positivistic and analytical approaches.

Q.4. Give an example of change is social fact pertaining to marriage and family.

Q.5. What type of organizations do employ sociologists and what do they do?

Exercises

E.1. Go to the following website of the UNFPA: <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/> and open *State of World Population* document. Examine fertility rates in African and North-West European countries. Can we say that the patterns of fertility in the two regions are different? Although the number of children would differ from couple to couple most couples in each region seem to have a rule regarding number of children. This is a social fact.

E.2. Find out from your parents if they have any idea regarding the age at which your grandparents married. Further find out at what age Mahatma Gandhi married (read his *Experiment with Truth*). Compare this with age at which people in your neighborhood marry today (See some newspaper matrimonial). Why has age of marriage increased? Do all people marry late today or there are still some people who marry early?

E. 3. Meet a sociologist working in a college/university. Ask about what he teaches. Find out if he does any research also. What are topics of his research?

E.4. Read Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *Cancer Ward*. What does it show about Russian society? Can such a novel be written in India?

E.5. What will interest sociologists and economists in study of education?