



TARGET IAS-2024-25

Information BROCHURE

SOCIOLOGY

by

SAROJ SAMAL (Gold-Medalist)

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WHY SOCIOLOGY?



By

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The Faculty of National Reputation.

VVR IAS

Dear Aspirants!

Have a strong determination for Civil Service. Remember that determination is often the first chapter in the book of excellence. Always adopt a self-motivating mechanism. The most successful people in life are the self-starters. They don't rely on others to get going. Always remember "winners, don't do different things but they do differently". Try to instill daring ideas in mind. **"Daring ideas are like chessmen. They may be beaten but they may start a winning game"**. We, at **VVR IAS**, are devoted to open the door of success to you but you should have determination to enter by yourself.

What is the best optional for civil services? Why an optional is more scoring than other? These are the questions often asked by many students preparing for the civil service examination.

Certainly, it is crucial that an aspirant should select the right optional. Selection of an improper optional can really cost a candidate dear. Let me tell you emphatically that there is no such thing like best optional. Nor any optional is more scoring than other. I may assert that it is not the optional which scores, rather it is the candidate who scores. Therefore, right optional means an optional which is the right for a particular candidate. Now the question arises as to which optional is the right one for whom.

In my view, the **first criterion** of choosing an optional is that you should really like and enjoy learning it. The **second criterion** in selecting an optional subject, especially if you have not already studied it at graduation or post-graduation level, is that whether proper guidance is available in that subject. By proper guidance, I mean a teacher who can take a genuine personal interest to help you cultivate **right frame of mind**.

Cultivating the right frame of mind is more important than reading many books. The third criterion is the extent to which it is contributing to **G.S, Essay paper and interview**.

Viewed from the above angle, no doubt, **Sociology** is one of the popular optionals for the civil service examination. In the last 5 years, many candidates from non-Sociology background topping the successful list of IAS examination bears testimony to the fact of the popularity of Sociology. For example see how students of non-sociology background have become toppers in the civil service examination over the years.....

2023-Animesh Pradhan-Rank-2

2021-Gamini Singla-Rank-3

2020-Jagrati Awasthi-Rank-2

2019-Sanjita Mohapatra-Rank-10

2018- CV Kumar-Rank-4 & Srushti Jayant Deshmukh-Rank-5

2017-Anu Kumari- Rank-2

One of the advantages of opting for Sociology is that one doesn't require early training at college or university level to do well in the Civil service examination. In fact, if we look at the syllabus prescribed by the **UPSC**, the questions asked in the exams, we find that even those who have studied sociology at university level have only a marginal advantage as compared to those who did not. Quite often, candidates with **Engineering, Science, Medical, English literature and commerce background** have been able to score between 300 and 330 marks out of 500 in the written Exam till 2023.

However, two qualities are essential for scoring good marks in sociology. Firstly the candidate should be able to **write analytically**. Secondly the candidate should be inquisitively interested in **contemporary social issues**.

The reason for **Sociology** being the **most popular optional** is that it is the optional which is less technical. So it can easily be **covered and mastered** by a candidate during a short period of time. Secondly sociology, if properly understood, can help in covering some sections of **G.S, Essay paper & interview**. Let me tell you, how sociology contributes to the above areas of study. I am presenting these in a point-wise manner with an integrated approach.

CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIOLOGY FOR G.S, ESSAYS AND INTERVIEW

1. Impact of globalization
2. Social exclusion, protective Discrimination and Reservation for SC, ST & OBC.
3. Tribal problems, issues of Tribal Integration and Development
4. Rural Development
5. Status of women, Feminism, Atrocities against women & women empowerment.
6. Disparities in Education, Privatisation of Education & Universalisation of Primacy Education.
7. Democratic Decentralisation and empowerment of marginalized citizens.
8. Modernity, its impact on caste system, weakening and strengthening of caste system, caste and politics, Future of caste system in India, Gandhi & Ambedkar on caste.
9. Religion & Science, weakening and strengthening of religion in the era of science
10. Secularism, Secularisation, Communalism & Fundamentalism, Problems of Religious Minorities
11. Instability of marital institution and increasing rate of divorce in India & Emerging issues in marriage and family.
12. Increasing rate of farmer's suicide in India & contract farming.
13. Population explosion & policy to tackle it, Urbanization, Industrialization, Migration.
14. Left-wing Extremism, Naxalism, Terrorism & Regionalism in India.
15. Ecological imbalance, Environmental pollution & Sustainable development.
16. Corruption & Institutionalised mechanism to tackle it
17. Democratic socialism mixed Economy, Poverty Eradication Programmes and Employment generation in India since Independence.
18. Land Acquisition Policy, SEZ and Societal Reaction.
19. Inter-generational gap and youth unrest in India.
20. Nationalism, Patriotism, Multinational state, Ethnic conflict, Ethic movements & Ethno-nationalism in India.
21. Ageing, Old Age problems & policy for old age pension (Social assistance scheme)
22. Land Reform, Green Revolution
23. Increasing rate of crime & Ammendment of criminal law and Juvenile Justice & Capital punishment.
24. Patriarchy, Khap Panchayat and Honour killing
25. Anti-caste, Anti-Brahmin movement and Buffalo nationalism in India.
26. Gandhism, Marxism & Maoism.
27. Democracy, Civil Society & Social Movement
28. Mushrooming of temples on the roadside, emergence of different religious cult and religion in modern India
29. Philosophies like communism, socialism and capitalism & their impact on society.

If you analyse the latest change introduced by the UPSC in restructuring the syllabus of general studies, you can reach at the conclusion that topics of sociology are there in every paper of the syllabus of general studies. Let me present the fact in a point wise manner.

CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIOLOGY TO ALL PAPERS OF G.S

G.S-PAPER-1

- Philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism and their forms & effects on the society.
- Salient features of Indian society, Diversity in India.
- Role of women & women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty & developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effect of globalization on Indian society
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

G.S-PAPER-2

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the centre & states and performance of these schemes.
- Issues relating to development and management of social sector (services relating to health education and human resources)
- Issues relating to poverty & hunger.

G.S - PAPER-3

- Inclusive growth & issues arising from it.
- Land Reforms in India.
- Liberalization.
- Linkage between development & spread of extremism.

G.S - PAPER-4

- Ethics and Human Interface: Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Attitude: Moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- Empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
- Challenges of corruption.
- Case studies

Thanks to the above mentioned reasons, I would like to tell you that sociology has emerged as the most popular optional these days.

IMPORTANCE OF OPTIONAL

- It is the game changer
- Scoring 60%+ in optional is easy but impossible in GS.
- All selected candidates score very high marks in optional than GS.

WHY TO OPT SOCIOLOGY?

- It is the study of society
- You have been born and brought up in society
- You have experiential knowledge about society even if you have not done any degree in sociology.
- Common sense knowledge helps a lot for understanding topics of sociology.
- Topics of sociology are family, marriage, divorce, prostitution, crime, kinship, education, politics, religion, industrialization, urbanization, globalization, migration etc, regarding which you have certain basic ideas. So these topics are not new to you.

HOW SOCIOLOGY HELPS YOU TO QUALIFY IAS EXAM?

- Syllabus is small.
- Topics are interesting.
- Helps in developing analytical ability.
- Shows you multiple dimensions for a single topic just like a diamond has multiple faces.
- Helps you in developing debating ability.
- Helps you in English Essay paper.
- Helps you in all the 4 papers of GS.
- Helps you in Viva-voce.

WHY TO JOIN WITH SAROJ SAMAL SIR ?

- Teaches in an interesting and story telling manner.
- Covers the whole syllabus in class room.
- Discusses lots of sociological case studies.
- Provides the model answers of PYQs with diagrammatic presentation.
- Discusses the answers of PYQs related to all topics in the class room itself.
- Administers writing tests in the class room after completing a topic.
- Provides printed material covering each and every topic.
- Provides the latest hand written class notes.
- Makes the class room very lively and enjoyable.
- A teacher having more than 20 years of teaching experience and helping more than 200 IAS and IPS officers across our nation.

BENEFITS OF SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL



SYLLABUS FOR SOCIOLOGY

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

PAPER-1-FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

1. **Sociology - The Discipline:**
 - (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology
 - (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences
 - (c) Sociology and common sense.
2. **Sociology as Science:**
 - (a) Science, scientific method and critique."
 - (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology
 - (c) Positivism and its critique
 - (d) Fact value and objectivity
 - (e) Non-positivist methodologies
3. **Research Methods and Analysis:**
 - (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods."
 - (b) Techniques of data collection.
 - (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity"
4. **Sociological Thinkers:**
 - (a) Karl Marx-Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle
 - (b) Emile Durkheim-Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society
 - (c) Max Weber-Social action, idea] types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism."
 - (d) Talcott Parsons-Social system, pattern variables
 - (e) Robert K. Merton-Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups
 - (f) Mead -Self and identity
5. **Stratification and Mobility:**
 - (a) Concepts-equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation .
 - (b) Theories of social stratification-Structural functionist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory
 - (c) Dimensions-Social stratification of class, status groups gender, ethnicity and race.
 - (d) Social mobility-open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.
6. **Works and Economic Life:**
 - (a) Social organization of work in different types of society-slave society, feudal society, industrial / capitalist society
 - (b) Formal and informal organization of work.
 - (c) Labour and society
7. **Politics and Society**
 - (a) Sociological theories of power
 - (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties
 - (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
 - (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.
8. **Religion and Society:**
 - (a) Sociological theories of religion
 - (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
 - (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism
9. **Systems of Kinship:**
 - (a) Family, household, marriage.
 - (b) Types and forms of family
 - (c) Lineage and descent
 - (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
 - (e) Contemporary trends.
10. **Social Change in Modern Society:**
 - (a) Sociological theories of social change.
 - (b) Development and dependency
 - (c) Agents of social change
 - (d) Education and social change
 - (e) Science, technology and social change.

PAPER-II-INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society:

- (a) Indology (G.S. Ghurye).
- (b) Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas)
- (c) Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai)

(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:

- (a) Social background of Indian nationalism
- (b) Modernization of Indian tradition."
- (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period
- (d) Social reforms

B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

- (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
- (b) Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

(ii) Caste System:

- (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G .S. Ghurye, M .N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
- (b) Features of caste system.
- (c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives.

(iii) Tribal communities in India:

- (a) Definitional problems
- (b) Geographical spread.
- (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
- (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.

(iv) Social Classes in India:

- (a) Agrarian class structure
- (b) Industrial class structure
- (c) Middle classes in India

(v) Systems of Kinship in India:

- (a) Lineage and descent in India
- (b) Types of kinship systems.
- (c) Family and marriage in India
- (d) Household dimensions of the family
- (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour

(vi) Religion and Society:

- (a) Religious communities in India
- (b) Problems of religious minorities.

C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy
- (b) Constitution, law and social change."
- (c) Education and social change

(ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India:

- (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
- (b) Green revolution and social change
- (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture
- (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

- (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
- (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour.
- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

(iv) Politics and Society

- (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship
- (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.
- (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
- (d) Secularization

(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

- (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
- (b) Women's movements
- (c) Backward classes & Dalit movement
- (d) Environmental movements
- (e) Ethnicity and identity movements

(vi) Population Dynamics:

- (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
- (b) Components of population growth, birth, death, migration.
- (c) Population policy and family planning
- (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

- (a) Crisis of development, displacement, environmental problems and sustainability
- (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities
- (c) Violence against women
- (d) Caste conflicts
- (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
- (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.

BOOK LIST for SOCIOLOGY

PAPER-I (FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY)

Printed study material (Booklets:1-5) of VVR IAS

1. Classical Sociological Theory By Ritzer & Goodman.
2. Sociology: Themes and Perspectives By Haralambos & Heald.
3. Sociology By C.N. Sankar Rao.
4. Methods of Social Survey & Research By S.R. Bajpayi.
5. Research Methodology By Wilkinson & Bhandarkar .
6. Sociological Thought By Abraham & Morgan.
7. The Structure Of Sociological Theory By J.H. Turner .
8. Sociology By H.M. Johnson
9. Sociology By Parimal B. Kar.
10. Sociology By D.C. Bhattacharya
11. Human Society By Kingsley Davis.
12. Social Change By W.E. Moore.
13. Social Movement in India By M .S.A . Rao.
14. Sociology for class XI and XII (NCERT)
15. IGNOU-BA – SOCIOLOGY & MA-SOCIOLOGY

PAPER-II (INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE)

Printed study material (Booklets :6-10) of VVR IAS

1. Indian Society By S.C. Dube (NBT)
2. Caste and Race in India By G.S. Ghurye
3. Society in India By Ram Ahuja
4. Social Stratification And Change in India By Yogendra Singh
5. Social Change In India : Crisis & Resilience By Yogendra Singh.
6. Modernization Of Indian Tradition By Yogendra Singh
7. Culture Change In India By Yogendra Singh .
8. Caste In India And Other Essays By M.N. Srinivas
9. India: Social Structure By M.N. Srinivas
10. Social Change in Modern India By M.N. Srinivas
11. Caste In Its 20th Century Avatar By M.N. Srinivas
12. Indian Social Problems By G.R. Madan .
13. Women In Indian Society By Neera Desai & Usha Thakkar (NBT)
14. History of Modern India (Socio Religious Movements)
15. IGNOU-BA – SOCIOLOGY & MA-SOCIOLOGY

Selective issues of

- The Hindu
- Yojana
- Kurukshetra
- Frontline

TREND ANALYSIS OF PYQs

UPSC Sociology Optional Paper I

Unit in Paper I	Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks	Marks
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Sociology – The Discipline	10	20	20	30	30	20
Sociology as a Science	20	40	40	60	40	30
Research Methods and Analysis	70	20	10	20	30	40
Sociological Thinkers	70	60	60	90	50	70
Stratification and Mobility	50	30	90	50	50	40
Works and Economic Life	30	40	30	40	30	30
Politics and Society	30	40	70	20	40	30
Religion and Society	40	30	20	30	30	50
Systems of Kinship	40	40	30	50	50	40
Social Change in Modern Society	50	60	30	10	50	50

UPSC Sociology Optional Paper II

Perspectives on the study of Indian Society	20	10	20	30	10	10
Impact of Colonial Rule on Indian Society	30	30	20	20	40	10
Rural and Agrarian Social Structure	40	10	30	–	–	20
Caste System	40	50	30	30	50	60
Tribal communities in India	20	30	30	–	20	30
Social Classes in India	40	10	20	30	–	10
Religion and Society	20	40	30	50	30	30
Visions of Social Change in India	20	20	20	30	10	20
Rural and Agrarian transformation in India	40	20	30	20	–	–
Industrialization and Urbanization in India	40	50	10	30	30	50
Politics and Society	60	30	30	20	40	80
Social Movements in Modern India	30	20	10	30	20	–
Population Dynamics	20	30	20	40	20	20
Challenges of Social Transformation & other Generic	30	20	80	50	50	40

SOCIOLOGY

TYPES OF COURSE & FEES

**FOUNDATION
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₹ 50,000/-

**TEST SERIES
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₹ 15,000/-

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DISCUSSION** 2 MONTHS

₹ 11,000/-

**ADVANCED
COURSE** 3 MONTHS

₹ 25,000/-

**WEEKEND
COURSE** 5 MONTHS

₹ 50,000/-

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SOCIOLOGY

MAINS TEST SERIES 2024

SCHEDULE

TEST No.	TEST DATE	TOPIC TO BE COVERED	DISCUSSION
1	30 June 2024	Units-1, 2 & 3 paper-I	06-07-2024
2	07 July 2024	Units-4 & 5 paper-I	13-07-2024
3	14 July 2024	Units-6 to 10 paper-I	20-07-2024
4	21 July 2024	Unit-A (I, II) & B (I, II) Paper-II	27-07-2024
5	28 July 2024	Unit-B (III, IV, V, VI) & C (I) Paper-II	03-08-2024
6	04 August 2024	Unit-C (II, III, IV, V, VI & VII) Paper-II	10-08-2024
7 & 8	11 August 2024	Full length Tests-paper-I & II	17-08-2024
9 & 10	18 August 2024	Full length Tests-papers-I & II	24-08-2024

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CLASS PLAN FOR FOUNDATION COURSE (WEEKDAYS/ WEEKEND) **OFFLINE/ONLINE**

Number of hours for different units of sociology

Paper I (FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY)		
Unit	Topic	Hours
Unit 1	Sociology - The Discipline	8
Unit 2	Sociology as Science:	8
Unit 3	Research Methods and Analysis:	8
Unit 4	Sociological Thinkers:	40
Unit 5	Stratification and Mobility:	10
Unit 6	Works and Economic Life:	6
Unit 7	Politics and Society:	20
Unit 8	Religion and Society:	10
Unit 9	Systems of Kinship:	20
Unit 10	Social Change in Modern Society:	15
Paper II (INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE AND CHANGE)		
A (i)	Perspectives on the study of Indian society	10
A (ii)	Impact of colonial rule on Indian society	6
B (i)	Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:	6
B (ii)	Caste System:	8
B (iii)	Tribal communities in India:	3
B (iv)	Social Classes in India:	2
B (v)	Systems of Kinship in India:	2
B (vi)	Religion and Society:	2
C (i)	Visions of Social Change in India:	6
C (ii)	Rural and Agrarian transformation in India:	10
C (iii)	Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:	8
C (iv)	Politics and Society:	2
C (v)	Social Movements in Modern India:	6
C (vi)	Population Dynamics:	6
C (vii)	Challenges of Social Transformation:	10
		232
Previous Years Q&A Discussion		18
Total Hours		250

SOCIOLOGY

How to Score 300+ Marks

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- Answers of PYQ in Bullet Points.
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