



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

The State University for Education, Training and Research in Blended Format, Kerala
University Building, Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601 | www.sgou.ac.in

Assignment Questions

M.A SOCIOLOGY

Semester II - (Discipline Core)

Course Code: M21SO05DC

Course Title: Sociological Theories

Set I-Descriptive

1. Make a comparative analysis between the functionalism of Radcliffe-Brown and Malinowski.

Hint: Briefly describe the functional theories of Radcliffe-Brown and Malinowski, and identify the major differences between their theoretical frameworks, using examples from their field studies.

2. Critically evaluate the work *The Structure of Social Action*. Illustrate your answer with examples from contemporary society.

Hint: Describe Parsons' major arguments in 'The Structure of Social Action' and provide a critical analysis, citing examples from contemporary society.

3. "Merton's approach to structural functionalism differs from Talcott Parsons by being less abstract and more amenable to empirical research." Comment on this statement.

Hint: Describe the structural functional approaches of Talcott Parsons and Robert K. Merton, and explain how Merton's approach is more empirical.

4. Explain the contributions of Ralf Dahrendorf and Lewis A. Coser to conflict theory.

Hint: Discuss the unique ideas in Dahrendorf's and Coser's theories and how they expand upon classical Marxism.

5. Explain Claude Levi-Strauss's structuralist ideas.

Hint: Describe the theories of Levi-Strauss and Ferdinand de Saussure, and explain their unique ideas in analyzing culture.

Set- II Analytical

Observe the rituals and patterns of kinship relations in your home and community like post-death ceremonies etc. and analyze their functional aspects in light of Radcliffe-Brown's structural anthropology.

Hint: Examine the relevance of Radcliffe-Brown's structural anthropology in contemporary society based on your observations of your own

1. Explain the pattern of crime in contemporary Kerala using Robert K. Merton's theory of deviance.

Hint: Observe the types of crime occurring in contemporary Kerala and explore the possible social reasons behind them. Evaluate the usefulness of the theory of deviance in understanding crime in society.

2. Explain the relevance of critical theory in understanding contemporary society.

Hint: Briefly discuss the contributions of critical theorists and how their ideas help us understand contemporary society, using examples such as mass media, communication, and new social movements.

3. Assess the significance of symbolic interactionism and ethnomethodology in sociological studies of contemporary society.

Hint: Briefly describe the major ideas of G.H. Mead and Erving Goffman, and evaluate how their theories assist in sociological studies of contemporary society. You can use examples from service sectors, such as flight cabin crew or insurance staffs or marketing staffs etc. and observe how they hide their emotions and feelings and present themselves before the customers.

4. Explore how phenomenology and ethnomethodology can be applied to understand everyday social interactions.

Hint: Select a specific social setting or practice, such as a school, college, or hospital, or a group like students, teachers, and drivers etc. and conduct a field study, and analyze your observations using the principles of phenomenology and ethnomethodology. Discuss how these approaches reveal the underlying structures and meanings of the social world.



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Assignment Questions

M.A SOCIOLOGY Semester II - (Discipline Core)

Course Code: M21SO06DC

Course Title: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

Set I-Descriptive

Compare Karl Pearson's correlation of coefficient and Spearman's correlation of coefficient and discuss its practical applications.

(Hint: Describe Coefficient of Correlations, Discuss the different measures of correlation Karl Pearson's, Spearman's, Degree of relationships, Variables)

1. Assess the different paradigms in qualitative research and which paradigm would you say is most engaging in the current social scenario.

(Hint: Discuss each of the following paradigm: Interpretive, Critical, Feminist, Postmodernist, Participatory, Modernist, Scientific inquiry, select a paradigm that you think is best for the present social system and justify your selection)

2. Select a social research-based computer application of your choice and justify how it elevates the process of social research.

(Hint: Describe the different statistical packages, SPSS, SAS, R, Stata, Python, NVivo, out of these select and justify as to which elevates social research further)

3. Elaborate as to whether mixed research methods hold an upper hand in research than the stand-alone approaches?

(Hint: Briefly discuss and state the pro's and con's of quantitative research and qualitative research, discuss what mixed methodology is describe its method and advantages and disadvantages, conclude with your own if mixed methods do or do not have a higher standing in research)

4. 'Field work or field research is extensively used in sociology', Justify how the field work is an efficient tool in qualitative research undertaken in sociology.

(Hint: On-site, Participatory, Indological approach, Indian Society, Qualitative)

Set II Analytical

Prepare a hypothetical research proposal using quantitative methods for a research topic of your choosing.

(Hint: Select research topic, prepare a detailed methodology stating the population, sample size, sampling technique, research method)

1. Choose a qualitative method of your choice and discuss how you can apply it to a hypothetical research project? Prepare a structured and detailed tool of the same and attach.

(Hint: Choose a qualitative method for a research project you may carry out, prepare the tool corresponding to the research method of your choice. If you are to choose Focus group discussion state how will you conduct it, among whom and discussion points, moderator etc)

2. Mixed research methods are employed more and more than the isolated quantitative and qualitative methods, Assess this fact and prepare a hypothetical research proposal employing the mixed methodology.

(Hint: Prepare a research proposal for using mixed research design, Mixed methods tools such as Triangulation. The methodology employed must be inclusive of both quantitative and qualitative methods)

3. Prepare a short research report on an experiment or study you conducted. Include an introduction, methods, results, and discussion section in your report.

(Hint: Either prepare a research report of a study you have already done or Choose a research topic you would likely carry out a research work on and imagine the likely research output, The research report must follow the template)

4. Review a research paper of your choosing, use the data representation charts in the paper and present your own inferences?

(Hint: Refer journals and choose a research paper that has quantitative representation of data in the forms of graphs and diagrams, present your inferences of those graphical representations)



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Assignment Questions

M.A SOCIOLOGY

Semester II - (Discipline Core)

Course Code: M21SO07DC

Course Title: GENDER AND SOCIETY

Set I -Descriptive

Compile the diversities in LGBTQIA+ dimensions and sexual/gender orientations prevailing in society.

Hint: Explain diversities based on gender/sexual orientation

1. Give a description on the major theories of gender socialization. How do such theories react to patriarchy?

Hint: Discuss major theories of socialization

2. Critically evaluate the variations in the trajectory of female labour. Elaborate female labour in relation to globalization.

Hint: Discuss the impact of globalization on female labour

3. Prepare a brief note on Dalit Women movements. Elaborate the crucial role played by Dalit feminism in addressing the problems of Dalit women.

Hint: Discuss Dalit feminism and its role in solving problems of Dalit women

4. Elaborate the Feminism and its branches. Bring out the major issues discussed by Socialist Feminism.

Hint: Describe feminism and its types with special focus on socialist feminism

Set -Analytical

1. Collect details of the gender wage gap existing in the working sectors of your Panchayat. If working sectors with an equal wage system are identified, elaborate its peculiarities. Substantiate the findings using Marxist feminism.

Hint: Visit any institution nearby your place and collect data regarding the wage gap. Prepare your report based on collected data.

2. Record the activities of five gender development projects from your Panchayat/Municipality. Explain project whether they obtained their objectives in the light of your findings.

Hint: Analyse any five women centred projects and discuss their objectives whether they are successful or not. Substantiate your arguments in the light of your collected data.

3. Give an account of invisible labour undertaken by females within your family, workplace and Panchayat levels. Connect it to the division of labour perspective.

Hint: Find out the places where invisible labour is undertaken such as family and workplace.

4. List out the major developments brought by any five women organizations in your locality. Reflect their methods of intervention and outcomes in the socio-political and cultural scenarios of the society.

Hint: Analyse general overview of significant women's organizations and their contributions towards the society

5. Visit a school/college/office nearby to your place and examine the roles and responsibilities assigned for men and women. Now, discuss the gender of division of labour and gender development in the light of collected data. Evaluate your response by looking at the policies and initiatives taken by the governments for the gendered development.

Hint: Discuss the division of roles and responsibilities among men and women. Observe if specific tasks are more commonly assigned to any particular gender and point out the status of gender equality.



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Assignment Questions

M.A SOCIOLOGY

Semester II - (Discipline Core)

Course Code: M21SO08DC

Course Title: Sociology of Development

Set I Descriptive

Explain the concept of human development. Discuss its significance in the developmental discourse.

Hint: Discuss human development its indicators, Human Development index and explain its importance

1. Critically analyse the Indian experience of development by focusing on its successes, failures, and underlying complexities

Hint: Examine the five year plans, discuss the impact of economic reforms, liberalization and globalization and discuss the Kerala model of development

2. Discuss the concept of development and how the understanding of development has evolved and changed over time.

Hint: Discuss the basic developmental concepts; economic growth, social development, human development and sustainable development

3. Critically evaluate Rostow's Development model and examine the significance in contemporary world

Hint: Discuss modernization theory, Rostow's Development model, 5 stages of economic growth critique of Rostow's model

4. Compare the views of A.G Frank and Samir Amin on core-periphery relations in the global capitalist system.

Hint: Explain the underdevelopment theory of A.G Frank and Samir Amin and discuss the relevance of both theories in the global world

Set -II Analytical

1. Analyze the environmental impact of a major developmental project implemented in Kerala. Assess the ecological impact of this project on the local environment and discuss how it affects the biodiversity, forest cover, and the livelihoods of people.
Hint: Choose a specific development project in Kerala, such as a dam, highway expansion or a factory etc. Research its environmental impact, including deforestation, water pollution, or biodiversity loss and the role of government in mitigating the issue.
2. Examine the ecological challenges faced by Chilika Lake in recent years and assess the ecological degradation of Chilika Lake, identifying the primary anthropogenic and natural factors contributing to its decline.
Hint: Investigate the specific environmental problems affecting Chilika Lake and assess the impact upon local communities. Evaluate the effectiveness of current conservation efforts and government policies. Based on your findings, propose practical and sustainable solutions
3. Discuss how Kerala model of development helped the state in managing institutional response to COVID-19 pandemic and explain how the state's pre-existing developmental model influenced its pandemic response
Hint: Explain briefly about the Kerala model of development and examine the specific strategies Kerala employed to handle the COVID-19 crisis, focusing on healthcare, education, and social welfare and compare Kerala's response to other states in India
4. Illustrate the impact of globalization on Kerala's economy, society, and culture, using the example of the state's thriving IT industry and its implications on local communities and traditional livelihoods
Hint: Select an IT industry in Kerala to illustrate the impact of globalization. Discuss how the IT industry has influenced Kerala's economy. Include aspects such as job creation, income levels, migration, urbanization, changes in lifestyle etc
5. Critically evaluate the role of renewable energy in achieving sustainable development in Kerala. Analyze the state's progress in harnessing renewable resources, the challenges it faces, and the potential for further expansion
Hint: Explore the potential of solar, wind, hydro, and biomass energy in Kerala's context, examine government policies and programs promoting renewable energy in the state, and assess how the shift to renewable energy affects livelihoods, employment, and regional development.



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Assignment Questions

M.A SOCIOLOGY Semester II - (Discipline Core)

Course Code: M21UC01AC

Course Title: Foundational Skills for Research and Writing

Set I-Descriptive

1. Analyse measures of quality and ranking such as UGC-CARE and ISSN and ISBN. Do you think that the advent of open-access databases has diminished knowledge barriers? Comment.

Hints: Explain UGC-CARE, ISSN & ISBN and discuss the relevance of open access databases

2. Explain the differences between in-text citation and reference list entries in a style of your choice. Provide examples of each and discuss why proper citation upholds academic integrity.

Hints: Compare in-text citation and reference list with examples.

3. Explain the key steps involved in manuscript submission. What precautions should authors take before submission?

Hints: Examine the process of manuscript submission and discuss the precautions steps.

4. What is a research design? Examine the key elements including research problem, literature review, methods, sampling, analysis, validity/reliability and ethics. Your answer should reflect impact, strengths and limitations of research design in the light of examples.

Hints: Discuss research design with key elements along with examples.

5. Examine the role of plagiarism in destroying the quality of research. Explain various types of plagiarism along with drawing methods of avoidance and detection.

Hints: Discuss plagiarism, and its types and examine ways of detection.

Set II- Analytical

1. Prepare a synopsis in few pages on your interested topic covering all components included in synopsis framing such as the title page, content page, introduction, literature review, research methodology etc.

Hints: Find out a topic and prepare a synopsis covering all components included such as the title page, content page, introduction etc.

2. Conduct a literature review on a topic in your field of study. Summarise five relevant sources identifying a key research gap and explaining its significance.

Hints: Prove your topic is worth of research by examining its literature review and identifying research gap.

3. Create two high-quality abstracts or executive summaries, or one from each category. You need to refer to the manuscript/journal article for abstracts or summarise a business report for executive summaries.

Hints: Prepare an abstract or an executive summary of a business plan

4. Prepare an annotated bibliography after choosing a specific research topic within your field of study. Remember to select a minimum of five relevant sources (books, academic articles, websites etc.) and provide a concise summary.

Hints: Explain annotated bibliography with a minimum five relevant sources and give a summary too.

5. Compare and contrast the citation styles of APA and IEEE. Explain when each style is used and provide an example of citing a journal article using both styles.

Hints: Elaborate the specificities of APA & IEEE citation styles and usages and cite a journal article in both styles.