



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 I

FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

(M21SO01DC)

Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 (Descriptive)

1. Describe the significance of Auguste Comte's positivist or scientific stage –

Elaborate three stages of human thoughts (The Theological or Fictitious Stage, The Metaphysical or Abstract Stage, The Positive or Scientific Stage) and narrate the importance of positivist methods.

2. Evaluate the factors that contribute to the development of sociological theory-

Critically analyse social and intellectual forces – elaborate the importance of Enlightenment, Renaissance, Positivism.

3. Expand Weberian concept of authority and its forms with a suitable example -

Describe the Weberian idea of Authority and Bring out the examples of various characteristics of Authority- traditional authority, charismatic authority and rational -legal authority.

4. Elaborate the idea of Karl Marx's of social change-Describe the ideology of dialectical materialism – societal transformation from capitalism to socialism

5. Discuss the theory of *The Metropolis and Mental Life* of Simmel -Explain the nature of metropolis, lifestyle and blasé attitude.

SET II (Analytical)

1. Bring out the significance of “Dehumanization aspects of Alienation”-Collect the feedback of workers in a public or private entity and identify the worker's satisfaction level and analyse the importance of Marxian theory.

2. Analyse the different types of suicide, elaborate it with a suitable example from a newsreport - Collect the various news reports regarding suicide and identify the

reasons of suicides and analyse each case with a Durkheim's theory of suicide and its various forms.

- 3. Evaluate the significance of stratification theory of Weber-** *Notice a government office structure and analyse the divisions of power structure and stratification in an organisation. Analyse how does it effectively run and relate with the Weberian ideology.*
- 4. Bring out the elements of nature of Simmel's concept of social group-***Analyse your own social network and identify the primary, secondary group, in-groups, out-groups, voluntary and involuntary groups, reference groups etc... compare the characteristics and relationship nature of each group with reference to the theory of sociation.*
- 5. Analyse the Simmel's concept of Money and how it influences social interaction**
Elaborate the concept of money rationalisation and reification, analyse the social effects of money with your own daily life experience.



M.A SOCIOLOGY
SEMESTER- I
FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH
(M21SO02DC)

Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 (Descriptive)

1. **Discuss the fundamental objective of Cartesian Philosophy** - *Elaborate on the background of Descarte's understanding towards philosophical truth and reason and explain how he established a foundation for philosophy and mathematics.*
2. **Briefly discuss the significance of quantitative and qualitative methods as research strategies** - *Explain the characteristics of qualitative and quantitative research and its challenges or critiques on its tools while conducting research. Also examine the relationship between researchers and research participants towards qualitative and quantitative discussions.*
3. **Evaluate the significance of research ethics in social science research methodology** - *Explain the different sorts of ethics and elaborate on the principles of rational perspective and ethical responsibility of a researcher. Also explain the ethical concerns prioritized by the researcher while collecting primary data.*
4. **Discuss the scope and significance of Community based research in contemporary India** - *Explain the meaning, scope and key features of community-based research and examine its major principles and the role of community members in understanding the social and cultural dynamics of a community.*
5. **Discuss the major purposes and sources of literature review in social research** - *Explain the major characteristics and the sources in which a researcher can access for conducting a literature survey in social research. Also recognize the different type of literature and its difference from the academic research report.*

SET II (Analytical)

1. **Critically evaluate the role of positivism and its shift in the contemporary sociological perspectives with different schools of thought** - *Discuss the epistemological foundation of Positivism as a method in sociological understanding and relate it with the critical views of Hermeneutic school, Phenomenology and Frankfurt school.*
2. **Examine the significance of Theory -Research duality in understanding contemporary society** - *Elaborate on the meaning of theory and research and relate its relationship in understanding a social fact. Connect it with an example of any social contexts or social conditions related to crimes in Kerala society.*
3. **Examine the difference between Scientific Method, Methods and Methodology. Illustrate with an example** - *Explain the meaning of scientific method, methods and Research methodology in social science research. Understand the different modes of investigation in scientific method while conducting research and illustrate the three concepts to examine the research problem of gender disparity in contemporary Kerala.*
4. **Identify and evaluate the significance of the research process with an example** - *Explain the understanding of major steps while conducting research and illustrate with an example of a research problem. Also evaluate the importance of hypothesis, pilot study and sampling in social science research.*
5. **Examine the need for a scientific format in report writing of research** - *Elaborate on the structural procedure of report writing and the prime objective of each section in the report field. Also examine the need for establishing a scientific style of each chapter, bibliography and footnotes in report writing of research.*



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M.A SOCIOLOGY SEMESTER I INDIAN SOCIOLOGY (M21SO03DC)

Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 (Descriptive)

1. **Evolving ideologies of Indian society and national movements.** *Provide a brief overview of contemporary and conventional research on Indian national movements.*
2. **M.N. Srinivas' structural-functional approach.** *Pinpoint and depict a few regional cultural specialties based on Srinivas' work. Relate it to India's structure and mobility.*
3. **The strength of caste mobilization within India's current socio-economic framework.** *Describe a few forms of lower caste community group mobilization occurring in Kerala. Explain the consequential social changes*
4. **Caste system reinforces social stratification.** *Name and explain the power, caste, and class issues that India's social stratification has ignited. (Substantiate with five pertinent instances.)*
5. **Indology as the suitable method to study Indian society.** *Label and explain three primary cultural topics that Indological approach could appropriately investigate.*

SET II (Analytical)

1. **Annihilation of Caste: Dismantling caste, based on deeply rooted religious beliefs.** *Examine Kerala's history of inter-communal conflicts and compare it to Ambedkar's ideas.*

2. **LGBTQAI+ people are marginalized in Kerala society today.** *Critically evaluate socio-cultural discrimination experienced by LGBTQAI+ community using real-world examples*
3. **Effectiveness in Indian sociology: contextualizing and indigenising cultural facts.** *Determine which indigenous social subjects in your community could be gathered, put into perspective, and then examined utilizing the previously mentioned techniques.*
4. **Modern social environment with the civilizational perspective of N.K. Bose.** *Evaluate any five characteristics of your community that could serve as a symbol and contribute to civilization. (Rituals, economy, pottery, etc.)*
5. **The distinctiveness of A.R. Desai's dialectical approach.** *Analyse five social issues that you think of, where the dialectical method could be used strategically.*



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**MA SOCIOLOGY
SEMESTER-I
ECONOMY, POLITY AND SOCIETY
M21SO04DC**

SET 1 (Descriptive)

Choose any one from the following five questions. Each assignment carries 15 marks

1. Do you think India is following a mixed economic system? Differentiate between free market economy and planned economy and elaborate its features, advantages and disadvantages. (Block 3, Unit 1)

Hints: Explain market economy and planned economy and discuss their features, advantages and disadvantages

2. Define capitalism and socialism as political and economic systems. Distinguish major differences between the two in terms of ownership, economic decision-making and distribution of resources. (Block 4, Unit 2)

Hints: Define capitalism and socialism and compare between the two in terms of the given features

3. Examine the rise of fascism as a political ideology. Discuss the features of fascist regimes and analyse state and society under the Italian fascism. (Block 4, Unit 2)

Hints: Explain fascism and the strategies employed by it to penetrate to the people and look into the ways of consolidating the power in Italy.

4. Differentiate between local power structure and wider political system and elaborate structure, significance and components of wider political system (Block 2, Unit 3).

Hints: Compare components, structure and dynamics between local and wider political systems and examine their interconnectedness also.

5. Explore the Marxian, Weberian and Bourdieu's theories of consumer classes. Analyse how each theory conceptualizes social class and its relationship to the conception pattern and social stratification. (Block 4, Unit 1)

Hints: Define consumer class and compare key concepts of each theory related to consumer class and social inequality

SET II (Analytical)

Choose any one from the following five questions. Each assignment carries 15 marks

1. Illustrate a charismatic figure in the contemporary society and discuss strategies employed by the charismatic authority. Now analyse the relationship among power, authority and legitimacy and their meaning, types and sources in the light of the given example. (Block 2, Unit 1).

Hints: Find out a charismatic figure in the modern times and discuss how he is employing his authority among the society. Take a comparison among power, authority and legitimacy in terms of meaning, types and sources.

2. Suppose you are appointed as president of a local self-government institution. Discuss your ambitions and programs you would like to implement for equitable and just political systems and analyse the role of political structures and institutions in shaping how power is distributed and exercised in society in the light of the example. (Block 1, Unit 1).

Hints: Explain your plans and programs to be implemented as a president of a LSG for promoting equality and justice and discuss the role of various political institutions in power distribution.

3. Critically evaluate India as a welfare state. What is Welfarism? Examine its policies and major welfare programs. (Block 3, Unit 2)

Hints: Find out major welfare programs in the country and expose their failure and deficiency at various levels. Record your opinion about India as a welfare state.

4. Find out an episode of a consensus or public opinion brought in changes to the democratic or legal systems in our country. Discuss the role of social consensus in democratic governance and look into the challenges and strategies involved in fostering consensus among diverse groups (Block 2, Unit 1)

Hints: Discuss social consensus and its role in democratic governance with the help of an example you observed in the history of our country. Any example (Events/movements etc.) brought changes to democratic, legal, economic, educational systems can be taken.

5. Choose any non-governmental organization or civil society (Indian or foreign) operates for promoting democratic values and social change and explore their grassroots initiatives to foster democratization and equality life. (Block 4, Unit 2)

Hints: Examine democracy, its types and institutions. Find out a civil society or NGO that operates for democratization and social change. Discuss its role as democratic institution.



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M.A SOCIOLOGY
SEMESTER I
PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
(M21SO01AC)

SET 1 (Descriptive)

Choose any one from the following five questions.

1. Discuss the facets of project management, giving emphasis to project cycle and project triangle.
(**Hint:** Describe what is project management, areas of project management, define project cycle and project triangle, illustrate the process of both project cycle and project triangle)
2. Identify and discuss the three main approaches in project identification.
(**Hint:** Define project and elaborate on what is the need for project identification, list the three main approaches and explain each individually)
3. 'A feasibility study lays the foundation for the formulation of a project', Elaborate.
(**Hint:** What is Feasibility study, STEEP factors, Areas of feasibility study, Feasibility report, a conclusive assessment as to why these all factor to the formulation of a project)
4. List with illustration the methods and techniques of project management tools.
(**Hint:** GANTT Chart, Milestone Chart, Network Chart)
5. Identify the personnel involved in the process of project management, discuss the role of each in the conduct of a project.
(**Hint:** Principle Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, Research Associates, discuss the role and task of each)

(1*15=15)

SET II (Analytical)

Choose any one from the following five questions.

- 1 Prepare a project proposal for a community-based need of your choosing by adhering to the project proposal template?

(**Hint:** Community based need maybe such as drinking water plant or solid waste management, Model proposal should be inclusive of each component in the project template)

- 2 Draft a project planning matrix document for an ongoing governmental project in your district or state.

(**Hint:** Announced governmental projects or ongoing developmental projects can be chosen, Secondary documents can be utilized to obtain necessary information related to the project, adhere to the template of PPM)

- 3 Evaluate the probability in using the ‘The Household’ technique to conduct a survey to assess how covid lockdown had restructured educational practices.

(**Hint:** Explain what the Household technique is, uses of it, briefly state the educational practices that was in effect during covid, prepare a sample survey to outline the restructured educational practices)

- 4 ‘An Opportunity study identifies opportunities for investment’, Identify and assess the role of governmental agencies engaged in the same task.

(**Hint:** KDISC, Kerala Startup Mission and Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, individually analyze the role of each in furthering investment opportunities in the state)

- 5 Assess the risk management of a project and illustrate it with an example.

(**Hint:** Discuss risk management, purpose of risk management, provide a functional example)

(1*15=15)
