

QP CODE

Enrollment Number:

C1102

Name:

B.A DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, AUGUST 2025
Second Semester
B.A Psychology
B21SO01AN – Development of Sociological Thought
(2024 July Admissions)

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any ten of the following questions in a word or sentence each. Each question carries 1 mark.

1. Who is known as the father of sociology?
2. Which belief emphasizes that society can be studied using the same scientific methods as natural sciences?
3. Who introduced the concept of 'ideal types' in sociology?
4. Which process involves understanding human behavior by putting oneself in another's place?
5. Who is the sociologist associated with the concept of 'anomie'?
6. What is the term for a group consisting of three individuals in Simmel's sociology?
7. Which type of suicide, according to Durkheim, occurs due to excessive individualism?
8. What does Simmel identify as the primary function of money in modern society?
9. Who had studied about Social facts extensively?
10. Who introduced the concept of *Social Darwinism* in sociological theory?
11. What term does Marx use to describe the class of wage laborers who sell their labor to survive?
12. In Marxist theory, what is the basic economic system that shapes society?
13. Which economic system involves private ownership of the means of production?
14. Which form of social cohesion, according to Durkheim, holds simple societies together by a shared collective conscience?
15. In Durkheim's theory, what term describes a type of suicide caused by excessive integration into a group, where individuals sacrifice themselves for the group's benefit?

(1X10=10)

Section B

Answer any ten of the following questions in two or three sentences each. Each question carries 2 marks.

16. Outline two criticisms Spencer directed at Comte's positivist methodology.

17. Mention two key characteristics of positivism as outlined by Comte.
18. State two arguments Spencer made to justify applying biological metaphors to social systems.
19. List two methods Comte proposed for a genuinely scientific study of society.
20. Mention two characteristics of the interpretive paradigm in sociological research.
21. Identify two objectives of critical social science in exposing ideological domination.
22. Describe two key ways in which sociological paradigms influence the process of sociological inquiry.
23. Outline two contrasts between positivist and interpretive research designs in sociology.
24. Describe two criticisms that interpretive sociologists level against positivist approaches.
25. Summarize two features of the transition from feudalism to capitalism in Marx's historical materialism.
26. Outline two causes Marx attributed to the persistence of class antagonism under capitalism.
27. Identify two defining traits of Weber's value-rational (Wertrational) social action.
28. Outline two dimensions differentiating instrumental-rational from affective social actions.
29. Describe two social conditions Durkheim associated with heightened risk of egoistic suicide.
30. Mention two societal factors Durkheim linked to occurrences of altruistic suicide.

(2X10=20)

Section C

Answer any five of the following questions in a paragraph each. Each question carries 4 marks.

31. Compare assumptions of Comte's positivism with that of Spencer's evolutionary sociology.
32. Contrast four methodological approaches between positivist and interpretive sociological research.
33. Examine four impacts of paradigm shifts on the trajectory of sociological thought.
34. Explain Sociation as described by Simmel with special emphasis to human interactions.
35. Explain the major differences between smaller and larger groups from the perspective of Simmel.
36. Analyze four ways Marx's concept of surplus value underpins his critique of capitalist production.
37. Describe four types of Social action according to Weber.
38. Discuss four distinctions between instrumental-rational and affective social actions in Weber's typology.
39. Explain four ways social facts, per Durkheim, exert constraint on individual behavior.
40. Discuss about ideal type as defined by Weber.

(4X5=20)

Section D

Answer any two of the following questions in two pages each. Each question carries 10 marks.

41. Assess the relevance of Comte's law of three stages for contemporary sociological research design.

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42. Explore the concept of 'Social geometry' to understand the patterns of human interactions.
43. Discuss Marx's analysis of the Asiatic mode of production and its implications for state-society relations in pre-industrial contexts.
44. Analyse Durkheim's four types of suicide, highlighting their defining characteristics and social determinants.

(10X2=20)