



**An Institute for Civil Services**

# **IAS TOPPER'S TEST COPY**

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**AIR 23**

**CSE 2023**

**SOCIOLOGY**



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**SOCIOLOGY***Time Allowed: 50 Min.**Max. Marks: 80****Instructions to Candidate***

- There are FIVE questions.
- All Questions are compulsory.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

1. Invigilator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Suggestion

- Work on your content building
- Descriptive analysis is must
- contextualize a logical flow
- Incorporate criticisms, suggestions, etc where required
- Try to attempt all questions comprehensively.
- Structure could be better. framed.
- In case of diagrams stick to flow charts.

All the Best!!

# **SOCIOLOGY**

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*Time Allowed: 50 Hrs.*

*Max. Marks: 80*

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1. What does Merton refer to when he speaks about reference groups? Evaluate using illustrations.
2. Examine Parson's contribution to theorizing social change.
3. While the subject matter of Sociology and Psychology are distinct, Mead's contributions render a bridge between the two. Comment.
4. Compare and contrast Durkheim's analysis of 'Anomie' with Marxian analysis of 'Alienation'.
5. Write a short note on Social Strain theory.





1. What does Merton refer to when he speaks about reference groups? Evaluate using illustrations. (10 Marks)

"Reference group" was one of the middle range theory propounded by Merton. It refers to a group which is looked forward to / referred to / imitated for the purpose of respect, new ideas, achievement etc.

Relative Deprivation is the main driver behind reference group behaviour.

According to Merton, it can be a primary group, secondary group.

Membership group however is definitely a reference group according to Merton.

This can be illustrated through example of upbringing of a child where s/he forms role models which s/he refers to time & again as s/he grows up.

Incorporate the classification of Ref. Group

- 1) Membership & non-membership
- 2) Positive and negative reference group

well elaborated however cut it short

Remarks

Reference group keeps on changing throughout life reflecting upon the changing ambitions of an individual.

Reference group can also be

dysfunctional for society. (e.g.) children living in slums can treat criminal/gangsters gang as their reference group thus giving rise to juvenile delinquency.

Thus a counterculture can be promoted.

Merton's reference group theory helps us understand impact of surroundings present in society on individual behaviour/action.

Adequate conclusion

4.5  
10

Remarks

2. Examine Parson's contribution to theorizing social change.

(20 Marks)

Parsons through his concept of "Moving Equilibrium" and 'Cybernetic hierarchy of control'

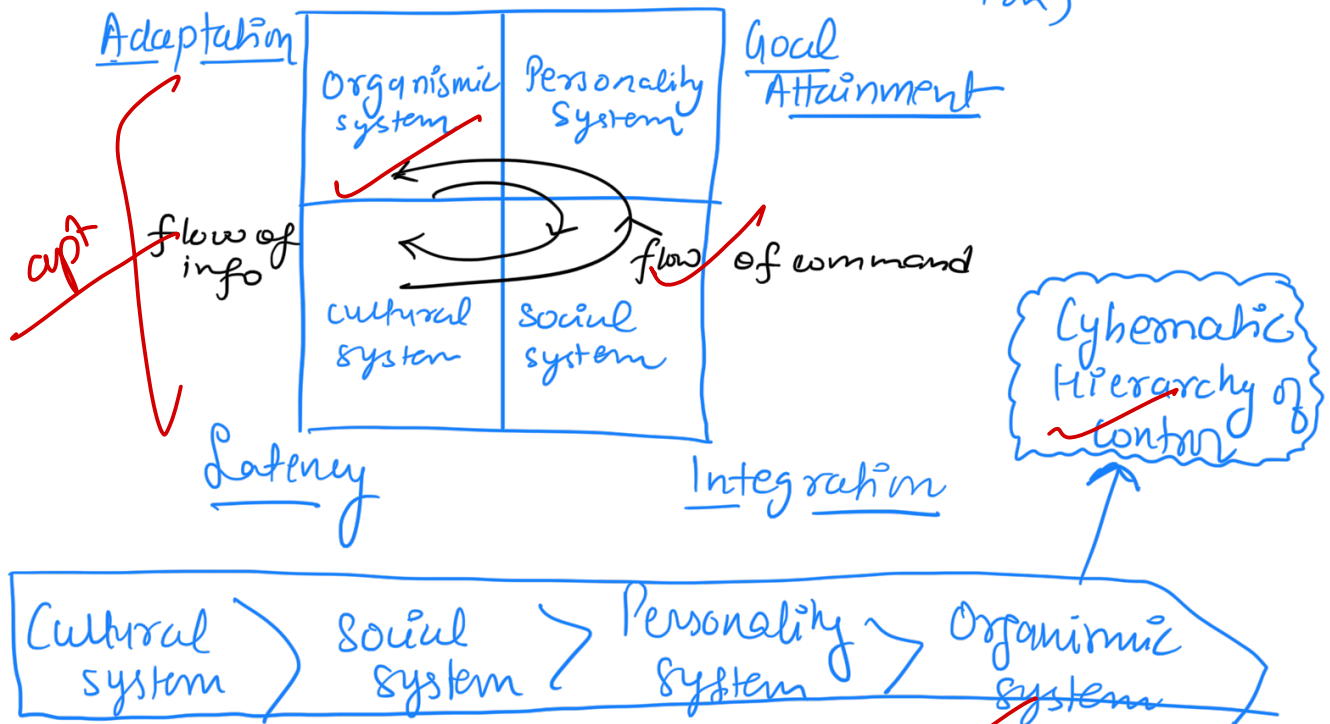
analysed social stability and continuity in social system, and acknowledged social change.

his theory of social change within the grand theory of social systems

Social change (according to Parsons)

change in the system explained through his "AGIL" scheme of social system

change of the system i.e. five stages of evolution of society (similar to Marxian classification)

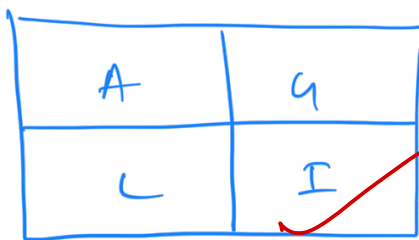


Remarks

He viewed social change at 2 levels  
 1) change which emerge from processes within social system  
 2) Processes of change of social system itself

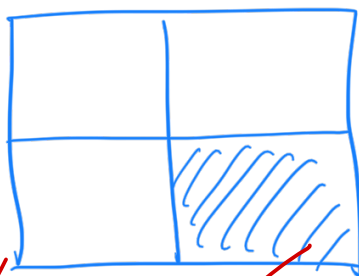
Though he was criticized on the ground that he is a status quoist and has overemphasized on equilibrium neglecting social change, Parsons came up with his idea of moving equilibrium.

According to this idea, change triggered in one part of the system, will lead to changes in other part of system as well

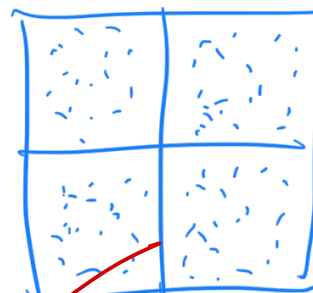


Equilibrium (1)

"Thus no system according to Parsons is in state of Perfect Equilibrium"



element of change



Equilibrium (2)

Moreover, each subsystem have their role defined in terms of internalising the new element.

Remarks

For instance, adaptation done by economic subsystem checks the requisite pre-conditions to be qualified without which new element can't be incorporated.

Goal attainment done by political system envisages plans and policies to integrate the new element

Integration which is performed by legal system ensures that customs, norms, rules are followed.

Latency which is undertaken by family subsystem ensures that by requisite socialization the new element of change is now the part of new equilibrium.

Thus Parson's theory of social system has made the understanding of social change more fluid.

*fine conclusion*

9.5

20

Remarks

However you have to discuss the factors which contributed towards building up of strain in social systems which established new equilibrium.

- \* change in,
- 1) demographic character of population
  - 2) physical environment
  - 3) population
  - 4) Technology

3. While the subject matter of Sociology and Psychology are distinct, Mead's contributions render a bridge between the two. Comment. (20 Marks)

Mead's work on "Mind-Self-Society"

was a pioneer for micro-sociological tradition leading to development of phenomenology as a distinctive methodology in sociology increasing its proximity with psychology.

Mead's theory on "socialisation of a child" was different from earlier theories like that of Sigmund Freud "Id & Ego" or C. G. Cooley "Looking Glass Self". Mead focussed on "Symbolic Interaction" as the focus of his analysis carrying forward Weber's emphasis on social interactions.

According to Mead, human beings are different from animals for the reason that they carry a reflexive self, thus they can't be pushed to a corner by natural forces unlike animals.

This self is indeed a product of evolution done by society of that individual boosting/reducing one's self esteem/self image.

Remarks

Unlike the early sociologists like Durkheim, Marx, etc. Mead did give due emphasis on role of individual's own rationality & mind in any social setup rather than being a mere dog in the hands of conscience collective or economic substructure respectively.

"Mind" of an individual which is subject matter of psychology was effectively presented by Mead as storehouse of symbols, the symbols which are bedrock of any social interaction. Thus an effective bridge between sociology and psychology was established after Mead's efforts.

It is the individual interaction between two independent actors communicating each other with some expectation while playing a given role that are given to a society.

Remarks

Symbolic interactionism focuses on micro-level interactions meaning are constructed & transmitted across members of society. It is necessary since man has no intention of direct behaviour.

Relevant  
Mead further through his explanation of "play stage" & "game stage" established a link between role of significant others & generalised others in nurturing mind of a child.

Important conclusion  
Thus role which society plays through early socialisation need to be taken into account while analysing individual psychology, was established by Mead's seminal work.

9.5

20

Remarks

Remarks

4. Compare and contrast Durkheim's analysis of 'Anomie' with Marxian analysis of 'Alienation'. (20 Marks)

Outline the  
brief definition  
of Anomie and  
Alienation

Marxian analysis of alienation and Durkheim's concept of anomie share many similarities as well as differences.

- Both signify [phase of transition] in society :-

Durkheim says anomie is a result of arrival of modernity i.e. organic solidarity and temporary lawlessness & chaos introduced by the same.

Marx puts alienation as a psychic situation which will help diffuse false class consciousness and thus help proletariat unite for a revolution.

- Both have a solution/way forward in the form of social change :-

Durkheim prescribed it as establishment of institutions which will re-institute the morality. Marx saw it the form of arrival of communism -

Appropriate  
points

Remarks

## Differences

### Anomie

- product of transition (thus temporary in character) from mechanical to organic society

### Alienation

- product of contradictions present within the framework of capitalism in which factors of production are monopolised

promotes chaos, disorder, lawless disintegration in society

- helps in ultimately binding the masses by objective class consciousness.

Both the concepts of anomie and alienation have contemporary relevance as we see increasing disinterest among modern workforces towards their work thus promoting shifting of loyalties among workers.

Remarks

Answer needs more analysis as this is a 20 marker question

8.5  
20

Final conclusion

Also the causes and effects of both terms

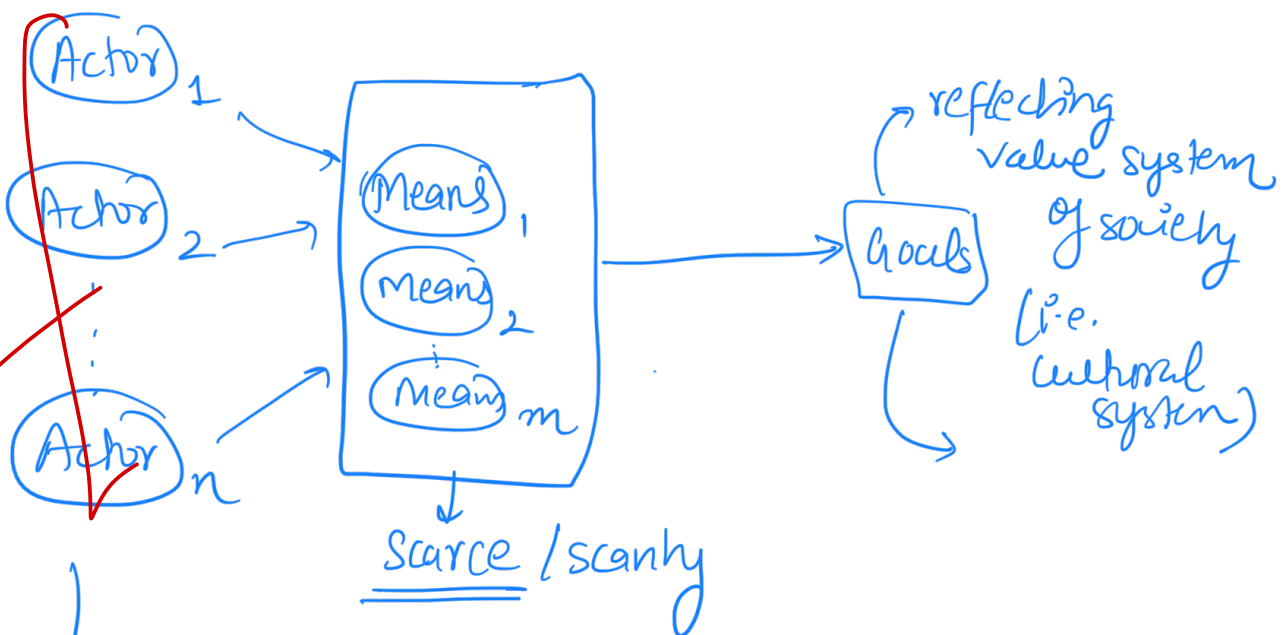
*Remarks*

Remarks

5. Write a short note on Social Strain theory.

(10 Marks)

Social strain refers to mismatch between institutional means and opportunities and population for achievement of culturally approved goals, thus breeding ~~ingroup~~, relative deprivation, ghettoisation, regionalism, communalism etc.



↳ Actors are engaged in competition / conflict thus promoting ~~social strain~~.

Remarks

Taking the example of American society

Values appreciated : Achievement, wealth

Upper class :- has  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{wealth to invest} \\ \text{cultural capital} \end{array} \right\}$  required means  
to achieve the values.

Lower class :- lack both knowledge, initial capital

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{thus adopting often do} \\ \text{illegitimate means for} \\ \text{creation of wealth} \end{array} \right\}$  Situation of Social Strain  
 $\hookrightarrow$  breeding deviance

Social Strain theory thus offers a sound explanation found by

societies across the world today  
suffering from rising inequalities,  
development induced displacement,  
rising fundamentalism etc.

Also discusses the criticism of Merton's strain theory

Remarks

3.5  
10