

**SOCIOLOGY HONOURS UNDER CBCS  
CORE COURSE-01  
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY-I  
Model Question Paper**

**GROUP-A**

Answer any two.

12x2=24

1. Define Sociology. Discuss the scope of Sociology.
2. Define social group. Discuss various forms of social group.
3. What do you mean by culture? Discuss the elements of culture.
4. What do you mean by social change? Discuss the factors of social change.

**GROUP-B**

Answer any four.

6X4=24

5. Write a note on the relationship between Sociology and Political Science.
6. Write a note on tribal society.
7. Distinguish community from association.
8. Discuss the significance of culture in society.
9. Write a note on informal agencies of social control.
10. Discuss the various types of social mobility.

**GROUP-C**

11. Answer any four.

3x4=12

- |                    |                     |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| a) Achieved status | b) Norms and values | c) Personality      |
| d) Westernization  | e) Institution      | f) Social evolution |

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**Model answer  
Core course-01  
Introduction to Sociology-I  
Group-A**

**2. Define social group. Discuss various forms of social group.**

Man is a social animal. Man must live and interact with others in groups. A group is any collection of individuals who are brought into social relationship with one another. Family, educational institutions, political parties, trade unions, religious associations are some examples of group.

According to Bottomore a group may be defined as an aggregate of individuals in which (i) defined relations exist between the individuals comprising it; and (ii) each individual is conscious of the group itself and its symbol.

According to Gisbert a social group is a collection of individuals interacting on each other under a recognizable structure. It may be a political party, a cricket club or a social class.

**Types of social group:**

Different sociologists have classified social groups in different ways. The chief bases of these classifications are nature of relations, functions, scope and stability. The following types of groups are generally found in society

- i) Primary and Secondary group**
- ii) In-group and Out-group**
- iii) Vertical and Horizontal group**
- iv) Formal and Informal group**
- v) Voluntary and Involuntary group**
- vi) Permanent and Transitory group**
- vii) Small and large group**
- viii) Community and Association**
- ix) Genetic and Congregate group**
- x) Institutional and Non-institutional group**
- xi) Reference group and membership group**

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**(i) Primary and Secondary group**

On the basis of nature of social relationships groups can be divided into two types

1. Primary group
2. Secondary group

A primary group is typically a small social group whose members share close, personal, enduring relationships. The concept of the primary group was introduced by Charles Horton Cooley, a sociologist from the Chicago School of Sociology in his book *Social Organization*.

Secondary group is a large group in which a large number of persons come into indirect contact with one another. Sometimes these groups are called, "Special Interest Groups". City, nation, political party, trade union etc. are the examples of secondary groups.

**(ii) In-group and Out-group**

W.G. Summer, an eminent American sociologist, has classified social groups into two types in his book 'Folkways'. These are:

- (a) In-group to which individual belongs.
- (b) Out-group to which individual does not belong.

In-group is simply the 'We-group' and out-group is simply the 'They-group'. In- groups are the groups with which an individual identifies himself completely. Member of in-group has feelings of attachment, sympathy and affection towards the other members of these groups.

Out group refers to a group of persons towards which we feel a sense of indifference, avoidance, dislike and competition. For example for an Indian India is his in- group but China is an out- group for him.

**(iii) Vertical and Horizontal group**

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A vertical group includes persons of different strata or statuses but a horizontal group includes persons belong to same strata. Occupational groups of doctors, electricians, engineers etc. are examples of the horizontal group, while caste groups are examples of vertical groups.

**(iv) Formal and Informal group**

Formal groups are those which are organised under legal and formal authority to achieve specialized goals or objectives. Examples-govt., military organization, class room.

Informal groups are not formally organised but arise spontaneously on the basis of friendship or some common interests or attitudes, example- college common room.

**v) Voluntary and Involuntary group**

Voluntary groups: - Voluntary groups are those groups the membership of which depends upon the sweet will of the individuals. Club, political parties are examples of voluntary group.

Involuntary groups: - Involuntary groups are those the membership of which does not depend upon the will of the individual. Membership is generally based on blood relationship or kinship. Family, caste, kin-group are examples of involuntary group.

**(vi) Permanent and Transitory group**

Permanent group: - Permanent group is that type of group in which the relationship among the members continues for a longer period. The family is a permanent group. This group is more stable than the other groups.

Transitory group: - In transitory group the relationship among the members does not continue for a longer period. A mob or a crowd is a transitory group.

**vii) Small and large group**-On the basis of the size of the group George Simmel introduced this classification. Small groups include 'dyad', 'triad' and

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other small groups. Large group represent racial group, political party, nation etc.

**(viii) Community and Association:** According to Ferdinand Tonnies, social groups are of two types such as: (i) Gemeinschaft or community and (ii) Gesellschaft or association

Gemeinschaft or community: - Gemeinschaft is characterized by intimate, private and exclusive living together. Family, kin group, neighbourhood, rural village are examples of Gemeinschaft.

Gesellschaft or association: - Gesellschaft is that group which is characterized by public life, as something which is consciously and deliberately entered upon. The business companies, corporation, cities are the examples of Gesellschaft.

**(ix) Genetic and Congregate group**

Giddings classifies social groups into i) Genetic group, (ii) Congregate group

(i) Genetic group: - Genetic group is involuntary in nature and individuals are born in them. Family, racial group, ethnic group are genetic groups.

(ii) Congregate group: - Congregate group are voluntary in nature and individuals are at liberty join or not, examples- political parties, trade unions.

**(x) Institutional and Non-institutional group**

Institutional group are those which function through rituals, symbols, officers, codes of conduct, regulatory power including power to punish. The nation is an institutional group in contrast to a picnic party which is a non- institutional group.

**(xi) Reference group and membership group**

The term 'reference group' was coined by Herbert Hyman .Hyman distinguished between a membership group and reference group. A membership group is one to which people actually belongs. The reference-group refers to a group to which a person does not actually belong but he aspires to belong that may affect his behavior. Reference-group serves as points of comparison. The

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concept reference-group has particular relevance in modern complex heterogeneous society.

Out of necessity and inevitability human beings have to live in groups. Man's life is to an enormous extent lived and controlled by groups of different kinds.

**3. What do you mean by culture? Discuss the elements of culture.**

**Culture is the Centre of a society and without culture no society can even exist.** It is the main difference between human beings and animals. It is a heritage transmitted from one generation to another. It includes all the ways and behaviors is social life. Man is born in the environment of culture, in which he seeks his way of behaving and acting in a given society.

Definition of Culture

Following are some important definitions of culture by sociologists

**According to Horton and Hunt** "Culture is everything which is socially shared and learned by the members of a society."

**According to Tylor** culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of a society.

It is the totality of human experience acquired during transmission of heritage from one generation to another and to learn the ways of learning, eating, drinking, behaving, walking, dressing, and working.

Basic Elements of Culture

1. Language
2. Symbols
3. Norms
4. Values
5. Beliefs

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6. Cognitive Elements

1. Language

A group of words or ideas having common meaning and is shared to a social situation is called language. Language is the entrance to a culture. Language is a set of socially sound pattern, words, and sentences having specific meaning and terminology common to the same culture.

Language is a source of communication and to transmit message from one person to another. It is the method to mold the behavior and experience of a person. Language differs from culture to culture and is transmitted from one generation to another.

Language is like a vehicle through which we can carry out our complex social activities. Language is the foundation of a culture and ticket to the entrance of a social life. Animal have not culture because they have no specific language to transmit words to others. So, language is the key to open a social life of an individual with some special characteristics.

2. Symbols

Culture is a system of symbols. Symbols are anything used to represent express and stand for an event or situation. Symbols direct to guide our behavior. It is used to show an event of past, present or future. For example the heap of ash show that the something has been burnt or the wet street shows that it has rained.

Bowing head, whistling, winking of eyes situation, all are the symbols, which express a specific object idea about other. BaithUllah is the symbol of God and we pray to it. American Shake their hand to answer for No. Other examples are flag, anthem, picture, statues are symbols. Symbols are the short expression for the identification of an object or situation.

3. Norms

Norms as elements of culture are the rules and the guidelines which specify the behavior of an individual. Norms keep a person within the boundary of society and its culture. It gives us restriction about something which to do and which not to do. It molds our behavior and gives as knowledge about wrong and right. Norms can be divided into:

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**a. Folkways.** Folkways are the simple customary ways of the people. It is the normal and habitual action of people within a culture. Folkways are the recognized or accepted ways of behavior. These are the behavior pattern which a person uses generally in his daily life.

**b. Mores.** Mores is a Latin word and the plural of mos which means customs or beliefs accordance with a group customary expectation. It is the “must” behavior of a person. Mores refers to “what ought to be and what ought not to be.” Mores are serious norms but are informed like folkways. They have a serious binding on a group. The violation of mores threats to social order. Punishment may be both formal and informal for the violation of mores.

#### 4. Values

Anything getting importance in our daily life becomes our values. The origin of values is not biological but it is social production while living in society the values develop. Values depend upon the culture. Culture varies from society to society and thus values are different in every social situation. Values are the good idea and thinking of a person.

Some values are hereditary which we gain from our elders, books and parents. The culture is full of values and can transmit from one generation to another. When a natural object get a meaning it becomes a value.

#### 5. Beliefs

Every sect within a culture has some beliefs for cultural refuge. These beliefs are responsible for the spiritual fulfillment of needs and wants. Muslims believe in Holly Prophet, The Day of Judgment, recitation of Holly Quran, Hajj etc. Sikh wear bangle in one hand, bear a long beard, and keep a dagger; Hindus believe in God, Karma and Moksha.

#### 6. Cognitive Elements

Cognitive elements of culture are those through which an individual know how to cope with an existing social situation. How to survive, how make shelter from storms and other natural calamities, how to travel and transport etc. are the practical knowledge which make a culture. Such knowledge is carefully thought to every generation.

In conclusion we may say that culture is the totality of learned and socially transmitted behaviors. It is shared and practicing in all **societies of the**



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**world. Basic Elements of culture** includes ideas, beliefs, values, customs which make it a whole configuration. Culture is transmitted form one generation to another. Each culture has some **basic elements**.

**GROUP-B**

**5. Write a note on relationship of Sociology with Political Science.**

**INTRODUCTION-** Sociology has been defined as a science of society. It studies the social life as a whole. The life of man is many sided. There is an economic aspect, a political aspect, and so forth. Therefore social life can understand by taking help from other social sciences which study exclusively one or other aspect of human life.

Political science concerns the governments of various societies. It considers what kind of government a society has, how it is formed, and how individuals attain positions of power within a particular government. Political science also concerns the relation of people in a society to whatever form of government they have.

**THE RELATIONSHIP:** Both the sciences are mutually helpful. In fact political activity is only a part of social activity .Political activity influences and is influenced by the social life of man. There are some common topics of interest for both sociologist and political scientist. Such topics as war mass movements, revolutions, government control, elections, voting, social legislations civil code.

Many of the social problems are also deep political problems .Communal riots, racial tensions, border disputes between different states, caste conflicts, are problems that have political as well as social implications.

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**INTERDEPENDANCE:** Sociology depends very much on political science in every respect. The state and governments make laws for the welfare of the society; the government removes social evils such as poverty, unemployment, dowry and so on from the society. The undesirable customs are uprooted from the society by the government. Social institutions and social organizations are regulated by the state and government.

Sociology studies various aspects of political activities through the help of political science. The government can bring about changes in the society with the help of laws.

In the same way, political science depends upon sociology and sociology provides material to political science that is the political life of the people. Therefore, some sociologists regard political science as a special branch of sociology, it can be said that without sociological background the study of political science is quite impossible.

For understanding of political problems, some knowledge about sociology is very essential because all political problems are mainly correlated with a social aspect.

**DIFFERENCES:** - Even though these two subjects are very much related, in some points they are different from each other.

1. Sociology is the science of society; on the other hand, political science is the science of state and government.
2. Sociology has wider scope than that of political science. Sociology is regarded as a general science while political science is viewed as a specialized social science.
3. Sociology studies all kinds of social relationship in a general way. But political science studies only the political aspect of social relationship in a particular way.

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4. Sociology studies both organized and disorganized societies. But political science studies only the politically organized societies.

5. Sociology deals with both formal as well as informal relations of the society, which are based on customs, traditions, folkways, mores, norms etc. But political science deals only with formal relations based on laws and order of the state.

6. Sociology is the study of all means of social control. Political science, on the other hand, is the study of only government recognized means of control.

**6. Write a note on tribal society.**

A tribe is a group of people living in a common territory, having common dialect, common name, common religion and a common culture. They have own peculiar political organisation. Tribe is an endogamous group. They have a strong sense of unity.

**Features of tribal society:**

i) **Economic Structure:** Tribal economy is forest based economy. Their economy is subsistence type. Different tribes are engaged in different types of economic activities-hunting –gathering, agriculture, shifting cultivation, pastoralism, handicraft, industrial labour and service. In tribal societies division of labour is based on sex and age.

(ii) **Social Life:** The tribal society is small in size and homogeneous in composition. Life in a tribal society is simple and integrated. Folkways and mores play vital role in the maintenance of social order.

(iii) **Political Organisation:** Each tribe has its own political system. The tribal chief exercises authority over all the members of the tribe. The chieftainship is normally hereditary. They have their own tribal Govt., tribal council, tribal court or judicial system.

(iv) **Importance of Religion:** Religion plays an important part in the tribal organisation. The members of a tribe worship a common ancestor and nature. They practice other type of faith-fetishism, animism and totemism.

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Tribal society is in transformation. Various factors like industrialization, urbanization, missionary activities, and Govt. measures have contributed a lot for changes in the social, economic, political and religious life of tribal people.

**9. Write a note on informal agencies of social control.**

Social control can be classified into two major types. These are i) Formal social control and ii) Informal social control. The informal means of social control are not purposefully created. No special agency is required to create them.

**Informal agencies of social control**

(i) Belief: Belief is a conviction that a particular thing is true. Some examples of belief are (a) The belief in the existence of an unseen power;(b) The belief in the theory of incarnation(c) The belief in existence of hell and heaven and(d) The belief in the immortality of soul. All these different beliefs influence man's behaviour in society by keeping them away from wrong deeds.

(ii) Folkways: Folkways are the recognized modes of behaviour which arise automatically within a group. If an individual does not follow them he may be socially boycotted by his group. Since folkways become a matter of habit, therefore, these are followed unconsciously and exercise powerful influence over man's behaviour in society.

(iii) Mores: Mores are those folkways which are considered by the group to be of great significance, rather indispensable to its welfare. They restrain an individual from doing acts considered as wrong by his group. In society there are innumerable mores like monogamy, prohibition, anti-slavery etc..

(iv) Customs: Customs are the long established habits and usages of the people. They are followed because they have been followed in the past. They control

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the purely selfish impulses. In primitive societies customs were powerful means of social control but in modern times their force has loosened.

(v) Religion: Religion also exercises a powerful influence upon man's behaviour in society. It is a belief in powers superior to man, Men should do good acts is a common teaching of all the religions. Religion makes people benevolent, charitable, forbearing and truthful.

(vi) Public opinion: The influence of public opinion as a means of social control is greater in simple societies. In a village the people are known to one another personally. It is difficult for a villager to act contrary to the public opinion of the village.

Though it is said that people are not afraid of informal social control, yet informal means of social control are very powerful particularly in primary groups.

**10. Discuss the various types of social mobility.**

The study of social mobility is an important aspect of social stratification. Stratification system refers to the system of placing people in different layers or strata. But the people in society move up and down the status scale. This movement is called social mobility. Mobility can take place at the individual as well as group level.

Types of Social Mobility: According to P.A. Sorokin there are two types of mobility (i) Vertical Social Mobility (ii) Horizontal Social Mobility

**1. Horizontal Mobility:**

Horizontal mobility refers to change in position without change in status. Example-an engineer working in a factory may resign his job and join another factory as an engineer.

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**2. Vertical Mobility:** Vertical mobility refers to any change in the occupational, economic or political position of an individual or a group which leads to change of the status. Vertical mobility is intensive in relatively open societies. There are two types of vertical mobility.

**a) Upward vertical mobility or ascending type of mobility**

When a person or a group of persons move from lower position to upper position in the social hierarchy it is called upward vertical Mobility. If a small businessman with occupational skills becomes an industrialist his position improves in the hierarchy.

**b) Downward vertical mobility or descending type of mobility.**

Downward mobility indicates that one loses his higher position and occupies a lower position in the social hierarchy. When a big businessman meets with losses in his business and is declared bankrupt, his position decreases in the hierarchy.

**3. Inter-Generational Mobility:** This type of mobility means that one generation changes its social status in contrast to preceding generation. However, this mobility may be upward or downward .If the son of a shoemaker becomes an engineer, this would be called upward inter- generational mobility. If the son of a doctor becomes a clerk then the younger generation has downward inter-generational mobility.

**4. Intra-Generational Mobility:** This type of mobility takes place in life span of one generation. A person may start his career as a clerk. He acquires more education and skills. Over a period of time, he becomes an IAS officer.

**5. Structural Mobility:** Structural mobility refers to the vertical movement of a specific group, class or occupation due to structural changes and not very much because of individual attempt. In present day society computer engineers, technicians and information technologists receive greater importance.

All societies permit some amount of mobility for its members .Actually there is no society which is completely closed (Caste System in India) and no society which is completely open (Class System). In fact, social mobility is an inseparable aspect of social stratification system

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because the nature, form, range, degree of social mobility depends on nature of stratification system.

**Group-C**

**11.a) Achieved status** -An achieved status is one that is acquired on the basis of merit; it is a position that is earned or chosen and reflects a person's skills, abilities and efforts. The civilized societies have placed high premium on achieved status. In the modern civilized societies most of the occupational statuses are achieved. Marital status, parental status, educational statuses are achieved statuses

**11.b) Norms and values**-Norms define appropriate and acceptable behavior in particular situation. Actually norms refer to group shared expectations. Norms are the standards of group behavior. Values are measures of goodness or desirability. They provide general guidelines for conduct. They are defined as “higher order norms”. Values are cherished through the observances of norms.

**11.c) Personality**- Personality consists of habits, attitudes, ideas which are built up around both people and things. No man is born with a personality but everyone develops it through socialization. Personality refers to the whole of what the individual has acquired through socialization. According to Kimball Young personality is a patterned body of habits, traits, attitudes and ideals of an individual, as they are organized externally into roles and statuses and as they are related internally to motivation, goals and various aspects of selfhood.

**11.f) Social evolution** - Evolution was one of the most exciting ideas of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Evolution indicates a gradual change or a movement from simple to complex through various stages. Sociologist borrowed this concept from Biology, especially from the works of Charles Darwin and applied it to explain the evolution of society. Social evolution is defined as a process of change of societies from most primitive to most civilized through systematically defined stages such as hunting and gathering, horticulture, agrarian, industrial and post-industrial.