

MASTER SOCIOLOGY

OPTIONAL FOR UPSC



Vishnu Vardhan Reddy Sir
9+ Years of Experience

Ultimate Guide to Score 325+ Marks



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Gandhi Nagar,
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OUR COURSES

UPSC CSE

- GS - Super 50 PCM Batch
- Prelims Test Series (PPP)
- Anthropology Full Course
- Sociology Full Course
- PSIR Full Course
- NCERT Bridge Course
- Mains Test Series (MOM)
- Anthropology Test Series
- Sociology Test Series
- PSIR Test Series

TGPSC GROUP-1

- Prelims Test Series
- General Essay
- Telangana Modules
- PCM Batch
- Mains Test Series
- Rapid Revision Program
- Data Interpretation

APPSC GROUP-1

- Prelims Test Series
- AP Module
- PCM Batch
- Mains Test Series
- General Essay



After much anticipation and a lot of requests from students and rankers, we are so happy and proud to announce the launch of the Sociology Optional Coaching at Vishnu IAS Academy!

The course is designed to meet the demands of students by offering expert guidance, structured learning, in-depth concept clarity, and personalized mentorship to help in acing UPSC Mains. With a proven strategy, high-scoring approach, and exclusive answer-writing techniques, we ensure you stay ahead in the competition.

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the systematic study of human society, social behavior, institutions, and cultural patterns. It examines how individuals interact within groups, how societies are structured, and how social forces shape human experiences. Sociology provides insights into critical aspects of life, such as family, politics, economy, education, and religion, helping us understand both stability and change in society.



Why do we need to learn Sociology?

- **Understanding Society & Human Behavior:** Sociology helps us in understanding how people interact, why traditions exist, how societies evolve, and the impact of culture, caste, class, and institutions on everyday life.
- **Developing Critical Thinking Skills:** Sociology encourages analytical thinking, questioning of social norms, and helps differentiate between personal opinions and evidence-based knowledge.
- **Solving Social Problems:** Sociology provides insights into issues like poverty, caste discrimination, gender inequality, and crime while helping find solutions by analyzing root causes and social dynamics.
- **Improving Policy & Governance:** Sociology is essential for designing effective policies on education, healthcare, employment, and social justice and is effectively used by administrators, policymakers, and social workers to improve governance.
- **Enhances both Personal & Professional Growth:** It builds empathy, cultural awareness, and appreciation for diverse perspectives while developing strong communication and problem-solving skills beneficial in both personal and professional life.
- **Interdisciplinary Relevance:** Sociology connects with Political Science, Economics, Psychology, and Anthropology and is useful in careers like civil services, journalism, social work, corporate leadership, and law.



- **UPSC & Other competitive Exams:** It helps in General Studies (GS Paper 1, 2, 3 & 4) on topics like society, governance, development, and ethics, strengthens essay writing with structured arguments and relevant examples, and aids in interview preparation by providing a broad perspective on social issues.

Why Choosing Sociology Best for UPSC?

- **Overlaps with General Studies & Essay:** Sociology helps in preparing GS Paper 1 (Indian Society), GS Paper 2 (Governance & Social Justice), GS Paper 4 (Ethics), and is highly useful for Essay writing.
- **Helps in Interview (Personality Test):** Sociology provides a broader perspective on social issues, governance, and current affairs, helping students to express comprehensive opinions in the UPSC interview.
- **No Prior Background is needed:** Sociology is conceptual and does not require prior academic specialization, making it an accessible option for students from all backgrounds.
- **High Scoring:** Sociology has a well-structured syllabus and a high success rate, making it a scoring optional in UPSC.
- **Short & Structured Syllabus:** Compared to other optional subjects, Sociology has a concise syllabus that can be completed in a minimum time period.



- **Enhances Analytical & Writing Skills:** It develops critical thinking and structured answer-writing skills, which are crucial for both Mains and Essay papers.
- **Relevant for Governance & Administration:** Understanding society, social issues, and policymaking helps in administrative decision-making, making it valuable for future civil servants.

Key Trends in Sociology for UPSC 2025-26

- **Linking of Current Affairs:** Sociology answers need real-world examples like digital society, gender issues, caste debates, and protests.
- **Focussing on Social Justice:** Topics like reservation, LGBTQ+ rights, women empowerment, and tribal issues are becoming more important.
- **Policies & Governance:** More questions on government schemes, welfare programs, and how society reacts to policies.
- **Technology & Society:** How AI, social media, and automation are changing human relationships and social behavior.
- **Urbanization & Migration:** Problems of overcrowded cities, job migration, and rural-urban divide are key issues.
- **Environment & Society:** Climate change, green policies, and ecological movements are gaining attention in UPSC.
- **Ethics & Values:** The role of ethics, morality, and social responsibility in governance is becoming more relevant.



Course Features:

- **Duration:** 4 - 4.5 Months (250 Hours)
- **Mode:** Offline and Online
- **App Access:** 1 Year
- Daily Answer Writing Practice
- Model Questions & Answers
- Daily Handouts & Classroom Notes
- Case Studies Modules
- Test Series Included

What do we need from you?

- 250 Hours of Dedicated Time
- Regular Attendance
- Commitment and Consistency
- Maintaining Handwritten Notes
- Active Participation in the Classroom
- Answer Writing Discipline



Why at VIAS?

Comparison	VIAS	Other Institutes
Full Syllabus Coverage	Yes	Only Few
Live & Recorded Classes for flexibility	Yes	No
Weekly Tests & Full-Length Mains Test Series	Yes	Not Completely
Value-Added Notes	Yes	No
Covering Sociological Thinkers & Theories	Yes	No
Current Affairs Integration with Sociology for dynamic answer writing	Yes	No
Answer Writing Workshops & Peer Review Sessions	Yes	Only Few
Essay Writing Guidance Based on Sociological Perspectives	Yes	No
Personalized Mentorship & Performance Tracking	Yes	No
Case Studies Explanation	Yes	No
Price	Reasonable	Overpriced



SOCIOLOGY SYLLABUS

PAPER- I

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

1. Sociology - The Discipline:

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

2. Sociology as Science:

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique.
- (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non-positivist methodologies.

3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

4. Sociological Thinkers:

- (a) Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.



(b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.

(c) Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.

(d) Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables.

(e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.

(f) Mead - Self and identity.

5. Stratification and Mobility :

(a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.

(b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.

(c) Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.

(d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

6. Works and Economic Life :

(a) Social organization of work in different types of society - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society.

(b) Formal and informal organization of work.

(c) Labour and society.



7. Politics and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of power.
- (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties.
- (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

8. Religion and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of religion.
- (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage.
- (b) Types and forms of family.
- (c) Lineage and descent.
- (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
- (e) Contemporary trends.

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of social change.
- (b) Development and dependency.
- (c) Agents of social change. (d) Education and social change.
- (e) Science, technology and social change.



PAPER– II

INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society:

- (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure).
- (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas).
- (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai).

(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:

- (a) Social background of Indian nationalism.
- (b) Modernization of Indian tradition.
- (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.
- (d) Social reforms.

B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

- (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
- (b) Agrarian social structure— evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

(ii) Caste System:

- (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
- (b) Features of caste system.
- (c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives



(iii) Tribal Communities in India:

- (a) Definitional problems.
- (b) Geographical spread.
- (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
- (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.

(iv) Social Classes in India:

- (a) Agrarian class structure.
- (b) Industrial class structure.
- (c) Middle classes in India.

(v) Systems of Kinship in India:

- (a) Lineage and descent in India.
- (b) Types of kinship systems.
- (c) Family and marriage in India.
- (d) Household dimensions of the family.
- (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.

(vi) Religion and Society:

- (a) Religious communities in India.
- (b) Problems of religious minorities.

C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
- (b) Constitution, law and social change.



(c) Education and social change.

(ii) Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India:

(a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.

(b) Green revolution and social change.

(c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.

(d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

(a) Evolution of modern industry in India.

(b) Growth of urban settlements in India.

(c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.

(d) Informal sector, child labour.

(e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

(iv) Politics and Society:

(a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.

(b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.

(c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.

(d) Secularization.

(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

(a) Peasants and farmers movements.

(b) Women's movement.

(c) Backward classes & Dalit movements.



- (d) Environmental movements.
- (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.

(vi) Population Dynamics:

- (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
- (b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
- (c) Population Policy and family planning.
- (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

- (a) Crisis of development : displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.
- (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
- (c) Violence against women.
- (d) Caste conflicts.
- (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
- (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.



 **Telegram**



 **Whatsapp**



 **Instagram**



 **Youtube**



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Notes

Lined area for writing notes, consisting of 25 horizontal lines.



Notes





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Symbol of Success with Commitment,
Hardwork and Mentorship as Tools

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