

CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

SOCIOLOGY

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 57

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

- i. This question paper contains **24 questions**. All questions are **compulsory**.
- ii. This question paper is divided into **5 sections**.
- iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 2** are case based questions
- iv. **Section B** – questions number **3 to 9** are multiple choice questions
- v. **Section C** – questions number **10 to 16** are very short answer
- vi. **Section D** – questions number **17 to 22** are short answer
- vii. **Section E** – questions number **23 to 24** are long answer
- viii. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.
- ix. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1. Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life. Social inequality and exclusion are social because they are not about individuals but about groups. In every society, some people have a greater share of valued resources – money, property, education, health and power – than others. People often face discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, language, caste and disability.

(1) Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life because : (i) This everydayness of social inequality and exclusion often makes them appear inevitable, almost natural.

(II) We often think of them as being 'deserved' or 'justified' in some sense. (III) These are natural which can be changed. (IV) The poor and marginalised are not blamed for their own plight. Which of the above statements are correct?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life because their everydayness makes them seem inevitable and they are often thought to be deserved or justified, as explained in statements (I) and (II).

Key Points: "Everydayness of social inequality, Perceived inevitability, Justification of social inequalities"

Question 2. Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life. Social inequality and exclusion are social because they are not about individuals but about groups. In every society, some people have a greater share of valued resources – money, property, education, health and power – than others. People often face discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, language, caste and disability.

(1) Which of the following statements is not true related to Exclusion of Dalits ?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The statement that the institution of untouchability does not refer to the avoidance or prohibition of physical contact is not true. Untouchability involves physical avoidance and social sanctions and Dalits are considered impure, affecting members of other castes.

Key Points: "Untouchability involves physical contact avoidance, Broader social sanctions of untouchability, Impurity beliefs about Dalits"

Section B

Question 3.

As per the theory of Demographic Transition, which of the following statements are correct? (I) Population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development. (II) Every society follows a typical pattern of development. (III) The development is related to population growth. (IV) There are four stages of population growth.

- (A) (I) and (II)
- (B) (II) and (IV)
- (C) (I), (II) and (III)**
- (D) (I) and (III)

Explanation:

According to the theory of Demographic Transition, population growth is indeed linked to the overall levels of economic development (I), and every society follows a typical pattern of development (II). The development is related to population growth (III), but the theory mentions three basic stages of population growth, not four (IV is incorrect). Therefore, the correct statements are (I), (II), and (III).

Question 4. Which of the following statements related to Tribal Identity is not true?

[1 Marks]

- (A) Assertions of tribal identity are on the rise.
- (B) This can be laid at the door of the emergence of a middle class within the tribal society.
- (C) Issues relating to matters of ethnic-cultural identity are becoming less important.**
- (D) Issues relating to control over vital economic resources like land and especially forests, are on the rise.

Explanation: The statement 'Issues relating to matters of ethnic-cultural identity are becoming less important.' is not true. According to the context, assertions of tribal identity and issues relating to ethnic-cultural identity are actually on the rise due to factors like the emergence of a middle class within tribal society. Tribal identities today are increasingly articulated around culture, tradition, control over land and resources, and resistance to non-tribal influences. Therefore, matters of ethnic-cultural identity are becoming more important, not less.

Question 5.

Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life. Social inequality and exclusion are social because they are not about individuals but about groups. In every society, some people have a greater share of valued resources – money, property, education, health and power – than others. People often face discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, language, caste and disability.

Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life because:

(I) This everydayness of social inequality and exclusion often makes them appear inevitable, almost natural.

(II) We often think of them as being 'deserved' or 'justified' in some sense.

(III) These are natural which can be changed.

(IV) The poor and marginalised are not blamed for their own plight. Which of the above statements are correct?

[1 Marks]

(A) (II) and (III)

(B) (I) and (II)

(C) (I) and (III)

(D) (I) and (IV)

Explanation: The correct statements are (I) and (II). Statement (I) is correct because the everyday presence of social inequality and exclusion often makes them seem inevitable and almost natural. Statement (II) is correct as it reflects that people often consider such inequalities as deserved or justified. Statement (III) is incorrect because social inequalities are not natural but social constructs and can be changed. Statement (IV) is incorrect because typically, the poor and marginalized are often blamed for their own plight.

Question 6.

Social inequality and exclusion are facts of life. Social inequality and exclusion are social because they are not about individuals but about groups. In every society, some people have a greater share of valued resources – money, property, education, health and power – than others. People often face discrimination and exclusion because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, language, caste and disability.

Which of the following statements is not true related to Exclusion of Dalits?

[1 Marks]

(A) They are considered to be so impure that their mere touch severely pollutes members of all other castes.

(B) Untouchable castes are outside the caste hierarchy.

(C) Untouchability refers to a much broader set of social sanctions.

(D) The institution of untouchability does not refer to the avoidance or prohibition of physical contact.

Explanation: The statement 'The institution of untouchability does not refer to the avoidance or prohibition of physical contact.' is not true. Untouchability is specifically about the social practice where Dalits are considered so impure that even physical contact with them causes pollution. Therefore, avoidance or prohibition of physical contact is a key feature of untouchability. The other statements correctly describe untouchability and the social exclusion faced by Dalits.

Question 7. Why is the study of Social Movements important in Sociology?

[1 Marks]

(A) Social movements were not seen as forces that led to disorder.

(B) Social movements were about protests which were perceived by elites as a major threat to the established order of society.

(C) Participants of social movements do not have their own shared understanding of right and wrong.

(D) Participants did not often resort to public protest.

Explanation: The correct option is: 'Social movements were about protests which were perceived by elites as a major threat to the established order of society.' Sociology studies social movements because they are seen not just as causes of disorder but as significant forms of collective action often directed against the established order. Elites perceive protests within social movements as threats, and these movements have organized structures, shared understandings among participants, and play an important role in social change.

Question 8. While urbanization has been occurring at a rapid pace, it is the biggest cities – the metropolises – that have been growing the fastest. Which of the following statements related to urbanization is not true?

[1 Marks]

(A) These metros attract migrants from the rural areas as well as from small towns.

(B) The larger cities in India are not growing at such a rapid rate.

(C) With the mass media's primary focus on these cities, the public face of India is becoming more and more urban rather than rural.

(D) Urban infrastructure can hardly keep pace.

Explanation: The statement 'The larger cities in India are not growing at such a rapid rate.' is not true. The context clearly states that the larger cities in India are growing at a very rapid pace, so much so that urban infrastructure can hardly keep up with this growth. The other statements are true as metros attract migrants, the media focuses on these cities making India's public face more urban, and urban infrastructure struggles to keep pace with rapid urbanisation.

Question 9. Which of the following statements is true for westernisation?

[1 Marks]

(A) Westernisation does not involve the imitation of external forms of culture.

(B) The changes brought about in Indian society and culture is a result of over 150 years of British rule.

(C) The west did not influence Indian art and literature.

(D) Westernisation did not include the sub-culture of Indian intellectuals.

Explanation: The correct statement is: "The changes brought about in Indian society and culture is a result of over 150 years of British rule." This aligns with M.N. Srinivas's definition of westernisation as the changes brought about in Indian society and culture due to over 150 years of British rule. The other options are incorrect because westernisation did include the sub-culture of Indian intellectuals, the West did influence Indian art and literature, and westernisation does involve the imitation of external forms of culture.

Section C

Question 10.

"By and large, work for most Indians is still in smallscale workplaces. Here personal relationships determine many aspects of work." In large organisations work is not determined by personal relationships. What inference can you draw from this statement ?

[2 Marks]

Answer: In India, many people work in small workplaces where personal relationships significantly influence work conditions. If the employer likes an employee, they may get benefits like a salary raise, but a conflict with the employer can result in job loss. In contrast, large organizations have formal rules, transparent recruitment, and complaint mechanisms, so work is not based on personal ties. This shows that small workplaces depend on informal social relations, while larger firms follow structured procedures.

Question 11.

Adivasis shared a common hatred for dikus. Why ? Give two reasons.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Adivasis hated dikus because dikus were migrant traders and moneylenders who grabbed the wealth of the adivasi region and made the original inhabitants poor. Secondly, most benefits from mining and industrial projects in the mineral-rich area went to the dikus, while adivasi lands were taken away from them.

Question 12.

During the 1960s, scholars debated whether tribes should be seen as one end of a continuum with caste-based (Hindu) peasant society, or whether they were an altogether different kind of community.

What is the basis for the argument for tribe and caste distinction ?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The argument for distinguishing tribes from castes is based on assumed cultural differences. Hindu caste society is hierarchical with beliefs centered on purity and pollution, and a structured integration of different castes. In contrast, tribal communities are seen as more egalitarian, organized mainly on kinship bonds rather than strict hierarchy. Tribes emphasize community ownership of resources rather than individual ownership, reflecting different social organization and cultural practices compared to caste-based societies.

Question 13.

Many districts of colonial India were administered through the Zamindari system.

What problems were faced by the peasants due to the Zamindari system ?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The Zamindari system in colonial India caused many problems for peasants. Under this system, zamindars or landlords had control over land and collected heavy land revenue from the peasants. The British granted more power to zamindars, who extracted as much produce or money as possible from the cultivators. Peasants had to give a large portion of their produce as tax and were often forced to provide labor to landlords. Many peasants fled oppressive landlords, and agricultural production stagnated. Frequent famines and wars worsened their conditions, leading to population decline.

Question 14.

One of the negative outcomes of the Green Revolution strategy was the worsening of regional inequalities. Give two reasons for your answer.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The Green Revolution led to regional inequalities because it was mainly implemented in certain developed regions like Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, and parts of western and southern India, leaving other areas behind. This created a gap between regions that benefited from modern technology and those that stagnated, worsening inequality. Additionally, the technological advances mainly helped those with more land and resources, making the rich richer and the poor poorer in rural society.

Question 15.

The major epidemic diseases in the past were fevers of various sorts, plague, smallpox and cholera. But the single largest epidemic was the influenza epidemic of 1918 – 19, which killed about 5% of the total population of India at that time. Differentiate between epidemic and pandemic.

[2 Marks]

Answer: An epidemic is a sudden outbreak of a disease that affects many people within a community or region. In contrast, a pandemic is an epidemic that spreads over a very wide geographical area, often worldwide, affecting a large portion of the population. For example, the influenza epidemic of 1918–19 in India was part of the global influenza pandemic, also known as the Spanish Flu, which affected populations across many countries.

Question 16.

“Theoretically, the caste can be understood as the combination of two sets of principles.” Name them and define any one.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Theoretically, the caste system is based on two sets of principles: difference and separation, and wholism and hierarchy. Difference and separation mean that each caste is considered distinct and is strictly separated from other castes. This separation restricts social interaction and marriage between castes. These rules create a rigid social order where everyone’s place is clearly defined.

Section D

Question 17.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, a series of land reform laws were passed – at the national level as well as in the states. What were the reasons behind these reforms ?

[4 Marks]

Answer: After India's independence, it was clear that a major reform in the agrarian structure was necessary for improving agriculture and the lives of farmers. The existing landholding system was unfair, with large landlords or zamindars owning vast amounts of land while actual cultivators had little security. The reforms aimed to redistribute land by taking proprietary rights from absentee landlords and giving land rights to those who worked on it. These reforms included tenancy abolition and regulation acts to protect tenants and the Land Ceiling Acts to limit the maximum land one family could own. Overall, these reforms were introduced to strengthen the position of landholders and cultivators, reduce economic and political power of zamindars, and promote agricultural progress.

Question 18.

Sociologists use the term 'Social Stratification' to refer to a system by which categories of people in a society are ranked in a hierarchy. How does Social Stratification persist over generations ?

[4 Marks]

Answer: Social Stratification persists over generations because it is deeply connected to family and the inheritance of social resources. A person's social position is often ascribed, meaning children usually inherit the social status of their parents. For instance, within some social systems like the caste system, a person's birth determines their occupational opportunities and social standing. Furthermore, social stratification is a society-wide system that distributes resources unequally among groups, and this unequal distribution tends to continue over time. This persistence is reinforced because social stratification shapes identities, experiences, and access to opportunities, thereby maintaining the hierarchy across generations.

Question 19.

Each one of us is born into a family, and most of us spend long years within it. Usually we feel very strongly about our family. The family is an integral part of lives. Elaborate.

[4 Marks]

Answer: A family is the first social group into which we are born, and it plays a vital role throughout our lives. It provides us with our initial identity, support, and values. The family includes parents, siblings, grandparents, and other relatives. It can be a nuclear family or an extended family. Our family is linked closely to larger social institutions such as tribes, clans, religious and linguistic groups, which influence our behaviors and cultural norms. In

traditional societies, the family into which a person is born often determines their social status for life. Through the family, we learn social norms, customs, and values that guide our behavior. Our emotional bonds within the family, whether with parents or siblings, also shape our personality and our relationships outside. Therefore, the family is not just a small group but is deeply integrated with broader social and cultural contexts, making it an essential part of our identity and life journey.

Question 20.

“In India, the impact of the very same British industrialisation led to deindustrialisation in some sectors.” Identify the impacts on the basis of the above statement.

[4 Marks]

Answer: The impact of British industrialisation in India led to deindustrialisation in certain sectors, especially traditional handloom industries. British manufactured goods, produced in large factories using modern machinery, were cheaper and flooded the Indian market, which caused the decline of Indian handicrafts and indigenous industries. Many skilled artisans lost their livelihoods, resulting in the collapse of old urban centres that were once vibrant manufacturing hubs. Unlike Britain, where industrialisation encouraged urban migration, in India it pushed many people towards agriculture as manufacturing declined. This phenomenon highlighted the uneven and adverse effects of colonial industrialisation in India, which prompted the independent Indian state to actively promote industrialisation and revitalize the economy post-independence.

Question 21.

There is a close relationship between disability and poverty. Discuss.

[4 Marks]

Answer: Disability and poverty are closely interlinked, creating a cycle that is difficult to break. Poor living conditions such as malnutrition, frequent childbirth weakening mothers, inadequate immunisation, and accidents in overcrowded homes contribute to a higher incidence of disability among poor people compared to those living in better circumstances. Moreover, disability often increases economic strain and isolation not only for the individual but also for their families, leading to further poverty. Disabled people are often among the poorest in poor countries. The issue of disability is not only about the physical or mental condition of individuals but also about how society is structured. Society's construction of disability, including stigmatization and lack of accessibility, worsens the challenges faced by disabled people. This shows that disability is socially constituted, where societal attitudes and systems create barriers for disabled people, reinforcing their marginalization and poverty.

Question 22.

“In response to harsh working conditions, sometimes workers went on strike.” Justify taking the example of the famous Bombay Textile Strike of 1982.

[4 Marks]

Answer: The Bombay Textile Strike of 1982 was a significant event where nearly a quarter of a million textile workers and their families participated. Led by trade union leader Dr. Datta Samant, the workers protested against harsh working conditions and low wages by collectively stopping work. The strike lasted nearly two years, highlighting the determination of workers to fight for better treatment and fair wages. Bombay, being a major textile hub, was strongly affected by the strike which demonstrated the power of unity among industrial workers to demand justice and improved work conditions. Such strikes show how workers respond to exploitation and hardships by demanding change through collective action.

Section E

Question 23. Discuss the classification of Social Movements.

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Social movements are organized collective efforts by people to bring about or resist social change. They can be classified into three main types based on their goals and scope of change: redemptive, reformist, and revolutionary.

Firstly, redemptive social movements aim at radical change in the individual's personal life and beliefs. These movements focus on transforming people's consciousness and behavior. An example is a spiritual or religious movement that seeks deep personal reform.

Secondly, reformist social movements seek to bring partial, specific changes within the existing social system. They do not aim to overthrow the system but advocate improvements or reforms. For instance, movements for women's rights or environmental protection generally ask for change through legislation or policy reform without changing the entire system.

Lastly, revolutionary social movements demand a complete and fundamental change in the social, economic, or political system. They seek to overthrow the current power structure and establish a new order. Examples include movements that led to independence or social revolutions.

All social movements have a shared ideology and objectives, and their activists organize campaigns, meetings, and lobbying efforts to mobilize support and influence public

opinion or government policies. Understanding the type of social movement helps in analyzing their strategies and impact.

Question 24. The Civil Society has been instrumental in taking many significant initiatives, the most recent being the campaign for the Right to Information. Discuss the initiative and its outcome.

[6 Marks]

Answer: The campaign for the Right to Information (RTI) is one of the most significant initiatives led by civil society in recent times. It began as a local agitation in rural Rajasthan, where people demanded access to information about government funds spent on village development. This movement gradually expanded into a nationwide campaign, aiming to make the government more transparent and accountable to its citizens. Despite facing resistance from the bureaucracy, the persistent efforts of civil liberties organizations, activists, and the media compelled the government to respond. As a result, the government enacted a law to formally recognize the citizens' right to information. In 1993, the Supreme Court of India declared that the Right to Information is part of the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, further strengthening this campaign. This initiative has empowered ordinary citizens to seek information about government functioning, reducing corruption and improving governance. The RTI campaign exemplifies the crucial role of civil society in ensuring that the state remains accountable and responsive to its people.
