

Introduction to Human Sciences  
Spring 2025  
Sociology and Philosophy Modules

Total Time: 3 hours

Sociology Module

Total Marks: 30  
Approx. time: 90 minutes

Answer all questions:

- Q1) According to C. W. Mills, what is the sociological imagination? In the words of Peter Berger, what are the essential qualities of a sociologist? (Marks: 1+3)
- Q2) How do Gaby and Carolina describe the concepts of screened intimacy, swipe logic, and curatorial selves? (Marks: 6)
- Q3) What is social action theory? According to Weber, what are the various types of social action? Use examples to describe each of them. (Marks: 2+8)
- Q4) According to Karl Marx, what is alienation? Describe the various forms of alienation experienced by workers in an industrial society. (Marks: 2+8)

## Philosophy Module

Total Marks: 30

Approx. time: 90 minutes

Keep your answers precise and to the point.

### Section A: Answer all four questions

4 x 5: 20 marks

1. Briefly describe the three laws of logic. Bring out the difference between logical impossibility and physical impossibility. Give an example to illustrate your answer. (3+1+1)
2. Bring out the differences between: (2+2+1)
  - (a) sophistry and fallacy
  - (b) ad hominem (abusive) and ad hominem (circumstantial)
  - (c) formal and informal fallacies
3. Outline any 3 features that distinguish inductive from deductive arguments. What is the principle/ground upon which inductive inferences are founded, and why does this make it an instance of a circular argument? (3+1+1)
4. Describe *modus ponens* and *modus tollens* in terms of their valid form as well as their fallacious forms. (2.5 + 2.5)

### Section B:

5 x 1: 5 marks

5. State whether the following arguments are inductive or deductive. Also identify the type of inductive and deductive arguments they are (in terms of the labels that apply to each type in terms of sound/unsound/weak/strong/valid/invalid).
  - (a) If computers can play chess, then they can think. But computers cannot think. Therefore, computers cannot play chess. MT
  - (b) I checked my pockets and my room and can't seem to find my phone. I am sure I have lost my phone. IS
  - (c) When Jack took his car in for service, the mechanic charged him for lots of work that didn't need to be done. The same thing happened to Niki and Claire. Apparently mechanics these days are just a bunch of crooks. CS
  - (d) If eggs do not contain cholesterol, then they are healthy to eat. But eggs do contain cholesterol. Thus, eggs are not healthy to eat. HPF
  - (e) The arctic ice cap has been shrinking for several years as a result of global warming, and that trend is expected to continue. Therefore, since arctic polar bears depend on that ice for survival, the arctic polar bear population will likely shrink in the years ahead.. SS

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### Section C:

6. Identify the following informal fallacies. Give reasons for the same. Note that each of these is representative and uniquely identifiable as the instance of a single specific fallacy. Provide the specific fallacy each falls under. Do not write multiple answers for the same question.

5 x 1: 5 marks

(a) Frank Larsen argues for stricter gun control. It appears that Frank wants to abolish access to guns altogether. But if law-abiding citizens can't own a gun, then they will have no means of defending themselves against criminals. Obviously Frank's argument is no good.

(b) United Airlines flight 863 was late arriving in Houston, and flight 722 was late getting into LA as was flight 429. Apparently all United Airlines flights are late these days.

(c) Whatever you do, never buy a lottery ticket. If you do, soon you'll be betting on horses. Next it will be slot machines in Las Vegas, and then black jack and high stakes poker. In the end you'll be totally broke.

(d) Collins is not a good student. And since all students are human beings, Collins is not a good human being. *HL, Comp.*

(e) Most of the residents of the City Heights neighborhood are illiterate. Therefore, it would be a good idea to close the City Heights library.

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