

CLASS-XII SOCIOLOGY

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Chapter-1

Introducing Indian Society

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1.What are the main problems of national integration in India?

Answer:

The problems of India are linguistic identity, regionalism, demand for separate states and terrorism etc. create hindrances in the way of national integration. Due to these . problems, usually strikes, riots and mutual fights take place, which have posed a severe threat to national unity and integration.

2. Why is sociology a distinct subject in comparison with all other subjects?

Answer:

Sociology is a subject with which everyone knows something about society. Other subjects are learnt at home, school or elsewhere through instructions but much of our with growth in years as it appears to be acquired naturally or automatically.

3. What is Self-reflexivity?

Answer:

Sociology can show us what we look like to others. It can teach us how to look at ourselves from outside, so to speak. It is called “Self-reflexivity’ or sometimes just “Reflexivity’.

4. ‘Sociology can help us to map the links and connections between ‘personal troubles’ and ‘social issues’. Discuss.

Answer:

C. Wright Mills a famous American Sociologist has mentioned, “Sociology can help us to map the links and connections between personal troubles and social issues.” As far as personal troubles are concerned Mills means the kinds of individual worries, problems or concerns that everyone has.

5.Which social reformers carried out social reform movements during the British colonialism in India?

Answer:

The prominent leaders of the reform movements were Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Dayanand Saraswati, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and others.

6. State the processes the began during the British colonialism in India.

Answer.

This was the period when modern period began in India and the external forces of modernization, westernization, industrialization entered.

7.What is the unique aspect of Sociology mentioned in the text?

Answer:

Sociology is unique because everyone starts with some knowledge about society, acquired naturally through the process of growing up.

8.Why does the author emphasize the need to "unlearn" in the initial stage of learning Sociology?

Answer:

The author suggests unlearning because prior knowledge about society, often acquired from common sense, is partial and biased, shaped by the social group and environment.

9. What does the term 'self-reflexivity' mean in the context of Sociology?

Answer:

Self-reflexivity refers to the ability to reflect upon oneself and look at oneself 'from the outside.' It is critical self-inspection, necessary for a sociological understanding.

10. How does Sociology help individuals locate themselves in society?

Answer:

Sociology provides a social map by examining various social identities such as age, region, language, economic class, religion, caste, tribe, helping individuals understand their position in society.

4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What are the basic functions of a society?

Answer:

Sociologists and social anthropologists have adopted the term function from biological sciences where it has been used for certain organic processes necessary for the maintenance of the organisms. Basic functions necessary for continuity and survival of any society are :

- (i) Recruitment of members
- (ii) Socialization
- (iii) Production and distribution of goods and services and preservation of order.

2.What do you understand by social structure?

Answer:

A society consists of

- (i)Males and females, adults and children, various occupational and religious groups and so on.
- (ii)The interrelationship between various that of parents and children and between various groups.
- (iii)Finally, all the parts of the society are put together and system are interrelated and complementary concepts.

3. Why is the social map provided to us in childhood by the deluding socialization essential?

Answer:

Social maps are provided by our parent siblings, relatives and neighbour. It may be specific and partial. It provides us only with common sense or unlearnt or perceivable knowledge which may or may not be real.

A proper use and application of reflexivity is essential for drawing other kinds of maps. It is sociological perspective that teaches us the procedure of drawing social maps, wholesome and exclusive.

4. What steps were taken by colonial rules for the smooth functioning of its rule?

Answer:

The steps taken by colonial rules for the smooth functioning of its rule were that they:

- (i)Used new mechanical techniques in production.
- (ii)Started new market system in trade.
- (iii)Developed means of transport and communication.
- (iv)Formed bureaucracy based on civil service of all India nature.
- (v)Established formal and written law.

5.Explain the concept of 'self-reflexivity' in Sociology and discuss its importance in understanding societal dynamics. Provide examples to illustrate your points.

Answer:

Self-reflexivity involves the ability to critically reflect upon oneself. In Sociology, this is crucial as it allows individuals to examine their biases and perspectives. For example, an individual raised in a privileged background might need self-reflexivity to understand their inherent biases when studying issues related to poverty or inequality.

6.Discuss C. Wright Mills' concept of the connection between "personal troubles" and "social issues." Illustrate with examples how personal troubles can be linked to broader social issues.

Answer:

C. Wright Mills argues that personal troubles are linked to social issues. For instance, an individual experiencing unemployment (personal trouble) can be connected to broader issues such as economic recession or unemployment rates (social issues). Sociological analysis helps uncover these connections.

7.Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of students' prior knowledge about society in the context of studying Sociology. Support your answer with examples.

Answer:

Advantageously, students are generally not afraid of Sociology, assuming it to be an easy subject. However, the disadvantage is the need to "unlearn" as prior knowledge is often biased and partial. For instance, if someone is raised in a conservative environment, their understanding of societal norms might be limited, hindering a comprehensive sociological perspective.

7 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What is community identity? Discuss its characteristics.

Answer.

Community that provides us the language and cultural values through which we comprehend the world. It is based on birth and belongings and never on some form of acquired qualification or accomplishment. Birth based identity is called ascriptive because this does not involve any choice on the part of the individual's concerned. It is actually worthless and discriminating. These ascriptive identities are very hard to shake off because irrespective of our efforts to disown them, others may continue to identify us by those very markers of belonging.

Such ascriptive identity is the most deterrant to self-realisation. Expanding and overlapping circles of community ties i.e. family, kinship, caste, ethnicity, language, region or religion give meaning to our world and give us sense of identity, of who we are.

2. How colonial rule facilitated Indian consciousness to emerge? Discuss.

Answer.

1. Colonial rule unified all of Indian for the first time politically and administratively.
2. Colonial rule brought in the forces of modernization and Capitalist economic change.
3. However this economic, political and administrative unification of India under colonial rule was got at great expense.
4. Colonial exploitation and domination scared the whole Indian society in different ways.

5. Colonialism also gave birth to its own enemy—nationalism. The concept of modern Indian nationalism took shape under British Colonialism.

6. The rampant exploitation and the shared experience of colonial domination helped unite and exercise different sections of the Indian society. It also created new classes and communities. The Urban middle classes were the prime carrier of nationalism.

3. State main differences between Sociology and other subjects.

Answer.

1. Sociology is a subject in which no one starts from Zero, as everyone already knows about society. However, other subjects are taught at school, at home or elsewhere.

2. Being an integral part of the process of growing up, knowledge about society seems to be got naturally or automatically.

In case of other subjects, no child is expected to already know something.

3. It means we know a lot about the society in which we live and interact.

As far as other subjects are concerned, prior knowledge is almost negligible.

4. However, this prior knowledge or familiarity with society is both an advantage and disadvantage for sociology.

In the absence of prior knowledge there is no question of advantage or disadvantage in case of other subjects.

4.Explore the concept of 'self-reflexivity' discussed in the text. How does 'self-reflexivity' contribute to a sociological understanding of individuals and society? Provide examples of how individuals can apply 'self-reflexivity' to critically assess their perspectives and biases in social contexts.

Answer:

'Self-reflexivity' is the ability to critically reflect upon oneself, contributing to a sociological understanding. Individuals can apply 'self-reflexivity' to assess biases, acknowledging the influence of their social context. For instance, someone from a privileged background can critically reflect on their perspectives regarding issues like poverty. This process enhances self-awareness and fosters a more nuanced understanding of society.

5.Mentions the need to "unlearn" prior knowledge about society. Elaborate on the reasons for this and provide examples of how common sense can be a limitation in understanding Indian society.

Answer:

The need to "unlearn" in Chapter 1 stems from the idea that prior knowledge, often acquired through common sense, can be biased and partial. Common sense is shaped by one's social group and environment, limiting the understanding of the broader social reality. For instance, if an individual grows up in a specific cultural context, their common sense might be biased towards that culture, hindering a comprehensive sociological perspective. 'Unlearning' becomes essential to overcome these limitations and embrace a more objective viewpoint.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What distinguishes Sociology from many other subjects?

- A. It is primarily based on quantitative data.
- B. It is learned only through explicit teaching.
- C. It is a subject everyone starts with some knowledge about.
- D. It focuses exclusively on individual behavior.

Answer: C. It is a subject everyone starts with some knowledge about.

2. According to Chapter 1, what is the initial stage of learning Sociology mainly about?

- A. Memorization of sociological theories.
- B. Unlearning common sense about society.
- C. Analyzing historical events.
- D. Understanding mathematical models.

Answer: B. Unlearning common sense about society.

3. What does 'self-reflexivity' mean in Sociology?

- A. Focusing only on external societal factors.
- B. Reflecting on personal biases and perspectives.
- C. Studying individual psychology.
- D. Ignoring personal experiences.

Answer: B. Reflecting on personal biases and perspectives.

4. What does 'self-reflexivity' mean in Sociology according to Chapter 1?

- A. Focusing only on external societal factors.
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- C. Ignoring personal experiences.
- D. Studying individual psychology.

Answer: B. Reflecting on personal biases and perspectives.

5. According to C. Wright Mills, what does Sociology help individuals map in Chapter 1?

- A. Personal achievements.
- B. Personal relationships.
- C. Links and connections between personal troubles and social issues.
- D. Historical events.

Answer: C. Links and connections between personal troubles and social issues.

6. How does Chapter 1 describe the advantages and disadvantages of prior knowledge about society in the context of learning Sociology?

- A. It is entirely advantageous.
- B. It is both an advantage and a disadvantage.
- C. It is primarily a disadvantage.
- D. It is always biased.

Answer: B. It is both an advantage and a disadvantage.

7. What does the term 'common sense' refer to in Chapter 1?

- A. Widely accepted sociological theories.
- B. Unbiased knowledge about society.
- C. Prior knowledge acquired without explicit teaching.
- D. Complex mathematical models.

Answer: C. Prior knowledge acquired without explicit teaching.

8. What is the main challenge mentioned in Chapter 1 regarding prior knowledge about society?

- A. It is too complex.
- B. It is too objective.
- C. It is difficult to acquire.
- D. It needs to be 'unlearned.'

Answer: D. It needs to be 'unlearned.'

9. According to Chapter 1, what is the focus of Sociology in introducing individuals to Indian society?

- A. Teaching specific historical events.
- B. Providing personal anecdotes.
- C. Offering a sociological perspective.
- D. Promoting political ideologies.

Answer: C. Offering a sociological perspective.

10. What does 'self-inspection' discussed in Chapter 1 involve?

- A. Focusing only on external societal factors.
- B. Reflecting on personal biases without criticism.
- C. Turning one's gaze inward and being critical of oneself.
- D. Ignoring personal experiences.

Answer: C. Turning one's gaze inward and being critical of oneself.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. In one important sense, Sociology is unlike any other subject that you may have studied. It is a subject in which no one starts from _____ – everyone already knows something about society.

Answer: zero

2. The disadvantage of prior knowledge about society is that, in order to learn Sociology, one needs to _____ what they already know about society.

Answer: unlearn

3. 'Self-reflexivity' is the ability to reflect upon oneself, to turn back one's gaze back towards _____.

Answer: oneself

4. The word 'partial' in Chapter 1 is used in two different senses – incomplete (the opposite of whole) and _____ (the opposite of impartial).

Answer: biased

5. Sociology can show individuals what they look like to others and teach them how to look at themselves 'from the _____,' fostering self-awareness.

Answer: outside

6. A comparable social map would tell individuals where they are located in society based on various social identities such as age, regional or linguistic community, economic class, religious community, caste, or tribe, and other such _____.

Answer: social group

7. Chapter 1 emphasizes that common sense, which is our prior knowledge about society, is acquired from a particular _____.

Answer: viewpoint

8. The initial stage of learning Sociology consists mainly of unlearning because common sense is often _____.

Answer: biased

9. 'Self-reflexivity' encourages individuals to be critical – quick to _____ and slow to praise oneself.

Answer: criticize

10. Chapter 1 suggests that Sociology helps individuals understand their position in society by examining various social identities such as age, regional or linguistic community, economic class, religious community, caste, or tribe, and other such _____.

Answer: social groups