**Sociology Past Paper 2014**  
**Long Questions**

**(Q3) Define the "Social Control”. Explain in detail the various means of social control?**Social control is a general term used to refer to the societal and political machinations employed to manage individual and group behaviors. Once effectively employed, social control provides conformity and compliance to the established rules or laws of a society.There are different types of social control that can be employed. Informal social control is not a set of hard written rules. These controls are expressed in society as norms, mores and customs. People operating within a society are expected to inherently understand and accept these rules, even when they are unspoken, and to behave accordingly. When people deviate from the restrictions imposed by informal social controls, some of the ramifications include disapproval, social discrimination, criticism, shame and ridicule. These types of sanctions are used to curb deviant behavior.

Types of formal social control include laws, rules and orders. These controls are generally written and can change as the needs of society change. The penalties for violating these social controls include fines, incarceration, other legal ramifications and, in extreme cases, death or being ostracized from society. Formal social controls can be manipulated to determine societal norms. These determinations can knowingly force certain citizens, who are deemed undesirable by nonconformity to the norms, to operate outside of a society.

[**Means of social control**](http://www.sociologyguide.com/social-control/means-of-social-control.php)**:**

The means by which individuals are induced or compelled to conform to the usages and life values of the group are so numerous and varied that a classification is not possible. E.A Ross has described a number of means that have been used by social groups throughout the hu-man history to keep individuals under control. The important among them are public opinion, law, custom, religion, morality, personality, folkways and mores. E.C Hayes distinguished between control by sanctions and control by suggestion and imitation. According to him, education is the most effective means of control and the family is the most significant agency.

Karl Mannheim distinguished between direct [means of social control](http://www.sociologyguide.com/social-control/means-of-social-control.php) and indirect [means of social control](http://www.sociologyguide.com/social-control/means-of-social-control.php).

Luther L Bernard distinguished between unconscious and conscious means of control. The most important among the unconscious means of control are custom, tradition and convention. The conscious means of control are those which have been consciously developed and employed by leaders of all types. According to him conscious means of control are more effective than unconscious ones though the influence of the latter also is quite marked. He also talked about exploitative and constructive methods of [social control](http://www.sociologyguide.com/social-control/means-of-social-control.php). Exploitative means are such as punishment, reprisals, intimidation, censorship and repression. Among the constructive means are included revolution, custom, law, education and social reform, on-violent coercion and belief in supernatural forces.

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Some sociologists have classified the social control into informal and formal means. Sympathy, sociability, resentment, the sense of justice, public opinion, folkways and mores are some of the informal means of social control. They are very powerful in primary social groups where interaction is on a personal basis. The effectiveness of the informal means of control though somewhat lessened in modern large communities where in contacts tend to be impersonal may still be observed in small villages. In modern times the in-formal methods have given place to formal ones such as laws, education, coercion and codes.

**(Q5) Explain the various characteristics of Sociology that distinguish it from other disciplines?**Sociology examines social interactions and human society as a whole, while other social sciences focus on more specific areas of social interaction Other social sciences include economics, political science and psychology, among others.

Sociology can be defined as the use of scientific methods to study social change, social life, the social consequences and causes of human behavior, and other human aspects of the world. Psychology, on the other hand, studies individual behavior and the human mind. It focuses on the mental processes of an individual, which are all internal. Additionally, political science is the study of governing countries and groups, while economics focuses on the allocation and production of wealth within a society.

The major characteristics of sociology are that it is a social science because it deals with the social world, and it is a normative discipline because it limits itself to statements about things that exist. It is a pure science because its main goal is to acquire knowledge about humanity.

Other characteristics of sociology are that it is an abstract science as it is interested in the form and patterns of human interactions. It is a generalizing science because it involves the study of the general laws of human interaction.

**Perspectives**

Some of the major theoretical perspectives of sociology include the evolutionary perspective, the functionalist perspective and the conflict perspective. The evolutionary perspective analyzes patterns of change in societies to determine if there are any general sequences. This perspective explains how human societies evolve.

The functionalist perspective views societies as being based on a harmonious organization of values and norms. A functionalist sees society as a stable operating system where each group exists and thrives because it remains functional. The conflict perspective disagrees with the functionalist perspective because it considers society to be in a continuous state of conflict. Conflict theorists believe that the assumed harmony seen by the functionalists is the result of dominant groups imposing their will on other members of society.

**Major Theoretical Perspectives:**

A crucial element in [sociology](http://mass.pakgalaxy.com/sociology-basic-characteristics-theoretical-perspectives-of-sociology.html) is theory. A theory is a statement that organizes a set of concepts in a meaningful way by explaining the relationship between them. A working set of assumptions is called a “perspective,” an “approach,” or sometimes a “paradigm.” If the theory is valid, it will correctly predict that identical relationships will occur in the future if the conditions are identical. In order to study anything, one must begin by making some assumptions about the nature of what is studied. For example, the ancient Greeks believed that the universe was run according to the whims of the gods. By contrast, all scientists assume that the universe is orderly, and operates in certain regular ways which we may be able to discover. Thus. Newton developed the laws of gravity after observing that apples always fall down, never up. Following are some of the theoretical perspectives used in [sociology](http://mass.pakgalaxy.com/sociology-basic-characteristics-theoretical-perspectives-of-sociology.html).

**The Evolutionary Perspective**

It is the earliest theoretical perspective in [sociology](http://mass.pakgalaxy.com/sociology-basic-characteristics-theoretical-perspectives-of-sociology.html). It is based on the work of August Comte (1798-1857) and Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), and offers a satisfying explanation of how human societies originate and grow.

Sociologists using the evolutionary perspective look for patterns of change and development appearing in different societies, to see whether any general sequences can be found. They might wonder, for example, whether industrialization will have the same effects upon the family in developing countries that it seems to have had in Western nations.

**The Interactionist Perspective**

Symbolic interactionists such as G.H. Mead (1863-1931) and C.H. Cooley (1846- 1929) concentrate upon the interaction between individuals and groups. They note that people interact mainly through **symbols**, which include signs, gestures, and most importantly, through written and spoken words. A word has no inherent meaning. It is simply a noise, but it becomes a Word when people reach agreement that this noise carries a special meaning. Thus, “yes,” “no,” “go,” “come,” and thousands of other sounds became symbols as a meaning is attached to each.

Modern interactionists such as Erving Goffman (1959) and Herbert Blumer (1962) emphasize that people do not respond to other people directly; instead, they respond to – clever they imagine other people to he. In human behavior “reality is constructed in people’s minds as they size one another up and guess at the feelings and impulses of one •her. Whether a person is a friend, our enemy, or a stranger is not a characteristic of. Person; that person is, to me. whatever I perceive him as being, at least until I change perception. Whether he is good or bad is measured by my perception of him. Thus, I create reality about him in my own mind, and then 1 react to this reality that I have constructed. This does not mean that all reality is subjective – that it exists only in the – -J. There are objective facts in the universe. The sun, moon, and stars are real, and 11 would be there even if there were no humans to see them. Meanings are given to facts and to human actions by human beings. The symbolic interactionist perspective concentrates upon what meanings people find in other people’s actions, how these meanings are derived, and how others respond to them.

**The Functionalist Perspective**

According to functionalist perspective, the society is working in an organized way, and all the groups living in the society observe values and norms existing in the society. – Society is seen as a stable system and there is a tendency to establish and maintain a “. danced and harmoniously operating system. In this perspective each group or institution fulfills certain functions and persists because it is functional. For example, Jiool educates children and provides training in sports. Family as an institution, provides food and financial support to its members. Marriage, organizes sexual behavior and assures legitimate children.

Social change disrupts the stable equilibrium of the society, but before long a new equilibrium is regained. For example, large families were desired when death rates were high, and large families helped to ensure some survivors. Today, with a lower death rate, large families have become dysfunctional and threaten the welfare of the society. So, a new equilibrium i.e. nuclear family is approaching. Thus, a value or practice which is functional at one time or place may become dysfunctional at another time or place. If a -” articular social change promotes a harmonious equilibrium, it is seemed as functional; if it disrupts the equilibrium, it is dysfunctional; if it has no effects, it’ is nonfunctional.

**The Conflict Perspective**

Although it stems from the work of many scholars, the conflict perspective is most directly based upon the work of Karl Marx (1818-1883), who saw class conflict and class exploitation as the prime moving forces in history. Largely ignored by sociologists for many years, the conflict perspective has recently been revived by C. Wright Mills 1959), Collins 1975) and many others. Where functionalist see the normal state of society as one of stable equilibrium, conflict theorists see society in a continuous state of conflict between groups and classes. Although Marx concentrated upon conflict between classes for ownership of productive wealth, modern conflict theorists take a less narrow view. They see the struggle for power and income as a continuous process but one in’ which many categories of people appear as opponents ~ classes, races, nationalities, and even the sexes. They claim that the “shared values” which functionalist see as the glue holding society together do to really form a true consensus; instead this is an artificial consensus in which the dominant groups or classes impose their values and rules upon the rest of the people. According to them functionalist fail to ask the question, “functionally useful to whom? They accuse functionalist of a conservative bias, in that functionalist assume that this “harmonious equilibrium” is beneficial to everyone, whereas it benefits some and penalizes others. Conflict theorists ask such questions as, “how have the present patterns emerged from the contest between conflicting groups, each seeking its own advantage?” How do the dominant groups and classes achieve and maintain their position of privilege?” “How do they manipulate the institutions of society schools, churches, mass [media](http://mass.pakgalaxy.com/sociology-basic-characteristics-theoretical-perspectives-of-sociology.html), to protect their privileges” “Who benefits and who suffers from the present social arrangements?” “How can society be made more just and humane?”

# (Q6) Discuss the Valuable Services of “August Comte" and Emile Durkheim for the development of sociology?

# What is the main contribution that Auguste Comte made to sociology: Development of Sociology:

Sociology as a science of society originated with August Comte in the nineteenth century. He worked out a general approach to the study of society. He called sociology the “queen of all sciences” and recommended that as the highest of all sciences, it would use the ‘positivist’ method of observation, experimentation and comparison to understand order and promote progress. Sociology as a separate discipline originated with Comte in the middle of nineteenth century. Since then a galaxy of thinkers and scholars have contributed for the development of sociology.

There are four men, however, whom everyone in sociology regardless of his special emphasis, bias, or bent will probably accept as the central figures in the development of modern sociology. They are: August Comte, Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber.

Together, they span the whole of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, during which modern sociology was formed. They represent the main national centres France, England and Germany in which sociology first flourished and in which the modern tradition began. Each exerted a profound personal influence on the conception of sociology as an intellectual discipline.

In the early twentieth century, Durkheim made valuable contributions to sociological theory and method. His theory was fairly systematic and has been highly suggestive for his successor in France and elsewhere. Durkheim was aware that most of the earlier social theorists had neglected the problems of the appropriate method to be used in analyzing social phenomena.

The Rules of Sociological Method, one of the Durkheim’s principal work is specifically concerned with methodological problems.