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UGC NET Paper 2

Sociology (005)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Sociological Theory
02 Research Methodology and Methods
03 Basic Concepts and Institutions
04 Rural and Urban Transformations
05 State, Politics and Development
06 Economy and Society
07 Environment and Society
08 Family, Marriage and Kinship
09 Science, Technology and Society
10 Culture and Symbolic Transformations

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How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Sociological Theory

Classical and modern sociological thinkers and their key concepts.

Thinker	Key concepts
Auguste Comte	Coined 'sociology'; positivism; law of three stages
Émile Durkheim	Social facts; mechanical vs organic solidarity; *Suicide* (1897); anomie
Max Weber	Verstehen; ideal types; *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; three types of authority
Karl Marx	Class struggle; alienation; base and superstructure
Talcott Parsons	AGIL; pattern variables
Robert Merton	Manifest and latent functions; reference group
Erving Goffman	Dramaturgy — *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*
Anthony Giddens	Structuration
Pierre Bourdieu	Habitus; cultural capital

★ Key revision points

- 'Sociology' coined by Comte.
- Anomie and social facts = Durkheim.
- Verstehen = Weber.
- Habitus = Bourdieu.

UNIT 02

Research Methodology and Methods

Approaches, methods and techniques of social research.

- Positivist (quantitative) vs interpretive (qualitative) approaches; mixed methods.
- Methods: survey, participant observation (ethnography), case study, content analysis, oral history.
- Sampling: probability and non-probability (snowball for hidden populations).
- Reliability and validity; triangulation.
- Grounded theory — Glaser and Strauss (1967).

★ Key revision points

- Grounded theory = Glaser and Strauss.
- Triangulation uses several methods or sources.
- Snowball sampling suits hidden populations.
- Participant observation = ethnography.

UNIT 03

Basic Concepts and Institutions

Society, community, groups, status and role, socialisation and social stratification.

Concept	Key point
Community vs society	Tönnies: Gemeinschaft vs Gesellschaft
Primary group	C. H. Cooley — face-to-face, intimate
Looking-glass self	Cooley
Socialisation	G. H. Mead — 'I' and 'me'
Status and role	Ascribed vs achieved status (Linton)
Stratification	Class, status and party (Weber); caste

★ Key revision points

- Gemeinschaft/Gesellschaft = Tönnies.
- Primary group and looking-glass self = Cooley.
- 'I' and 'me' = Mead.
- Ascribed vs achieved status = Linton.

UNIT 04

Rural and Urban Transformations

Village studies, agrarian change, urbanisation and urban sociology.

- Village studies: M. N. Srinivas (dominant caste; Rampura), S. C. Dube (Shamirpet).
- Green Revolution and agrarian change; land reforms.
- Urbanism: Louis Wirth ('Urbanism as a Way of Life', 1938); Chicago School — concentric zone model (Burgess).
- Rural–urban continuum (Redfield); great and little traditions.

★ Key revision points

- Dominant caste = Srinivas.
- Concentric zone model = Burgess.
- Urbanism as a way of life = Wirth.
- Great and little traditions = Redfield.

UNIT 05

State, Politics and Development

Power and the state, theories of development, civil society and social movements.

- Power elite — C. Wright Mills; iron law of oligarchy — Robert Michels.
- Development theories: modernisation (Rostow), dependency (Frank), world-systems (Wallerstein).
- Civil society, NGOs and social movements (old vs new).

★ Key revision points

- Power elite = C. Wright Mills.
- Iron law of oligarchy = Michels.
- World-systems theory = Wallerstein.
- Dependency theory = A. G. Frank.

UNIT 06

Economy and Society

Economic sociology, industrialisation, work and globalisation.

- Polanyi: economy embedded in society (*The Great Transformation*, 1944).
- Durkheim: division of labour; Marx: mode of production; Weber: rational capitalism.
- Post-industrial society — Daniel Bell; network society — Manuel Castells.
- Globalisation and informal labour.

★ Key revision points

- Embeddedness = Polanyi.
- Post-industrial society = Bell.
- Network society = Castells.
- Division of labour = Durkheim.

UNIT 07

Environment and Society

Environmental sociology, movements and sustainable development.

- Risk society — Ulrich Beck.
- Indian environmental movements: Chipko (1973), Narmada Bachao Andolan, Silent Valley.
- Sustainable development — Brundtland Report (1987).
- Tragedy of the commons — Garrett Hardin (1968).

★ **Key revision points**

- Risk society = Beck.
- Chipko began 1973.
- Tragedy of the commons = Hardin (1968).
- Brundtland Report: 1987.

UNIT 08

Family, Marriage and Kinship

Types of family and marriage, kinship theories and change in India.

Concept	Key point
Family types	Nuclear, joint, extended
Marriage rules	Endogamy, exogamy; monogamy, polygamy (polygyny, polyandry)
Descent	Patrilineal, matrilineal, bilateral
Kinship theories	Descent theory (Radcliffe-Brown); alliance theory (Lévi-Strauss)
Indian kinship	Irawati Karve — north and south Indian kinship zones

★ Key revision points

- Alliance theory = Lévi-Strauss.
- Kinship zones of India = Irawati Karve.
- Matrilineal descent through the mother.
- Endogamy = marriage within the group.

UNIT 09

Science, Technology and Society

Sociology of science, technology and digital society.

- Merton's norms of science (CUDOS): communism, universalism, disinterestedness, organised scepticism.
- Kuhn — paradigm shifts (*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 1962).
- Actor-network theory — Latour.
- Digital divide; information society.

★ Key revision points

- CUDOS norms = Merton.
- Paradigm shift = Kuhn (1962).
- Actor-network theory = Latour.
- Digital divide = unequal access to technology.

UNIT 10

Culture and Symbolic Transformations

Culture concepts, Sanskritisation and westernisation, religion and identity.

- Culture: material and non-material; cultural lag (Ogburn).
- **Sanskritisation** and **westernisation** — M. N. Srinivas.
- Little and great traditions; universalisation and parochialisation — McKim Marriott.
- Religion: Durkheim (sacred and profane), Weber (sociology of religion).

★ Key revision points

- Cultural lag = Ogburn.
- Sanskritisation = Srinivas.
- Universalisation/parochialisation = Marriott.
- Sacred and profane = Durkheim.

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