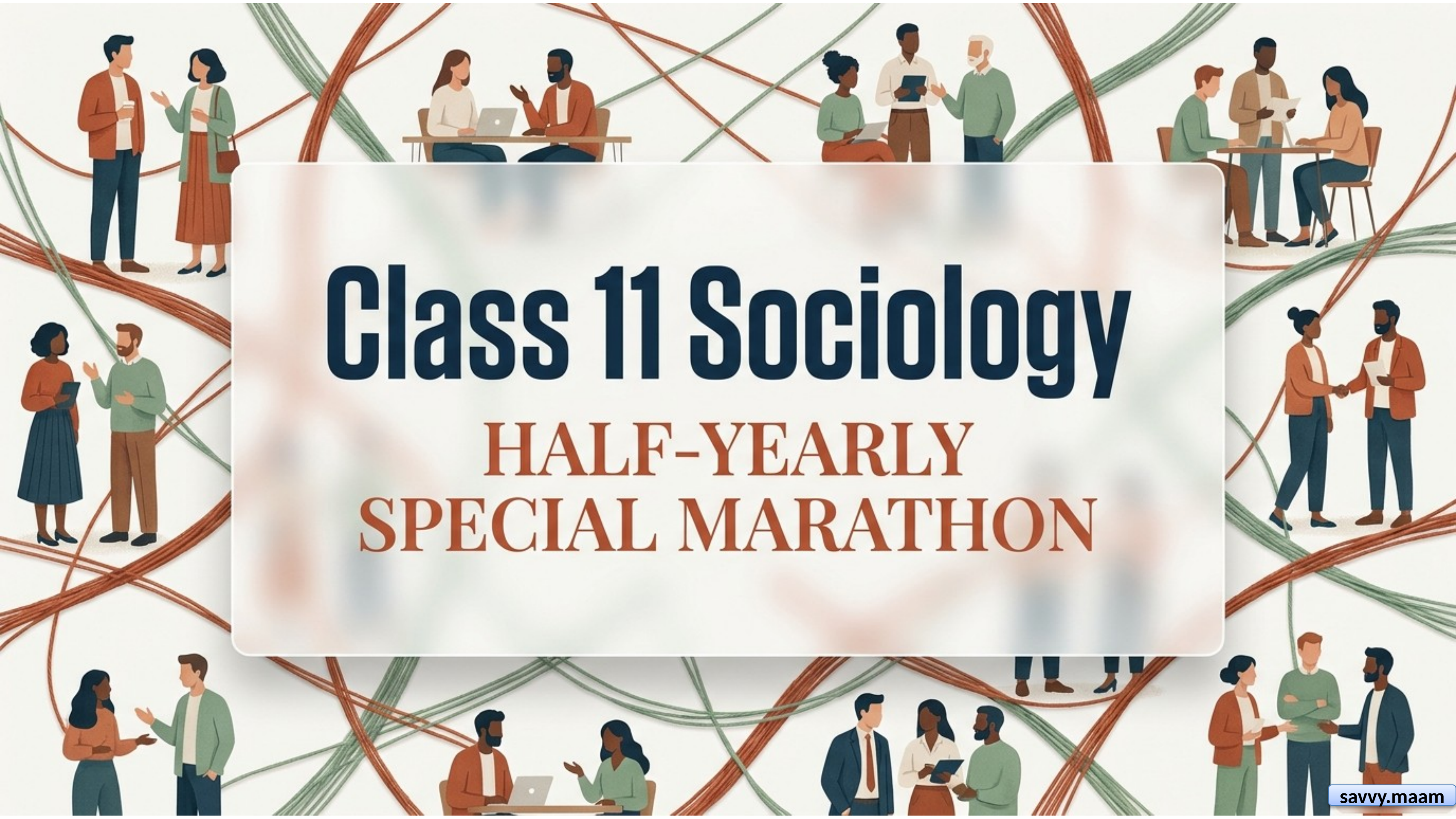


The background of the image is a light gray with a complex network of red and green lines crisscrossing it. These lines represent connections between various groups of people. The people are depicted in a stylized, flat illustration style. They are engaged in various social interactions: some are standing and talking, some are sitting at tables with laptops, and some are shaking hands. The overall theme is social connectivity and community.

Class 11 Sociology

HALF-YEARLY SPECIAL MARATHON

Introducing Sociology



**Sociology and
Society —
10 Marks**



**Terms, Concepts
and Their Use in
Sociology —
10 Marks**



**Understanding
Social
Institutions —
12 Marks**



**Culture and
Socialization —
12 Marks**

**Weightage refers to the overall board-exam allocation, not a fixed half-yearly paper distribution.*



SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIETY

Understanding the Interconnected World



Chapter 1 — Sociology and Society

Introduction to Society

What is Society?

Society refers to a **network/web of social relationships** between individuals and groups. Human beings do not live in isolation; they are connected to one another through social relationships.

- ✓ behaviour
- ✓ choices
- ✓ opportunities
- ✓ beliefs and values
- ✓ way of life

At the same time, individuals can also influence and change society.

Society provides:

- ✓ A framework of social relationships
- ✓ Norms and values that guide behaviour
- ✓ Social institutions such as family, education, economy, politics and religion
- ✓ **Opportunities as well as constraints** for individuals

Individual and Society



Individual choices are important, but they are also shaped by wider social, economic, political and cultural conditions. Therefore, individual life cannot be completely understood separately from society.

Key idea: Society and the individual are interconnected.

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the **systematic study** of human social life, groups and societies. Its subject matter is our behaviour as social beings.

Sociology studies:

- ✓ Social relationships
- ✓ Groups and communities
- ✓ Social institutions
- ✓ Social behaviour
- ✓ Social change
- ✓ Patterns of inequality

Sociology tries to understand society as an **interconnected whole** rather than looking at individuals or events in isolation.

Sociology as a Social Science

Sociology is a social science because it studies society through systematic methods, evidence, concepts and analysis. It is not merely a collection of personal opinions about society.

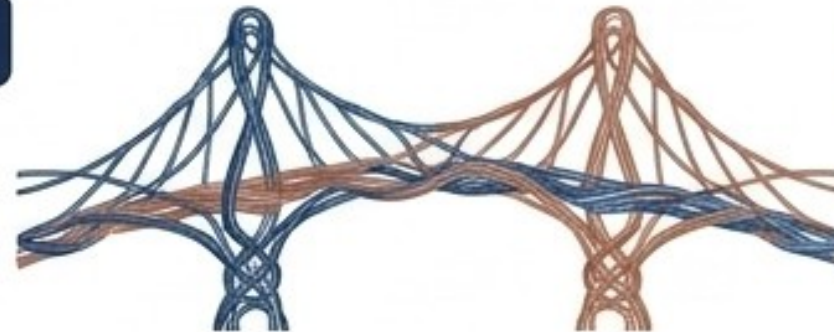
Sociological Imagination C. Wright Mills

C. Wright Mills introduced the concept of **Sociological Imagination**. It helps us understand how history, society and individual biography are connected. It means the ability to connect:

Personal Trouble

A problem experienced by an individual within their immediate surroundings.

Example: One person losing a job → personal trouble



Public Issue

A problem that affects many people and is connected to the structure of society.

Example: Large-scale unemployment caused by economic conditions → **public issue**

Therefore, sociology asks: **How is an individual problem connected to wider social conditions?**



Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G)

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was the earlier rural housing scheme. It was restructured and renamed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) from 2016. The scheme addresses the housing needs of eligible rural households, particularly those who are houseless or living in inadequate houses.

Sociological connection:

A family without proper housing may appear to have a personal problem. But when homelessness or inadequate housing affects large numbers of people, it becomes a **public/social issue**.

Personal problems → Social conditions
→ Public issues → Government response



Pluralities Among Societies

In contemporary society, an individual can belong to more than one society or social group. For example, a person may simultaneously identify with:

-  Indian society
-  A regional community
-  A linguistic community
-  A religious community
-  A caste or tribal community
-  A professional or other social group

Therefore, the meaning of 'our society' changes according to the context.

Key idea: Society is diverse,
overlapping and plural.



Inequalities in Society

Societies are not made up of equally placed individuals. Inequalities may exist in:

- Wealth
- Education
- Employment
- Political power
- Opportunities
- Access to resources
- Social status and respect.

Important distinction:

Plurality = differences among people/groups

Inequality = **unequal access** to resources, opportunities, power or status

Thus, society is characterised by both pluralities and inequalities.

Sociology Different from Philosophy, Religion and Common Sense

Sociology and Philosophical/Religious Reflection



Philosophy/Religion: Societal thought predates sociology.

Questions often focus on:

- Right/Wrong
- Moral/Immoral
- Ideal behavior
- The 'good society'

Key distinction: Philosophy/**Religion:** What ought to be?



Sociology: In contrast, seeks to understand:

- Actual function of norms/values
- Behavior in real situations
- Operation of institutions/relationships

Uses empirical investigation and systematic procedures.

Sociology: What is happening in society, and why?

Sociology and Common Sense



Common Sense:

Explanations are generally:

- Based on everyday experience
- Naturalistic/Individualistic
- Taken for granted
- Often unreflective
- Lacks systematic evidence

Common sense generally does not ask: 'Why do I hold this view?'



Sociology:

- Questions assumptions
- Uses concepts, methods, data
- Relies on evidence
- Systematic procedures
- Seeks hidden patterns

The sociologist asks: 'Is this really so?'

Example: Poverty

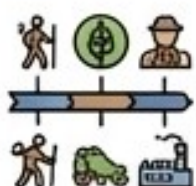
Naturalistic/Common-sense explanation: People are poor due to individual failings: lack of hard work, poor money management, 'problem families', lack of ability/motivation.

Sociological explanation: Poverty is connected to structural factors: structural inequality, unequal class positions, irregular employment, low wages, wider economic conditions.

Key idea: Sociology moves from an individual explanation towards understanding the social structure behind a problem.

The Intellectual Ideas that Went into the Making of Sociology

The emergence of sociology was influenced by major developments in scientific and intellectual thought. Major influences: **Scientific developments, The Enlightenment, Darwin's theory of evolution, Study and classification of different societies, Ideas of social evolution.** These ideas influenced early sociologists such as: **Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Herbert Spencer.**



Social Evolution

Early thinkers and scholars attempted to classify societies into different types and stages.

Pre-modern societies

- (Hunter-gatherer societies
- Pastoral societies
- Agrarian societies
- Agrarian and non-industrial civilisations)

→ **Modern societies**
(Industrialised societies)

Early evolutionary thinking often assumed that Western societies were the most advanced and viewed non-Western societies as less developed.

This idea later became important in understanding the colonial interpretation of Indian society.



Darwin and Sociology

Charles Darwin's ideas about **organic evolution** strongly influenced early sociological thought.

Society was sometimes compared to a living organism:

- Society = System of interconnected parts

Each part could perform a particular function.

This influenced the study of:

- Family
- School
- Other social institutions
- Social stratification



The Enlightenment

The **Enlightenment** was a major European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries.

It emphasised:

- Reason
- Individualism
- **Scientific knowledge**
- Rational understanding of human affairs

There was growing belief that methods of the natural sciences could also be applied to the study of human society.

Example: Poverty was increasingly understood not simply as a natural phenomenon, but as a possible social problem caused by factors such as ignorance or exploitation. This made social problems something that could be studied and addressed.



Auguste Comte

Auguste Comte is regarded as the founder/**Father of Sociology**. He believed that systematic knowledge of society could contribute to the welfare of humanity.

He was strongly influenced by the idea that scientific knowledge could help understand and improve society.

The Material Issues that Went into the Making of Sociology

The emergence of sociology was also connected to major material changes in society. The most important developments were: Industrial Revolution, Capitalism, Industrialisation, Urbanisation, Transformation of work, Emergence of new social classes.

Capitalism & Industrial Revolution



Capitalism is an economic system based on market exchange, private ownership of assets and the means of production, and the pursuit of profit.

Under capitalism:

- Entrepreneurs pursued profit systematically
- Markets became central to economic life
- Goods, services and labour became commodities
- Economic decisions increasingly involved rational calculation

Capitalism became a major driving force behind industrial manufacturing.

The **Industrial Revolution** transformed the organisation of production and work.

Before industrialisation:

- Agriculture and textiles were major occupations
- Most people lived in villages
- Society was relatively small and hierarchical
- Work was closely connected to family, village and guilds
- Social relationships were relatively close

With industrialisation:

- Factories expanded
- Industrial production increased
- Traditional forms of work changed
- A new industrial working class emerged
- Urban centres expanded
- New forms of social interaction developed

Industrialisation, Urbanisation & Changing Nature of Work



Industrialisation led to rapid growth of urban centres.

Industrial cities were characterised by:

- Factories
- Overcrowded working-class neighbourhoods
- Poor sanitation
- Slums
- New forms of social interaction
- Changing class relations

The transformation of work also led to the degradation of labour as work moved away from the traditional protective settings of family, village and guild.

Changing Nature of Work:

Industrial production introduced:

- Division of labour
- Factory discipline
- Fixed working hours
- Greater control over workers
- Clock-time as an important basis of work organisation

Earlier, work rhythms were often shaped by daylight, seasons and social obligations. Factory production increasingly required:

- Fixed hours + punctuality + synchronisation of labour

This represented a major transformation in everyday life.

Why Should We Study the Beginning and Growth of Sociology in Europe?

- Sociology emerged as a distinct discipline during major changes in 18th- and 19th-century Europe. Important developments included:
 - Capitalism
 - Industrialisation
 - Urbanisation
 - Factory production
 - Changing social relationships
 - New forms of inequality and social problems
- These issues were not limited to Europe; many became important for modern societies across the world.
- Why is Europe particularly important for India?
 - Because India's history is closely connected with:
 - **British capitalism** + **Colonialism**
 - Western capitalism expanded globally and transformed societies outside Europe as well.
 - Therefore, studying the European origins of sociology helps us understand:
 - The historical conditions in which sociology emerged
 - The development of its concepts and methods
 - The global expansion of capitalism
 - The colonial experience of societies such as India
 - Key idea: The history of a discipline helps us understand the discipline itself.

Growth of Sociology in India & Social Anthropology

Colonial Context

The development of sociology in India was deeply connected with colonialism. Western sociologists, colonial administrators and scholars produced writings about Indian society. However, these accounts were not always accurate or neutral.

Indian society was often presented as:

- Backward, unchanging, Less developed, A surviving form of an earlier stage of European development
- These views were influenced by evolutionary and colonial ideas.

Indian Sociology and Colonialism

Indian sociology therefore developed in response to:

- Colonial rule, Western interpretations of Indian society, India's own social and cultural realities
- The need to understand Indian society from within its own context

Because of this background, Indian sociology has been particularly reflexive and critical about its own practice.

Key point: Indian sociology cannot be understood separately from the history of colonialism.

Sociology and Social Anthropology in India

In many Western contexts:

Sociology → traditionally focused on modern, complex societies

Social Anthropology → traditionally

focused on simple/non-Western societies

But this distinction does not work neatly in India. India has enormous diversity: Regional, Linguistic, Religious, Ethnic, Caste, Tribal, Rural, Urban. Therefore, in India there is no rigid divide between sociology and social anthropology.

Indian sociologists and social anthropologists have borrowed methods and approaches from both traditions.

Scope of Sociology

The scope of sociology is extremely wide.



Micro level

It can study meaningful interactions between individuals, such as: Shopkeeper and customer, Teacher and student, Two friends, Family members.



National level

It can study: Unemployment, Caste conflict, Rural indebtedness, State policies, Tribal rights.



Global level

It can study: Changing labour systems, Electronic media and young people, Globalisation, Changes in education, Global social processes.



Most important point: The scope of sociology is defined not only by what it studies, but also by how it studies it.

Sociology and Other Social Sciences

Sociology belongs to the group of social sciences. The boundaries between these disciplines are not rigid. They share:

Concepts, Methods, Areas of interest, Research questions. Therefore, an interdisciplinary approach is increasingly important.

Sociology and Economics



Economics primarily studies:

- Production
- Distribution
- Consumption
- Price
- Demand and supply
- Money and markets
- Allocation of scarce resources

Sociology studies economic behaviour within a wider social context.

- Social norms
- Values
- Culture
- Institutions
- Gender
- Social relationships
- Consumption patterns

Economic Sociology studies the relationship between economic processes and social processes.

Key difference: Economics tends to focus more narrowly on economic processes, while sociology examines how economic behaviour is embedded within society.

Sociology and Political Science



Political Science traditionally

focuses on:

- Political theory
- Government
- Administration
- Formal political institutions
- Power within political organisations

Sociology studies:

- Political behaviour
- Power in society
- Power in society
- Political participation
- Voting patterns
- Political organisations
- Relationship between government and wider society

Key difference: Political Science traditionally focuses more on formal political institutions, while Sociology examines politics in relation to wider social relationships and institutions.

Sociology and History



History traditionally focuses on:

- Past events
- Historical processes
- Concrete details
- What happened and when

Sociology often focuses on:

- Social patterns
- Social relationships
- Structures
- Causes and connections
- Categorisation and generalisation

Today, the two disciplines increasingly overlap, especially through social history.

Sociology and Psychology



Psychology primarily studies the individual, including:

- Intelligence
- Learning
- Memory
- Motivation
- Hopes and fears
- Behaviour

Sociology studies behaviour as it is organised in society.

Students are influenced by:

- Family and kinship
- Culture
- Norms and values
- Economic system
- Political system

Social Psychology acts as a bridge between Psychology and Sociology by studying the individual in a social context.

Sociology and Social Anthropology



Traditional distinction:

Sociology → Study of modern/complex societies.

Social Anthropology → Study of simple/non-literate societies.

Traditional methods:

Social Anthropology: Long-term fieldwork, Living within the community, Ethnographic methods, Holistic study

Sociology: Surveys, Questionnaires, Statistics, Quantitative data

Today: The distinction has become much less rigid. Both disciplines increasingly use: Quantitative methods, Qualitative methods, Micro approaches, Macro approach. In India, sociology and social anthropology have a particularly close relationship.

Chapter 1 – Sociology and Society Question Answers

VERY SHORT / MCQs

1. Who is regarded as the Father of Sociology?

- A. Karl Marx
- B. Herbert Spencer
- C. Auguste Comte
- D. C. Wright Mills

Answer: C. Auguste Comte

2. Who introduced the concept of Sociological Imagination?

- A. Karl Marx
- B. C. Wright Mills
- C. Auguste Comte
- D. Herbert Spencer

Answer: B. C. Wright Mills

3. Which intellectual movement emphasised reason and individualism?

- A. Industrial Revolution
- B. Enlightenment
- C. Capitalism
- D. Colonialism

Answer: B. Enlightenment

4. Which of the following best describes Sociology?

- A. Study of individual psychology only
- B. Systematic study of social life, groups and societies
- C. Study of only political institutions
- D. Study of only economic activities

Answer: B. Systematic study of social life, groups and societies

5. Which of the following is an example of a public issue rather than a personal trouble?

- A. One student failing an examination
- B. One person losing a job
- C. Large-scale unemployment in a country
- D. One person having financial difficulties

Answer: C. Large-scale unemployment in a country

6. Which development played an important role in the emergence of Sociology?

- A. Industrial Revolution
- B. Industrialisation
- C. Capitalism
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. All of the above

7. Sociology primarily studies human beings as:

- A. Biological organisms
- B. Political voters
- C. Social beings
- D. Economic consumers

Answer: C. Social beings

8. The Enlightenment primarily encouraged:

- A. Superstition and tradition
- B. Reason and scientific thinking
- C. Isolation from society
- D. Rejection of scientific knowledge

Answer: B. Reason and scientific thinking

9. Indira Awaas Yojana was restructured and renamed as:

- A. PMAY-Urban
- B. PMAY-Gramin
- C. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- D. Swachh Bharat Mission

Answer: B. PMAY-Gramin

10. Sociology and Social Anthropology have particularly close links in:

- A. India
- B. France
- C. Britain
- D. Germany

Answer: A. India

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is Society?

Answer: **Society** is a network/web of social relationships connecting individuals and groups. It provides a framework of norms, values, institutions and relationships within which people live. Society influences individuals, while individuals can also contribute to social change.

2. What is Sociology?

Answer: Sociology is the systematic study of human social life, groups and societies. It studies social relationships, institutions, social behaviour, social structures, inequalities and social change.
Exam keyword: **social beings**

3. What is meant by Sociological Imagination?

Answer: **Sociological Imagination**, a concept associated with C. Wright Mills, is the ability to connect personal experiences with wider social conditions. It helps us understand how individual lives are connected to society, history and social structures.

3. What is meant by Sociological Imagination?

4. Differentiate between a Personal Trouble and a Public Issue.

Personal Trouble	Public Issue
Experienced mainly by an individual.	Affects a large number of people.
Connected to an individual's immediate circumstances.	Connected to wider social structures and conditions.
Example: One person losing a job.	Example: Large-scale unemployment.

Key idea: **Sociological imagination** connects the two.

5. How is Sociology different from Common Sense?

Answer: **Common sense** is generally based on everyday experience and taken-for-granted assumptions. **Sociology**, however, uses a systematic, questioning and evidence-based approach. Therefore, sociology does not simply accept what appears obvious; it asks why and how social realities exist.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

6. What is Capitalism?

Answer: **Capitalism** is an economic system in which markets, private ownership and the pursuit of profit play a central role in production. It contributed significantly to the development of industrial manufacturing and changing class and work relations.

7. Mention the major intellectual influences on the emergence of Sociology.

Answer: Major intellectual influences included: **Enlightenment, Development of scientific thinking, Darwin's theory of evolution, Classification of different types of societies, Ideas of social evolution.** These influenced early sociologists such as Auguste Comte, Karl Marx and Herbert Spencer.

8. Mention the major material factors responsible for the emergence of Sociology.

Answer: The major material factors were: **Industrial Revolution, Capitalism, Industrialisation, Urbanisation, Transformation of work, Emergence of new social classes, New forms of inequality** and social problems.

9. What is the scope of Sociology?

Answer: The scope of sociology is extremely wide. It ranges from small interactions between individuals to national issues such as unemployment and caste conflict, and global processes such as **globalisation**, changing labour systems and electronic media.

10. Why are Sociology and Social Anthropology closely related in India?

Answer: India has great social and cultural diversity, including caste, tribe, religion, language and regional communities. Therefore, the rigid distinction between Sociology and Social Anthropology does not fit the Indian context neatly. Both disciplines have contributed to the study of Indian society.

LONG-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Explain the major factors responsible for the emergence of Sociology.

Answer: Sociology emerged as a distinct discipline in Europe during a period of major intellectual and material transformation.

Intellectual factors: The Enlightenment emphasised reason, individualism and scientific thinking. Developments in modern science encouraged systematic study of human affairs. Darwin's theory of evolution influenced early ideas about social evolution. Scholars began classifying societies into different types and stages.

Material factors: The Industrial Revolution transformed production and work. Capitalism expanded markets and profit-oriented production. Industrialisation and urbanisation changed people's everyday lives. A new industrial working class emerged. New forms of inequality and social problems developed.

These changes created the need to understand society through systematic and empirical study, contributing to the emergence of Sociology.

2. Explain the difference between Sociology and Common Sense.

Answer: Common sense is based largely on everyday experiences, familiar beliefs and taken-for-granted assumptions. It may provide explanations without systematically examining their validity. Sociology takes a more systematic, critical and evidence-based approach. For example, common sense may explain poverty by saying that poor people simply do not work hard. Sociology looks beyond the individual and examines factors such as social inequality, employment opportunities, wages and wider economic structures. Thus, sociology encourages us to question what appears obvious and examine social reality using evidence and sociological concepts.

3. Explain the growth of Sociology in India.

Answer: The growth of Sociology in India took place within the historical context of colonialism. During colonial rule, Western scholars and colonial administrators studied Indian society. Their accounts sometimes portrayed India as backward, unchanging and less developed, reflecting colonial and evolutionary assumptions. Indian sociology developed partly in response to these interpretations. Indian scholars sought to understand Indian society through its own social, cultural and historical realities. India's enormous diversity in caste, tribe, religion, language, region and rural-urban life also shaped sociological research. As a result, Sociology and Social Anthropology developed a particularly close relationship in India.

LONG-ANSWER QUESTIONS

4. Discuss the relationship between Sociology and other Social Sciences.

Answer: Sociology is closely related to other social sciences because social reality cannot always be divided into completely separate areas. **Economics** studies production, distribution and consumption, while Sociology examines economic behaviour in its wider social context. **Political Science** focuses traditionally on government, political institutions and power, while Sociology examines political processes in relation to wider society. **History** studies past events and processes, while Sociology focuses on social patterns, structures and relationships. **Psychology** mainly studies the individual, while Sociology examines behaviour in relation to social conditions and institutions. **Social Anthropology** studies social and cultural life and overlaps significantly with Sociology, especially in India. Thus, the boundaries between social sciences are not rigid, and an interdisciplinary approach helps in understanding society more completely.

5. Explain the concept of Sociological Imagination with an example.

Answer: Sociological Imagination, associated with C. Wright Mills, means connecting an individual's personal experiences with wider social and historical conditions. For example, if one person loses their job, it may initially appear to be a personal trouble. However, if millions of people are unemployed because of an economic recession or changes in the labour market, unemployment becomes a public issue. Sociological imagination helps us understand that individual experiences are often connected to larger social structures and historical processes.

 **Remember: Personal Trouble ↔ Public Issue**

6. Explain the scope of Sociology.

Answer: The scope of Sociology is extremely wide. At the **micro level**, it can study everyday interactions between individuals, such as relationships between friends, family members, teachers and students. At the **national level**, it can study issues such as unemployment, caste conflict, rural problems and state policies. At the **global level**, it can examine globalisation, changing labour systems, electronic media and changes in education. Therefore, Sociology can study both small-scale interactions and large-scale social processes. Its scope is also determined by the way it systematically studies social reality.