



The Savvy Humanities

SIMPLIFYING MINDS, SHAPING THINKERS

CLASS 11 · SOCIOLOGY · CBSE 2026-27 SYLLABUS

Book 1 — Introducing Sociology · Chapter 1

Sociology, Society and its Relationship with other Social Sciences

36

pages of notes

10

marks of 80

16

board questions solved

27

key terms defined

What's inside

- Personal troubles and public issues, made clear
- Sociology vs common sense — the poverty table
- Sociology's roots, ideas and conditions, in one table
- How sociology grew differently in India
- All five neighbouring disciplines compared
- MCQs, passage-based and long answers, all solved

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Founder & Educator, The Savvy Humanities. Class 12 CBSE boards: 95% Psychology, 95% Sociology, 97% Political Science. Teaching Humanities on YouTube since 2023.

Handwritten-style, for revision

Every page inside is handwritten-style with highlighting, boxes and a mind map — built to be read the night before, not skimmed.



Chapter at a Glance — Mind Map

Sociology, Society and its Relationship with other Social Sciences

Individual and Society

- Four pieces of advice to a student
- Personal effort matters but does not decide
- Job market, gender, family background
- Individual and society dialectically linked

Many Societies, Unequal

- We belong to more than one society
- Satyajit Ray's three choices
- Muli at the tea shop
- Amartya Sen on kinds of inequality

Not Common Sense

- Naturalistic and individualistic explanation
- The poverty table
- Common sense is unreflective
- Ask — is this really so?

Material Roots

- Industrial Revolution and capitalism
- Degradation of labour
- Urbanisation and the factory
- Clock-time — time is money

Sociological Imagination

- C. Wright Mills, 1959
- Personal troubles of the milieu
- Public issues of social structure
- Homelessness as a public issue

What Sociology Is

- Study of human social life, groups, societies
- Norms as they work, not as they ought to be
- Empirical — the sociologist as a spy
- Bound by scientific canons

Intellectual Roots

- Evolution and types of society
- Darwin — society as an organism
- Enlightenment — reason, individualism
- Comte, founder of sociology

Scope and Neighbours

- Individual, national and global levels
- Not what it studies but how
- Economics, political science, history
- Psychology and social anthropology



The sociological imagination — C. Wright Mills

"C. Wright Mills rests his vision of the sociological imagination precisely in the unravelling of how the personal and public are related."

Definition

The sociological imagination, in Mills' words (1959): it "enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society. That is its task and promise."

Mills' central distinction is between *"the personal troubles of the milieu"* and *"the public issues of social structure"*.

Personal troubles of the milieu	Public issues of social structure
<i>"occur within the character of the individual and within the range of his immediate relations with others"</i>	<i>"have to do with matters that transcend these local environments of the individual and the range of his inner life"</i>
<i>Concern the self and "those limited areas of social life of which he is directly and personally aware"</i>	<i>Concern the structure of society as a whole</i>
<i>Example: one student worried about a subject choice</i>	<i>Example: the same worry felt by students "as a collective entity"</i>

Mills' own examples show how a public change enters private lives:

- "When a society is industrialised, a peasant becomes a worker; a feudal lord is liquidated or becomes a businessman."*
- "When wars happen, an insurance salesman becomes a rocket launcher; a store clerk, a radar man; a wife lives alone; a child grows up without a father."*

His conclusion: *"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both."*

**2 marks** BOARD PATTERN

What is meant by a naturalistic explanation? Give an example.

Model answer

A naturalistic explanation rests on the assumption that one can identify '**natural**' reasons for behaviour, and most common-sense explanations work this way. Example: people are poor because they are afraid of work, come from 'problem families' or cannot budget properly. The cause is placed inside the individual rather than in the structure of society.

2 marks BOARD PATTERN

Why does the textbook call common sense "unreflective"?

Model answer

Because common sense **does not question its own origins** — it never asks itself, "Why do I hold this view?" A sociologist, by contrast, must be ready to ask of any belief about ourselves, no matter how cherished, "is this really so?" That questioning approach comes from the tradition of scientific investigation.

2 marks BOARD PATTERN

State any two ways in which sociology differs from history.

Model answer

1. **Time** — historians almost as a rule study the past; sociologists are more interested in the contemporary or recent past.
2. **Method and aim** — history studies concrete details and establishes how events actually happened, while the sociologist is more likely to **abstract, categorise and generalise**, and to seek causal relationships.



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pages in this sample

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