

SOCIOLOGY (Code: 039)
Sample Paper 1 — Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This question paper is divided into four sections.
2. There are 35 questions in all. All questions are compulsory.
3. Section A includes Question No. 1-16. These are MCQ-type questions carrying 1 mark each.
4. Section B includes Question No. 17-25. These are Very Short Answer type questions carrying 2 marks each. Answers should not exceed 30 words.
5. Section C includes Question No. 26-32. These are Short Answer type questions carrying 4 marks each. Answers should not exceed 80 words.
6. Section D includes Question No. 33-35. These are Long Answer type questions carrying 6 marks each. Answers should not exceed 200 words each.
7. Question No. 33 is to be answered with the help of the given data table.

SECTION A

[1 × 16 = 16 Marks]

1. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Rising incomes and new employment opportunities in cities are changing consumption patterns even in villages far from any city.

Reason (R): Sanskritisation alone explains why rural consumption patterns are becoming similar to urban ones.

- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false and R is true.

2. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Some scholars argue there is no single, coherent basis for treating all tribes as an unchanging, "original" category.

Reason (R): They suggest that many groups labelled "tribal" today emerged as a distinct category through contact between pre-existing states and non-state groups.

- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false and R is true.

3. A state whose Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen below the replacement level is likely to see, over time:

- a) A fall in the proportion of children in the 0-14 age group
- b) A rise in the crude birth rate
- c) No change at all in the dependency ratio
- d) A fall in the median age of the population

4. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Almost all companies today, including government-owned ones, use some form of outsourcing or contracting.

Reason (R): Work under outsourcing arrangements is always as secure and well-protected as regular employment.

- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false and R is true.

5. Which of the following is NOT correct about varna?

- a) Varna is described in ancient Sanskrit texts as a four-fold division of society.
- b) There are four varnas.
- c) Varna literally means colour.
- d) Panchamas were treated as a fifth varna, on equal footing with the other four.

6. The reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis after independence is generally seen to have served India's unity because:

- a) It recognised popular linguistic sentiment and reduced the risk of language-based conflict.
- b) It created entirely self-sufficient, isolated provinces cut off from each other.
- c) It permanently ruled out any future demand for separate states.
- d) It replaced all regional languages with a single national language.

7. Managing cultural diversity can be especially challenging because:

- a) Cultural identities rarely succeed in mobilising large numbers of people.
- b) Steps taken to address one community's grievance can be seen as unfair by another community.
- c) Communities across India never share common festivals or practices.
- d) Cultural diversity has no bearing on political demands.

8. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Savitribai Phule co-founded some of India's earliest schools for girls in the nineteenth century.

Reason (R): She believed that education was central to challenging both caste-based and gender-based exclusion.

- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false and R is true.

9. Legislation alone is often unable to transform society because:

- a) Existing laws have already eliminated all forms of social discrimination.
- b) New forms of exclusion and discrimination keep emerging, so sustained social awareness and mobilisation are also needed.
- c) Only the State can ever be responsible for ending social exclusion.
- d) Courts have no role in interpreting social legislation.

10. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Since the 1990s, the Indian government has followed a policy of economic liberalisation.

Reason (R): Under this policy, licences are no longer compulsorily required to set up most kinds of industries.

- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false and R is true.

Read the passage given below:

Sociology has, from its very beginnings, treated social movements as central to its subject matter. The French Revolution grew out of movements aimed at overthrowing monarchy in the name of liberty, equality and fraternity, while in Britain the industrial revolution brought about major social upheaval.

11. Based on the passage above, why are social movements an important subject matter for sociology?

- a) They were historically dismissed as marginal disturbances rather than serious objects of study.
- b) They have never resulted in any lasting institutional change.
- c) They are always directed exclusively against a single ruler.
- d) Sociologists have long treated them as central to understanding large-scale social and political change.

12. Which of the following is NOT true regarding the classification of social movements?

- a) Social movements are commonly grouped into redemptive, reformative and revolutionary types.
- b) Most real-world movements combine features of more than one type.
- c) A purely redemptive movement seeks to transform the individual, without necessarily changing the wider social structure.
- d) Every social movement fits neatly into only one of the three types, with no overlap at all.

Read the passage given below:

The Constitution of India recognises that groups other than the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may also suffer social disadvantage. Such groups, generally identified by caste though not defined by caste alone, were described as "socially and educationally backward classes" — the constitutional basis for what is popularly known today as the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

13. Based on the passage above, which of the following is NOT true about OBCs?

- a) They are distinct both from the "forward" castes and from Dalits.
- b) Upper OBCs are often landed castes with local dominance in rural society.
- c) The category of OBC applies only to Hindu communities.
- d) OBCs form a more internally diverse group than the Scheduled Castes.

14. Arrange the following in the correct chronological order and choose the correct option:

1. The Kalelkar Commission submitted its report on backward classes.
2. The Mandal Commission submitted its report.
3. The government decided to implement the by-then decade-old Mandal Commission report.
4. The OBC issue became a major issue in national politics.

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4
- b) 2, 1, 3, 4
- c) 1, 3, 2, 4
- d) 4, 3, 2, 1

15. Which of the following is true regarding nation-states?

- a) Nation-states are closely linked to the historical rise of nationalism.
- b) Nation-states are a feature found only in pre-modern societies.
- c) Citizens of nation-states do not hold sovereign authority.
- d) Nation-states have no association with democratic government.

16. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): In regions with concentrated tribal populations, socio-economic conditions are often worse than for non-tribal populations nearby.

Reason (R): Patterns of resource extraction that intensified in the colonial period have, in various forms, continued into the postcolonial period as well.

- a) A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false and R is true.

SECTION B

Very Short Answer Type Questions

[2 × 9 = 18 Marks]

17. Malthus argued that population tends to grow faster than the earth's capacity to produce food, so that war, disease and other checks on population growth become unavoidable. Explain why the Malthusian theory of population is regarded as pessimistic.

18.A. Some sociologists argue that a person is made "disabled" less by their biological condition and more by how society is organised, for instance through inaccessible buildings and unhelpful attitudes. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons.

OR

18.B. It is sometimes assumed that the campaign for women's rights in India was led entirely by male reformers, and that ideas of women's equality are a foreign import. Is this assumption accurate? Give reasons for your answer.

19. "Some traditional rural occupations have declined, while growing interconnection between rural and urban economies has led to a more diverse range of occupations." Is this statement valid? Give reasons.

20. Give two reasons in support of the claim that India has successfully established itself as a democratic nation-state.

21. "Social stratification is supported by patterns of belief, or ideology." Explain the meaning of this statement in your own words.

22.A. Who are minorities, in the sociological sense of the term?

OR

22.B. What is the dominant trend that has marked Indian nationalism?

23. "Social exclusion and discrimination are often discussed as though they relate only to unequal economic resources." How would you show that this view is incomplete?

24. "As an industry becomes more mechanised, fewer workers are employed, but those who remain must work at the pace set by the machine." What would happen if workers were required to keep pace with the machine in this way?

25. "How a social movement is perceived and classified is always a matter of interpretation; this can differ from one section of society to another." Illustrate with an example.

SECTION C

Short Answer Type Questions

[4 × 7 = 28 Marks]

26. "The large-scale circulation of labour has had several significant effects on rural society, in both the regions that send and the regions that receive migrant workers." State two effects each for the receiving region and the supplying region.
27. "India's independence in 1947 marked a major, but ultimately only partial, break with the colonial past." Justify this statement.
28. Illustrate the crucial importance of civil society in ensuring that the state remains accountable to the nation and its people.
29. Westernisation involves the imitation of external forms of a culture. Is this the only kind of westernisation? Give reasons for your answer.
30. Agricultural development since the 1960s altered the rural social structure and also contributed to the expansion of the urban middle classes. Illustrate how the rural social structure changed as a result, and how this contributed to the growth of the urban middle class.
- 31.A. "Just as manufacturing boomed in Britain, traditional exports of cotton and silk goods from India declined." Explain the reason behind this statement.

OR

- 31.B. "Western colonialism was closely tied to the growth of western capitalism, which left a lasting impact on how capitalism developed in a colonised country like India." Justify this statement.
32. "One of the most significant, yet paradoxical, changes in the caste system in the contemporary period is that it has tended to become 'invisible' for the upper caste, urban middle and upper classes." Justify this statement.

SECTION D

Long Answer Type Questions

[6 × 3 = 18 Marks]

33. Answer the questions given below based on the data table shown here:

Table: The Declining Sex Ratio in India, 1901-2011

Year	Sex ratio (all age groups)	Variation over previous decade	Child sex ratio (0-6 years)	Variation over previous decade
1901	972	-	-	-
1911	964	-8	-	-
1921	955	-9	-	-
1931	950	-5	-	-
1941	945	-5	-	-
1951	946	+1	-	-
1961	941	-5	976	-
1971	930	-11	964	-12
1981	934	+4	962	-2
1991	927	-7	945	-17
2001	933	+6	927	-18
2011	943	+10	919	-8

Note: Sex ratio = number of females per 1000 males. Data on child sex ratio not available before 1961.
Source: Census of India 2011, Government of India.

(a) What could be the consequences of a gender imbalance in the population?

[4]

(b) Give reasons for the declining sex ratio in India before 2001.

[2]

NOTE: Question 33 for candidates with Visual Impairment, in lieu of the data table above:

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

From 972 females per 1000 males at the start of the twentieth century, India's sex ratio had declined to 933 by the start of the twenty-first century. The trend over the final decades of the twentieth century was particularly worrying: from 941 in 1961, the sex ratio fell to an all-time low of 927 in 1991, before a modest recovery to 933 in 2001. According to the 2011 Census, the sex ratio has since risen to 943 females per 1000 males.

(a) What could be the consequences of a gender imbalance in the population?

[4]

(b) Give reasons for the declining sex ratio in India before 2001.

[2]

34. "Since the 1990s, the government has followed a policy of liberalisation." Discuss the changes brought about in Indian industry as a result of globalisation.

35. List and explain the main features of social movements.

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Sample Paper 1 — Marking Scheme / Solutions

SECTION A — Answer Key with Justification

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
1	c	A is true but R is false	Rising exposure to urban lifestyles is real, but it is mainly mass media and communication, not Sanskritisation, that explains this spread of urban consumption patterns.
2	a	Both true, R explains A	This is the exact argument some scholars make: tribes are not a fixed, ancient category but a 'secondary' one shaped by contact between states and non-state groups.
3	a	Fall in 0-14 age group share	A below-replacement TFR means fewer births relative to the population, which over time reduces the proportion of children in the youngest age group.
4	c	A is true but R is false	Outsourcing is indeed widespread, but work under such arrangements is often precarious and less protected, not equally secure as regular employment.
5	d	Statement d is incorrect	Panchamas were historically placed outside and below the four-fold varna order, not treated as a fifth varna within it.
6	a	Recognised linguistic sentiment	Linguistic reorganisation is generally seen as accommodating popular identity, reducing (not creating) the risk of conflict.
7	b	Steps for one group may seem unfair to another	Because cultural claims often compete, addressing one community's demand can be perceived as bias by another.
8	a	Both true, R explains A	Savitribai Phule's educational work is well documented, and her motivation was explicitly to challenge caste and gender exclusion.
9	b	New forms of exclusion keep emerging	Laws alone cannot address exclusion that continually adapts, so sustained social campaigns remain necessary.
10	a	Both true, R explains A	Delicensing of most industries was a core feature of the 1990s liberalisation policy, directly explaining the assertion.
11	d	Central to understanding social/political change	The passage shows sociology treating movements like the French and Industrial Revolutions as central, not marginal, to its subject matter.
12	d	Statement d is incorrect	Most real movements are, in fact, a mix of redemptive, reformative and revolutionary elements rather than fitting one type exclusively.
13	c	Statement c is incorrect	OBCs are not confined to Hinduism; the category includes backward classes among other religious communities as well.
14	a	1, 2, 3, 4	The Kalelkar Commission reported first (1955), followed by the Mandal Commission

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
			report (1980), the decision to implement it (1990), and its emergence as a major national issue thereafter.
15	a	Linked to rise of nationalism	Nation-states are a modern political form closely tied historically to the rise of nationalist movements.
16	a	Both true, R explains A	Continued patterns of resource extraction from the colonial period into the present directly explain the persistence of tribal disadvantage.

SECTION B — Very Short Answer Type (2 marks each)

17. The Malthusian theory is pessimistic because it holds that population, if unchecked, grows faster than food supply can expand, so that some form of suffering (famine, disease or war) is inevitable to bring numbers back in line with resources; it offers little hope that human ingenuity or institutions can avoid this outcome, treating apparently permanent human vices and disasters as the only reliable checks. [2]

18.A. Agree: this reflects the social model of disability. A person's impairment need not itself be disabling; it becomes so when the built environment (stairs, narrow doorways) and social attitudes (indifference, exclusion) fail to accommodate them, so the "disability" is substantially produced by society's lack of provision, not by biology alone. [2]

OR

18.B. The assumption is not accurate: many nineteenth- and twentieth-century Indian women, not only male reformers, actively wrote and campaigned for women's rights, and ideas around gender equality were also debated and reshaped within indigenous religious and social traditions, not simply imported from the West. [2]

19. Yes, this is valid: traditional occupations like farm labour or village crafts have indeed declined in many areas, but closer rural-urban links, through commuting, remittances and non-farm enterprises, have created a wider range of livelihood options than before. [2]

20. Two reasons: (i) India has held regular, free and largely fair elections at multiple levels of government since independence; (ii) diverse linguistic, religious and regional groups have generally found political accommodation within the federal structure rather than seceding or resorting to sustained civil war. [2]

21. This means that unequal positions in society are not maintained by force alone; they are also upheld because people widely accept certain beliefs (about merit, tradition or duty) that make existing inequalities appear natural, justified or inevitable. [2]

22.A. In sociology, minorities are groups that are numerically smaller than the dominant group in a given society and typically hold less political and social power, regardless of the specific religion, language or ethnicity involved. [2]

OR

22.B. Indian nationalism has been marked by an inclusive, accommodative trend, seeking unity across the country's many religious, linguistic and regional communities rather than defining the nation around a single group. [2]

23. This view is incomplete because exclusion also operates through social practices such as untouchability, restrictions on entry to temples or public spaces, and everyday discrimination, none of which are reducible to income or wealth alone. [2]

24. Workers would face intensified physical and mental strain, since the machine's pace does not adjust to human fatigue, potentially increasing accidents, exhaustion and stress even as fewer workers are needed overall. [2]

25. For example, a movement demanding land rights may be seen by participants as a just struggle for livelihood, while authorities may label the same movement as a law-and-order problem, showing how classification depends on the observer's position. [2]

SECTION C — Short Answer Type (4 marks each)

26. Effects on the receiving region (any two, 1 mark each): (i) an inflow of low-cost labour supports urban industry, construction and services; (ii) it can create pressure on urban housing, sanitation and civic infrastructure.

Effects on the supplying region (any two, 1 mark each): (i) remittances sent back can support household consumption and investment; (ii) the loss of working-age members can strain agricultural labour supply and change local family structures. [4]

27. 1947 was a major break because India became a sovereign, democratic republic with its own constitution, universal franchise and the formal end of colonial political control. Yet it was only a partial break because colonial-era administrative structures, laws, land revenue systems and economic patterns (such as continued reliance on primary-commodity exports) persisted well beyond independence, and social hierarchies such as caste and class inequality were not automatically dismantled. [4]

28. Civil society, made up of voluntary associations, the press, NGOs and citizens' groups, plays a crucial role by monitoring government actions, publicising abuses of power, mobilising public opinion and organising legal or political challenges when the state fails in its duties, thereby creating pressure for accountability that elections alone may not provide. [4]

29. No, imitation of external forms (dress, food, language) is only one, more visible, kind of westernisation. It also includes deeper changes such as adopting western ideas of individualism, secular rationality, and new institutions like modern education, science and law, which reshape values and social organisation rather than just outward appearance. [4]

30. Agricultural development, especially the Green Revolution, increased yields and incomes for some cultivating castes, strengthening their economic and political power in rural areas, while also displacing some traditional tenant and labouring relationships. As agricultural surpluses grew, these newly prosperous rural groups invested in education, trade and property in towns, and their children increasingly took up urban professions, feeding into and expanding the ranks of the urban middle class. [4]

31.A. British manufacturing, especially textiles, was protected and promoted through tariffs and colonial policy that favoured British goods, while Indian handicraft and textile producers lost their traditional export markets and were increasingly undercut by cheaper machine-made British imports even within India itself. [4]

OR

31.B. Colonialism was not separate from capitalism's growth in the West; colonies supplied raw materials and captive markets that fuelled industrial capitalism in Europe, while simultaneously colonial policy restructured colonised economies (like India's) to serve these needs, resulting in a distorted, dependent pattern of capitalist development that persisted even after independence. [4]

32. For upper-caste, urban middle and upper-class Indians, caste today often operates informally, through networks, marriage alliances and cultural capital, without the visible markers (occupation, dress, overt discrimination) that once marked caste identity publicly. This lets such groups experience and perceive caste as declining in importance, even though it continues to structure opportunity and status, particularly for those at the lower end of the hierarchy who still face overt caste-based exclusion. [4]

SECTION D — Long Answer Type (6 marks each)

33.(a) Consequences of gender imbalance (any four, 1 mark each): a shortage of marriageable women in some regions, leading to distorted marriage markets and practices like bride-trafficking or cross-region marriages; increased vulnerability and reduced bargaining power for women where they are scarce, rather than automatically higher status; long-term skewing of the population's age and sex structure; and social tension linked to competition over marriage partners in badly affected regions. [4]

33.(b) Reasons for the declining sex ratio before 2001 (any two, 1 mark each): a strong cultural preference for sons, linked to inheritance, lineage and old-age support; neglect of girl children in nutrition and healthcare relative to boys; and the availability and misuse of prenatal sex-determination technology enabling sex-selective abortion. [2]

34. Changes in Indian industry as a result of globalisation:

- Delicensing removed the requirement for government permission to set up most industries, encouraging private investment and new entrants.
- Foreign direct investment and collaboration increased, bringing new technology, capital and management practices into Indian industry.
- Greater competition from imports and multinational firms pushed many domestic firms to restructure, modernise or specialise to survive.
- Outsourcing and contract work expanded significantly, including in previously secure public-sector-adjacent activities, changing the nature of industrial employment.
- Some traditional, protected industries faced job losses and closures, while new sectors such as information technology and services grew rapidly, shifting the overall structure of employment.

[6]

35. Features of social movements:

- A social movement involves sustained, collective action by a group of people, rather than a single spontaneous incident.
- It has at least a rudimentary organisation, even if this is loose or informal, to coordinate action and sustain the movement over time.
- It is usually oriented towards achieving or resisting some social change, whether at the level of values, policy, or the wider social structure.
- It relies to some extent on non-institutionalised means of mobilisation, such as protest, agitation or civil disobedience, alongside or instead of purely formal, institutional channels.
- Social movements typically develop a shared ideology or set of ideas that provides participants with a common understanding of their goals and grievances.
- How a movement is perceived (as legitimate protest or as disorder) is often contested and can differ across different sections of society.

[6]