

SOCIOLOGY (Code: 039)
Sample Paper 2 — 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): India's urban population has grown steadily as a share of the total population over the last century.

Reason (R): Migration from villages to cities in search of work has been the only reason for the growth of India's urban population.

- 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): Family structures in India have changed significantly with urbanisation and migration.

Reason (R): The nuclear family has, in practice, completely replaced the joint family everywhere in India.

- 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 steadily rising sex ratio (females per 1000 males) over successive censuses would most directly suggest:

- a) A narrowing gap between the survival chances of males and females
- b) An immediate rise in the total fertility rate
- c) A fall in the working-age population alone
- d) No change in social attitudes towards daughters

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

Assertion (A): Land reforms after independence aimed to redistribute land more equitably in rural India.

Reason (R): In many states, land reform legislation was implemented fully and immediately, with no gaps between law and practice.

- 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 the jajmani system?

- a) It described a set of exchange relationships between different caste groups in a village.
- b) It typically involved the exchange of goods and services rather than cash alone.
- c) It has remained entirely unchanged and universally practised across rural India today.
- d) It has weakened considerably with the spread of a market-based cash economy.

6. Green Revolution technology contributed to social change in rural India mainly by:

- a) Increasing agricultural productivity in irrigated, resource-rich regions and widening disparities with rain-fed regions
- b) Eliminating all forms of agrarian inequality across the country
- c) Ending the practice of hired agricultural labour altogether
- d) Reducing the importance of land ownership as a source of rural status

7. Regionalism in India is best understood as:

- a) A demand rooted only in economic grievance, with no cultural basis at all
- b) An expression of collective identity tied to a specific territory, language or culture, which can shape political demands
- c) A phenomenon found only in border states
- d) A force that has had no impact on India's federal structure

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

Assertion (A): Communal identities can sometimes be mobilised for political purposes.

Reason (R): Communalism, as commonly understood, is the belief that a religious community's interests are permanently opposed to those of other communities.

- 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. Secularism in the Indian constitutional sense primarily means:

- a) The state maintains a principled distance from all religions rather than favouring one over others
- b) Religion is banned from all public life
- c) Only one religion can be officially recognised by the state
- d) Religious minorities have no constitutional protections

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

Assertion (A): Trade unions have historically played an important role in organised-sector industrial relations in India.

Reason (R): Trade unions have had no influence at all on wages, working conditions or industrial disputes in India.

- 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:

As industries mechanise, production processes are typically broken into smaller, more specialised tasks, and workers often have less control over the pace and rhythm of their own work, since machines increasingly set the tempo of the workplace.

11. Based on the passage above, which of the following best describes a likely consequence of increasing mechanisation for factory workers?

- a) Workers gain greater control over their own working pace.
- b) Work becomes more fragmented and paced by the machine rather than the worker.
- c) All workers are guaranteed equal wages regardless of task.
- d) Mechanisation eliminates the need for any supervision.

12. Which of the following is NOT true regarding informal sector work in India?

- a) It includes a wide range of unorganised, often unregistered economic activities.
- b) Workers in this sector generally enjoy the same job security and benefits as those in the organised sector.
- c) It employs a very large share of India's total workforce.
- d) It includes both self-employed workers and wage labourers.

Read the passage given below:

Scheduled Tribes in India are recognised through a constitutional listing process, and the criteria used to identify a community as a "tribe" have varied over time and across regions, often reflecting administrative convenience as much as any single set of cultural features.

13. Based on the passage above, which of the following is correct?

- a) The criteria for identifying Scheduled Tribes have been fixed and unchanging since colonial times.
- b) The process of identifying tribes has depended partly on administrative and historical factors, not only on a single objective cultural test.
- c) All tribal communities in India share an identical set of cultural characteristics.
- d) Tribal identity in India has no connection to constitutional or administrative processes.

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

1. The Constitution of India comes into force.
 2. The Green Revolution begins to spread across parts of northern India.
 3. The Emergency is declared in India.
 4. India undertakes major economic reforms following a balance-of-payments crisis.
- 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 best describes "civil society" as used in sociology?

- a) The space of voluntary associations, media and citizens' groups that exists between the individual, the family and the state
- b) Another term for the government bureaucracy
- c) Only political parties contesting elections
- d) The judiciary alone

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

Assertion (A): Women's movements in independent India have addressed issues beyond only legal reform, such as violence, workplace equality and representation.

Reason (R): Legal reform alone has been sufficient to guarantee full social and economic equality for women in practice.

- 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. "Migration is often selective rather than random, drawing disproportionately on certain age groups and regions." Explain what this means with a brief example.

18.A. "Family and kinship in India have changed under the influence of urbanisation, migration and new laws, yet the joint family as an idea continues to hold value for many." Do you agree? Give reasons.

OR

18.B. Is dowry only a "tradition," or does it also reflect wider patterns of gender inequality? Give reasons for your answer.

19. "Sanskritisation can occur without any real change in the structure of social stratification." Explain this statement briefly.

20. Give two reasons why regional identities have sometimes led to demands for separate statehood within India.

21. "Status and role are closely linked concepts in sociology." Explain the meaning of this statement in your own words.

22.A. What is meant by "communalism" in the Indian context?

OR

22.B. What is meant by the term "secularism" as used in the Indian Constitution?

23. "Caste-based inequality and class-based inequality often overlap in rural India, but they are not identical." How would you explain this distinction?

24. "Contract and outsourced work has grown rapidly in Indian industry since liberalisation." What effect might this have on workers' job security?

25. "Environmental movements in India often combine concerns about livelihood with concerns about ecology." Illustrate with an example.

SECTION C

Short Answer Type Questions

[4 × 7 = 28 Marks]

26. State two effects each of large-scale rural-to-urban migration on family structure and on the local labour market in the region that supplies migrants.
27. "The caste system in rural India has been closely linked historically to the ownership and control of land." Justify this statement.
28. Illustrate how regionalism can pose challenges for national integration, while also examine why it need not always threaten it.
29. Sanskritisation involves adopting the customs and practices of a locally dominant caste. Is this process always available equally to all castes? Give reasons for your answer.
30. The Green Revolution transformed agriculture in certain regions of India from the 1960s onwards. Illustrate its main social consequences for rural society.
- 31.A. "The expansion of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has often been a source of conflict in rural India." Explain the reasons behind such conflicts.

OR

- 31.B. "Liberalisation has changed the way people find jobs in India." Justify this statement with suitable examples.
32. "Tribal movements in India have often combined demands for land rights with demands for cultural recognition." 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: Growth of Urban Population in India, 1951-2011

Census Year	Urban population (% of total population)
1951	17.29
1961	17.97
1971	19.91
1981	23.34
1991	25.72
2001	27.81
2011	31.16

Source: Census of India, Government of India.

(a) What factors could explain the steady growth of India's urban population shown in the table?

[4]

(b) Give two consequences of rapid urban population growth for Indian cities.

[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:

India's urban population has grown steadily over the decades since independence: from about 17 percent of the total population in 1951, it rose to around 18 percent in 1961, roughly 20 percent in 1971, about 23 percent in 1981, close to 26 percent in 1991, nearly 28 percent in 2001, and just over 31 percent by 2011.

(a) What factors could explain the steady growth of India's urban population shown in the passage?

[4]

(b) Give two consequences of rapid urban population growth for Indian cities.

[2]

34. Discuss the main features and consequences of the Green Revolution for Indian rural society.

35. Explain the main features of the Dalit movement in India, referring to the ideas of any one prominent leader associated with it.

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Sample Paper 2 — Marking Scheme / Solutions

SECTION A — Answer Key with Justification

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
1	c	A is true but R is false	Urban population has indeed grown steadily, but this is due to a mix of migration, reclassification of settlements as urban, and natural increase within cities, not migration alone.
2	b	Both true, R not correct explanation	Family structures have changed, but the nuclear family has not completely replaced the joint family everywhere; joint family ties and ideals persist in many contexts alongside nuclear households.
3	a	Narrowing survival-chance gap	A rising sex ratio suggests improving relative survival chances for females, reflecting reduced neglect or discrimination.
4	c	A is true but R is false	Land reforms were indeed intended to redistribute land, but implementation was uneven and incomplete in most states, with many loopholes and delays.
5	c	Statement c is incorrect	The jajmani system has weakened considerably with monetisation and market integration; it is not unchanged or universal today.
6	a	Increased productivity, widened disparities	Green Revolution technology raised yields chiefly in irrigated regions with better resources, widening the gap with rain-fed, resource-poor areas.
7	b	Expression of territorial/cultural identity	Regionalism reflects collective identity tied to territory, language or culture, which can shape political demands including for autonomy or statehood.
8	a	Both true, R explains A	Communal identities can indeed be politically mobilised precisely because communalism frames one community's interests as inherently opposed to others.
9	a	Principled distance from all religions	Indian secularism does not mean the absence of religion from public life, but the state maintaining equal, principled distance from all religions.
10	c	A is true but R is false	Trade unions have indeed played an important historical role, so the reason (that they had no influence at all) is factually false.
11	b	Work fragmented, paced by machine	The passage explicitly describes tasks becoming more specialised and paced by machines rather than by workers themselves.
12	b	Statement b is incorrect	Informal-sector workers typically lack the job security and benefits available in the organised sector; this is a defining feature of informality.
13	b	Depends on administrative/historical factors	The passage states the criteria have varied over time and across regions, reflecting

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
			administrative convenience alongside cultural features.
14	a	1, 2, 3, 4	The Constitution came into force in 1950, the Green Revolution spread from the mid-1960s, the Emergency was declared in 1975, and major economic reforms followed the balance-of-payments crisis in 1991.
15	a	Space of voluntary associations etc.	Civil society refers to this intermediate space of associations, media and citizen groups distinct from the family, market and state.
16	c	A is true but R is false	Women's movements have indeed addressed issues beyond law, which is precisely why legal reform alone has not been sufficient to guarantee full equality in practice.

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

17. Migration is selective because certain groups, typically young, working-age men from regions with fewer local opportunities, are more likely to migrate than others; for example, seasonal labour migration from parts of Bihar or Odisha to cities is dominated by young male workers rather than an even cross-section of the population. [2]

18.A. Agree: legal and residential nuclear households have increased, but many families maintain joint-family obligations, frequent contact and shared decision-making across separate households, showing the joint family persists as a functional ideal even where co-residence has declined. [2]

OR

18.B. Dowry is often defended as tradition, but it also reflects gender inequality, since it treats daughters as a financial burden at marriage and can be linked to harassment and violence, showing it functions as more than a neutral custom. [2]

19. A lower caste group may adopt the rituals, diet or dress of a dominant caste and gain some local respect, yet remain in the same position within the wider system of stratification if their economic and political power does not change. [2]

20. Two reasons: (i) a sense that a region's distinct language or culture is not adequately represented within the existing state; (ii) a perception that a region has been economically neglected or under-developed compared to other parts of the same state. [2]

21. Status refers to a recognised social position (such as "teacher" or "mother"), while role refers to the expected behaviour attached to that position; every status comes with an associated set of roles that a person is expected to perform. [2]

22.A. Communalism refers to the belief that one's own religious community's interests are fundamentally different from, and often opposed to, those of other religious communities, which can be mobilised for political ends. [2]

OR

22.B. Secularism, in the Indian constitutional sense, means the state does not favour or discriminate against any religion, maintaining equal, principled distance from all religious communities. [2]

23. Caste and class often overlap, since many landowning castes are also economically dominant, but they are not identical: a person can be poor despite belonging to an upper caste, or relatively prosperous despite belonging to a lower caste, showing caste and class can diverge. [2]

24. Growth in contract and outsourced work generally reduces job security, since such workers usually lack the protections, benefits and permanence of regular employment and can be dismissed or replaced more easily. [2]

25. For example, movements against large dams often combine concern for displaced communities' livelihoods with concern about ecological damage from submergence and deforestation, showing how livelihood and ecological concerns come together in a single movement. [2]

SECTION C — Short Answer Type (4 marks each)

26. Effects on family structure (any two, 1 mark each): migration can lead to more women-headed households in the sending region as men migrate for work; it can also lead to delayed marriages or prolonged periods of separation between spouses.

Effects on the local labour market (any two, 1 mark each): a shortage of working-age labour can emerge in peak agricultural seasons; and dependence on remittances can reduce the urgency to invest in local livelihood opportunities. [4]

27. Historically, upper castes were often also the principal landowners, while lower castes and Dalits supplied labour with little or no land of their own, tying caste status closely to control over agricultural land, income and local political power in the village economy. [4]

28. Regionalism can challenge national integration when it escalates into secessionist demands or violent conflict, or when it fuels resentment against migrants from other regions. However, it need not always threaten integration, since regional identities have often been accommodated through linguistic states, special provisions or greater autonomy, allowing diversity to coexist within a single federal nation. [4]

29. No, Sanskritisation is not equally available to all castes; groups placed very low in the hierarchy, especially those historically treated as "untouchable," have often found their attempts at Sanskritisation resisted or blocked by dominant castes, showing that access to this route of mobility is itself shaped by existing caste power. [4]

30. The Green Revolution raised agricultural productivity mainly in irrigated regions like Punjab and Haryana, benefiting farmers with capital to invest in new seeds, fertilisers and irrigation. This widened inequality between prosperous and poorer regions and between larger and smaller farmers, encouraged farm mechanisation that reduced demand for some kinds of labour, and helped create a class of wealthy farmers who invested their surpluses in trade, education and urban property. [4]

31.A. SEZs often required acquiring agricultural land from farmers, sometimes with inadequate compensation or without full consent, threatening the livelihoods of those dependent on that land; this has triggered protests and conflict in several regions where farmers felt their interests were subordinated to industrial or commercial development. [4]

OR

31.B. Liberalisation has expanded private-sector and service-sector job opportunities, encouraged the growth of placement agencies, campus recruitment and online job portals, and increased reliance on contract-based hiring rather than the older pattern of stable government or public-sector employment sought by many job-seekers. [4]

32. Tribal movements have frequently arisen in response to loss of land and forest access due to development projects, mining or state forest policy, while simultaneously demanding recognition of tribal identity, autonomy or self-rule, showing that material (land-based) and cultural (identity-based) demands are closely intertwined in these movements. [4]

SECTION D — Long Answer Type (6 marks each)

33.(a) Factors explaining urban population growth (any four, 1 mark each): migration of workers from rural areas seeking employment; industrial and service-sector growth concentrated in cities; reclassification of some large villages/towns as urban centres over successive censuses; and natural population increase within existing urban areas. [4]

33.(b) Consequences of rapid urban growth (any two, 1 mark each): pressure on housing, leading to the growth of slums and informal settlements; and strain on civic infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation and transport. [2]

34. Main features and consequences of the Green Revolution:

- It involved the introduction of high-yielding variety seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides and expanded irrigation, concentrated initially in states such as Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.
- Agricultural productivity and output rose sharply in these regions, contributing significantly to national food self-sufficiency.
- Farmers with capital and access to irrigation benefited disproportionately, widening inequality between richer and poorer farmers and between irrigated and rain-fed regions.
- Mechanisation of farm operations, such as the use of tractors and threshers, reduced demand for certain kinds of manual agricultural labour in these regions.
- The prosperity generated among some cultivating castes strengthened their economic and political dominance in rural society, and surplus wealth was often invested in urban property, education and trade, feeding into the growth of an urban middle class linked to agrarian roots.

[6]

35. Features of the Dalit movement in India:

- The Dalit movement has sought to challenge caste-based untouchability, exclusion and discrimination, both socially and through legal and political means.
- It has combined demands for constitutional protections, such as reservations in education and employment, with cultural assertion and a rejection of stigmatised social roles.
- Dr B. R. Ambedkar, a central figure in the movement, argued that caste was a system of graded inequality that could not be reformed from within Hinduism alone, and he eventually led a mass conversion to Buddhism as a rejection of caste hierarchy.
- The movement has also produced its own literature, symbols and organisations, building a shared identity and political voice among Dalit communities across different regions.
- Over time, it has diversified into multiple strands, including political parties, grassroots organisations and cultural movements, reflecting differences in strategy and emphasis among Dalit groups.

[6]