

SOCIOLOGY (Code: 039)
Sample Paper 3 — 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): Female literacy in India has risen more rapidly than male literacy in recent decades, though a gap between the two remains.

Reason (R): Investment in girls' schooling has had no measurable effect on female literacy at the national level.

- 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. A persistent gap between male and female literacy rates at the state level is generally taken as an indicator of:

- a) Gender inequality in access to education
- b) A purely economic problem unrelated to gender
- c) A problem confined only to urban areas
- d) A trend that cannot be influenced by government policy

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

Assertion (A): The Constitution of India permits reservation in education and public employment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Reason (R): This constitutional provision was designed to address long-standing historical disadvantage faced by these 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.

4. Which of the following is NOT correct about the Adivasi struggles discussed in sociology?

- a) Adivasi movements have often centred on rights over land and forest resources.
- b) Displacement due to large development projects has been a recurring grievance in these struggles.
- c) Adivasi struggles have had no connection at all with questions of cultural identity.
- d) Some Adivasi movements have also demanded greater political autonomy or self-rule.

5. The struggle for the rights of differently-abled persons in India has primarily sought to:

- a) Ensure special charitable treatment only, with no legal entitlements
- b) Reframe disability as a matter of rights, accessibility and equal citizenship, not just charity
- c) Exclude differently-abled persons from mainstream public institutions
- d) Limit its demands only to financial compensation

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

Assertion (A): Family and kinship patterns vary considerably across different regions and communities in India.

Reason (R): There is only one single, uniform pattern of family and kinship followed across the entire country.

- 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.

7. Endogamy, as commonly described in the study of caste, refers to:

- a) Marriage within a defined social group, such as caste or sub-caste
- b) Marriage compulsorily outside one's own religion
- c) A rule that applies only to a single region of India
- d) A practice that has no connection with caste at all

8. Which of the following best explains why caste today is often described as having become socially "invisible" for some groups?

- a) Caste identities among privileged, urban, upper-caste groups are less publicly marked by occupation or overt discrimination than before
- b) Caste has been legally abolished and no longer exists in any form
- c) Caste-based inequality has been completely eliminated across India
- d) Caste is only relevant in rural areas and has no urban dimension

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

Assertion (A): Class-based movements in India have often involved organised action by industrial workers or agricultural labourers.

Reason (R): Such movements have had no impact whatsoever on wages, working conditions or labour legislation 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.

10. Which of the following is a typical demand associated with peasant movements in India?

- a) Fair prices for agricultural produce and security of land tenure
- b) Abolition of all agricultural activity
- c) Exclusive rights over urban industrial land
- d) Removal of all forms of cooperative farming

Read the passage given below:

Work in the informal sector often takes place outside any registered establishment, without written contracts, and frequently without access to benefits such as provident fund, health insurance or paid leave that are more commonly available to workers in registered, organised-sector jobs.

11. Based on the passage above, which of the following best describes informal-sector work?

- a) It is generally more secure and better protected than organised-sector work.
- b) It typically lacks the contractual protections and benefits common in organised-sector employment.
- c) It exists only in rural areas.
- d) It has no connection to India's overall workforce.

12. Which of the following is NOT true about home-based work as a form of industrial organisation?

- a) Workers, often women, produce goods at home for a contractor or employer.
- b) It typically offers the same wages, benefits and bargaining power as factory-based unionised work.
- c) It allows some workers to combine paid work with domestic responsibilities.
- d) It is common in industries such as garment-making, bidi-rolling and handicrafts.

Read the passage given below:

India's Constitution recognises the country's religious diversity and guarantees freedom of religion to all citizens, while also empowering the state to intervene in religious practice where necessary to promote social welfare and reform, such as opening temples to all castes.

13. Based on the passage above, which of the following best describes the Indian constitutional approach to religion?

- a) It combines guaranteed religious freedom with the state's power to intervene for social reform where required.
- b) It bans all religious practice from public life entirely.
- c) It gives one religion a permanently privileged constitutional status over all others.
- d) It removes the state's ability to regulate any religious institution under any circumstance.

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

1. The Constitution of India comes into force, guaranteeing universal adult franchise.
2. States are reorganised on a linguistic basis.
3. The National Advisory Council-era social legislation debates on women's rights take place in the 2000s.
4. India's first general elections are held.

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

15. Which of the following best captures the meaning of "social exclusion" as used in sociology?

- a) The active process by which certain groups are denied full participation in social, economic and political life
- b) A term used only to describe voluntary withdrawal from society
- c) A concept relevant only to religious minorities
- d) A process that affects only individuals, never entire communities

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

Assertion (A): Environmental movements in India have sometimes opposed large dam projects.

Reason (R): Such opposition has always been based solely on aesthetic objections to changes in landscape, with no concern for displaced people.

- 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. "Literacy is not just about reading and writing; it is closely tied to a person's ability to access information, employment and legal rights." Explain this statement briefly.

18.A. "Reservation policy addresses historical disadvantage, but critics argue it should now be re-examined." Present one argument in favour of reservation and one argument commonly made against it.

OR

18.B. "Adivasi identity is not only about culture, but also about a relationship with land and forest." Explain this statement briefly.

19. Give two reasons why the struggle for the rights of differently-abled persons emphasises accessibility, not just charity.

20. "Endogamy and exogamy operate together in the caste system." Explain the meaning of this statement briefly.

21. Why is caste sometimes described as having become "invisible" for privileged, urban groups, even though it continues to matter for others?

22.A. What is meant by a "class-based" social movement?

OR

22.B. What is a common demand of peasant movements in India?

23. "Home-based work often blurs the line between paid employment and domestic responsibility." Explain briefly with an example.

24. "Strikes and unions have historically been important tools for organised-sector workers." Give one reason why their influence may be more limited in the informal sector.

25. "Opposition to large dam projects is usually about more than just the landscape." Illustrate with an example.

SECTION C

Short Answer Type Questions

[4 × 7 = 28 Marks]

26. State two effects each of rising female literacy on family life and on women's participation in paid work.
27. "Reservation policy has been both defended and contested in independent India." Justify this statement with suitable arguments on both sides.
28. Illustrate the main grievances that have driven Adivasi movements in different parts of India.
29. "The women's movement in independent India has addressed issues well beyond legal reform alone." Give reasons for your answer.
30. Discuss how work processes have changed in Indian industry with increasing mechanisation and the growth of contract labour.
- 31.A. "Strikes have historically been an important means of collective bargaining for organised-sector workers in India." Explain this statement with suitable examples.

OR

- 31.B. "Trade unions in India have faced new challenges since liberalisation." Justify this statement.
32. "Environmental movements in India often unite concerns of livelihood, displacement and ecology." Justify this statement with a suitable example.

SECTION D

Long Answer Type Questions

[6 × 3 = 18 Marks]

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

Table: Literacy Rate in India by Sex, 1951-2011

Census Year	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86
1961	28.30	40.40	15.35
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46

Note: Literacy rate is the percentage of literate persons among population aged 7 years and above (5+ for 1951-1971)
Source: Census of India, Government of India.

(a) What does the table suggest about the trend in the gap between male and female literacy rates in India over time?

[4]

(b) Give two reasons why female literacy has historically lagged behind male literacy in India.

[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 overall literacy rate rose from about 18 percent in 1951 to about 74 percent in 2011. Over the same period, male literacy rose from about 27 percent to about 82 percent, while female literacy rose from a much lower base of about 9 percent to about 65 percent. Although the gap between male and female literacy has narrowed somewhat in recent decades, it has not closed.

(a) What does the passage suggest about the trend in the gap between male and female literacy rates in India over time?

[4]

(b) Give two reasons why female literacy has historically lagged behind male literacy in India.

[2]

34. Discuss the main features of women's movements in independent India, giving suitable examples.

35. Explain the main features and social consequences of increasing mechanisation and contract labour in Indian industry.

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Sample Paper 3 — Marking Scheme / Solutions

SECTION A — Answer Key with Justification

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
1	c	A is true but R is false	Female literacy has indeed risen faster in recent decades, and this is closely linked to expanded investment in girls' schooling, so the reason is factually incorrect, not merely unrelated.
2	a	Indicator of gender inequality	A persistent male-female literacy gap reflects unequal access to education along gender lines, a core concern of gender inequality.
3	a	Both true, R explains A	Reservation for SCs/STs was specifically designed to redress the historical disadvantage these groups faced, directly explaining the constitutional provision.
4	c	Statement c is incorrect	Adivasi struggles have been closely tied to questions of cultural identity, alongside land and resource rights, not disconnected from them.
5	b	Rights, accessibility, equal citizenship	The differently-abled rights movement has reframed disability around entitlements and accessibility rather than charity alone.
6	c	A is true but R is false	Family and kinship patterns do vary regionally, so the claim of a single uniform pattern nationwide is incorrect.
7	a	Marriage within a defined group	Endogamy specifically refers to marriage within one's own caste or sub-caste group.
8	a	Less publicly marked for privileged groups	Caste becomes "invisible" mainly because privileged, urban groups no longer display caste markers openly, even as caste continues to shape opportunity elsewhere.
9	c	A is true but R is false	Class-based movements have indeed shaped wages and labour legislation historically, making the reason's blanket denial of any impact false.
10	a	Fair prices and secure tenure	Peasant movements typically demand remunerative prices for produce and security against loss of land, rather than the other listed options.
11	b	Lacks contractual protections/benefits	The passage explicitly notes the absence of written contracts and standard benefits in informal work.
12	b	Statement b is incorrect	Home-based workers typically have lower wages, weaker bargaining power and fewer benefits compared with unionised factory workers, not the same.
13	a	Freedom plus power to reform	The passage explicitly describes both guaranteed religious freedom and state power to intervene for social reform.
14	a	1, 4, 2, 3	The Constitution came into force in 1950, the

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
			first general elections were held in 1951-52, states were linguistically reorganised from 1956, and the NAC-era debates occurred in the 2000s.
15	a	Denial of full participation	Social exclusion refers to the active process by which groups are denied full participation in social, economic and political life.
16	c	A is true but R is false	Opposition to dam projects has occurred, but it has centred mainly on displacement and livelihood loss, not solely aesthetic concerns.

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

17. Literacy enables people to read official notices, understand contracts, access government schemes, and claim legal rights confidently, so its importance extends well beyond the basic ability to read and write. [2]

18.A. In favour: reservation has enabled historically excluded groups to access higher education and government jobs they would otherwise have been denied. Against: critics argue benefits have been captured disproportionately by relatively better-off sections within reserved categories, leaving the most disadvantaged still underserved. [2]

OR

18.B. Adivasi identity is tied to specific forests and lands that hold economic, cultural and spiritual significance, so displacement from this land threatens not just livelihood but a community's sense of identity itself. [2]

19. Two reasons: (i) charity alone does not guarantee equal access to education, employment or public spaces; (ii) framing disability as a rights issue makes accessible infrastructure and non-discrimination legally enforceable rather than optional or dependent on goodwill. [2]

20. Endogamy requires marriage within one's caste, while exogamy requires marriage outside one's own sub-group such as gotra; together, these rules define both the outer boundary and inner restrictions on whom a person may marry within the caste system. [2]

21. Privileged, urban groups can afford to downplay caste markers like occupation or dress, and their social networks rarely expose them to overt caste discrimination, so caste feels "invisible" to them, even though it continues to shape access to resources and status for less privileged groups.

22.A. A class-based social movement is one organised around the shared economic interests of a group defined by its position in production, such as industrial workers or agricultural labourers, seeking better wages, conditions or rights. [2]

OR

22.B. A common demand of peasant movements is fair, remunerative prices for agricultural produce, along with secure rights over the land they cultivate. [2]

23. In home-based work, such as bidi-rolling or garment stitching done at home for a contractor, the same physical space is used for both paid production and household duties, making it hard to separate working hours from domestic responsibilities. [2]

24. Informal-sector workers are often scattered across many small, unregistered units without formal contracts, making it much harder for them to organise collectively or be recognised as a bargaining unit compared with concentrated, organised-sector workplaces. [2]

25. For example, opposition to a large hydroelectric dam is often driven mainly by concern for communities who would lose their homes, farmland and livelihoods to submergence, not merely by a preference for the landscape's current appearance. [2]

SECTION C — Short Answer Type (4 marks each)

26. Effects on family life (any two, 1 mark each): educated mothers are more likely to invest in their children's schooling and health; and rising female literacy is often associated with lower fertility rates as women gain more say in family decisions.

Effects on paid work (any two, 1 mark each): literate women can access a wider range of formal-sector jobs; and literacy improves women's bargaining position and awareness of their legal and workplace rights. [4]

27. Reservation is defended as a necessary corrective for centuries of caste-based exclusion from education and employment, giving historically disadvantaged groups a genuine foothold in public institutions. It is contested by critics who argue it can entrench caste-based categorisation rather than reduce it, and that benefits are not always reaching the most disadvantaged within reserved categories, generating debates on how the policy should be refined. [4]

28. Adivasi movements have often responded to displacement caused by large dams, mining projects and forest policies that restrict traditional access to forest produce; they have also demanded recognition of customary land rights, greater political autonomy, and protection of their distinct cultural practices from external pressure. [4]

29. Beyond legal reforms on issues like dowry or property rights, the women's movement has also organised against domestic and sexual violence, campaigned for workplace equality and political representation, and worked to change everyday social attitudes about women's roles, showing its concerns extend well past formal law alone. [4]

30. Greater mechanisation has broken down production into smaller, machine-paced tasks, reducing the number of workers needed per unit of output while intensifying the pace of work for those who remain. Alongside this, the growth of contract labour has meant more workers are hired through intermediaries on a temporary basis, without the job security, benefits or union protection typically available to permanent, organised-sector employees. [4]

31.A. Strikes have allowed organised-sector workers to collectively pressure employers over wages, working conditions and job security, as seen historically in textile-mill and public-sector industrial actions, often leading to negotiated settlements or new labour agreements. [4]

OR

31.B. Since liberalisation, trade unions have faced a shrinking base of permanent, organised-sector jobs as firms increasingly rely on contract labour, along with greater competitive pressure on employers to resist wage demands, weakening unions' traditional bargaining strength. [4]

32. For instance, movements opposing large dam projects typically combine concern for displaced communities losing homes and farmland with concern about submerged forests and disrupted ecosystems, showing how livelihood, displacement and ecological arguments reinforce one another within a single movement. [4]

SECTION D — Long Answer Type (6 marks each)

33.(a) The table shows the gap between male and female literacy narrowing over time in absolute terms (from about 18 percentage points in 1951 to about 17 in 2011, after being wider at points in between), even as both male and female literacy rose substantially; however, a significant gap still remains in 2011, showing gains for women have not fully closed the historical disparity. [4]

33.(b) Reasons for the historical lag in female literacy (any two, 1 mark each): a cultural preference for prioritising sons' education over daughters' where resources are limited; and early marriage, household duties or safety concerns that have limited girls' school attendance, particularly in rural areas. [2]

34. Main features of women's movements in independent India:

- Early independent-era movements built on colonial-period reform campaigns, focusing on legal changes such as inheritance rights and the age of marriage.
- From the 1970s, the movement broadened to address violence against women, including domestic violence, dowry deaths and custodial rape, pushing for stronger legal safeguards.
- It has also campaigned for greater political representation of women, including debates around reserved seats for women in legislative bodies.
- The movement has worked on workplace issues such as equal pay and protection from sexual harassment at work.
- It has included diverse groups, from urban, educated activists to grassroots rural women's organisations, reflecting a range of priorities and strategies across different regions and communities.

[6]

35. Features and consequences of mechanisation and contract labour in industry:

- Mechanisation breaks production into smaller, specialised tasks, with machines increasingly setting the pace of work rather than the worker.
- Fewer workers are typically needed per unit of output as machines take over tasks previously done manually, reducing direct factory employment in some sectors.
- Workers who remain often face more intense, monotonous and closely monitored work, since the machine's rhythm leaves little room for individual pacing.
- The growth of contract labour has meant a rising share of industrial workers are hired through intermediaries on a temporary basis, without the job security or benefits of permanent employment.
- This shift has weakened the bargaining power of trade unions, since a workforce split between permanent and contract workers is harder to organise collectively, and contract workers often fear losing their positions if they participate in industrial action.

[6]