



Department of Sociology

Ph.D. Entrance Test Syllabus

Instructions: Students seeking admission to the Ph.D. Sociology Programme should prepare for the entrance exam using the M.A. Sociology (Hon) syllabus. We've listed a few topics for your convenience below.

1. Sociology – The Discipline

Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology, Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences, Sociology and common sense.

2. Sociology as Science

Science, scientific method and critique, Major theoretical strands of research methodology. Positivism and its critique. Fact value and objectivity. Non- positivist methodologies.

3. Research Methods and Analysis

Qualitative and quantitative methods. Techniques of data collection. Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

4. Sociological Thinkers

Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle. Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society. Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism. Talcolt Parsons- Social system, pattern variables. Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups. Mead – Self and identity.

5. Stratification and Mobility

Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation. Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory. Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race. Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

6. Works and Economic Life

Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society. Formal and informal organization of work. Labour and society.

7. Politics and Society

Sociological theories of power. Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties. Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology. Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

8. Religion and Society

Sociological theories of religion. Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults. Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

9. Systems of Kinship

Family, household, marriage. Types and forms of family. Lineage and descent. Patriarchy and sexual division of labour. Contemporary trends.

10. Social Change in Modern Society

Sociological theories of social change. Development and dependency. Agents of social change. Education and social change. Science, technology and social change.