

UP Board Class 12 Sociology 2026 (Set 340 DR) Question Paper with Solutions



General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 29 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 10 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. Who is the author of 'Family Kinship and Marriage among Muslims in India'?

- (A) Akram Rizvi
- (B) Imtiyaz Ahmad
- (C) Aslam Ahmad
- (D) Asad Rizvi

Correct Answer: (B) Imtiyaz Ahmad

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question asks about the author of a well known sociological study on Muslim family and kinship patterns in India. Knowing the authors of key works is part of learning the field, the same way you would learn who wrote a textbook.

Step 2: Identify the correct author.

'Family, Kinship and Marriage among Muslims in India' was edited by Imtiyaz Ahmad, a sociologist known for his work on Muslim social

structure in India. The book brings together essays that study how caste like divisions, kinship rules and marriage practices work among Indian Muslims.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

Akram Rizvi and Asad Rizvi are not associated with this particular work, and Aslam Ahmad is a different name that is easy to confuse with Imtiyaz Ahmad but is not the actual author. None of these three names match the real editor of the book.

Final Answer:

The author is Imtiyaz Ahmad. This is option (B).

Quick Tip: Think of the sociologist known for editing works on caste among Indian Muslims.

2. Who gave the term, 'Demography'?

- (A) John Graunt
- (B) Guillard
- (C) Charles Metcalfe
- (D) H. Spencer

Correct Answer: (B) Guillard

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

Demography is the study of population, its size, growth, and structure. The question asks who actually coined this word, not who is

called the father of the subject.

Step 2: Identify who coined the word.

The French scholar Achille Guillard coined the term 'demographie' in 1855 in his work on human population statistics. This word was later adopted into English as 'demography'.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

John Graunt is often called the father of demography because he did early statistical work on birth and death records in the 17th century, but he lived long before the word itself was created, so he did not coin it. Charles Metcalfe was a colonial administrator, not a demographer. H. Spencer was a sociologist known for his theory of social evolution, not for naming this field.

Final Answer:

The term 'Demography' was given by Guillard. This is option (B).

Quick Tip: The word 'demography' comes from French, coined in 1855, not from the earlier English pioneer of population statistics.

3. When was the 'Satyashodhak Samaj' established?

- (A) 1857
- (B) 1875
- (C) 1873
- (D) 1829

Correct Answer: (C) 1873

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) was a social reform organisation formed to fight caste based discrimination and Brahmin dominance in 19th century Maharashtra.

Step 2: Recall the founding year and founder.

Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 to work for the rights of lower castes, women, and farmers, and to oppose the idea that only Brahmin priests could interpret religious texts.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

1857 is the year of the Revolt against British rule, not a reform organisation. 1875 is the year the Arya Samaj was founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati, a different reform movement. 1829 is the year Sati was abolished under Raja Ram Mohan Roy's influence, again unrelated to this Samaj.

Final Answer:

Satyashodhak Samaj was established in 1873. This is option (C).

Quick Tip: This society was founded by Jyotiba Phule, a few years before the Arya Samaj.

4. Who gave the concept of Dominant caste?

- (A) G. S. Ghuriye
- (B) M. N. Srinivas
- (C) Yogendra Singh
- (D) Radhakamal Mukherjee

Correct Answer: (B) M. N. Srinivas

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

'Dominant caste' is a specific sociological term used to describe a caste that holds power in a local area because of its numbers, land ownership, and political influence, not necessarily because of ritual rank.

Step 2: Identify the sociologist who coined it.

M. N. Srinivas introduced the concept of dominant caste based on his fieldwork in Rampura village in Karnataka, where he found that a numerically large, land owning caste controlled local decision making even though it was not the highest in ritual status.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

G. S. Ghuriye is known for his general studies on caste and race in India, not specifically for this term. Yogendra Singh is known for his work on modernization of Indian tradition. Radhakamal Mukherjee worked mainly on social ecology and economics, not on this specific caste concept.

Final Answer:

The concept of dominant caste was given by M. N. Srinivas. This is option (B).

Quick Tip: Think of the sociologist famous for his village study of Rampura in Karnataka.

5. Who among the following established the first girl's school in Pune?

- (A) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (B) Mahatma Gandhi
- (C) Vivekanand
- (D) Jyotiba Phule

Correct Answer: (D) Jyotiba Phule

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question is about early efforts to spread education to girls in 19th century India, focused on the city of Pune.

Step 2: Identify the correct reformer.

Jyotiba Phule, along with his wife Savitribai Phule, opened the first school for girls in Pune in 1848. Savitribai became India's first woman teacher through this effort, and the school was meant especially for girls from lower caste backgrounds who had no access to education.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy worked mainly in Bengal on issues like Sati abolition, not on founding a girls' school in Pune. Mahatma Gandhi's major work came later, in the freedom movement, not this early education reform. Vivekanand focused on religious and spiritual reform through the Ramakrishna Mission, not on founding this

school.

Final Answer:

The first girl's school in Pune was established by Jyotiba Phule. This is option (D).

Quick Tip: This reformer worked with his wife Savitribai to open the school in 1848.

6. 'Barga Movement' related to land reforms is associated with which state?

- (A) West Bengal
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (A) West Bengal

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The Barga movement was a peasant movement about the rights of sharecroppers, called 'bargadars', who cultivated land owned by someone else and gave a share of the crop as rent.

Step 2: Identify the state.

The Barga movement (linked to 'Operation Barga') took place in West Bengal, where the state government later recorded bargadars and gave them legal protection against eviction, along with a fair share of

the crop.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh saw their own separate peasant and land reform struggles, but the specific term 'Barga' and 'Operation Barga' is tied only to West Bengal's tenancy reform history.

Final Answer:

The Barga Movement is associated with West Bengal. This is option (A).

Quick Tip: Bargadar means sharecropper in Bengali, and Operation Barga later grew from this movement.

7. In which decade did the Green Revolution begin?

- (A) 1950 - 60
- (B) 1960 - 70
- (C) 1970 - 80
- (D) 1980 - 90

Correct Answer: (B) 1960 - 70

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The Green Revolution was the introduction of high yielding seed varieties, chemical fertilisers, and irrigation to sharply raise farm output in India.

Step 2: Recall the timeline.

The Green Revolution began in India in the mid to late 1960s, when high yielding wheat varieties were first introduced in states like Punjab and Haryana, and it fits inside the 1960 to 1970 decade.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

1950 to 60 is too early, since India was still mainly relying on traditional farming and food imports in that period. 1970 to 80 and 1980 to 90 are periods when the Green Revolution had already spread further and matured, not when it started.

Final Answer:

The Green Revolution began in the decade 1960 to 70. This is option (B).

Quick Tip: Think of the mid 1960s introduction of high yielding wheat seeds in Punjab and Haryana.

8. Which one of the following is not a characteristic of urban society?

- (A) Mobility
- (B) Industrialization
- (C) Primary Relation
- (D) Agriculture

Correct Answer: (D) Agriculture

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question wants the option that does NOT belong with urban society, so it is testing the difference between rural and urban ways of life.

Step 2: Check each option against urban life.

Mobility is high in cities because people move often for work and better opportunities. Industrialization is a defining feature of urban areas, since factories and industries are usually located there. Primary relations (close, personal, face to face ties like in a family or small community) do exist in cities but are weaker and less central than in villages, so this one is debatable, while agriculture is almost entirely absent as a main occupation in cities.

Step 3: Pick the clearest mismatch.

Agriculture is mainly a rural activity tied to land and farming, and it does not fit the profile of a city, which is built around industry, trade and services rather than crop cultivation.

Final Answer:

Agriculture is not a characteristic of urban society. This is option (D).

Quick Tip: Cities run on industry and trade, not on farming the land.

9. Who considered the capitalist economy to be based on the exploitation of Labour?

- (A) Adam Smith
- (B) Karl Marx
- (C) Alfred Gell
- (D) Max Weber

Correct Answer: (B) Karl Marx

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question is about which thinker criticised capitalism by arguing that workers are not paid the full value of what they produce.

Step 2: Identify the correct thinker.

Karl Marx argued that under capitalism, workers create more value through their labour than they receive back as wages, and the capitalist class keeps this extra value, which he called surplus value. He saw this as a built in exploitation of labour inside the capitalist system.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

Adam Smith is known for supporting free markets and explaining how they can create wealth, not for calling capitalism exploitative. Alfred Gell was an anthropologist who worked on art and agency, not on capitalist economic theory. Max Weber studied capitalism too, but through ideas like rationalisation and the Protestant work ethic, not through the specific idea of labour exploitation.

Final Answer:

Karl Marx considered the capitalist economy to be based on the exploitation of labour. This is option (B).

Quick Tip: Recall the idea of surplus value, the gap between what labour produces and what it is paid.



10. When was the Dowry Prohibition Act Passed?

- (A) 1955
- (B) 1956
- (C) 1961
- (D) 1984

Correct Answer: (C) 1961

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The Dowry Prohibition Act is a law made to stop the practice of demanding or giving dowry at marriage in India.

Step 2: Recall the correct year.

The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961, making the giving or taking of dowry a punishable offence across India.

Step 3: Why the other options are wrong.

1955 and 1956 are the years of the Hindu Marriage Act and the related Hindu Succession Act reforms, which deal with marriage and inheritance, not dowry directly. 1984 is the year the Act was later amended to make its rules stricter, not the year it was first passed.

Final Answer:

The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961. This is option (C).

Quick Tip: 1961 is the original Act; 1984 is only when it was later strengthened.



11. Discuss the role of Mass Media in social change in Present India.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: State the role of mass media.

Mass media (television, newspapers, radio, and now the internet and social media) spreads new ideas, values, and information to a very large audience at the same time, which is a strong driver of social change.

Step 2: Give concrete examples.

It has spread awareness about girl's education, family planning, and legal rights, it has weakened old prejudices by showing different ways of living, and it lets social movements organise and reach people quickly, as seen in recent campaigns on gender equality and health.

Final Answer:

Mass media speeds up social change in India by spreading new values, information, and awareness to a wide population very fast.

Quick Tip: Think about how television, newspapers, and social media spread new ideas quickly to many people.



12. What is the meaning of lockout?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define the term.

A lockout is when the management or owner of a factory or workplace temporarily shuts it down and refuses to let workers in, usually during a dispute over wages, conditions, or demands raised by the workers.

Step 2: Give the purpose.

It is used by employers as a bargaining tool against workers, the way a strike is used by workers against employers, since it puts pressure on employees by stopping their work and pay.

Final Answer:

A lockout is the employer's closing of a workplace to pressure workers during an industrial dispute.

Quick Tip: It is the mirror image of a strike, done by the employer instead of the workers.

13. Discuss the impact of Industrialization on Indian families.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: State the main shift.

Industrialization pulled people away from farms and villages into factory jobs in towns and cities, which broke up large joint families

into smaller nuclear families of parents and children living apart from grandparents and relatives.

Step 2: Give further effects.

Women increasingly took up paid jobs outside the home, children spent more years in school instead of working alongside the family, and the family's role in choosing marriages and controlling members weakened as individuals gained independent incomes.

Final Answer:

Industrialization shifted Indian families from large joint households toward smaller, more independent nuclear families.

Quick Tip: Think about people moving to cities for factory jobs and what that does to joint families.



14. Write three characteristics of rural society.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Give the first two characteristics.

First, agriculture and related work like animal rearing form the main occupation of most people in rural society. Second, social relations are close and personal, since most people know each other directly and interact face to face.

Step 2: Give the third characteristic.

Third, rural society has low social mobility and change happens

slowly, since customs and joint family patterns stay strong across generations, and caste plays a large role in daily social life.

Final Answer:

Three characteristics of rural society are: agriculture as the main occupation, close personal relations, and slow social change.

Quick Tip: Think occupation, closeness of relations, and speed of change.

15. Explain Endogamous marriage.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define endogamy.

Endogamous marriage is a marriage rule that requires a person to marry within their own defined social group, such as their own caste, sub-caste, religion, or community.

Step 2: Give the purpose and example.

This rule is meant to keep the group's identity, property, and status inside the group itself. In India, most caste based marriages follow endogamy, where a person from one caste is expected to marry another person from the same caste.

Final Answer:

Endogamous marriage means marrying strictly within one's own caste or community group.

Quick Tip: It is the opposite of exogamy: marrying inside your own group, not outside it.

16. Mention the major challenges related to India's cultural diversity.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: State the core challenge.

India has many languages, religions, castes, and regional cultures living together, and the main challenge is keeping this diversity from turning into conflict or discrimination between groups.

Step 2: List specific challenges.

These include communal tension between religious communities, caste based discrimination, regional and linguistic disputes over resources or recognition, and the difficulty of building a shared national identity while still respecting each group's separate culture.

Final Answer:

Major challenges include communalism, caste discrimination, linguistic and regional conflict, and balancing unity with respect for diversity.

Quick Tip: Think of religion, caste, and language as the three main lines of tension.

17. What are the five stages of Social Research described by the August Comte?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Set the context.

Auguste Comte, seen as the founder of sociology, described social research as moving through a structured set of stages to reach reliable knowledge, similar to how natural sciences work.

Step 2: List the five stages.

These stages are: observation of social facts, comparison of different societies or situations, the historical method of tracing development over time, use of statistics or numerical data, and finally experimentation, though Comte accepted that true experiments are hard in society, so comparison and observation carry more weight.

Final Answer:

Comte's five stages of social research are observation, comparison, the historical method, statistical method, and experimentation.

Quick Tip: Comte borrowed his method from natural science: observe, compare, trace history, measure, and (rarely) experiment.

18. Write three characteristics of Modernization.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Give the first two characteristics.

First, modernization involves a shift toward rational, scientific thinking instead of relying only on tradition or superstition. Second, it involves growth of industry and technology, changing how people work and live.

Step 2: Give the third characteristic.

Third, modernization brings greater individual freedom and social mobility, meaning a person's position in society depends more on their own achievement (education, skill, income) than only on birth into a particular caste or family.

Final Answer:

Three characteristics of modernization are rational scientific thinking, growth of industry and technology, and greater individual mobility.

Quick Tip: Think reason over tradition, industry and technology, and achievement over birth.

19. What is conservatism?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define the term.

Conservatism is a social and political outlook that favours keeping traditional institutions, values, and ways of life, and it is cautious about fast or radical change.

Step 2: Give its stance on change.

Conservatives are not fully against change, but they prefer slow, careful change that keeps continuity with the past, rather than sudden or sweeping reform of existing social, religious, or political structures.

Final Answer:

Conservatism is the outlook that favours preserving traditional values and institutions and is cautious about rapid change.

Quick Tip: Conservatism favours keeping tradition and moving slowly, not resisting change altogether.



20. What do you understand by Disabled (Divyang)?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define the term.

'Divyang', meaning persons with divine abilities, is the respectful term now used in India for people who have a physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental impairment that affects one or more of their normal activities.

Step 2: Add the social angle.

Society and the state are expected to provide such persons with equal access to education, employment, and public spaces, along with reservation and welfare schemes, so their impairment does not become a barrier to a dignified life.

Final Answer:

Divyang refers to persons with disabilities, who are entitled to equal opportunity, access, and dignity in society.

Quick Tip: Divyang is the respectful Indian term for persons with disabilities.

21. Explain the functions of Gram Panchayats.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Introduce the Gram Panchayat.**

The Gram Panchayat is the lowest level of local self government in rural India, elected directly by villagers, and it is the base unit of the three tier Panchayati Raj system.

Step 2: Explain its administrative functions.

It maintains local records of births, deaths, and land, it looks after sanitation, drinking water, street lighting, and the upkeep of village roads, and it resolves minor local disputes through the Gram Sabha meetings of all adult villagers.

Step 3: Explain its developmental and welfare functions.

It plans and carries out local development works such as building schools, wells, and community centres, it implements welfare schemes of the state and central government at the village level, and it collects some local taxes to fund these activities.

Final Answer:

Gram Panchayats handle local administration, basic infrastructure, dispute resolution, and implementation of welfare and development schemes in villages.

Quick Tip: Cover civic duties, welfare scheme delivery, and its role as the base of local self government.



22. How has liberalization affected employment patterns?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: State what liberalization changed.**

Liberalization, begun in India in 1991, reduced government control over industry and opened the economy to private and foreign investment, which reshaped the kinds of jobs available.

Step 2: Explain the positive shifts.

It created large growth in the service sector, such as IT, telecom, and finance, offering new, often better paid jobs for educated youth, and it drew foreign companies that added jobs in manufacturing and services in urban areas.

Step 3: Explain the negative or uneven shifts.

At the same time, many public sector and older industrial jobs became less secure as government owned units were sold off or restructured, informal and contract based work grew instead of stable permanent jobs, and the benefits went more to urban, educated

workers than to rural or unskilled labour.

Final Answer:

Liberalization expanded service sector and private jobs but also increased job insecurity and informal work, benefiting educated urban workers more than others.

Quick Tip: Weigh new service sector jobs against the loss of secure public sector and industrial jobs.

23. Briefly discuss the impact of globalization on culture.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: State the basic effect.

Globalization has connected India closely to the rest of the world through trade, media, and the internet, and this contact has brought outside cultural influences into everyday Indian life.

Step 2: Give examples of cultural change.

Food habits, clothing styles, festivals like Valentine's Day, and entertainment such as foreign films and music have spread widely, especially among urban youth, and English has grown stronger as a language of work and status.

Step 3: Note the mixed response.

Alongside this, there is a counter trend of people reasserting local and traditional culture, festivals, and languages, sometimes as pride and

sometimes as resistance to the feeling that global (often Western) culture is overwhelming local identity.

Final Answer:

Globalization has spread global cultural influences widely in India while also triggering a renewed pride in local and traditional culture.

Quick Tip: Think of both directions: global culture entering India, and local culture being reasserted in response.

24. Explain the difference between Peasant and New Farmer's Movements.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Describe the peasant movements.

Peasant movements were mostly pre-independence and early post-independence struggles, led largely by poor and landless peasants against landlords, high rent, forced labour, and unfair land revenue demanded by the colonial or feudal system.

Step 2: Describe the new farmer's movements.

New farmer's movements arose later, mainly from the 1970s and 1980s onward, and were led largely by relatively better off, land owning farmers demanding fair prices for their crops, lower input costs, loan waivers, and better government policy support, using organised protests and farmer unions.

Step 3: State the key differences.

Peasant movements were about survival and freedom from an exploitative landlord system, while new farmer's movements are about better terms of trade for an already land owning farming class within the market economy, so the class of people leading them and their main demands are quite different.

Final Answer:

Peasant movements fought landlord exploitation for poor cultivators, while new farmer's movements demand fair market terms for land owning farmers.

Quick Tip: Compare who led each movement (poor peasants vs land owning farmers) and what they were fighting for.



25. What is a minority class? Why do minorities need state protection?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define minority.

A minority is a group, based on religion, language, caste, or ethnicity, that forms a smaller part of the total population and often has less social, economic, or political power than the majority group.

Step 2: Explain why they can be vulnerable.

Being fewer in number can mean a minority group has less say in decisions taken by majority vote, faces a higher risk of discrimination or violence, and can struggle to protect its own language, religion, or

customs against pressure from the dominant culture.

Step 3: Explain the need for state protection.

The state steps in to protect minorities through constitutional rights, such as the right to preserve their language and culture, laws against discrimination, and sometimes reservation or special provisions, so that democracy does not simply become rule of the majority over a powerless minority.

Final Answer:

A minority is a numerically smaller, less powerful group, and it needs state protection to prevent discrimination and to safeguard its rights within a majority dominated society.

Quick Tip: Define minority as the smaller, less powerful group, then link protection to preventing majority domination.

26. What is the meaning of Social Inequality? Discuss the causes of Social Inequality.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define social inequality.

Social inequality means the unequal access that different groups or individuals in society have to valued resources like wealth, education, power, and respect, so that some enjoy far more advantages than others.

Step 2: Explain the caste and class based causes.

In India, caste has historically decided a person's occupation, social status, and access to education or land, and even now former lower castes often remain economically and socially disadvantaged; similarly, class differences in income and property mean richer families can access better schools, healthcare, and opportunities than poorer ones.

Step 3: Explain other causes.

Gender based discrimination limits women's access to property, education, or decision making in many communities, and regional or rural-urban gaps in infrastructure and investment mean people in less developed areas have fewer opportunities than those in developed cities.

Final Answer:

Social inequality is unequal access to resources and status, caused mainly by caste, class, gender, and regional differences in India.

Quick Tip: Cover caste, class, gender, and region as the four broad causes of social inequality in India.



27. What do you understand by caste? Discuss the factors responsible for bringing about the changes in the caste system.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define caste.

Caste is a closed social group into which a person is born, and it fixes that person's status, traditional occupation, and marriage circle (through endogamy) for life, arranged in a ranked order based on notions of ritual purity and pollution.

Step 2: Explain education and legal change as factors.

The spread of modern education has opened new careers based on merit rather than birth, letting people move out of their traditional caste occupation, while laws such as the abolition of untouchability and reservation policy have legally attacked caste based discrimination and improved access for lower castes.

Step 3: Explain economic and urban factors.

Industrialization and urban migration mix people of different castes together in factories, offices, and city neighbourhoods, weakening the strict separation that caste needs to survive, and new non-farm occupations mean income is less tied to traditional caste work.

Step 4: Explain political and cultural factors.

Democratic politics, where every adult has one vote regardless of caste, has forced caste groups to organise for political bargaining rather than only for ritual status, and social reform movements plus mass media have spread ideas of equality that challenge old caste hierarchy.

Final Answer:

Caste is a birth based, ranked social group; education, law, industrial and urban growth, and democratic politics together have weakened its rigidity and reshaped it over time.

Quick Tip: Define caste through birth, hierarchy and endogamy, then cover education, law, economy, and politics as forces of change.

OR

What is communalism? Discuss its causes and consequences in India.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Define communalism.

Communalism is the belief that people belonging to a particular religion form a single, unified community whose interests are separate from and often opposed to people of other religions, used to justify treating religious groups as rival political blocs.

Step 2: Explain historical and political causes.

Colonial policies that classified and sometimes favoured communities separately deepened religious divisions, and after independence, political parties have at times used religious identity to gather votes, which keeps communal thinking alive for electoral gain.

Step 3: Explain social and economic causes.

Competition over jobs, land, or resources between communities can be reframed as a religious conflict rather than an economic one, and rumours or provocative propaganda, spread quickly today through social media, can turn small incidents into large scale communal tension.

Step 4: Explain the consequences.

Communalism can lead to riots and loss of life and property, it

damages social trust and daily cooperation between communities living side by side, it can result in ghettoisation where communities cluster separately out of fear, and it weakens the secular, inclusive character of Indian democracy.

Final Answer:

Communalism treats religion as the basis of rival community interests; it grows from historical, political, and economic causes and leads to violence, mistrust, and weakened social unity.

Quick Tip: Define communalism as an ideology first, then cover historical, political, economic causes and violence, mistrust as consequences.



28. Explain the major Women's Movements in India. Mention the efforts made by the government in the interest of women.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Describe the early phase of the women's movement.

In the colonial period, social reformers raised issues like Sati, child marriage, and denial of education to women, and the early 20th century saw women's organisations form to demand voting rights and better legal status alongside the freedom movement.

Step 2: Describe the post independence phase.

After independence, the women's movement widened its focus to issues like dowry, domestic violence, rape laws, and workplace harassment, with organised campaigns during the 1970s and 1980s

pushing for stronger laws and greater public awareness of these problems.

Step 3: Describe more recent movements.

More recent movements have taken up issues like safety in public spaces, equal pay, representation in politics and the workplace, and reproductive rights, often using media and now the internet to organise and reach a wider audience quickly.

Step 4: Cover government efforts.

The government has responded with laws such as the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, and stronger sexual harassment and rape laws, along with reservation for women in local self government (Panchayats), schemes for girl's education such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and steps toward reservation of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies.

Final Answer:

Indian women's movements have moved from colonial era social reform to demands for legal protection, safety, and equal participation, backed by government laws and schemes such as domestic violence protection, Panchayat reservation, and girl child welfare programmes.

Quick Tip: Trace colonial reform, post independence legal campaigns, and recent safety/representation movements, then match government laws and schemes to each.

OR

Describe the changes brought about in rural society by the Panchayati Raj System.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduce the Panchayati Raj system.

The Panchayati Raj system, given constitutional status through the 73rd Amendment in 1992, created a three tier structure of elected local government in rural India, from the village Gram Panchayat up to the district Zila Parishad.

Step 2: Explain changes in local governance.

It has brought decision making about local roads, water, schools, and welfare schemes directly to elected village representatives instead of only distant officials, making rural development planning more responsive to local needs.

Step 3: Explain social changes.

Reservation of seats for women and for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats has given these groups direct political experience and voice for the first time in many villages, gradually challenging old patterns where only upper caste men held local power.

Step 4: Note the limits of this change.

At the same time, real power in some villages still rests with dominant castes or families behind the scenes, financial and administrative powers of Panchayats remain limited in many states, and women elected to seats sometimes face pressure to let male relatives make actual decisions, so change has been real but incomplete.

Final Answer:

Panchayati Raj has decentralised rural governance and given women and lower castes new political representation, though old power structures still limit how complete this change has been.

Quick Tip: Cover the 73rd Amendment's structure, decentralised governance, reservation for women/SC/ST, and the limits of real change.



29. What is social change? Describe the main theories of social change.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Define social change.**

Social change means any significant alteration over time in a society's structure, culture, institutions, or patterns of behaviour, such as changes in family form, work, technology, or values.

Step 2: Explain the evolutionary theory.

Evolutionary theory, influenced by biological ideas, holds that society moves through a fixed sequence of stages from simple to more complex forms, such as the shift from hunting-gathering to agricultural to industrial society, generally moving in one forward direction.

Step 3: Explain the cyclical theory.

Cyclical theory, associated with thinkers like Pitirim Sorokin, argues that societies do not move in a single straight line of progress but

instead pass through repeating cycles of rise, peak, and decline, similar to the life cycle of a civilisation.

Step 4: Explain conflict theory.

Conflict theory, following Karl Marx, holds that social change is driven mainly by struggle between unequal groups, especially economic classes, where tension between those who control resources and those who do not eventually forces a change in the social and economic order.

Final Answer:

Social change is a shift in society's structure and culture over time; it is explained through evolutionary (linear stages), cyclical (rise and decline), and conflict (class struggle) theories.

Quick Tip: Cover evolutionary (linear stages), cyclical (rise and fall), and conflict (class struggle) theories of social change.

OR

Throw light on the reasons for the decline in sex ratio in India.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: State the problem.

The sex ratio, the number of females per thousand males, has declined in parts of India, especially the child sex ratio, showing that fewer girls are being born or surviving compared to boys in these areas.

Step 2: Explain son preference as the root cause.

A deep cultural preference for sons exists in many Indian communities, linked to the idea that sons carry the family name, inherit property, and support parents in old age, while daughters are often seen as an economic burden, especially because of dowry expected at their marriage.

Step 3: Explain the role of technology.

The spread of prenatal sex determination technology, even though it is legally banned for this purpose under the PCPNDT Act, has been misused in some places to identify the sex of a foetus and selectively abort female foetuses, directly lowering the number of girls born.

Step 4: Explain neglect after birth and its effects.

Even where girls are born, unequal nutrition, healthcare, and attention compared to sons in some families can raise female child mortality, adding to the decline, and this skewed ratio in turn creates further social problems such as difficulty in finding brides in some regions, and even trafficking of women.

Final Answer:

The declining sex ratio in India is driven mainly by son preference, dowry linked cost of daughters, misuse of prenatal sex determination technology, and neglect of girls, with serious social consequences.

Quick Tip: Cover son preference and dowry as root cause, then technology misuse (sex selective abortion) and neglect after birth.