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SOCIOLOGY NOTES

Chapter 1

Sociology - The Discipline



(a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.

Previous Year Questions

Sociology emerged in Europe and flourished to begin with on social reformist orientation in the U.S.A. - Comment.	2013
How has Enlightenment Contributed to the Emergence of Sociology?	2015
"Sociology is pre-eminently study of modern societies." Discuss.	2016
Does collapse of functionalism and bankruptcy of Marxism coincide with the rupture of modernity? Discuss.	2018
Discuss the historical antecedents of the emergence of Sociology as a discipline	2019
Modernisation presupposes class society; however, caste, ethnicity and race are still predominant. Explain.	2019
How did the intellectual forces lead to the emergence of sociology? Discuss.	2020
Europe was the first and the only place where modernity emerged. Comment.	2021
What aspects of 'Enlightenment' do you think paved the way for the emergence of sociology? Elaborate.	2022

Modernity and Social Changes in Europe

What is Modernity?

Etymologically, the term 'modernus' in Latin translates to 'just now.'

Modernity involves the following concepts:

- A belief in the possibility of human progress
- Rational planning to achieve objectives
- A belief in the superiority of rational thought over emotion
- Faith in the ability of technology and science to solve human problems
- A belief in the ability and rights of humans to shape their own lives; and
- A reliance upon the manufacturing industry to improve living standards.

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Factors responsible for Modernity in Europe (Temporal Shifts):

- Renaissance (14th century AD onwards)
 - Revival of classical knowledge and arts.
 - Emphasis on humanism and intellectual exploration.
- Scientific Revolution (16th century AD onwards)
 - Challenged traditional beliefs about the natural world.
 - New era of empirical inquiry and scientific reasoning.
- Enlightenment (17th to 18th century AD)
 - Emphasis on reason, individual rights, and scepticism.
 - Promotion of a secular and rational worldview.
- Industrial Revolution (18th to 19th century AD)

- Technological advancements and urbanization.
- The transition from agrarian to industrial societies.

Changes in various institutions

● **Socio-cultural:**

- **Significance of Religion on Decline:** Traditional religious authority, such as Catholicism, declined as individuals began to question religious dogma. This led to movements like the **Protestant Reformation**.
- **Emphasis on Rationality:** The emphasis on reason and empirical evidence grew, challenging superstitions and traditional beliefs.
- **Family Structure:** In agrarian societies, joint family systems were prevalent, but industrialization led to a shift towards nuclear families, reflecting changing economic structures.
- **Collectivism to Individualism:** Traditional collectivist values gave way to individualism as people sought personal autonomy and freedom of thought.

● **Political:**

- **Monarchy to Democracy:** Traditional absolute monarchies, where "The King is Law" (Rex Lex), transformed into democratic systems where "The Law is King" (Lex Rex), emphasizing basic human rights and representative government.

● **Economic:**

- **Agrarian Feudalism to Capitalism:** The transition from agrarian feudalism to capitalism marked a significant

economic shift, emphasizing private ownership and market-driven economies.

- **Urbanization and Colonialism:**

- Industrialization led to urbanization, with rural-to-urban migration. Capitalism also fueled colonialism as European powers sought new markets and resources.

- **Technological:**

- Innovations: Technological advancements like the printing press, Spinning Jenny, steam engine, smallpox vaccine, and the laws of motion played a pivotal role in challenging traditional practices, fostering economic growth, and promoting scientific inquiry.

Overall, the process of moving away from tradition had far-reaching and transformative effects on societies and the world as a whole, shaping the modern era in multiple ways.

Sociology developed alongside modernity, and it has tended to be based upon similar foundations. Thus early sociological theories tended to believe that societies could and would progress, that scientific principles could be used to understand society, and that rational thought could be employed to ensure that society was organised to meet human needs.

Emergence of Sociology

The nature and the story of the emergence of the discipline also help illuminate the profession's complexity. Sociology as a discipline was born during the **Enlightenment period** in Europe in the 18th century. Enlightenment is a period marked by remarkable intellectual development and change in philosophical thought.

Auguste Comte, a French philosopher, who developed a science of society and named it as sociology. In his famous book "**Positive Philosophy**", Comte pointed out the need for the creation of a distinct science of society which he first called "**Social Physics**" and later "Sociology" that should concern itself with an analysis and explanation of social phenomena.

Sociology has been defined as the science of society. It is the scientific study of social relationships or activities. It studies social life, actions, behaviours and incidents.

Comte compared the role of sociologists in a social context to that of physicians in a medical context. His 'positivist' Sociology advocated the use of methods used in natural sciences for the study of society.

During this period, Sociology was considered a tool to re-establish stability and harmony in society by maintaining social order. Sociology has been seen as a conservative reaction to this Enlightenment (Ritzer: 2011).

Background of the Emergence of Sociology

The Enlightenment Period

- What is the Enlightenment Period?
 - A significant time in European history. Known for big social, political, and economic changes.
 - Key events: French Revolution and Industrial Revolution.
 - Called "Enlightenment" because of the new awakening seen in French thinkers of the 18th century.
- How was it different from earlier times?
 - Moved away from traditional feudal European thinking.
 - People began to question everything.
 - Nothing was off-limits: the church, the state, monarchs, etc.
- Key Ideas from the Enlightenment:
 - Nature and society can be studied scientifically.
 - Humans are rational.
 - A rationally built society can help humans reach their full potential.
- What led to these new ideas?
 - The growth of science and commerce in Europe.
 - The Commercial Revolution and the Scientific Revolution played big roles.
 - These ideas became clearer during the French and Industrial Revolutions.
- Why is this important for sociology?

- These changes and new ways of thinking led to the birth of sociology.
- To fully understand these changes, we need to know about society in Europe before the Enlightenment.

Structure and Change in European Society

Old Europe: Traditional Society	New Europe: Modern Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Land-based● Feudal lords owned the land.● Peasants worked on the land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Industrial Revolution challenged the traditional economic structure of Europe.● Rise of capitalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear distinctions between classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Old classes were overthrown and new classes emerged.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Religion was the core of the society● Religious leaders set moral standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Religion was questioned and lost its central position.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Family and kinship were central to people's lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shift from family loyalties to ideological beliefs.● Women's positions changed significantly.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monarchy- Kings believed to be chosen by divine right.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democracy
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- **Societal Reactions**

- Aristocrats were terrified due to the potential loss of power and property.
- Peasants were excited by new opportunities and powers.

Social Conditions Leading to the Emergence of Sociology

The Commercial Revolution (1450-1800)

- Shift from medieval Europe's subsistence economy to a dynamic global system.
 - Large-scale, organized expansion of trade from the 15th century.
 - Initiated by European countries: Portugal, Spain, Holland, and England.
- Overseas Discoveries and Conquests:
 - Europe's trade with the East was via land routes, dominated by Italian cities.
 - High prices due to Italian monopoly.
 - Portugal and Spain sought sea routes to bypass Italian control.
 - Portuguese exploration led by Vasco da Gama reached India in 1498.

- Christopher Columbus, sponsored by Spain, accidentally discovered America.
- Britain, France, and Holland followed, expanding their economic control globally.
- European markets introduced new commodities from various regions.
- Expansion of Banking:
 - Growth in credit facilities for merchants.
 - Introduction of the "cheque" in the 18th century.
 - Paper money began replacing gold and silver coins.
- Growth of Companies:
 - 16th century: "Regulated companies" - associations of merchants for common ventures.
 - 17th century: "Joint-stock" companies with shares distributed to investors.
 - Chartered companies like the British East India Company had trade monopolies.
- Rise of a New Class:
 - Emergence of the influential **middle class** by the end of the 17th century.
 - Composed of merchants, bankers, ship-owners, and investors.
 - Initially held economic power, later gained political influence in the 19th century.
- "Europeanisation" of the World:
 - Spread of European culture and manners to other societies.

- Initiated by traders, missionaries, and conquerors in the Americas.
- Strengthened with colonialism in Asia and Africa.
- Period marked by the strengthening of monarchies, decline of the Church, and rise of the middle class.

The Commercial Revolution set the stage for Europe's global economic expansion and laid the groundwork for the emergence of sociology.

The Scientific Revolution and the Renaissance Period

Europe experienced a "scientific revolution" during the Renaissance (14th-16th century).

Science influenced both material life and ideas about Nature and Society.

- History of Science: Not just a list of dates/events but the interplay between science and society, politics, economy, and culture.
- Social Functions of Sciences:
 - Science develops in response to human needs, e.g., vaccines for diseases.
 - Science and ideas are interconnected; scientific advancements can change societal beliefs.
- Science in the Medieval Period:
 - Medieval society was dominated by the feudal system and the Church.

- Learning was religious; the Church's dogmas couldn't be challenged.
- Science was limited to improving production techniques.

The Renaissance Period:

Beginning of the "Scientific Revolution" with a shift from past beliefs.

- Visual Art: Detailed exploration of Nature and the human body in paintings.
- Medicine: Acceptance of human body dissection; advancements in anatomy, physiology, and pathology.
- Chemistry: Development of a general theory; study of chemical processes.
- Navigation and Astronomy: Voyages like Vasco da Gama to India (1498) and Columbus to America (1492). Growth in astronomy for navigation.
- The **Copernican Revolution**:
 - Nicholas Copernicus challenged the geocentric theory (earth at the center).
 - Introduced the heliocentric theory (sun at the center), proving the earth moves around the sun. This revolution changed the way humans perceived their place in the universe.

The Renaissance period brought a new perspective on man and nature. Observations and experiments became central to understanding. The

Copernican revolution, in particular, transformed foundational beliefs about the universe.

Important Post-Renaissance Scientific Developments

- **Experimental Method in Physics and Mathematics:**

- Key figures: Galileo Galilei, Johannes Kepler, Sir Isaac Newton.
- Emphasis on the experimental method.
- Shift from accepting old ideas to challenging and verifying new ones.
- Rise of scientific methods as the most accurate and objective.
- Influence on sociology: Recommendation of the 'scientific method' for societal studies.

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- **Biology and Evolution:**

- Advancements in understanding the human body:
 - Discovery of blood circulation by William Harvey.
 - Viewing the human organism in terms of interconnected systems.
 - Influence on sociological thought: Comte, Spencer, Durkheim.

- **Charles Darwin's contributions:**

- Publication of "Origin of Species" in 1859.
- Theory of "survival of the fittest" and natural competition.

- Study of human evolution in "Descent of Man" (1863).
- Controversy: Challenge to religious beliefs about human creation.
- Acceptance and influence: Evolutionary theory applied to societal development, notably by Herbert Spencer.

The French Revolution

French Society Pre-Revolution:

- Feudal Estates:
 - First Estate: Clergy (Higher clergy vs. Lower parish priests).
 - Second Estate: Nobility (Nobles of the sword vs. Nobles of the robe).
 - Third Estate: Peasants, merchants, artisans, bourgeoisie.
 - Economic disparities and tax burdens on the Third Estate.

Prices rose during 1720-1789.

- Political Aspects:
 - Absolute monarchy and the Divine Right of King.
 - Bourbon dynasty's rule and lack of personal rights for ordinary people.
- Economic Aspects:
 - Bankruptcy due to costly wars and extravagant lifestyles of the monarchs.
 - Financial crisis under Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette's infamous "eat cake" remark.

Intellectual Developments:

- Age of reason and rationalism.
- Influential philosophers: Montesquieu, Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau.
- Ideas of liberty, equality, and the right to choose one's government.

Major Events of the Revolution:

- Formation of the National Assembly and the Oath of the Tennis Court.
- Storming of the Bastille on July 14th, 1789.
- Declaration of Rights of Man by the Constituent Assembly.
- King Louis XVI's failed escape attempt and his subsequent imprisonment.
- Formation of the Legislative Assembly with radical groups.
- Execution of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette.
- "Reign of Terror" period.
- Establishment of the Directorate and its overthrow by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799.

The Industrial Revolution

- Catalysts for the Industrial Revolution:
 - Discovery of new territories and growth of trade and commerce.
 - Increased demand for goods.
 - Transition from domestic to factory system of production.
- New Inventions:
 - Spinning Jenny by James Hargreaves.

- Arkwright's Water Frame.
- "The Mule" by Samuel Crompton.
- Other inventions contributing to industrial growth.
- Impact on Society:
 - Emergence of banks, insurance companies, and finance corporations.
 - Rise of industrial workers, managers, and capitalists.
 - Peasants transitioning to factory workers.
 - Urbanization and growth of industrial cities.
 - Socio-economic disparities in industrial cities.
 - Alienation of workers from their labor.

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Impact of Industrial Revolution

- Condition of Labour:
 - Emergence of the working class.
 - Distinction between natural and social poverty.
 - Workers' rights and agitations.
- Transformation of Property:
 - Shift in value from land to capital.
 - Rise of capitalists and decline of feudal landlords.
 - Property's influence on social order and stratification.
- Urbanism:
 - Growth of modern towns and cities.
 - Differences between ancient and new cities.
 - Urban challenges and living conditions.

- Technology and Factory System:
 - Impact of technology on society.
 - Migration to cities and changes in family dynamics.
 - Alienation of labor and dominance of machines.
 - Changes in work culture and personalization of life.

The Industrial Revolution's profound impact on society, economy, and individual lives. The challenges and opportunities it presented for future generations.

The intertwining of Enlightenment ideas and post-Enlightenment intellectual influences in shaping the field of sociology. The continuous evolution of sociological thought in response to societal changes and intellectual developments.



Conservative Reaction to the Enlightenment

Key Opponents of Enlightenment

- **Louis de Bonald** (1754-1840)
 - Opposed Enlightenment and French Revolution.
 - Desired a return to middle ages' peace.

- Against changes to traditional institutions: patriarchy, church, monarchy.
- **Joseph de Maistre** (1753–1821)
 - Also opposed the Enlightenment and French Revolution.

Key Ideas from Zeitlin (1981) on Conservative Reaction

- Focus of Study:
 - Enlightenment: Emphasized individuals.
 - Conservatives: Emphasized society and larger phenomena.
- Society's Importance:
 - Main unit of analysis.
- Role of Individuals:
 - Fill roles, positions, and structures in society.
- Interconnected Society:
 - All parts linked; changes can affect the whole.
- Change's Impact:
 - Seen as a threat to individuals and society.
- Functionality in Society:
 - Large components serve a purpose.
 - Small units (families, religious groups) offer close connections.
- Modernization's Effects:
 - Industrialization and urbanization were seen as disruptive.
- Non-Rational Elements:
 - Rituals, ceremonies, and worship are crucial.

- Societal Hierarchy:
 - Needed for status and rewards; seen as functional.

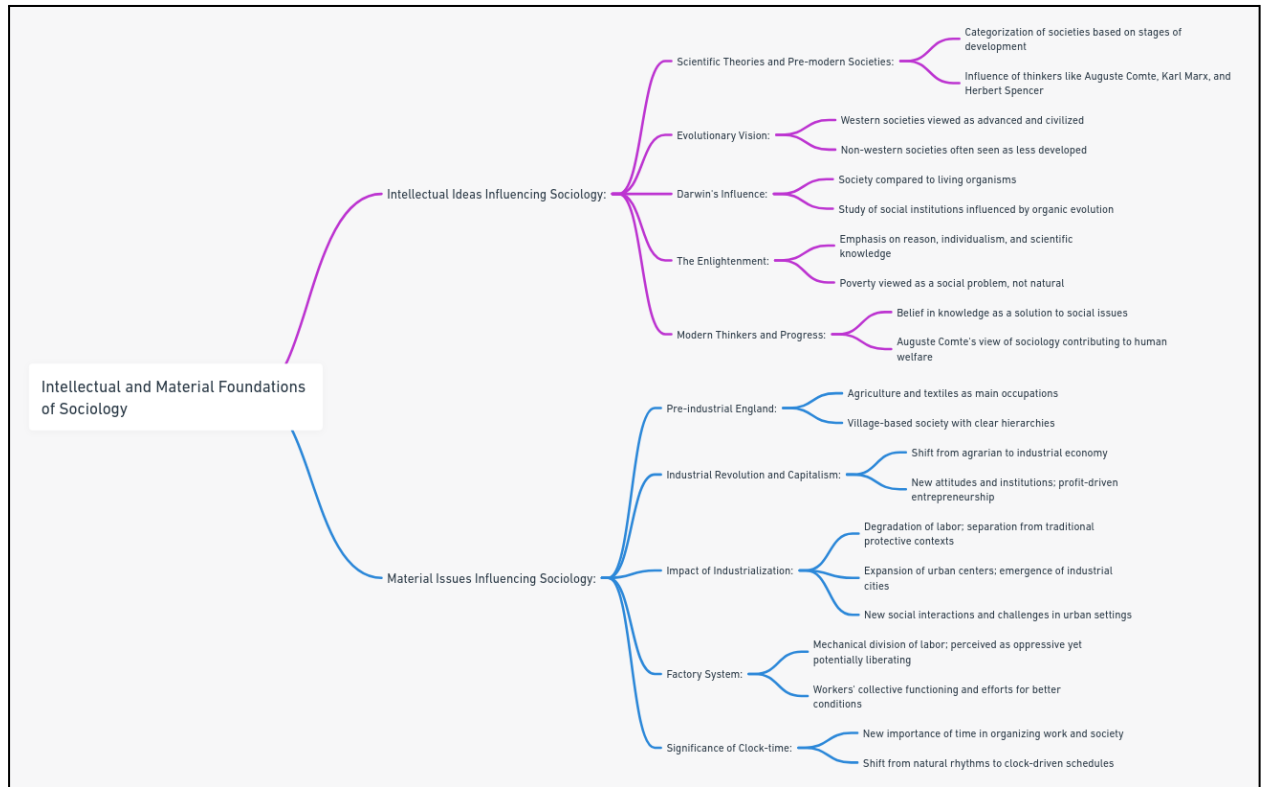
Overall, conservatives believed in upholding traditional societal structures and were wary of rapid changes and modernization.

The intertwining of intellectual ideas and material changes in shaping the field of sociology. The continuous evolution of sociological thought in response to societal changes, intellectual developments, and material conditions.

Practice Question

1. How did the Enlightenment contribute to the foundation of sociology?
Elaborate. 10
2. The French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries changed the entire history of human society. In this context, explain the origin of sociology. 20

Mind Map for quick revision



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Keywords

Enlightenment	Industrial Revolution	Capitalism
Urbanization	Auguste Comte	Feudalism
Scientific Revolution	Rationalism	Darwinism
Modernity	French Revolution	Intellectual Ideas
Material Change	Poor Living Conditions	Social Change

(b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences

Previous Year Questions

Compare and Contrast Sociology with Anthropology.	2013
How is sociological approach to human actions different from that of psychological approach?	2014
"The sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relationship between the two in a society." - C.W. Mills. Explain.	2018
In the context of globalisation, has the scope of sociology been changing in India? Comment.	2020
From the viewpoint of the growing importance of multidisciplinary, how do you relate sociology to other social sciences?	2021
Delimit the scope of Sociology in relation to other social sciences.	2022

Scope of Sociology

V. F. Calverton comments "Since sociology is so elastic a science, it is difficult to determine just where its boundaries began and end, where sociology becomes social psychology and where social psychology becomes sociology, or where economic theory becomes sociological doctrine or biological theory becomes sociological theory something, which is impossible to decide.

Scope refers to the area of study or subject matter. It's essential to define the scope for systematic study.

Two Main Schools of Thought on Scope

1. Formalistic or Specialistic School
2. Synthetic School

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Formalistic or Specialistic School:

- Led by **George Simmel**.
- Believed sociology should study formal behavior.
- Views sociology as a pure and independent science.
- Main proponents and their views:
 - George Simmel: Focus on forms of social relationships.
 - Alfred Vierkandt: Deals with ultimate forms of mental relationships.
 - Leopold Vonwiese: Studies forms of social relationships and processes.

- Max Weber: Focus on interpretative understanding of social action.
- Albion Small: Studies genetic forms of social relationships.
- Ferdinand Tonnies: Differentiates between 'Gemeinschaft' and 'Gesellschaft'.

Criticism of Formalistic School:

- Too narrow in scope.
- Difficult to separate forms from content in social relationships.
- The idea of pure sociology is seen as imaginary.
- Other social sciences also study social relationships.
- Comparing sociology to geometry is impractical.

Synthetic School

- Emerged in response to the formalistic school.
- Views sociology as a synthesis of social sciences.
- Believes in studying social life as a whole.

Key Advocates & Their Views:

- Emile Durkheim:
 - Divided sociology into: Social Morphology, Social Physiology, and General Sociology.
- L.T. Hothouse:
 - Believes in understanding the whole through its parts.
 - Emphasizes the interconnectedness of social relations.
- P.A. Sorokin:
 - Sees sociology as both general and specific.

- Focuses on relationships between different social phenomena.
- Morris Ginsberg:
 - Classifies sociology into: Social Morphology, Social Control, Social Process, and Social Pathology.
- Karl Mannheim:
 - Divides sociology into: Systematic and General Sociology, and Historical Sociology.
- Alex Inkles:
 - Highlights areas like social analysis, primary concepts, basic institutions, and social processes.

Both formalistic and synthetic schools are interconnected. Sociology is both a general and specific science. It synthesizes all special sciences, making its scope wide.

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Comparison with other social sciences

Sociology studies how people interact in society. To fully understand this, it often borrows ideas from other subjects that also study people, like psychology or history. Even though sociology has its own unique focus, it's closely linked with these other subjects. Think of sociology as the main hub that connects and uses insights from all these areas to get a full picture of society. This makes it a central subject when we want to understand how people behave and relate to each other in groups.

Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology, often regarded as the mother of all social sciences, shares a deep and intimate connection with Anthropology. Renowned anthropologists like **A. L. Kroeber** views Sociology and Anthropology as twin sisters, so intertwined that they sometimes seem to be two names for the same subject. **R. Redfield** also acknowledges the profound closeness between these two disciplines.

At its core, Sociology delves into the associations and interactions of human beings in various social groups. On the other hand, Anthropology stems from the Greek words 'anthropos' (man) and 'logos' (study), translating to the study of mankind. It encompasses the study of human evolution, both biologically and culturally.

Anthropology can be segmented into four primary divisions:

- **Physical Anthropology:** Examines the physical attributes of early humans to understand both primitive and contemporary cultures.
- **Archeology:** Investigates cultures from prehistoric times, aiding sociologists in comparative studies of current social structures.
- **Cultural Anthropology:** Focuses on the origin, spread, and evolution of cultures by analyzing remnants of past societies.
- **Social Anthropology:** Concentrates on human behavior within social institutions. Notably, many consider social anthropology and sociology to be synonymous, with scholars like **Evan Pritchard** deeming social anthropology a subset of Sociology.

The Symbiotic Relationship

The relationship between Sociology and Anthropology is symbiotic. While Anthropology studies primitive humans in pre-literate societies, Sociology delves into the complexities of modern societies. Anthropology's holistic approach examines all facets of humans in a societal context, a feat challenging for Sociology due to the vastness and intricacies of contemporary life.

Anthropology significantly contributes to the realm of Sociology. It offers insights into ancient societies, enriching our understanding of current societal structures. Concepts like cultural area, cultural traits, and cultural lag, borrowed from Anthropology, have found acceptance in sociological studies. Furthermore, anthropological conclusions, such as the debunking

of racial superiority as a determinant of mental development, have been embraced by Sociology.

Conversely, Sociology also enriches Anthropology. Many sociological concepts find acceptance in anthropological studies, and the research and contributions of sociologists like **Emile Durkheim** and **Herbert Spencer** have been invaluable to anthropologists. Other examples are **Louis Dumont's** and **M N Srinivas's** method village studies derived from anthropology.

Differences

Sr No	Sociology	Anthropology
1	Science of society.	Science of man.
2	Wide scope	Limited scope.
3	Studies society as a whole.	Studies man as part of society.
4	Studies man in modern complex societies.	Studies primitive man in a pre-literate society. Holistic in nature.
5	Studies civilizations	Studies cultures
6	Concerned with social planning.	Not concerned with social planning.

7	Tends towards the practical and present.	Tends towards understanding the past.
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Kluckhohn aptly put it, "The Sociological attitude leans towards the practical and present, while the anthropological gravitates towards understanding the past."

While Sociology and Anthropology are deeply interconnected and share many concepts, they remain distinct disciplines, each with its unique focus and approach.

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Sociology and Economics

Sociology is the science of society, focusing on human interactions and associations, studying the conditions and consequences of human inter-relations. In contrast, Economics is the science of wealth and choice, studying human behavior concerning his unlimited ends and scarce means, focusing on activities such as production, consumption, distribution, and exchange, and exploring the structure and functions of various economic organizations like banks and markets.

The interdependence and interrelation between Sociology and Economics are profound. **Thomas even** opines that "**Economics is, in fact, but one**

branch of Sociology.” Economics seeks assistance from Sociology to comprehend economic phenomena as it is inherently a part of Sociology. Economic welfare is a subset of social welfare, and to resolve economic issues like inflation, poverty, and unemployment, the insights from Sociology are indispensable. Sociological research, especially by scholars like **Max Weber and Pareto**, significantly benefits Economics, providing foundational data for economic generalizations. Some economists perceive economic change as a facet of social change, emphasizing the inseparability of the two disciplines.

Conversely, Sociology is enriched by Economics. Economic factors are pivotal in shaping various aspects of social life, and understanding economic principles is crucial for analyzing social problems like dowry and suicide. **Marx's** perspective that economic relations constitute the foundation of society (**Infrastructure**) underscores the importance of economic factors in social life. Renowned sociologists like Spencer, Weber, and Durkheim have incorporated economic insights in their analysis of social relationships, highlighting the intertwined nature of Sociology and Economics. Both disciplines study some common problems, emphasizing that economic changes induce social changes and vice versa.

Difference

Sr No	Sociology	Economics
1	Science of society and social	Science of wealth.

	relationships.	
2	A much younger science with a very recent origin.	Comparatively older science.
3	Abstract in nature.	Concrete in nature.
4	Concerned with the social activities of man.	Concerned with the economic activities of man.
5	Society is studied as a unit of study.	Man is taken as a unit of study.
6	Uses methods and techniques that are suitable for the study of social relationships and societies. For eg: Field study, interpretation etc	Employs methods and techniques that are apt for the study of economic activities and wealth creation. For eg: Statistics, charts-graphs,survey etc

Sociology and Economics are interrelated and interdependent disciplines, each enriching the other with insights and perspectives, yet they maintain their unique focuses, scopes, and methodologies.

Sociology and Political Science

G.E.C. Catlin remarked, "*Political Science and Sociology are two faces or aspects of the same figure.*" Sociology is a general science of society, focusing on social groups, human interaction, and social institutions, studying their conditions and consequences. In contrast, Political Science is the science of state and government, concentrating on power, political processes, political systems, types of government, and international relations, dealing with social groups organized under the sovereignty of the state.

The interdependence between Sociology and Political Science is evident in their mutual reliance. Sociology, with roots in politics and philosophy of history, gains insights from the works of political scientists like **Plato, Aristotle, and Kautilya**. It relies on Political Science to comprehend various political events and to understand the changes in society due to alterations in the political system or power structure. Almost every social problem has a political cause, making Political Science an integral part of Sociology.

Conversely, Political Science also leans on Sociology. To comprehend political problems with social causes, Political Science seeks insights from Sociology. For eg: **Max Weber's Ideal Types of Bureaucracy** and **CW Mill's Theory of Power Elite**. The state formulates its rules, regulations, and laws based on social customs, traditions, and values, making the study of

Political Science incomplete without a sociological background. Some even consider Political Science as a branch of Sociology, studying the state as a social group. The interrelation has given rise to a new subject, **Political Sociology**, which studies common topics like war, propoganda, authority, communal riots, and law, which are significant in both political and social contexts.

Differences

Sr No	Sociology	Political Science
1	Science of society and social relationships.	Science of state and government.
2	Very wide, studying organized, unorganized, and disorganized societies.	Limited, studying only politically organized societies.
3	General science.	Special science.
4	Studies the social activities of man.	Studies the political activities of man.
5	A new or young science.	An old science.
6	Studies man as a social animal.	Studies man as a political animal.
7	Studies both formal and	Studies only formal relations.

	informal relations.	
8	Analyses both conscious and unconscious activities of man.	Analyses only conscious activities of man.
9	Deals with all forms of association.	Deals with only one form of association, named state.

Sociology and Political Science are mutually reliant disciplines, each contributing to the understanding of the other, yet they maintain distinct focuses, scopes, and methodologies in studying human interactions and societal structures.

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Sociology and History

G. Von Bulow, has questioned the distinction between sociology and history. Sociology is the scientific study of society, social actions, social groups, and institutions, focusing on understanding the systems and their interrelations. In contrast, history is the systematic and chronological study and record of past events, incidents, and societies, aiming to understand the causes and impacts of these past occurrences. It delves into past political, social, and economic events globally, linking the past to the present and the future, serving as a “microscope of the past, the horoscope of the present, and telescope of the future.”

The interrelation and interdependence between sociology and history are profound, leading **G.H. Howard** remarked, "**History is past Sociology and Sociology is present history.**" Both disciplines study human society and mutually enrich and assist each other. History provides a wealth of knowledge and a record of past social matters, customs, and information about different life stages that sociology utilizes. Works by **historians like A. Toynbee** offer invaluable insights to sociologists, allowing them to understand the impacts of specific past events. For eg: **The Indological approach of Ghurye**

Conversely, sociology also aids and enriches history. Historians leverage sociological research and data to study aspects like *caste, class, and family*, providing the necessary background for historical studies. Every historical event has a social cause or background, and to comprehend these events, historians rely on sociological facts and perspectives. This mutual dependence has given rise to specialized subjects like **historical sociology and sociological history**, blending the insights and methodologies of both disciplines.

Differences

Sr No	Sociology	History
1	Science of society and is concerned with the present society.	Deals with past events and studies past society.

2	Modern or new subject.	Older social science.
3	Abstract.	Concrete in nature.
4	Very wide; includes history within its scope.	Limites scope
5	Analytical science	Descriptive science.
6	Studies a particular event as a social phenomenon.	Studies a particular event in its entirety.
7	General science.	Special science.

Sociology and Economics

Sociology and Philosophy share a profound and intricate relationship, each contributing to the understanding of society and human behavior. Sociology, a study focused on social phenomena, relationships, and collective behavior, is deeply intertwined with philosophy, the study of fundamental aspects of life and reality. Before the birth and systematization of any subject, including sociology, it is essential that it is rooted in some philosophy, which shapes its course of thinking and influences society.

Sociology and Philosophy are interconnected through the philosophy of sociology, where sociology is committed to acquiring knowledge relevant

to its field in legitimate ways, constantly examining its methods, concepts, and arguments. This philosophical scrutiny is more urgently felt in sociology due to its very nature. Sociology raises philosophical problems to a greater extent in its studies, considering philosophical issues that are always in the background of sociological problems. **Social Philosophy** is the meeting point of sociology and philosophy, dealing with aspects of knowledge, value, the concept of social life, and principles of social sciences. Since social philosophy entirely deals with society, it shares a very close relationship with sociology.

Differences

Sr No	Sociology	History
1	Sociology is a relatively new science focusing on the study of human society.	Philosophy is an ancient field of study focusing on the fundamentals of all aspects of life and reality.
2	Its scope is extensive, encompassing various aspects of society and social interactions.	Scope is limited, dealing primarily with understanding reality in its totality
3	Normal Social Science – Practical and deals with the realities of life.	Special Social Science – Theoretical and often seen as utopian.

4	Studies human society, social phenomena, and relationships.	Studies the fundamental aspects and principles governing all facets of existence.
5	Empirical and observational, explaining society based on acts observed in society.	Conceptual and analytical, attempting to understand the totality of reality.
6	Practical, dealing with hard realities of life and is comprehensive.	Largely theoretical, focusing on conceptual understandings and is seen as utopian.

Sociology and Psychology

Sociology and Psychology are intertwined and interdependent disciplines, focusing on understanding human behavior, albeit from different perspectives. Sociology is the study of social phenomena, relationships, and collective behavior, focusing on social groups and institutions. It seeks to understand human behavior in groups and is considered a science of society. On the other hand, Psychology is the study of the mind and individual behavior, delving into attitudes, emotions, perception, learning processes, and personality formation. It is regarded as a science of human experience and behavior.

Sociology and Psychology mutually benefit from each other, with Sociology drawing insights from psychological theories to understand social phenomena and problems. Psychologists like **Freud and Mac Dugal** have significantly contributed to sociological perspectives, emphasizing the psychological forces underlying social life. The interrelation of these disciplines has given rise to **social psychology**, a field focusing on the behavior of individuals in society.

Conversely, Psychology also relies on sociological insights to comprehend the social influences on the human mind and personality. For eg: **Mind, Self and Society by GH Mead**. The social environment, culture, customs, and traditions play a pivotal role in shaping human behavior, and understanding these social elements is crucial for psychology. The theories and contributions from sociology enrich the field of psychology, providing a comprehensive understanding of human nature and behavior. For eg: **Emile Durkheim's theory of Suicide**.

Differences

Sr No	Sociology	Psychology
1	Science of society, studying social phenomena, relationships, and collective behavior.	Science of mind, studying individual behavior, mental processes, and experiences.

2	Wide, encompassing various aspects of society and social interactions	Limited to the study of individual minds and behaviors.
3	Society and social groups.	Individuals.
4	Social processes.	Social processes.
5	Studies and analyzes human behavior from a sociological angle.	Studies and analyzes human behavior from a psychological angle.

Despite their close relationship and mutual dependence, Sociology and Psychology have distinct focuses, methodologies, and scopes, each contributing uniquely to the understanding of human behavior and society

Sociology and Ethics

Sociology and Ethics are interrelated disciplines, each focusing on different aspects of human behavior and society. Sociology is the science of society, exploring social phenomena, relationships, and the collective behavior of individuals within social groups and institutions. It is a positive science concerned with understanding the structures, functions, and dynamics of society and social interactions.

Ethics, on the other hand, is the science of morality, delving into the concepts of good and bad, right and wrong, and the moral dimensions of human actions. It is a normative science that evaluates the moral conduct of individuals and aims to foster moral progress within society. Ethics emphasizes the importance of moral values, ethical standards, and moral agents in shaping the moral fabric of society and its institutions.

The relationship between Sociology and Ethics is intimate and mutually reinforcing. Ethics provides the moral foundation for society, influencing individual conduct and social institutions. The moral life of individuals, acquired as members of social groups, contributes to the overall moral standards and progress of society. The interplay between individual morality and societal norms brings Sociology and Ethics together, with some scholars even considering Ethics as a branch of Sociology due to their close connection.

Differences

Sr No	Sociology	Ethics
1	Science of society, studying social phenomena, relationships, and collective behaviour.	Science of morality, studying moral rightness and wrongness of human action.
2	Positive Science – Describes	Normative Science – Evaluates and

	and explains social phenomena.	prescribes moral conduct.
3	Studies Society and social groups.	The focus of study is individuals and their morality.
4	Wide scope, encompassing various aspects of society and social interactions.	Limited to the study of moral values and ethical standards.
5	Studies individuals and their social relations.	Studies the moral life of individuals and the moral progress of society.

However, despite their close relationship, Sociology and Ethics have distinct focuses, methodologies, and scopes, offering unique insights into human behaviour, society, and morality.

Practice Question

1. What is the scope of sociology, and how does it differ from other social sciences like psychology and anthropology? 20
2. Compare and contrast sociology with history as social sciences. How does each discipline contribute to our understanding of societal changes over time? 20

(c) Sociology and common sense.

Previous Year Questions

Is sociology common sense? Give reasons in support of your argument	2016
The focal point of Sociology rests on interaction. How do you distinguish it from common sense?	2018
How is sociology related to common sense?	2021

Common sense can be defined as the routine knowledge that people have of their everyday world and activities.

It is usually based on naturalistic and individualistic explanations and taken-for-granted knowledge. It is a set of beliefs that most people consider to be sound, without relying on reasoning. Common sense explanations are generally based on naturalistic or individualistic explanations.

- **Weber:** Routine knowledge we have of our everyday world and activities.
- **Alfred Schutz:** Organised, typified stocks of taken-for-granted knowledge And generally not questioned
- **Gramsci:** Common sense implies the unconscious subordination

Sociology is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about society.

Examples to understand the basic difference between common sense and sociology

Examples	Common Sense	Sociology
Example 1	I know women who earn more than their husbands or boyfriends. The gender wage gap is no longer an issue in the United States.	Mid 2020 : weekly median income of men \$1,087 vs women \$913. (Full-time jobs). Reasons: experience, education, negotiation, devaluation of women's work, discrimination.
Example 2	Homeless people lack adequate shelter because they do not work.	Even for those who work, permanent housing is a challenge in America. Low wages and poor benefits in the service industry. Shortage of adequate housing options for low-income families. Long-term homeless : disability, drug or alcohol addiction, mental illness.
Example 3	Education is a great	The quality of education varies.

	<p>equalizer. All children in the US have the opportunity to get a good education. Low academic achievement is an individual failure.</p>	<p>Communities with high property values have richer sources for funding the public schools.</p> <p>Racial segregation persists in schools.</p> <p>Students of high poverty and majority black or Hispanic schools were less likely to have access to math and science courses.</p>
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Correlation between Sociology and Common Sense

Point of Similarities

1. Non-positivists used common sense as cultural knowledge to understand the morals and motives of the society
2. **Anthony Giddens** has said that sociological investigation often becomes common sense. For ex sociological investigation of marital breakups have made people believe that marriage is a risky business
3. Common sense often acts as a source of hypothesis for their positivistic study by sociology.
4. Sociology validates and verifies the subjective notions of common sense.

5. Sometimes folk wisdom is close to sociology. For eg: Howard Becker's labeling theory
6. Phenomenology and ethnomethodology advocated common sense use for understanding social relations
7. Common sense gives raw material for sociology
8. Common sense can even be supportive of sociological theories
9. Common sense is often related to social relationships, social setting or institutions which fall under purview of sociology.

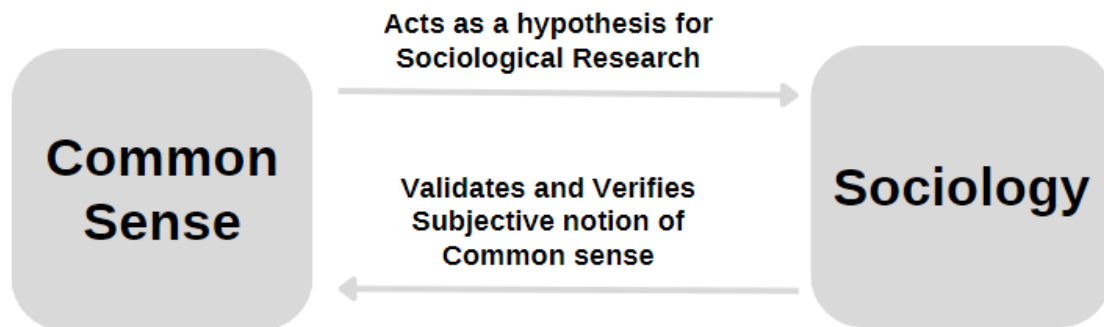


Fig: Correlation between Common Sense and Sociology

However, the observations and ideas that sociology as a discipline makes about society are different. How is sociology different from common sense?

Point of Differences

Sr. No	Common sense	Sociology
1	Common sense views are often based on stereotypical images.	Sociological knowledge is produced through rigorous empirical observation and theorization.
2	Common sense is culturally angled knowledge that is subjectively varied between individuals and societies.	Generalizations are possible in sociology which have cross-cultural applications.
3	Many of the common-sense conclusions are based on ignorance, prejudice, mistaken interpretation and haphazard trial and error learning.	By systematically checking common sense ideas against reliable facts, sociology can tell us which popular beliefs are myths and which are realities.
4	Common sense is unreflective i.e. it does not question its own origin or ask itself why do I hold this view?	Sociologists, on the other hand, must be ready to ask is this really so? Peter Berger says that the task of Sociology is to look beyond common sense knowledge.

5	Common sense usually takes cues from what appears on the surface.	Sociology looks for interconnections and root causes that may not be apparent.
6	Common sense requires only a willingness to believe what it tells us. It cannot tell us whether those beliefs have any basis in fact.	Sociology can give the basis and facts. Durkheim has proved the superiority of sociology over common sense in his study of suicides, where he dispelled many commonsensical myths regarding suicides and traced the sociological reasons.
7	Common-sense does not challenge consciously and methodically.	Sociology's goal is to rigorously question what appears to be clear Eg: Andre Beteille's research discovered that the popular belief at the time that the Indian hamlet was a "small republic" was a myth
8	Common sense is status quoist	Sociology professes active change

9	Common sense is assumptive which sometimes is discontinuous/ paradoxical	Sociology is verified, self-correcting and academic discipline
10	Common Sense knowledge is not based on research and can be mistaken. For eg: commonsensical knowledge that the influence of caste in politics is waning.	Sociology is based on in-depth research and field studies. For eg: MN Srinivas in his research claimed that the influence of caste in Indian politics was expanding.
11	Common sense has specific roles and duties assigned for genders, poor, tribal (stereotypes)	Sociology breaks stereotypes through systematic research. Margaret Mead study of tribals in the Papua New Guinea region found certain gender role reversal contrary to common sense

The fascination of Sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives. It can be said that the first wisdom of Sociology is that things are not what they seem. (**Peter Berger**)

Every common sense observation about society is not sociological, it is the way of looking at things that distinguishes sociology and common sense. Common sense cannot replace the collection of concepts, methods, and data found in sociology.

However, in contemporary times it is believed that Common Sense and sociology are not opposite, they are in a continuum. A person in society is guided by common sense as well as science therefore sociology studies the fusion of both.

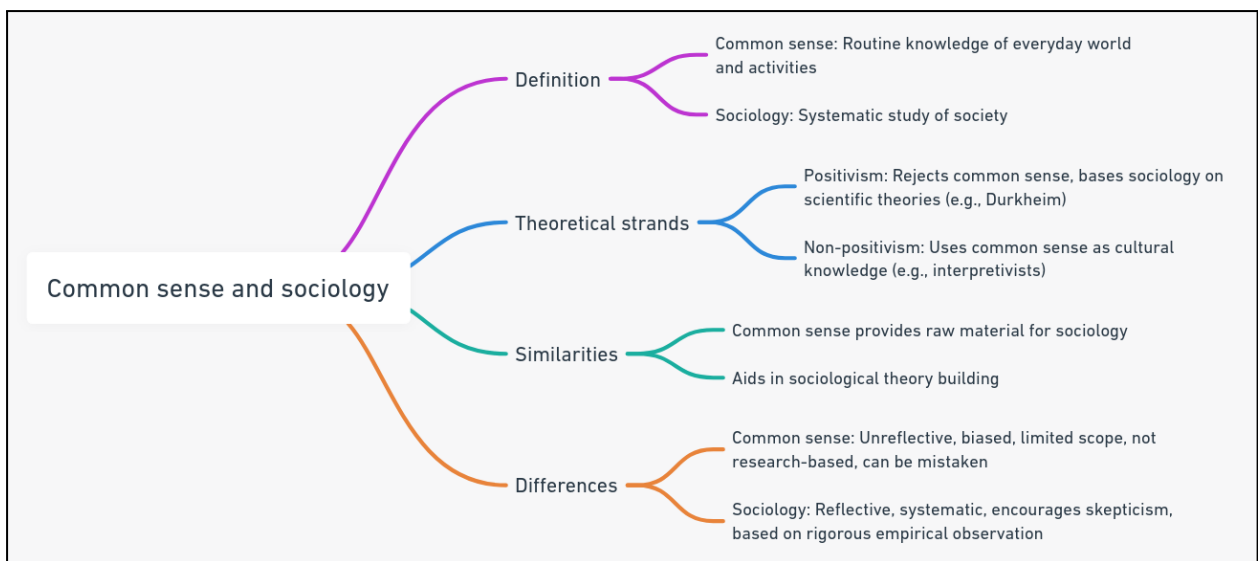
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Practice Question

- Sociology and common sense are often treated as railway tracks, apart yet together. Discuss. 10

Mind Map for quick revision



Keywords

Empirical Evidence	Theoretical Framework	Routine knowledge	Intuition
Systematic Research	Empirical Data	Unreflective	Stereotypes
Theoretical Analysis	Generalizations	Subjectivity	folk wisdom

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