



SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

AN IDEAL INSTITUTE FOR **CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS**

SOCIOLOGY

HIT LIST

MAINS-2024



Mr. **S. SIVARAJAVEL**
19+ years of Teaching Experience

PREDICTED
THE UNPREDICTABLE

FOR **15** TIMES IN A ROW (2009-2023)



Sociology test series at **SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY** proved to be immensely helpful in my Mains preparation. Sivarajavel sir used to provide model answers during test discussion with ready made introduction and conclusion ,which often gets repeated in (UPSC CSE Mains) exam. He was a constant pillar of support. I would like to thank him for my success.

306 marks in Sociology optional

Mr. SAURABH SHARMA
AIR 23, UPSC CSE2023

I OWE SO MUCH OF MY SUCCESS TO SIVARAJAVEL SIR

because he was my tutor as well as my mentor. His strategy yielded so much marks in sociology.

This time i got **298 MARKS** in Sociology. Because of his classes ,Test batch discussion and rewriting of the discussed answers i was able to score so much marks in Sociology. I was called for interview three times and sociology was the reason for being called for the interview all the three times.If you are a fresher and struggling with answer writing sivarajavel sir's dictated answer are a bulk of source ,you can just like that write mains.

298 marks in Sociology optional

Mr. B. Karthik, IPS
AIR 488, UPSC CSE2022



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SOCIOLOGY HIT LIST-2024

**“Predicted the unpredictable 100%
for the 15th time in a row (2009-2023)”**

PAPER - I

SHORT NOTES (10 markers)

1. 'Enlightenment' and emergence of sociology
2. Multidisciplinarity : Sociology's relation with other social sciences
3. Sociology and Anthropology /Psychology/History
4. Scope of sociology today in understanding various social issues in a globalized world
5. Sociology as interpretative science
6. Problems of objectivity/Ideology influencing research like Feminism and Marxism
7. Difference between objectivity and value neutrality
8. Research designs in social science-The explanatory and exploratory designs
9. Ethnography
10. Techniques of data collection- Participant observation, Questionnaires, Probability and Non probability sampling techniques, focus group Discussion, Content analysis, Biographies and Interviews.
11. The issues of Reliability and validity in non positivism
12. Good hypothesis
13. Ethical issues in Social Science research
14. Class in itself and Class for itself
15. Commodity fetishism
16. AGIL
17. Pattern variables and social change
18. Society as moving equilibrium
19. Cybernetic hierarchy of Parsons
20. Cultural lag
21. Difference between 'unanticipated consequences' and 'latent functions'
22. Social stratification- Class, Status, Gender as dimensions
23. Hierarchy and exclusion leads to underdevelopment
24. Hierarchy replaced by differentiations today due to social mobility
25. Ethnocentrism and Ethnic discrimination / conflict
26. Status inconsistency in Modern societies
27. Globalisation: Growing Poverty, inequality, and social Exclusion
28. Feminisation of poverty
29. Voluntary and involuntary social exclusion
30. Sociology of work (Durkheim's DOL)
31. Social organization of work in feudal/ capitalist and post industrial society.
32. Asiatic modes of production
33. Social determinants of Economic development
34. Globalisation and informalization of work



35. Feminisation of work
36. Women as Reserve Army of Labour
37. Legitimate Authority, and Dysfunction of Bureaucracy(Iron cage rationality)-Max Weber
38. Role of civil society/pressure groups in democracy – Protests/Policy making
39. Power Elite
40. Community power/societal power
41. Democracy as a social order
42. Indicators of power in industrial/post industrial society
43. Globalisation and Citizenship/Green Citizenship
44. The prerequisites/structure of social movements
45. Role of media in protests/movements today
46. Globalisation and New Social movements
47. Religion and gender inequality/patriarchy
48. Sects and cults. Why it is proliferating today?
49. Gender roles in changing structure of family
50. Sex Vs Gender / The problem of gender
51. LGBT
52. Privatisation of higher education
53. Education and social mobility/social continuity
54. The role of Science and technology in solving social problems / agent of inclusive development
55. The social responsibility of science
56. Is ideology inevitable for social movement/social change?
57. Role of caste ,religion,patriarchy in Social development
58. Sociological imagination

LONG ANSWERS (20 markers)

1. Modernity and emergence of sociology
2. Sociology as a science: Positivism Vs Non positivism
3. Quantitative and Qualitative techniques
4. Religion : Durkheim Vs Weber
5. Division of Labour : Durkheim Vs Karl Marx
6. Social fact (Durkheim) Vs Social Action (Max Weber)
7. Comparison of Alienation(Karl Marx), Anomie (Durkheim) and Rationalisation (Weber)
8. Mode of production/Historical Materialism (Karl Marx)
9. Class struggle (Karl Marx Vs Weber)
10. Protestant ethics and spirit of capitalism(Weber)
11. Social Action (Weber and Parsons)
12. Social System and Equilibrium (Parsons)
13. Social structure and Anomie/Deviance (R.K. Merton and Durkheim)
14. Compare Parsons' Grand theory with Merton's Middle Range theories
15. G.H.Mead on Self and identity/Gender identity
16. Davis and Moore theory of social stratification
17. Melvin Tumin's criticism of functional theories of social stratification.



18. Open Vs Closed societies debate
19. Poverty/inequality and Covid 19
20. Threats to Nationalism Today (Globalization Perspective)
21. Globalization and power of the nation State
22. Democracy and Identity Politics
23. Role of religion in Modern societies/Secularization and Cultural Nationalism/pluralism
24. Globalization and religious revivalism/ fundamentalism.
25. Religion and science as compatibles
26. Religion as a conservative force or change agent
27. Changing family and marriage today /Threats/Non Normative families-Homosexuality /Live in relations
28. Patriarchy and sexual division of labour/Feminist movements/Patriarchal bargain
29. UN/WTO/World Bank/IMF and other global institutions as agents of developed countries against developing and poor countries during Covid 19
30. Compare Marxian and Weberian theories of social change
31. Compare Marxian and Parsonian views on social change
32. Tradition and Modernity in social change/Structural constraints to social change

PAPER II

SHORT NOTES (10 markers)

1. Sanskritisation and Westernisation
2. Orthogenetic and heterogenetic factors of social change
3. Universalisation and Parochialisation
4. Little tradition and Great tradition
5. Book view Vs field view
6. Anti-Brahmanical movements during the colonial period
7. Can class replace caste in India?
8. Continuing untouchability today/Caste among non-Hindus
9. Untouchability amongst non Hindus
10. Dominant Caste and politics (Vote banks)
11. Reservation/Protective discrimination/Women's reservation
12. Sociology of Inter caste marriages / Caste conflicts / Honour killing
13. Marriage as sacrament' and 'marriage as contract.
14. North Indian Vs South Indian kinship system
15. Industrial class structure -Working class mobilization/industrial strifes
16. Feudalism Semi feudalism and capitalism in Indian agriculture
17. Definitional problems of tribes -Tribal diversity
18. Changing tribal stratification- Emergence of classes among tribes
19. Tribal policies- Integration/Assimilation of Tribes – Problem of Tribal identity/tribal autonomy/tribal unrest
20. Tribes and Caste – Comparison/continuum
21. Tribalisation and religious conversion of tribes Particularly vulnerable tribal groups
22. Development induced displacement of tribes /rural landless farmers



23. The myth of village self sufficiency– M.N.Srinivas/Andre Beteille/S.C.Dube
24. House hold dimensions and family in India
25. Regional variations in kinship
26. Lineage and descent
27. Increasing divorce today
28. Changing gender roles today
29. Problems of religious minorities
30. Idea of developmental planning and Mixed economy
31. Reproductive health / Child and Infant mortality/Maternity Benefit Act 2016.
32. Rising women's age of marriage to 21
33. Feminisation of Ageing
34. Malnutrition
35. Son meta preference and declining child sex ratio
36. Regional variations in Child Sex Ratio
37. Problems of bondage/Neo bondage
38. Caste in cities /Slums and social exclusion/inequalities
39. Smart cities /urban displacement
40. Urbanism as a way of life
41. Women and migration
42. Culture of poverty
43. Rural poverty and rural development
44. Globalisation and Informalisation of work.
45. Feminisation of work/agriculture
46. Child sexual abuse / POCSO Act 2012
47. Social and Political Elites / New rural elites
48. Pressure groups and Civil society in India influencing policies
49. Need for democratic socialism/federalism/political democracy
50. Welfare state and social security
51. Education and social mobility
52. Educational inequalities / commercialization of Education
53. Challenges before Girl's education
54. Dr.B.R.Ambedkar (Annihilation of caste) Vs Mahatma Gandhi on Caste / Varna / untouchability.
55. Dalit capitalism.
56. Rising Violence against Dalit /Atrocities Act 1989
57. Rising caste conflicts between backward castes and dalits today
58. Subaltern perspective
59. Structural factors i.e Caste behind violence / Sexual Harassment against women
60. Shadow violence /Domestic violence during Covid 19/Domestic violence Act
61. POSH Act
62. Constitution, law and social change/Women and Law/Women reservation
63. Equal laws for Women/Patriarchy and entitlements
64. Triple talaq and Uniform civil code
65. Intolerance in India today/Ban on cow slaughter
66. Social consequences of market economy
67. Generation gap /Youth unrest today
68. Social Media and democracy/patriarchy



LONG ANSWERS (20 markers)

1. Indology (G.S.Ghurye)
2. Structure functionalism (M.N.Srinivas)
3. Colonial perspective of India as a backward society
4. Modernization of Indian tradition - Coexistence of Tradition and Modernity
5. Difference between Socio religious reform movement in India and renaissance in west
6. Perspectives on the study of caste systems: Louis Dumont and Andre Beteille
7. Family/Marriage Changes / crisis in India Today (Impact of Urbanisation / Industrialisation / Globalisation / Live in relationship / Legalisation of Homosexuality)
8. Patriarchy and women - Changing status of women / Women's movement for substantive equality
9. Globalisation and New middle class in India / Role of Middle Class today
10. Changing Modes of Production in Indian Agriculture – Green revolution / Globalisation / Capitalism
11. Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme
12. Poverty, deprivation, inequalities and poverty alleviation schemes/multi-dimensional poverty and social exclusion
13. Relation between Poverty and social structure (Gender, Caste, Tribe and religious minorities)
14. Globalisation and rising inequalities/Poverty
15. Regionalism and decentralization of power / PRI
16. Demography and social structure - Constraints (Population policy/ Family planning)
17. Nature of Secularism – Threats today – Cultural/ Ethno/Hyper Nationalism
18. Communalism, religious revivalism and Ethnic conflicts
19. Uneven development/displacement induced development and Tribal unrest
20. Farmers Suicide and Agrarian Unrest today
21. Backward Classes Movements in South India and North India
22. Dalit consciousness today and its challenges
23. Ethnic discrimination / conflicts: Ethnicity and Identity movements
24. New farmers movement today
25. Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability
26. Environmental movements / Global warming/ Ecocentrism / Ecofeminism/ Eco Marxism

ROAD TO 320+ MARKS IN SOCIOLOGY:

1. ALL QUESTIONS IN BOTH PAPERS NEEDS CONTEMPORARY DIMENSIONS (like Globalization and COVID 19)
2. ATTEMPT ALL THINKERS QUESTION IN PAPER 1
3. DIRECTLY LIFT SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES/JARGONS FROM PAPER 1 TO WRITE PAPER 2 ANSWERS
4. NEVER WRITE G.S ANSWERS IN SOCIOLOGY (especially in paper 2)
5. LINK SOCIAL ISSUES WITH SOCIOLOGY
6. CITE ILLUSTRATIONS/EXAMPLES
7. USE DIAGRAMS/FLOW CHARTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE
8. UNDERLINE THE KEY CONCEPTS/THINKERS
9. USE KEY WORDS GIVEN IN THE QUESTION FREQUENTLY THROUGHOUT YOUR ANSWER
10. DON'T LEAVE ANY QUESTION. MANAGE WRITING ANSWER USING SOME STANDARD SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES LIKE MARXISM, FEMINISM, MODERNISM, POSTMODERNISM, NON POSITIVISM. PAPER COMPLETION IS MANDATORY TO SCORE 320+.



YOUR ACTION INSIDE EXAM HALL:

1. Before starting to write the answer read the question 5 times to understand fully.
2. Underline the key words in question and often repeat in the answer directly and indirectly
3. Your first answer should be your best answer.
4. Write long answers first and then start writing short notes. But if you have found that the other way round worked for you in the practice tests then try that.

HOW TO ANSWER THE UNKNOWN QUESTIONS (THE BOUNCERS)?

Don't worry. Its Very Simple - Approach the Unknown through the Known

Lets take some examples from PYQ 2021, 2022 & 2023

1) The difference between information and data in social science is subtle.(Paper I /2022)

Any question on Research Methodology (Unit 3 /Paper I) can be traced from Unit 2 -Sociology as science .See whether the concepts in question belongs to positivism or non positivism and write accordingly as a debate between positivism or non positivism.

For example data is a quantity(positivism) while information can be interpreted (non positivism)

Similarly you can approach the question on the **DRAMATURGICAL PERSPECTIVE** asked in **2023** applying non positivism.

2) LEELA DUBE'S CONCEPT OF "SEED AND EARTH" (Paper II/ 2022)

Leela Dube is a feminist scholar. Feminism is against Patriarchy. So, fix the topic in the syllabus connected to Patriarchy i.e Paper II- Section B.(v)(e) Patriarchy, entitlements, and sexual division of labour. and generate points .

Same is the case of **PATRIARCHY AND HONOUR KILLING** ASKED in **PAPER 2/2023.**

3) GREEN CHEMISTRY (PAPER II/2021)

Just fix the topic in the syllabus connected to green chemistry. For instance, we have 2 topics in PAPER – II

1. (C) (v) (d) Environmental movements
2. (C) (vii) (a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.

Write sociological perspectives you learned in the above two topics

TIME MANAGEMENT:

1. 9 am – 9:10 am : Read the question paper fully
2. Write every Long answer for 15 min (6 long answers X 15 min = 90 min)
3. Write every Short notes for 6 min (13 Short notes X 6 min = 78 min)

PREDICT THE UNPREDICTABLE:

1. UPSC MAY ASK 12 MARKERS AS SHORT NOTES INSTEAD OF 10 or 15 OR 20 MARKERS SO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
2. IN GENERAL FOLLOW THIS:
 - a) WRITE LONG ANSWERS IN 90 Minutes (i.e 9 am to 10.30 am)
 - b) WRITE SHORT NOTES IN 80 Minutes (i.e 10.30 am to 12 noon)

Wishing You All the Very Best

S.SIVARAJAVEL
DIRECTOR
9626252425




KNOW YOUR FACULTY

S. SIVARAJAVEL

Maker of all India Sociology
Toppers since 2011

1 HE HAS PRODUCED ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGY TOPPERS SINCE 2011



NAME	SOCIOLOGY MARKS	YEAR
Mr. Saurabh Sharma	306/500	2023
Mr. Karthik.B, IPS	298/500	2022
Ms. Angeline renita R, IAS	257/500	2021
Ms. E.G. Shunmuga valli, IRS	303/500	2020
Ms. M. Thamarai Priya, IRS	274/500	2020
Ms. S.S. Shobika, IAS	275/500	2019
Mr. S. Sai Murali, IFS	321/500	2018
Mr. T. Dhilipkumar, IDAS	283/500	2018
Mr. Vasanth Meshach, IIS	284/500	2017
Mr. Ankit Asokan, IPS	303/500	2016
Ms. Priyanka Bothra, IRS	289/500	2016
Dr. R. Vaithinathan, IAS	262/500	2015
Ms. Sharanya Ari, IAS	256/500	2015
Mr. G. Subramanian, IRS	272/500	2014
Mr. Atul Kulkarni, IPS	286/500	2014
Mr. S. Selvanagarathinam, IPS	240/500	2013
Mr. T. Ramkumar, IFS	198/300	2012
Mr. R. Baskaran, IPS	197/300	2011

2 HE HAS PRODUCED TAMIL NADU TOPPERS IN 8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

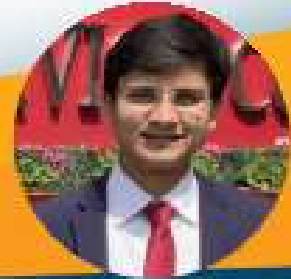
- Mr. Karthik Raja KM, 2023-2024 AIR -329
- Mr. Arun, IAS 2022-2023 AIR -436/ Tamil Nadu Rank-8
- Ms. Ms. Angeline Renita R, IAS 2021-2022 AIR -338/ Tamil Nadu Rank-6
- Ms. E.G. Shunmuga Valli, IRS 2020-2021 AIR -108/ Tamil Nadu Rank-5
- Ms. S. Swethaa, IRS 2019-2020 AIR -251/ Tamil Nadu Rank-7
- Ms. S.S. Shobika, IAS 2019-2020 AIR -504/ Tamil Nadu Rank-10
- Mr. M. Manoj Prabakar, IPS 2018-2019 AIR -230/ Tamil Nadu Rank-5
- Ms. D. Dharmala Shri, IAS 2018-2019 AIR -409/ Tamil Nadu Rank-10
- Mr. M. Sivaguru Prabakaran, IAS 2017-2018 AIR -101/ Tamil Nadu Rank-3
- Mr. M. Pratap, IAS 2016-2017 AIR -21/ Tamil Nadu Rank-1
- Ms. Sharanya Ari, IAS 2015-2016 AIR -7/ Tamil Nadu Rank-1
- Mr. M. Vaithinathan, IAS 2015-2016 AIR -37/ Tamil Nadu Rank-2

3 HE HAS DEMYSTIFIED THE MYTH OF PREDICTING THE UNPREDICTABLE >95% DIRECT QUESTIONS IN UPSC SOCIOLOGY OPTIONALS FROM THE HIT LIST FOR CONSECUTIVELY FOR 14 YEARS

4 ONE AMONG THE FEW TEACHERS IN THE ENTIRE NATION TO HAVE MENTORED MORE THAN **9500+ STUDENTS SPANNING OVER 30,000+ HOURS** IN UPSC CSE SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL.

5 BENO ZEPHINE, FIRST 100% VISUALLY CHALLENGED IFS OFFICER WAS MENTORED BY HIM

PRODUCING ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGY TOPPERS FOR THE LAST 13 CONSECUTIVE YEARS



Saurabh Sharma
306/500 | 2023



Mr. Karthik B
298/500 | 2022



Ms. Angeline Renita R
257/500 | 2021



Ms. E.G. Shunmuga Valli, IAS
303/500 | 2020



Ms. Shobika SS, IAS
275/500 | 2019



Mr. S. Sai Murali, IFS
321/500 | 2018



Ms. A. Priyanka Bodhra, IAS
288/500 | 2017



Mr. Ankit Asokan, IPS
303/500 | 2016



Ms. Sharanaya Ari, IAS
256/500 | 2015



Mr. Atul Kulkarni, IPS
286/500 | 2014



Mr. Selvanagarathinam S, IPS
240/500 | 2013



Mr. R. Baskaran, IPS
197/500 | 2012



Mr. T. Ramkumar, IFS
198/500 | 2011

& 230+

SUCCESSFUL STORIES THROUGH **SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL**

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