

UPSC CSE Mains Sociology Syllabus with Booklist

Paper – I (FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY)

1. Sociology - The Discipline:

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology.
- (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
- (c) Sociology and common sense.

Booklist – [Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn \(blue book\)](#), [Sociological Theory – George Ritzer](#), [Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan](#), [Introducing Sociology \(NCERT Class XI\)](#), [IGNOU \(ESO-11 The Study of Society\)](#), [Sociology by Anthony Giddens](#)

2. Sociology as Science:

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
- (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
- (c) Positivism and its critique.
- (d) Fact value and objectivity.
- (e) Non- positivist methodologies.

Booklist – [Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn \(blue book\)](#), [Sociological Theory – George Ritzer](#), [Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan](#), [Introducing Sociology \(NCERT Class XI\)](#), [IGNOU \(ESO-11 The Study of Society\)](#), [IGNOU \(MSO-002 Research Methodologies and Methods\)](#)

3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

Booklist – [Introducing Sociology \(NCERT Class XI\)](#), [Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan](#), [IGNOU \(MSO-002 Research Methodologies and Methods\)](#), [Sociology by Anthony Giddens](#)

4. Sociological Thinkers:

- (a) Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- (b) Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.

(c) Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.

(d) Talcott Parsons- Social system, pattern variables.

(e) Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance ([IGNOU ESO-11 The Study of Society](#)), reference groups.

(f) Mead - Self and identity.

Booklist – [Understanding Society \(NCERT Class XI\)](#), [Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan](#), [Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn \(blue book\)](#), [Sociological Theory – George Ritzer](#), [IGNOU \(ESO-13 Sociological Thought & MSO-001 Sociological Theories and Concepts\)](#), [Sociology by Anthony Giddens](#)

5. Stratification and Mobility:

(a) Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.

(b) Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.

(c) Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.

(d) Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

Booklist – [Understanding Society \(NCERT Class XI\)](#), [Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan](#), [Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn \(blue book\)](#), [IGNOU \(ESO-11 The Study of Society & ESO-14 Society and Stratification\)](#), [Sociology by Anthony Giddens](#)

6. Works and Economic Life:

(a) Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society – [IGNOU \(ESO-11 The Study of Society – ESO11_29 Social Stratification\)](#)

(b) Formal and informal organization of work – [IGNOU \(MSOE-004 Urban Sociology\)](#)

(c) Labour and society – [IGNOU \(ESO-16 Social Problems in India – Unit – 8, 9,10,11,12\)](#)

Booklist – [Introducing Sociology \(NCERT Class XI\)](#), [Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan](#), [Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn \(blue book\)](#), [Sociology by Anthony Giddens](#)

7. Politics and Society:

(a) Sociological theories of power.

(b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties.

(c) Nation, state and civil society – (Indian Society (NCERT Class XII) & Sociology by Anthony Giddens), citizenship, democracy, ideology.

(d) Social movements – (Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII & Sociology by Anthony Giddens), Protest, agitation, collective action, revolution.

Booklist – Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn (blue book), IGNOU (MSO-001 Sociological Theories and Concepts), IGNOU (ESO-12 Society in India)

8. Religion and Society:

(a) Sociological theories of religion.

(b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.

(c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

Booklist – Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn (blue book), IGNOU (ESO-15 Society and Religion), IGNOU (MSOE-003 Sociology of Religion), Sociology by Anthony Giddens

9. Systems of Kinship:

(a) Family, household, marriage.

(b) Types and forms of family.

(c) Lineage and descent.

(d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.

(e) Contemporary trends – IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India)

Booklist – Introducing Sociology (NCERT Class XI), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Sociology by Haralambos & Holborn (blue book), IGNOU (ESO-11 The Study of Society & ESO-12 Society in India), Sociology by Anthony Giddens

10. Social Change in Modern Society:

(a) Sociological theories of social change.

(b) Development and dependency – IGNOU (MSO-003 Sociology of Development)

(c) Agents of social change.

(d) Education and social change – IGNOU (MSOE-001 Sociology of Education)

(e) Science, technology and social change.

Booklist – Understanding Society (NCERT Class XI), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (ESO-11 The Study of Society), Sociology by Anthony Giddens

Paper – II (INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE AND CHANGE)

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the study of Indian society:

(a) Indology (G S Ghurye).

(b) Structural functionalism (M N Srinivas) – (Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII))

(c) Marxist sociology (A R Desai).

Booklist – Understanding Society (NCERT Class XI), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India), Indian Sociological Thought by B K Nagla, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:

(a) Social background of Indian nationalism.

(b) Modernization of Indian tradition – (Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII))

(c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.

(d) Social reforms.

Booklist – Modernization of Indian Tradition by Yogendra Singh, Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

(a) The idea of Indian village and village studies – IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India)

(b) Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms – (Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII) & IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India))

Booklist – Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(ii) Caste System:

(a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.

(b) Features of caste system.

(c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives – (Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes)

Booklist – Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (ESO-12 Society in India), Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(iii) Tribal communities in India:

(a) Definitional problems.

(b) Geographical spread.

(c) Colonial policies and tribes.

(d) Issues of integration and autonomy.

Booklist – Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India), IGNOU (ESO-12 Society in India), Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(iv) Social Classes in India:

(a) Agrarian class structure.

(b) Industrial class structure.

(c) Middle classes in India.

Booklist – Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India), IGNOU (ESO-14 Society and Stratification), Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(v) Systems of Kinship in India:

(a) Lineage and descent in India.

(b) Types of kinship systems.

(c) Family and marriage in India.

(d) Household dimensions of the family.

(e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour – IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India)

Booklist – Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India), IGNOU (ESO-11 The Study of Society), IGNOU (ESO-12 Society in India), Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(vi) Religion and Society:

(a) Religious communities in India – IGNOU (ESO-15 Society and Religion)

(b) Problems of religious minorities – IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India)

Booklist – Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

(a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy – IGNOU (ESO-12 Society in India)

(b) Constitution, law and social change – IGNOU (MPS-003 India- Democracy and Development)

(c) Education and social change – IGNOU (MSOE-001 Sociology of Education)

Booklist – Understanding Society (NCERT Class XI), Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India:

(a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.

(b) Green revolution and social change.

(c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.

(d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration – IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India)

Booklist – Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

(a) Evolution of modern industry in India – IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India)

(b) Growth of urban settlements in India – IGNOU (MSOE-004 Urban Sociology)

(c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization – IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India)

(d) Informal sector – IGNOU (MSOE-004 Urban Sociology), child labour – IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India)

(e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas – IGNOU (MSOE-004 Urban Sociology)

Booklist – Understanding Society (NCERT Class XI), Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII), Sociology by Anthony Giddens (for Industrialization and Urbanisation in world), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(iv) Politics and Society:

(a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.

(b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.

(c) Regionalism and decentralization of power – IGNOU (MPS-003 India- Democracy and Development)

(d) Secularization – IGNOU (MSO-004 Sociology in India)

Booklist – Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (MPS-003 India- Democracy and Development), Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

(a) Peasants and farmers movements – IGNOU (MPS-003 India- Democracy and Development & MSO-004 Sociology in India)

(b) Women's movement – IGNOU (ESO-12 Society in India)

(c) Backward classes & Dalit movement – IGNOU (ESO-14 Society and Stratification)

(d) Environmental movements. (Understanding Society (NCERT Class XI), Sociology by Anthony Giddens & IGNOU (MSO-003 Sociology of Development))

(e) Ethnicity and Identity movements – IGNOU (MPS-003 India- Democracy and Development)

Booklist – Social Change and Development in India (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(vi) Population Dynamics:

(a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.

(b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.

(c) Population policy and family planning.

(d) Emerging issues: ageing (Sociology by Anthony Giddens), sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health – IGNOU (ESO12-33 Contemporary Women's Issues: Health and Legal Aspects)

Booklist – Indian Society (NCERT Class XII), Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India), Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes

(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

(a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability – IGNOU (MSO-003 Sociology of Development)

(b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.

(c) Violence against women.

(d) Caste conflicts.

(e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism (Indian Society (NCERT Class XII)), religious revivalism.

(f) Illiteracy and disparities in education – IGNOU (MSOE-001 Sociology of Education)

Booklist – Essential Sociology by Nitin Sangwan, IGNOU (ESO-16 Social Problems in India), Social Problems in India by Ram Ahuja, Akshat Kaushal (AIR 55) notes