

SOCIOLOGY

OPTIONAL ADVANCE COURSE FOR CSE 2026



by Raj Rai Sir

Key Features

- Quick and complete revision of entire syllabus.
- Discussion videos on PYQs from 2013-2025.
- The course is designed for **30 days with 2-3 focused lectures daily**, covering both papers in an integrated manner each lecture is designed for 90-120 minutes of focused learning.
- Based on a comprehensive analysis of UPSC Sociology Mains papers (1979-2025), this course prioritizes topics according to their frequency, mark weightage, and interlinkages between **Paper 1 and Paper 2**.
- This course ensures to cover maximum frequently asked topics while strategically de-emphasizing low-frequency areas based on the **46-year question paper analysis**.
- Regular doubt sessions with Raj Rai Sir.
- Personalised Mentorship.

Course	Commencement Date	Duration	Fee
Optional Advance Course (With test series)	9 th June, 2026	Recorded Lectures (PYQs 2013-2025) Live Doubt Sessions + Test Series	18,000 + GST
Optional Advance Course (Without test series)	9 th June, 2026	Recorded Lectures (PYQs 2013-2025) Live Doubt Sessions	10,000 + GST

PAYMENT MODES: Cash, Debit/Credit Cards, Net Banking, UPI
DD IN FAVOUR OF: NEXT IAS (A Unit of MADE EASY Learnings Pvt. Ltd.)

SOCIOLOGY MAINS ADVANCE COURSE (30 Days)

TOPIC-WISE FREQUENCY ANALYSIS (High Priority Areas)

RANK	TOPIC	FREQUENCY	PAPERS
1	Caste System (Theories, Features, Changes)	35+	II
2	Sociological Thinkers (Durkheim, Weber, Marx, Merton, Parsons)	30+	I
3	Social Stratification & Mobility	25+	I
4	Family, Marriage & Kinship	20+	I & II
5	Tribal Communities & Development	18+	II
6	Secularism & Communalism	15+	II
7	Social Movements (Dalit, Farmers, Women, Environment)	15+	II
8	Globalization & Social Change	15+	I & II
9	Research Methods (Sampling, Variables, Reliability)	14+	I
10	Modernization of Indian Tradition	12+	II
11	Agrarian Structure & Land Reforms	12+	II
12	Middle Class in India	10+	II
13	Social Exclusion (Poverty, Caste, Gender)	10+	I & II
14	Political Sociology (Pressure Groups, Elites, Democracy)	10+	I & II
15	Religion (Secularization, Revivalism, Fundamentalism)	10+	I & II

DAY-WISE LECTURE PLAN

LECTURE	TOPIC	FOCUS AREA	KEY THINKERS/CONCEPTS
DAY 1: ORIENTATION & FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS			
L1	Course Overview & Strategy	Question trend analysis, answer writing techniques, inter-linkages between papers	Previous year pattern
L2	Sociology: Emergence & Modernity	French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Enlightenment, emergence in Europe vs USA (2013, 2022)	Comte, Saint-Simon, Spencer
L3	Scope of Sociology & Comparison with Other Social Sciences	Relationship with History, Anthropology, Psychology, Economics (2025, 2024, 2022, 2010, 2013)	Durkheim, Weber, Mills
Practice Questions: "Sociology emerged in Europe and flourished in USA" (2013, 10M); Scope of sociology unique (2025, 10M)			
DAY 2: SOCIOLOGY AS SCIENCE & COMMON SENSE			
L4	Sociology & Common Sense	Distinction, dialectical relationship, how sociology debunks myths (2015, 2023, 2021, 2018)	Schutz, Berger, Gramsci, Mills
L5	Positivism & Its Critique	Comte, Durkheim's scientific method; non-positivist alternatives (2025, 2022, 2020, 2009)	Comte, Durkheim, Weber, Gadamer
L6	Fact-Value & Objectivity	Value neutrality, objectivity in interpretative research (2025, 2022, 2015, 2009)	Weber, Myrdal, Gouldner
Practice Questions: Is sociology a science? (2015); Sociology vs common sense (2023)			

DAY 3: RESEARCH METHODS I (QUANTITATIVE)			
L7	Variables & Hypothesis	Types, role in research, hypothesis significance (2025, 2015, 2022)	Babbie, Durkheim
L8	Sampling Methods	Probability vs non-probability, random, stratified, cluster, snowball (2025, 2022, 2008)	Sampling techniques
L9	Reliability & Validity	Importance, tests for reliability, challenges (2025, 2015, 2009)	Reliability coefficients
Practice Questions: What are variables? (2015); Random sampling reliability (2015)			
DAY 4: RESEARCH METHODS II (QUALITATIVE & MIXED)			
L10	Qualitative vs Quantitative Methods	Differences, complementarity (2016, 2012, 2018, 2009)	Triangulation
L11	Ethnography & Participant Observation	Digital ethnography, visual culture, merits/demerits (2024, 2019, 2016, 2009)	Malinowski, Geertz
L12	Mixed Methods & Research Designs	Exploratory vs explanatory, focus group discussion (2024, 2018)	Creswell, Denzin
Practice Questions: Digital ethnography trend (2024); Mixed method strengths (2024)			
DAY 5: ÉMILE DURKHEIM			
L13	Division of Labour & Social Solidarity	Mechanical vs organic, comparison with Marx (2019, 2010, 2012, 2009)	Durkheim
L14	Social Fact & Suicide	Characteristics, types of suicide, relevance today (2016, 2018, 2015, 2009)	Durkheim
L15	Religion & Society	Elementary forms, sacred/profane, vs Weber (2014, 2022, 2020, 2008)	Durkheim, Weber
Practice Questions: Compare Marx and Durkheim on division of labour (2019, 20M); Durkheim on religion (2022)			
DAY 6: KARL MARX			
L16	Historical Materialism & Mode of Production	Features, dialectics, relevance today (2025, 2019, 2022, 2008)	Marx, Engels
L17	Alienation	Four types, contemporary relevance (2024, 2019, 2021)	Marx
L18	Class & Class Struggle	Class-in-itself vs for-itself, vs Weber (2022, 2010, 2015, 2009)	Marx, Weber
Practice Questions: Historical materialism features (2025, 20M); Marx vs Weber on class (2022, 30M)			
DAY 7: MAX WEBER			
L19	Social Action & Ideal Types	Types, methodology, verstehen (2025, 2014, 2011, 2009)	Weber
L20	Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism	As critique of Marx, Calvinist ethic (2024, 2008, 2015, 2012)	Weber
L21	Authority, Bureaucracy & Power	Types of authority, iron cage, class/status/power (2019, 2022, 2014, 2012)	Weber, Michels
Practice Questions: Weber's bureaucracy (2019); Verstehen addresses objectivity debate (2025)			
DAY 8: TALCOTT PARSONS & ROBERT K. MERTON			
L22	Parsons: Social System & AGIL	Pattern variables, equilibrium, social system (2020, 2015, 2009, 2008)	Parsons

L23	Merton: Middle- Range Theory	Manifest/latent functions, anomie, deviance typology (2020, 2015, 2014, 2009)	Merton
L24	Merton: Reference Group Theory	Relevance in digital world, identity making (2025, 2014)	Merton

Practice Questions: Parsons' AGIL framework (2018, 20M); Merton on deviance (2014); Reference group in digital world (2025)

DAY 9: G.H. MEAD & SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

L25	Mead: Self & Identity	I and Me, generalized other, development of self (2014, 2018, 2008, 2019)	Mead
L26	Symbolic Interactionism	Stages of gender identity, micro-sociology (2019, 2014, 2023)	Blumer, Cooley
L27	Dramaturgy & Ethnomethodology	Goffman's front/back stage, Garfinkel's breaching experiments (2023)	Goffman, Garfinkel

Practice Questions: Mead's I and Me (2018); Dramaturgical perspective (2023, 10M)

DAY 10: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION I (THEORIES & DIMENSIONS)

L28	Functionalist Theory of Stratification	Davis-Moore, critique by Tumin, status quo promotion (2025, 2018, 2015, 2009)	Davis, Moore, Tumin
L29	Marxian & Weberian Theories	Class, status, party; differences (2015, 2022, 2011, 2025)	Marx, Weber
L30	Gender, Caste, Race as Dimensions	Gender-blindness of theories, intersectionality (2025, 2018, 2010, 2008)	Walby, Crenshaw

Practice Questions: Is stratification theory gender-blind? (2025); Functionalist view promotes status quo? (2025)

DAY 11: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION II (MOBILITY & EXCLUSION)

L31	Social Mobility	Open vs closed systems, types, sources (2022, 2014, 2015, 2008)	Sorokin, Lipset
L32	Poverty & Social Exclusion	Multidimensional poverty, capability vs social capital deprivation (2025, 2024, 2020, 2016)	Sen, Townsend, Lewis
L33	Hierarchy & Exclusion as Impediments	How they block social transformation (2020)	Dumont, Beteille

Practice Questions: Open vs closed systems (2022, 10M); Poverty as social exclusion (2024, 20M)

DAY 12: SOCIAL CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

L34	Theories of Social Change	Evolutionary, cyclical, conflict, unilinear limitations (2024, 2022, 2020, 2019)	Spencer, Marx, Sorokin
L35	Modernization & Dependency	Development of underdevelopment, world-systems theory (2024, 2021, 2014, 2010)	Rostow, Frank, Wallerstein
L36	Development Planning in India	Mixed economy, Five Year Plans, NITI Aayog (2019, 2020)	Desai, Sen

Practice Questions: Unilinear theory limitations (2024); World-systems theory (2024, 10M); Development planning relevance (2024)

DAY 13: AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE			
L37	Education as Agent of Change	Social mobility, NEP 2020, skill development (2025, 2021, 2023, 2018)	Durkheim, Bourdieu, Freire
L38	Science & Technology	Social change, digital era, online education (2025, 2024, 2013, 2021)	Ogburn, Marx
L39	Media & Social Movements	Social media mobilization, mass media role (2025, 2023, 2017)	Castells, Tufekci
Practice Questions: Education and skill development as agents (2025, 10M); Science and tech in social change (2024)			
DAY 14: FAMILY, MARRIAGE & KINSHIP			
L40	Family: Forms & Functions	Nuclear vs joint, Parsons' functions, contemporary trends (2013, 2022, 2020, 2008)	Murdock, Parsons, Goode
L41	Marriage Trends	Ritual to commercial, live-in relationships, same-sex marriage (2024, 2021, 2014, 2012)	Giddens, Leach
L42	Kinship Systems	Descent vs alliance, North vs South India, Murdock's contribution (2025, 2020, 2019, 2014)	Karve, Dumont, Levi- Strauss
Practice Questions: Marriage from ritual to commercial (2024, 10M); Queer kinship challenges traditional system (2025, 10M); Murdock's contribution (2025)			
DAY 15: INDIAN SOCIETY - PERSPECTIVES & APPROACHES			
L43	Indological Perspective (Ghurye)	Features, theoretical pluralism, limitations (2025, 2019, 2014, 2010)	Ghurye
L44	Structural- Functionalist (Srinivas)	Sanskritization, dominant caste, westernization (2022, 2017, 2015, 2009)	Srinivas
L45	Marxist Perspective (Desai)	Dialectical approach, nationalism, path of development (2025, 2016, 2010)	A.R. Desai
Practice Questions: Ghurye as theoretical pluralist (2025, 10M); Srinivas's structural-functionalism (2022, 10M)			
DAY 16: CASTE SYSTEM IN INDIA			
L46	Features & Theories of Caste	Ghurye, Dumont (binary opposition), Beteille (2024, 2023, 2017, 2014)	Ghurye, Dumont, Beteille
L47	Changes in Caste System	Sanskritization, Westernization, dominant caste (2022, 2021, 2015)	Srinivas
L48	Untouchability & Caste Conflicts	Forms, persistence, causes of conflicts (2024, 2021, 2010, 2009)	Ambedkar, Omvedt
Practice Questions: Caste as status group - changing nature (2024, 10M); Attributional vs interactional approach (2023, 10M)			
DAY 17: TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN INDIA			
L49	Definitional Problems & Colonial Policies	Identification, isolation vs assimilation debate (2025, 2020, 2019)	Ghurye, Elwin
L50	Tribal Development & Integration	Panchsheel, PESA, Forest Rights Act, PVTGs (2023, 2021, 2017)	Nehru, Elwin, Xaxa

L51	Tribal Movements & Autonomy	Identity assertion, Naxalism, separate state demands (2024, 2019)	Guha, Shah
Practice Questions: Colonial policies impact on tribes (2025, 10M); Isolation/assimilation/integration perspectives (2023, 20M)			
DAY 18: SOCIAL CLASSES IN INDIA			
L52	Agrarian Class Structure	Thorner, Beteille, changes due to modern forces (2025, 2023, 2022, 2021)	Thorner, Beteille, Dhanagare
L53	Industrial Class Structure	Middle class, working class, informal sector (2025, 2024, 2019, 2014)	Desai, Beteille
L54	Middle Class in India	Old vs new, features, role in democracy (2025, 2023, 2019, 2018)	Misra, Beteille, Fernandes
Practice Questions: Features of new middle class (2025, 10M); Agrarian class structure changes (2025, 20M)			
DAY 19: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS I			
L55	Dalit Movements	Phule, Ambedkar, Dalit Panthers, identity formation (2025, 2023, 2019, 2013)	Ambedkar, Omvedt, Shah
L56	Farmers' Movements	Tebhaga, post-independence, recent protests (2024, 2023, 2019, 2013)	Dhanagare, Desai
L57	Women's Movements	History, contemporary issues, #MeToo (2018, 2015, 2010)	Desai, Omvedt
Practice Questions: Dalit movements and identity formation (2025, 10M); Farmers' movements features (2019)			
DAY 20: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS II			
L58	Environmental Movements	Chipko, Narmada, eco-feminism (2024, 2023, 2016)	Shiva, Guha
L59	Ethnic & Identity Movements	Regionalism, nativism, separate states (2022, 2021, 2009)	Oommen, Kothari
L60	New Social Movements	Features, digital era, LGBTQ+, civil society role (2025, 2023, 2017, 2014)	Touraine, Melucci, Castells
Practice Questions: Chipko movement relevance (2023, 20M); Social movements in digital era (2025, 10M)			
DAY 21: POLITICS & SOCIETY			
L61	Power & Authority	Theories, power elite, bureaucracy (2022, 2009, 2008)	Weber, Mills, Pareto
L62	Democracy & Civil Society	Mutual reinforcement, pressure groups, citizenship (2024, 2023, 2020, 2008)	Putnam, Tocqueville
L63	Nation, State & Citizenship	Concept, citizenship in India, CAA/NRC debates (2012, 2008)	Anderson, Marshall
Practice Questions: Civil society and democracy mutually reinforce (2024, 10M); Pressure groups in democracy (2025, 20M)			
DAY 22: SECULARISM & RELIGION IN INDIA			
L64	Secularism in India	Concepts, secularization thesis, critiques (2022, 2011, 2010, 2009)	Madan, Nandy, Chatterjee
L65	Religious Communities & Minorities	Problems, communalism, religious revivalism (2024, 2022, 2019, 2014)	Sachar Committee

L66	Caste & Politics	Caste as vote bank, politicization of caste (2019, 2017, 2009)	Kothari, Jaffrelot
Practice Questions: Secularization in India (2022); Religious minorities problems (2022)			
DAY 23: GLOBALIZATION & SOCIAL CHANGE			
L67	Globalization in India	Impact on economy, culture, society (2023, 2021, 2015)	Appadurai, Ritzer
L68	Agrarian Transformation	Green Revolution critique, land reforms, peasantry (2024, 2023, 2011, 2009)	Rudolph, Shiva
L69	Industrialization & Urbanization	Trends, migration, slums, working class (2025, 2024, 2018, 2009)	Wirth, Breman
Practice Questions: Globalization impact on agrarian class (2023, 20M); Industrialization not only precondition for urbanization? (2025)			
DAY 24: POPULATION DYNAMICS			
L70	Demography & Population Policy	National Population Policy 2000, achievements (2020)	
L71	Sex Ratio & Ageing	Regional variations, causes, elderly problems (2025, 2023, 2021, 2016)	Sen, Miller
L72	Child Labour & Bonded Labour	Causes, laws, effectiveness (2025, 2018, 2014)	
Practice Questions: Regional variations in sex ratio (2025, 10M); Problems of aged in India (2021, 20M)			
DAY 25: DEVELOPMENT & DISPLACEMENT			
L73	Development-Induced Displacement	Case studies (Narmada, Tehri), consequences (2025, 2023, 2018)	Cernea, Fernandes
L74	Sustainable Development	SDGs, environmental issues, measures (2025, 2024)	
L75	Right to Development vs Environment	Dialectics between development and environment (2022, 2012)	
Practice Questions: Development-induced displacement (2025, 10M); Sustainable development in India (2025, 20M)			
DAY 26: WOMEN & GENDER ISSUES			
L76	Patriarchy in India	Forms, manifestations, patriarchal bargain (2018, 2017, 2021)	Walby, Dube
L77	Violence Against Women	Causes, forms, legal provisions (2023, 2016, 2010)	
L78	Women's Empowerment & Entitlements	Education, employment, property rights (2024, 2022, 2014)	
Practice Questions: Patriarchy as form of dominance (2016); Honour killings and patriarchy (2023, 20M)			
DAY 27: BACKWARD CLASSES & RESERVATIONS			
L79	OBCs & Creamy Layer	Mandal Commission, issues (2017)	
L80	Protective Discrimination	Reservations, constitutional provisions, SC/ST status (2011, 2008)	Ambedkar
L81	Constitutional Morality	Ambedkar's concept, social justice (2018)	Ambedkar
Practice Questions: Creamy layer problems (2017); Protective discrimination (2011)			

DAY 28: VILLAGE STUDIES & RURAL SOCIOLOGY

L82	Golden Era of Village Studies	1950s contributions (2023, 2022, 2019, 2008)	Srinivas, Dube, Beteille
L83	Jajmani System & Rural Power Structure	Changing rural power, factionalism (2022, 2012)	Wiser, Lewis
L84	Rural Development Programmes	MGNREGA, cooperatives, challenges (2020, 2019)	

Practice Questions: 1950s golden period of village studies (2023, 10M); Rural-urban continuum (2023, 10M)

DAY 29: ANSWER WRITING & INTEGRATION PRACTICE

L85	Paper I Integration	Connecting thinkers to contemporary issues	
L86	Paper II Integration	Linking Indian realities to theoretical frameworks	
L87	Mock Answer Writing	Previous year questions under timed conditions	

DAY 30: REVISION & FINAL STRATEGY

L88	High-Yield Revision	Most frequently repeated topics (2009-2025)	
L89	Current Affairs Integration	Linking contemporary events to sociological concepts	
L90	Exam Strategy & Time Management	Paper-wise approach, question selection, presentation	