

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q5(a)

Distinguish between the social organization of work in feudal society and in capitalist society.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Works and Economic Life

Works and Economic Life: Social organization of work in different types of society; Formal and informal organization of work; Labour and society.

Core demand of the question

- Distinguish between the social organization of work in feudal society and in capitalist society
- Keep the distinction within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

- **Feudal work:** land, serfdom, rent, traditional domination.
- **Capitalist work:** free labour, wage, surplus value, impersonal factory command.

Durkheim adds organic division of labour and its pathologies.

Indian agrarian labour often mixed caste honour with wages.

Introduction

The social organisation of work is how labour is commanded, rewarded, and tied to land or wage. Feudal and capitalist types differ in **extra-economic coercion** versus market dependence, even when both are class societies.

Body

Feudal organisation

- **Karl Marx:** serfs are tied to land and lord. Surplus is taken as rent, labour service, or produce through extra-economic force and custom.
- **Max Weber:** patrimonial and traditional domination organise the manor staff. Honour and personal loyalty sit inside the work relation.
- Work is locally embedded. Guilds and household production limit a free labour market.

Capitalist organisation

- Workers are formally free and separated from the means of production. Surplus is extracted as surplus value in the wage relation.
- The factory, clock time, and later bureaucracy, in **Weber's** legal-rational key, impersonalise command.
- **Emile Durkheim** saw organic solidarity and a finer division of labour, with the risk of anomic and forced forms.

Distinction, tightly

- Feudal work binds persons to land and lord. Capitalist work binds them to the market and the firm.

- **Caste-typed agrarian labour in India often mixed both:** extra-economic honour with cash wages.

Flow diagram

Feudal work -> Land lord custom
Capitalist work -> Wage market firm
Feudal work -> Extra-economic coercion
Capitalist work -> Surplus value

Conclusion

Feudal work is organised by land, custom, and personal domination. Capitalist work is organised by wage, **formal freedom**, and impersonal command. **Marx** names the surplus forms; **Weber** names the staffs; **Durkheim** names the division of labour.

Facts & figures

Extra-economic coercion

Marxist phrase for surplus taken by force and custom, not only by contract.

Formal freedom

The worker may leave a master but must sell labour-power to live.

Manor and guild

Typical feudal-local organisations of agricultural and craft work.

Factory discipline

Clock-timed, concentrated labour under capitalist command.