

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](tel:+918595184903) · wrapexams.com

Q1(d)

Which concepts did Weber use to analyse the forms of legitimate domination?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Core demand of the question

- Which concepts did **Weber** use to analyse the forms of **legitimate domination**?
- Keep the answer within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

- **Weber**: domination is structured obedience; legitimacy is believed validity.
- **Three types**: traditional custom, charismatic gift, legal-rational office.

Bureaucracy and the state's monopoly of force complete the modern type.

Class and status are related but not identical to these forms.

Introduction

Max Weber analysed domination as the probability that a command will be obeyed. Legitimacy is the belief that the command is valid. He used a small set of ideal types, not a moral ranking of regimes.

Body

Domination and legitimacy

- Power is the chance to realise one's will even against resistance. Domination is a structured command-obedience relation.
- **Legitimate domination** rests on a claimed validity that the staff and the ruled, in some measure, accept.

Three pure types

- Traditional domination rests on the sanctity of immemorial custom and personal loyalty, as in patrimonial and feudal staffs.
- Charismatic domination rests on devotion to an extraordinary person and on proof through success; it is unstable and must routinise.
- Legal-rational domination rests on impersonal rules, office, and a bureaucratic staff with files, competence, and hierarchy.

Related concepts he needed

- The administrative staff, monopoly of the means of administration, and, for the **modern state**, monopoly of legitimate physical force.

- Status honour and class situation sit beside domination; they are not the same as the three types of legitimacy.

Flow diagram

Domination -> Claimed legitimacy
Claimed legitimacy -> Traditional
Claimed legitimacy -> Charismatic
Claimed legitimacy -> Legal-rational bureaucracy

Conclusion

Weber analysed **legitimate domination** through power, legitimacy, and the three ideal types of traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational rule, plus **bureaucracy** and the **modern state's** claim to force. The types mix in historical cases.

Facts & figures

Legitimate domination

Obedience supported by a belief in the validity of the order, not only by fear.

Charisma

Extraordinary personal quality; unstable until routinised into office or tradition.

Bureaucracy

Staff of legal-rational rule: hierarchy, files, specialised competence, impersonality.

Modern state

For **Weber**, a community that successfully claims monopoly of legitimate physical force in a territory.