

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

Q1(a)

The focal point of sociology rests on interaction. How do you distinguish it from common sense?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · 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

- The focal point of sociology rests on interaction. How do you distinguish it from common sense?
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Sociology focuses on interaction as action oriented to others.

Weber, Mead, and Goffman named that object.

Common sense is Schutz's unexamined stock of typifications.

Durkheim's rates and caste studies show why everyday talk is not enough.

Sociology uses common-sense language and then tests it.

Introduction

- **Sociology's focal point is interaction:** action oriented to others, in George Herbert Mead's and Max Weber's sense. Common sense also talks about people. The distinction is method, not the topic.

Body

Interaction as the object

- Weber defined social action as meaningfully oriented to others. Mead's conversation of gestures makes the self in interaction.
- Erving Goffman later showed the interaction order as a domain with its own rules of face.

How this is not common sense

- **Common sense is the stock of typifications Alfred Schutz described:** it works because it is not questioned.
- Sociology makes those typifications an object. It compares, names power, and checks against documents and rates.
- Emile Durkheim's suicide rates already showed that everyday motives do not explain the pattern of a social fact.
- Caste "everyone knows" is common sense. M. N. Srinivas and Andre Beteille turned it into a researchable structure.

Overlap

- Sociology starts from common-sense language. It does not stay there.

Flow diagram

Interaction -> Sociology

Common sense typifications -> Everyday life

Sociology -> Compare evidence theory

Common sense typifications -> Unquestioned stock

Conclusion

Interaction is the sociological object. Common sense is the unexamined practical knowledge of that same field. Distinction lies in comparison, theory, and public evidence, not in living on another planet.

Facts & figures

Weber

Social action is meaningfully oriented to the behaviour of others.

Mead

The self arises in interaction through taking the role of the other.

Schutz

Common sense as the taken-for-granted life-world.

Goffman

The interaction order as a distinct level of social organisation.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2018/the-focal-point-of-sociology-rests-on-interaction-how-do-you-distinguish-it-from-common-sense/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com