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

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Q2(a)

What are the reactions of R.K. Merton to the functionalism of social anthropologists ? Bring out the limitations of latent functions.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 1 · 20 marks · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle; Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society; Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism; Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables; Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups; Mead - Self and identity.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Malinowski

Function as meeting biological and derived needs in a cultural response.

Radcliffe-Brown

Function as contribution to structural continuity of the society.

Merton

Codified the critique in Social Theory and Social Structure.

Functional alternatives

Merton: an item is not indispensable if another can meet the same need.

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