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Q7(a)

Critically analyse Parsons views on society as a social system.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · 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.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2022/critically-analyse-parsons-views-on-society-as-a-social-system/>

AGIL

Adaptation, Goal attainment, Integration, Latency: Parsons's four functional problems.

Pattern variables

Dichotomies such as ascription/achievement that characterise role expectations.

Merton

Rejected functional unity and indispensability; added latent functions and dysfunction.

Mills

The Sociological Imagination attacked Parsons as grand theory detached from power.

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