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Q5(a)

Describe various characteristics of a 'social fact'. How is the rate of suicide a social fact according to Durkheim?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 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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Exteriority and constraint

The two marks **Durkheim** stressed: social facts exist outside the person and press upon conduct.

Egoistic suicide

A type linked to weak integration, as in his reading of higher rates where individual ties to the group are thin.

Anomic suicide

A type linked to weak regulation, as in sudden economic boom or crash when norms fail to limit goals.

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