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Q2(b)

Highlight the main features of historical materialism as propounded by Marx. How far is this theory relevant in understanding contemporary societies? Explain

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · 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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1859 Preface

Marx's compact statement that the economic structure conditions legal and political superstructure, and that social revolution follows contradiction in production.

Surplus value

Value produced by labour power beyond the wage, the core of capitalist exploitation in **Marx's** analysis.

Informal and platform labour

Contemporary forms in which surplus is extracted without the classic factory, still readable through relations of production.

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