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Q7(b)

How do theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? 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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Opium of the people

Marx's phrase for religion as heart of a heartless world and as inverted consciousness, not a casual insult.

Sacred and profane

Durkheim's basic classification, produced and renewed in ritual assembly.

Protestant ethic

Weber's argument that inner-worldly asceticism helped form a capitalist spirit, as elective affinity rather than simple cause.

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