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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(c)

What do you mean by reliability? Discuss the importance of reliability in social science research.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociology as Science

Sociology as Science: Science, scientific method and critique; Major theoretical strands of research methodology; Positivism and its critique; Fact value and objectivity; Non-positivist methodologies.

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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Test-retest

Repeating the same instrument to see whether scores remain stable when the phenomenon has not changed.

Inter-rater reliability

Agreement between different observers or coders using the same rules.

Reliability versus validity

Consistency is necessary but not sufficient; a biased but stable measure is reliable and invalid.

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