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Q1(c)**Discuss the role of geographical factors in social change and development.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Social Change in Modern Society

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Social Change in Modern Society: Sociological theories of social change; Development and dependency; Agents of social change; Education and social change; Science, technology and social change.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Montesquieu (The Spirit of Laws)

Early theorist arguing that climate significantly influences national character, laws, and social institutions.

E.C. Semple (Environmental Determinism)

Classical geographer who emphasized the absolute control of physical environment on human history and societal evolution.

Paul Vidal de la Blache (Possibilism)

Pioneered the sociological approach of possibilism, arguing that nature offers possibilities among which human agency chooses.

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