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Q3(c)**How does Emile Durkheim conceptualize religion as a 'social fact'?
Explain**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

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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.

The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life

Published in 1912 by **Emile Durkheim**, establishing the sociological study of religion through the study of Australian totemism.

Collective Conscience

The totality of beliefs and sentiments common to the average members of a society, forming a determinate system with a life of its own.

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