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Q4(c)**"The methods of natural sciences are inadequate in understanding the complex social phenomena." Discuss**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociology

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Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

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

August Comte

Pioneered positivism, attempting to model sociology on the natural sciences as 'social physics'.

Max Weber

Introduced the concept of Verstehen (interpretive understanding) to capture subjective meanings in social action.

Wilhelm Dilthey

Differentiated between Naturwissenschaften (natural sciences) and Geisteswissenschaften (human sciences).

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