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UPSC Mains 2025 Sociology Paper 1

Questions only

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains/sociology/gs-1/2025/>

Answer key at the end of this PDF

Attempt the paper first. After the last question, this pack closes with a compiled answer key: official letters in boxed exam order, then a question-wise list with Solution links to WRAP Exams.

Q1(a) • 10 marks

What is common sense? How are common knowledge and sociology related to each other? Explain.

Topic • Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-common-sense-how-are-common-knowledge-and-sociology-related-to-each-other-explain/>

Q1(b) • 10 marks

What is the relationship (similarities and differences) between sociology and history in terms of their area of study and methodology? Discuss.

Topic • Sociology as Science

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-the-relationship-similarities-and-differences-between-sociology-and-history-in-terms-of-their-area-of-study-and-methodology-discuss/>

Q1(c) • 10 marks

What is a variable in social research? What are their different types? Elaborate.

Topic • Works and Economic Life

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-a-variable-in-social-research-what-are-their-different-types-elaborate/>

Q1(d) • 10 marks

Can Merton's reference group theory be relevant in understanding 'identity making' in digital world? Explain.

Topic • Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/can-mertons-reference-group-theory-be-relevant-in-understanding-identity-making-in-digital-world-explain/>

Q1(e) · 10 marks

Is the social stratification theory gender-blind? Elucidate.

Topic · Stratification and Mobility: Concepts

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/is-the-social-stratification-theory-gender-blind-elucidate/>

Q2(a) · 20 marks

What is positivism? Critically analyze the major arguments against it

Topic · Sociology as Science

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-positivism-critically-analyze-the-major-arguments-against-it/>

Q2(b) · 20 marks

Highlight the main features of historical materialism as propounded by Marx. How far is this theory relevant in understanding contemporary societies? Explain

Topic · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/highlight-the-main-features-of-historical-materialism-as-propounded-by-marx-how-far-is-this-theory-relevant-in-understanding-contemporary-so/>

Q2(c) · 10 marks

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

Topic · Sociology as Science

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-do-you-mean-by-reliability-discuss-the-importance-of-reliability-in-social-science-research/>

Q3(a) · 20 marks

Compare capability deprivation approach with that of social capital deprivation in understanding chronic poverty

Topic · Stratification and Mobility: Concepts

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/compare-capability-deprivation-approach-with-that-of-social-capital-deprivation-in-understanding-chronic-poverty/>

Q3(b) · 20 marks

Are pressure groups a threat to or a necessary element of democracy? Explain with suitable illustrations

Topic · Politics and Society

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/are-pressure-groups-a-threat-to-or-a-necessary-element-of-democracy-explain-with-suitable-illustrations/>

Q3(c) · 10 marks

What is hypothesis? Critically evaluate the significance of hypothesis in social research

Topic · Research Methods and Analysis

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-hypothesis-critically-evaluate-the-significance-of-hypothesis-in-social-research/>

Q4(a) · 20 marks

Give an account of the recent trends of marriage in the Indian context. How are these different from traditional practices?

Topic · Systems of Kinship

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/give-an-account-of-the-recent-trends-of-marriage-in-the-indian-context-how-are-these-different-from-traditional-practices/>

Q4(b) · 20 marks

What would you identify as the similarities and differences in the elite theories of Mosca, Michels and Pareto? Discuss their main/crucial issues

Topic · Politics and Society

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-would-you-identify-as-the-similarities-and-differences-in-the-elite-theories-of-mosca-michels-and-pareto-discuss-their-main-crucial-issues/>

Q4(c) · 10 marks

Critically analyze the sociological significance of informal sector in the economy of developing societies

Topic · Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/critically-analyze-the-sociological-significance-of-informal-sector-in-the-economy-of-developing-societies/>

Q5(a) · 10 marks

In what way is the scope of sociology unique? Explain.

Topic · Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/in-what-way-is-the-scope-of-sociology-unique-explain/>

Q5(b) · 10 marks

Does the structural-functionalist perspective on social stratification promote a status quo? Give reasons for your answer.

Topic · Stratification and Mobility: Concepts

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/does-the-structural-functionalist-perspective-on-social-stratification-promote-a-status-quo-give-reasons-for-your-answer/>

Q5(c) · 10 marks

Do you think that the formal workspaces are free of gender bias? Argue your case.

Topic · Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/do-you-think-that-the-formal-workspaces-are-free-of-gender-bias-argue-your-case/>

Q5(d) · 10 marks

How does Weber's Verstehen address the objectivity-subjectivity debate in sociology?

Topic · Sociology as Science

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/how-does-webers-verstehen-address-the-objectivity-subjectivity-debate-in-sociology/>

Q5(e) · 10 marks

To what extent can education and skill development be an agent of social change? Critically analyze.

Topic · Social Change in Modern Society

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/to-what-extent-can-education-and-skill-development-be-an-agent-of-social-change-critically-analyze/>

Q6(a) · 20 marks

What is science? Do you think that the methods used in natural sciences can be applied to sociology? Give reasons for your answer

Topic · Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-science-do-you-think-that-the-methods-used-in-natural-sciences-can-be-applied-to-sociology-give-reasons-for-your-answer/>

Q6(b) · 20 marks

What do you understand by gender-based domestic division of labour? Is it undergoing a change in the wake of increasing participation of women in formal employment? Clarify your answer with illustrations

Topic · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-do-you-understand-by-gender-based-domestic-division-of-labour-is-it-undergoing-a-change-in-the-wake-of-increasing-participation-of-women/>

Q6(c) · 10 marks

How can you assess the significance of social movements in the digital era? Explain

Topic · Politics and Society

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/how-can-you-assess-the-significance-of-social-movements-in-the-digital-era-explain/>

Q7(a) · 20 marks

What is sampling in the context of social research? Discuss different forms of sampling with their relative advantages and disadvantages

Topic · Research Methods and Analysis

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-sampling-in-the-context-of-social-research-discuss-different-forms-of-sampling-with-their-relative-advantages-and-disadvantages/>

Q7(b) · 20 marks

How do theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? Explain

Topic · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/how-do-theories-of-marx-weber-and-durkheim-differ-in-understanding-religion-explain/>

Q7(c) · 10 marks

What is the nature of relationship between science and religion in modern society? Analyze with suitable examples

Topic · Religion and Society

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-is-the-nature-of-relationship-between-science-and-religion-in-modern-society-analyze-with-suitable-examples/>

Q8(a) · 20 marks

What do you understand by sustainable development? Discuss the elements of sustainable development as proposed in the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals Report-2015

Topic · Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/what-do-you-understand-by-sustainable-development-discuss-the-elements-of-sustainable-development-as-proposed-in-the-undps-sustainable-development/>

Q8(b) · 20 marks

How do 'Civil Society Organizations' such as 'NGOs' and 'Self-Help Groups' contribute to grassroot level social changes? Discuss

Topic · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/how-do-civil-society-organizations-such-as-ngos-and-self-help-groups-contribute-to-grassroot-level-social-changes-discuss/>

Q8(c) · 10 marks

In what way does queer kinship challenge the traditional kinship system? Substantiate by giving illustrations

Topic · Sociology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2025/in-what-way-does-queer-kinship-challenge-the-traditional-kinship-system-substantiate-by-giving-illustrations/>

Compiled answer key

Last pages of this pack. Each question links to the WRAP model answer on wrapexams.com.

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Q1(a) 10 marks	Q1(b) 10 marks	Q1(c) 10 marks	Q1(d) 10 marks
Q1(e) 10 marks	Q2(a) 20 marks	Q2(b) 20 marks	Q2(c) 10 marks
Q3(a) 20 marks	Q3(b) 20 marks	Q3(c) 10 marks	Q4(a) 20 marks
Q4(b) 20 marks	Q4(c) 10 marks	Q5(a) 10 marks	Q5(b) 10 marks
Q5(c) 10 marks	Q5(d) 10 marks	Q5(e) 10 marks	Q6(a) 20 marks
Q6(b) 20 marks	Q6(c) 10 marks	Q7(a) 20 marks	Q7(b) 20 marks
Q7(c) 10 marks	Q8(a) 20 marks	Q8(b) 20 marks	Q8(c) 10 marks

Question-wise key

Q1(a) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(b) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(d) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(e) · 10 marks Solution

Q2(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q2(b) · 20 marks Solution

Q2(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q3(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q3(b) · 20 marks Solution

Q3(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q4(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q4(b) · 20 marks Solution

Q4(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(a) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(b) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(d) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(e) · 10 marks Solution

Q6(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q6(b) · 20 marks Solution

Q6(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q7(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q7(b) · 20 marks Solution

Q7(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q8(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q8(b) · 20 marks Solution

Q8(c) · 10 marks Solution

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