

Syllabus

M. A. Sociology

Semester-II

SOC R 425

Positivistic Sociological Theories

Objective

This course exposes the students to the writings of sociologists constituting the School of Positivistic Theories who actually treat Sociology as a natural science. It also includes the more recent theories such as Structuration, Post-structuralism etc.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER-SETTER AND THE CANDIDATES

- (i) The theory question paper will be of 80 marks and 20 marks will be for internal assessment. Duration of the paper will be 3 hours.
- (ii) For private candidates, who have not been assessed earlier for internal assessment, the marks secured by them in theory paper will proportionately be increased to maximum marks of the paper in lieu of internal assessment.

The paper setter must put note (ii) in the question paper.

The syllabus has been divided into four units.

There shall be 9 questions in all. The first question is compulsory and shall be short answer type containing 10 short questions spread over the whole syllabus to be answered in about 30 to 35 words each, carrying 20 marks i.e. 2 marks each. Rest of the paper shall contain 4 units. Each unit shall have two long questions and the candidates shall be given internal choice of attempting one question from each Unit - 4 in all. Each question will carry 15 marks.

Unit-I

Positivism : Definition; Contribution of Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim

Functionalism : Definition, Anthropological functionalism-Radcliffe-Brown, Malinowski

Unit-II

Structural-Functionalism : Talcott Parsons

Functional analysis of Robert K. Merton

Neo-Functionalism : Alexander, Paul Colomy

Unit-III

Structuralism : Levi-Strauss

Structural Marxism : Louis Althusser

Structuration : Anthony Giddens

Unit-IV

Conflict Theories : Karl Marx, Ralf Dahrendorf, Randall Collins