

# Sample Question Paper for MA Sociology

## Format of the Entrance Test Paper

The duration of the Entrance Test will be 2 hours, and the question paper will consist of two sections: Section 1 will have 26 multiple-choice questions of one mark each that will test the applicant's subject knowledge at the under-graduate level and his/her general knowledge pertaining to South Asia and the world. Section 2 will require students to answer a set of multiple-choice questions based on the reading of a passage provided. This will carry 24 marks. All questions are compulsory.

- This is only a sample paper and only meant to be indicative of the type of questions that will be asked.

### PART-A

1. Who is the author of *India Wins Freedom*?
  - (a) Mahatma Gandhi
  - (b) Maulana Azad
  - (c) Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan
  - (d) Jawahar lal Nehru
2. Which of the following South Asian countries is particularly vulnerable to flooding and tropical cyclones because of a delta?
  - (a) Sri Lanka
  - (b) India
  - (c) Bangladesh
  - (d) Maldives
3. ASEAN is associated with which of the following?
  - (a) South Asia
  - (b) South East Asia
  - (c) Eastern Europe
  - (d) North America
4. Where is the headquarters of SAARC located?
  - (a) Kathmandu
  - (b) Colombo
  - (c) Islamabad
  - (d) Dhaka
5. Which of the following is not a South Asian river?
  - (a) Beas
  - (b) Teesta
  - (c) Mekong
  - (d) Swat

6. Who amongst the following has not received the Nobel Prize?
- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
  - (b) Ang san Suu Kyi
  - (c) Rabindranath Tagore
  - (d) C.V. Raman
7. BRIC was an acronym coined by
- (a) an investment banker when projecting the economic forecasts of emerging national economies\
  - (b) G8 country leaders when identifying their key economic rivals
  - (c) IBSA Dialogue Forum to define its East Asian counterpart
  - (d) WTO when identifying the key lobby against the Kyoto Convention
8. What is the 'Occupy' movement?
- (a) A social movement in the United States protesting social and economic inequalities.
  - (b) A movement in Tunisia calling for democracy
  - (c) A movement in Kolkata to occupy public buildings built by confiscating land from a slum
  - (d) A movement in Kathmandu calling for a republic
9. Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in 2007
- (a) while campaigning for a general election
  - (b) while negotiating a peace treaty with the Taliban
  - (c) during her visit to the United States
  - (d) during her visit to Kashmir
10. Where was Gautam Buddha born?
- (a) Sarnath, India
  - (b) Lumbini, Nepal
  - (c) Kandy, Sri Lanka
  - (d) Gaya, India
11. The official language of the Maldives is known as
- (a) Divehi
  - (b) Maldivian
  - (c) Maldives
  - (d) Malevi
12. Which of the following sentences would best explain 'Jazz'?
- (a) Jazz is a form of Urban American music of the 1970s
  - (b) Jazz is a genre of African music that has no universal appeal outside Africa.
  - (c) Jazz is an exclusively Western form of music that has traditionally not been open to non-western influences of music
  - (d) Jazz emerged in the US among slave communities as an electric form of music which now has global appeal.
13. Guernica is a location in Spain which became well-known as the title of an anti-war painting by

- (a) Pablo Neruda
- (b) Pablo Picasso
- (c) Benito Mussolini
- (d) Carlos Castaneda

14. Which one of the following is the suitable antonym of the word 'citizen'?

- (a) Dweller
- (b) Inhabitant
- (c) Subject
- (d) Alien

15. Which one of the following economists developed work on the 'entitlements approach'?

- (a) Mohammad Yunis
- (b) Gary Becker
- (c) Amartya Sen
- (d) J.M.Keynes

### **PART B:**

READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE 8 QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

For a quarter of a century now, in this project of a new critical history that originated in south Asia, the archetypal figure of the subaltern has been the third world peasant. From Ranajit Guha's insurgent peasant and Bagdi agricultural labourer, to Mahasweta Devi's poor tribal peasant women (translated by Gayatri Spivak), to Amin's 'otiyars' or peasant volunteers of Chauri Chaura, Skaria's bhils and Hardiman's patidars; to Chatterjee's "fragments of the nation" in which, as one reviewer noted, the industrial working class was conspicuously absent; and even Chakrabarty's study of the Calcutta working class, which underlined the persistence of feudal values, networks and practices in the activities of the jute mill labourers, to take a few prominent examples from the writings in Subaltern Studies, it is this figure - superstitious, illiterate, ill equipped, isolated and non-political as s/he had appeared in much of the received social science and historical literature - that emerges again and again as the paradigm of the subaltern. "Historiography has been content to deal with the peasant rebel merely as an empirical person or member of a class", wrote Guha, "but not as an entity whose will and reason constituted the praxis called rebellion". The task of subaltern historiography was to recover this underdeveloped figure for history, to restore the agency of the yokel, recognise that the peasant mass was contemporaneous with the modern, part of modernity, and establish the peasant as the maker of his/her own destiny. "What distinguished the story of political modernity in India from the usual and comparable narratives of the West", as Dipesh Chakrabarty put it in a retrospective account of the Subaltern Studies project, "was the fact that modern politics... was not founded on an assumed death of the peasant. The peasant did not have to undergo a historical mutation into the industrial worker in order to become the citizen-subject of the nation.

1. In line 1 the writer is referring to a project of new critical history that originated in South Asia, called
  - a) Postcolonial critical theory
  - b) Postcolonial agrarian theory
  - c) Subaltern school of historiography
  - d) Post-development thought
  
2. According to Ranajit Guha historiography was content to deal with the peasant rebel as an empirical person or member of a class. Does Guha agree with this perspective?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Somewhat
  - d) We can not say
  
3. It was important “to restore the agency of the yokel” so that the peasant was recognised as part of the
  - a) Post colonial order
  - b) Post social order
  - c) Modernity
  - d) Industrial capitalism
  
4. Why did Dipesh Chakrabarty feel that it was important to distinguish political modernity in India from that of the West?
  - a) Modern politics in India is about the industrial working class
  - b) Modern politics in India is about the rising working class
  - c) Modern politics in India is about peasant conditions
  - d) Modern politics is not founded on the assumed death of the peasant
  
5. .... was not expected to become an industrial worker in order to become the citizen - subject of the nation.
  - a) The peasant
  - b) The women
  - c) Men and women
  - d) None of the above
  
6. Ranajit Guha in his work dealt with
  - a) Insurgent peasants
  - b) Agricultural labour
  - c) Insurgent peasants and Bagdi agricultural labour

d) Insurgent peasants and agricultural labour