

Sample Question Paper for PhD 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 and general knowledge pertaining to South Asia and the world. Section 2 will require students to answer a set of multiple-choice questions to be answered based on a passage provided. This will carry 24 marks. All questions are compulsory. The subject knowledge and comprehension skills tested will be of the post-graduate level.

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

Section 1

1. Which one of the following critical theorists is associated with defining globalization as a form of time-space compression?
 - (a) David Harvey
 - (b) Neil Brenner
 - (c) Bob Jessop
 - (d) Saskia Sassen
2. Which important French sociologist has used the metaphor of organisms to define the functioning of a society?
 - (a) Marcel Mauss
 - (b) Emile Durkheim
 - (c) Pierre Bourdieu
 - (d) Michel Foucault
3. Performativity as a concept is associated with which of the following feminist theorists?
 - (a) Donna Haraway
 - (b) Judith Butler
 - (c) Patricia Hill Collins
 - (d) Nancy Fraser
4. Amartya Sen's seminal work on famines records the history of the
 - (a) 1943 Bengal Famine
 - (b) Ethiopian Famine
 - (c) Bangladesh Famine of 1974
 - (d) Irish Potato Famine
5. Which school raised the Positivist dispute in German Sociology?
 - (a) The Vienna Circle
 - (b) The Frankfurt School

- (c) The Lucknow School of Sociology
 - (d) None of the above
6. Who advanced the psycho-analytical idea about the fear of freedom?
- (a) Eric Ericson
 - (b) Freud
 - (c) Jurgen Habermas
 - (d) Erich Fromm
7. Which of the following is not a classical work in modern anthropology?
- (a) Savage Mind
 - (b) The Gift
 - (c) The Cult of the Goddess Pattini
 - (d) Kamasutra
8. Which countries in South Asia have a tradition of Mithila painting?
- (a) India and Sri Lanka
 - (b) India and Bangladesh
 - (c) Nepal and Myanmar
 - (d) India and Nepal
9. Which one of the following is a Marxian theme that discusses the relationship of the natural and productive behavior of humans?
- (a) Hegemony
 - (b) Class conflict
 - (c) Species Being
 - (d) German Ideology
10. The idea of a colonized mind is central to the discussion of which of the following writer?
- (a) Max Muller and James Frazer.
 - (b) Syed Hussain Alatas and Ashis Nandy
 - (c) Akira Kurosawa and Ingmar Begman
 - (d) Stanley Tambiah and Irawati Karve
11. South Asian Free Trade Area of SAFTA came into force in:
- (a) 2006
 - (b) 2001
 - (c) 2008
 - (d) 2013
12. Which one of the following countries hosted the first South Asian Games?
- (a) Nepal

- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) India
- (d) Sri Lanka

13. Nepal became a constitutional monarchy in:

- (a) 2008
- (b) 2013
- (c) 1990
- (d) 2015

14. The South East University has 940 students. The ratio of the number of girl students to the number of boy students is 4:3. How many of them are girls?

- (a) 520
- (b) 670
- (c) 480
- (d) None of the above

15. Twenty percent (20%) of the 500 faculty members at the South East University (SEU) in 2010 were visiting professors. If the number of the visiting professors reached 200 while the total number of faculty members remained the same in 2015, what percent did the number of the visiting professors at SEU increase in 2015?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 200%
- (c) 150%
- (d) None of the above

16. The experimental method of research generally involves

- (a) Testing out new research methods
- (b) Isolating and measuring the effect of one variable on another
- (c) Using best social values in order to decide the effectiveness of variables
- (d) None of the above.

17. The method of cross checking the validity of data using multiple sources is generally known as

- (a) Objectivity
- (b) Triangulation
- (c) Verification
- (d) empiricism

18. Post modern theorists generally claim that

- (a) Post-positivism is the best method of conducting research
- (b) All theories are relative
- (c) Reason should be the sole mode of social inquiry

(d) Experimental research is the best way of doing research

19. Sri Lanka's Parliament building was designed by

- (a) Herbert Baker
- (b) Edwin Lutyens
- (c) Charles Correa
- (d) Geoffrey Bawa

Section 2

READ THE PASSAGE BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

For sociologists, and social scientists generally, crime constitutes a problem to be explained. While the nature of the explanation may and indeed does vary, the questions asked about crime tend to be of the following order: 'What are the causes of crime?'; 'How much crime is there?'; 'How is it distributed amongst the population?'; 'Is the volume of crime increasing or decreasing?'; 'How can crime be prevented?' and so on. The first thing to notice about these questions is that they are the kind of questions and concerns that an ordinary member of society might ask. Despite this similarity of concern, it is claimed that the sociologist, as a social scientist, has access to methods which enable these questions to be answered precisely, systematically and theoretically: in short, scientifically. In other words, involved here is a distinction between the kind of knowledge of the social order produced by the sociologist as social scientist and the common-sense knowledge produced or acquired by the ordinary member of society. One of the ways in which this distinction is made and warranted is in terms of the data the sociologist brings to bear on the questions asked compared with that used by the ordinary member who, it is argued, makes judgements on the basis of inadequate empirical materials. The ordinary person is often subjective in his selection and treatment of those materials, not to say prejudiced, is unlikely to have a perspicuous view of the social order and its workings, and, finally, is generally atheoretical: in short, is unscientific in approach.

How then does the sociologist go about answering the questions just posed? An important, indeed an essential requirement of any sociological answer to the questions is an adequate empirical data base. Clearly, what this data base will consist of, its content if you like, will depend upon the particular question asked. If the question concerns the social and geographical distribution of crime within a society then, obviously, the data base will need to consist of crime statistics which show the relative rates of criminal activities within specified regions or social groups. If, on the other hand, one is interested in the attitudinal dispositions of known offenders compared with non-criminals, then an adequate data base might consist of attitude scales, personality inventories, and the like, filled in by the members of relevant groups, such as prisoners and college students. In other words, the obvious point to make is that the data base must be germane to the research question being posed. From a scientific point of view, there are other requirements essential to an adequate data base, including statistical adequacy, representativeness, random selection, and so on, again depending on the nature of the question asked. Thus, it is claimed that an adequate data base constituted according to the kind

of requirements just mentioned will go some way to avoid problems noted in connection with the ordinary member's everyday view of crime such as its subjectivity, partiality, bias, and so on.

Of course, an adequate data base while necessary is not, by itself, sufficient for a 'conventional' sociological analysis of crime which aims at scientific respectability. Of equal importance is a theory which explains the patterns found within the data. It is this theoretical knowledge of crime, that is, knowledge derived from the systematic application of a warrantably scientific method upon the phenomena of the world, which distinguishes the social scientist's account from that of the ordinary member of society.

1. The kind of questions a sociologist asks are also the kind of questions that an ordinary member of society asks but

- (a) the sociologist's approach is more methodical.
- (b) the ordinary person's approach is directed by the data at her disposal.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).
- (d) None of the above.

2. The knowledge of the social order produced by a sociologist is

- (a) on the basis of adequate empirical materials.
- (b) rigorous systematic and theoretical pursuit.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).
- (d) None of the above.

3. The ordinary person is unlikely to have a perspicuous view of the social order in its workings because

- (a) she is not reasonably objective.
- (b) she has little theoretical understanding.
- (c) she is unable to rigorously gather the required empirical data.
- (d) all of the above.

4. The content of an adequate database depends upon

- (a) statistical adequacy.
- (b) the kind of question(s) asked.
- (c) clarity with reference to the overall orientation of the research.
- (d) All of the above.

5. The theoretical knowledge of crime is

- (a) that knowledge which explains patterns found within the data on crime.
- (b) one that distinguishes the social scientist's account from that of a criminologist.
- (c) one that sees it with reference to punishment.
- (d) All of the above.

6. The near antonym for perspicuous is

- (a) circuitous
- (b) meandering
- (c) incisive
- (d) None of the above