



NEERAJ®

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY

B.S.O.C.-134

**Chapter Wise Reference Book
Including Many Solved Sample Papers**

Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

I.G.N.O.U.

& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities

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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY **B.S.O.C.-134**

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. What do you understand by social research? Explain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 6, Q. No. 3, and Page No. 3, 'Qualitative and Quantitative Research'.

Q. 2. Explain the relationship between theory and research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 17, 'Relationship between Theory and Research'.

Q. 3. Discuss Weber's views on objectivity.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 28, 'Weber on Objectivity'.

Q. 4. Explain the significance of reflexivity according to A. Gouldner.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 39, 'Gouldner and Reflexivity'.

Q. 5. Write a note on the use of historical method in India.

Ans. The historical method is a systematic approach to studying societies through their histories. By examining the development of societies or social institutions over time, this method helps us understand how past events, conditions, and actions have shaped present-day societies. It identifies and analyzes the causes and directions of social change, revealing patterns and influences that persist or evolve. This method provides a deeper insight into the continuity and transformation within societies, allowing researchers to connect historical contexts with current social structures and behaviors. Ultimately, it offers a comprehensive understanding of societal development through a historical lens.

In India, the historical method has been extensively used by sociologists to understand social realities

through historical texts. Early sociologists, often referred to as Indologists, such as G.S. Ghurye, Louis Dumont, Ketkar, M.H. Kapadia, and Iravati Karve, utilized historical and Sanskrit texts to analyze societal structures and institutions. This approach was particularly prominent at the Bombay School of Economics and Sociology, where Ghurye and his students conducted macro-level analyses using historical data. Later sociologists, including Veena Das, T.N. Madan, and Amrit Srinivasan, continued this tradition, employing ancient texts to gain insights into contemporary social dynamics. This method underscores the importance of historical context in comprehending present-day social structures in India. The metaphoric use of history B. Y. Dhanagare suggests that their research was rooted in the history of ideas rather than directly using historical sources. Unlike Ghurye and others who extensively used historical texts, scholars like Radhakamal Mukherjee, D.P. Mukerji, D.N. Majumdar, P.C. Joshi, and Yogendra Singh focused on conceptual history. This approach was notably adopted by sociologists of the Lucknow School, emphasizing theoretical frameworks and ideas over direct historical documentation in their analyses.

The substantive use of history in sociological studies involves using historical data and sources to explain and understand societies. This approach goes beyond the history of ideas, employing archival, primary, and secondary sources as tools for explanation. Prominent sociologists like A.R. Desai, D.N. Dhanagare, Yogendra Singh, P.C. Joshi, A.M. Shah, and M.S.A. Rao exemplify this method. They integrate historical evidence into their research to analyze social structures, institutions, and transformations, providing a comprehensive understanding of societal development.

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A.R. Desai, for example, utilized historical materials to study the impact of colonialism on Indian society. D.N. Dhanagare and Yogendra Singh also employed historical sources to investigate social movements and cultural transformations, respectively. P.C. Joshi's work often intertwined historical analysis with contemporary sociopolitical issues, while A.M. Shah and M.S.A. Rao contributed to understanding kinship and social organization through a historical lens. In recent times, sociologists such as: Ramachandra Guha, Gail Omvedt, Sharit Bhowmik, V. Xaxa, Sujata Patel, and S. Jodhka have continued this tradition. Sharit Bhowmik examines labor and industrial relations historically, V. Xaxa focuses on tribal communities, and Sujata Patel and S. Jodhka utilize historical data to understand urbanization

and social stratification. These scholars demonstrate the enduring relevance of the substantive use of history in sociological research, enriching our understanding of contemporary issues through a historical perspective.

Q. 6. Discuss Radcliffe Brown's use of comparative method in social analysis.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 73, 'Radcliffe Brown and Comparative Method'.

Q. 7. How does the gender of researcher impact research? Explain with suitable examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 96, Q. No. 9 and Page No. 93, 'Feminist Essentialism'.

Q. 8. Outline the central characteristics of qualitative research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 124, Q. No. 1.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY **B.S.O.C.-134**

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. Explain the significance of sociological imagination in social research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'Sociological Imagination in Social Research'.

Q. 2. What is a social research? Discuss its various elements.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Introduction' and 'Alternatives to Social Research'.

Q. 3. How can sociology be 'value free'? Explain with suitable illustration of an ideal type.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 30, 'Value-free Sociology and Ideal Types'.

Q. 4. Distinguish between inductive and deductive methods of social analysis.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 52, 'The Inductive Method: The Ethnologists'.

Q. 5. Write a note on comparative method of Max Weber.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 72, 'Introduction' and Page No. 74, 'Weber's Comparative Analysis' and 'Debates on the Comparative Method'.

Q. 6. Elaborate the approach of feminist empiricism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 92, 'Feminist Empirical Approach' and Page No. 93, 'Feminist Essentialism'.

Q. 7. Discuss various types of quantitative research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 108, 'Approaches to Quantitative Research: Experimental' and 'Non-experimental Research'.

Q. 8. What is ethnomethodology? Discuss its application.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 83, 'Introduction', 'What is Ethnomethodology?' and Page No. 88, Q. No. 11.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY **B.S.O.C.-134**

Time: 3 Hours]

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Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 83, 'Introduction', 'What is Ethnomethodology?' and Page No. 88, Q. No. 11.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY **B.S.O.C.-134**

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. Discuss the meaning and characteristics of qualitative research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 7, Q. No. 12 and Page No. 8, Q. No. 14.

Q. 2. Explain the relationship between social theory and social research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 17, 'Relationship between Theory and Research'.

Q. 3. Explain Max Weber's view on objectivity in social research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 28, 'Weber on Objectivity'.

Q. 4. Write a note on Durkheim's usage of comparative method in Sociology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 72, 'Durkheim and Comparative Method'.

Q. 5. Discuss the various features of Standpoint theory.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 93, 'Standpoint Theorists'.

Q. 6. Discuss the various instruments used in empirical research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 18, 'The Bearing of Empirical Research on Sociological Theory'.

Q. 7. Explain the significance of visual methods in social research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 123, 'Using Visual Methods and Documents' and Page No. 128, Q. No. 7.

Q. 8. Discuss the features of documentary method.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 84, 'Documentary Method' and Page No. 89, Q. No. 15 and Chapter-4, Page No. 47, Q. No. 15.



QUESTION PAPER

Exam Held In

March – 2022

(Solved)

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY **B.S.O.C.-134**

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. What do you mean by social research? How is it different from ‘Common sense’?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 5, Q. No. 2 and Page No. 6, Q. No. 3 and Q. No. 5.

Q. 2. What do you understand by social theory? Discuss its various elements.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, ‘What is a Theory?’ and Page No. 18, Q. No. 1.

Q. 3. Explain Karl Popper’s view on objectivity in social research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 30, ‘Popper and Objectivity’.

Q. 4. Discuss Gouldner’s view on ‘reflexivity’.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 39, ‘Gouldner and Reflexivity’.

Q. 5. Explain the usage of deductive method in sociology and social anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Pages No. 55, Q. No. 3 and Page No. 53, ‘The Deductive Method: The Social Anthropologists’.

Q. 6. Discuss the features of ethnomethodological research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 83, ‘Introduction’ and ‘What is Ethnomethodology?’

Q. 7. Explain the features of quantitative research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 110, Q. No. 6 and Page No. 111, Q. No. 7.

Q. 8. Discuss the features of experimental research.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 109, ‘Experimental Research’ and Page No. 15, Q. No. 6.

