

An Introduction to Sociology

KEY-TERMS

- **Anti-positivism:** the view that social researchers should strive for subjectivity as they worked to represent social processes, cultural norms, and societal values.
- **Conflict theory:** a theory that looks at society as a competition for limited resources.
- **Social integration:** The degree to which an individual feels connected to the other people in his or her group or community.
- **Social mobility:** Movement up or down the social hierarchy.
- **Society's rewards:** The things a society holds in high esteem, such as wealth, power, and prestige.
- **Socialism:** A system under which resources and means of production are owned by the society as a whole, rights to private property are limited, the good of the whole society is stressed more than individual profit, and the government maintains control of the economy.
- **Socialization:** The process whereby we learn to become competent members of a group.
- **Society:** A collection of people with territory, interaction, and a culture.
- **Socio-economic status (SES):** A calculation based on a complex formula that takes into account education, occupation, and income.
- **Spoiled identity:** Goffman's term for an identity that has been permanently ruined because of a severe stigma.

INTRODUCTION

A dictionary defines sociology as the systematic study of society and social interaction. The word “sociology” is derived from the Latin word *socius* (companion) and the Greek word *logos* (study of), meaning “the study of companionship.” While this is a starting point for the discipline, sociology is actually much more complex. It uses many different methods to study a wide range of subject matter and to apply these studies to the real world.

Sociology is the scientific study of society. As such, it closely examines human interactions and cultural phenomena, including topics like inequality and urbanization and the effects of these on groups and individuals.

In this chapter, you will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. You will learn about the development of sociology as a field of research and discover various theoretical perspectives central to the study of society. You will also take a look at the process of sociological research and explore different ethical concerns social scientists and researchers face in their work. In

addition, you will learn why it is worthwhile to study sociology and how sociology can be applied in the real world.

What do you mean by Society and Culture?

Sociologists study all aspects and levels of society. A society is a group of people whose members interact, reside in a definable area, and share a culture. A culture includes the group's shared practices, values, and beliefs. One sociologist might analyze video of people from different societies as they carry on everyday conversations to study the rules of polite conversation from different world cultures.

Another sociologist might interview a representative sample of people to see how texting has changed the way they communicate. Yet another sociologist might study how migration determined the way in which language spread and changed over time. A fourth sociologist might be part of a team developing signs to warn people living thousands of years in the future, and speaking many different languages, to stay away from still-dangerous nuclear waste.

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Although these studies and the methods of carrying them out are different, the sociologists involved in them all have something in common. Each of them looks at society using what pioneer sociologist C. Wright Mills called the sociological imagination, sometimes also referred to as the sociological lens or sociological perspective. Mills defined sociological imagination as how individuals understand their own and others' pasts in relation to history and social structure (1959).

History of Sociology

Since ancient times, people have been fascinated by the relationship between individuals and the societies to which they belong. Many of the topics that are central to modern sociological scholarship were studied by ancient philosophers. Many of these earlier thinkers were motivated by their desire to describe an ideal society.

In the 13th century, Ma Tuan-Lin, a Chinese historian, first recognized social dynamics as an underlying component of historical development in his seminal encyclopedia, *General Study of Literary Remains*.

The next century saw the emergence of the historian some consider to be the world's first sociologist: Ibn Khaldun (1332–1406) of Tunisia. He wrote about many topics of interest today, setting a foundation for both modern sociology and economics, including a theory of social conflict, a comparison of nomadic and sedentary life, a description of political economy, and a study connecting a tribe's social cohesion to its capacity for power.

In the 18th century, Age of Enlightenment philosophers developed general principles that could be used to explain social life.

Thinkers such as John Locke, Voltaire, Immanuel Kant, and Thomas Hobbes responded to what they saw as social ills by writing on topics that they hoped would lead to social reform.

The early 19th century saw great changes with the Industrial Revolution, increased mobility, and new kinds of employment. It was also a time of great social and political upheaval with the rise of empires that exposed many people—for the first time—to societies and cultures other than their own.

Millions of people were moving into cities and many people were turning away from their traditional religious beliefs.

The Father of Sociology

Auguste Comte is considered by many to be the father of sociology. The term 'sociology' was first coined in 1780 by the French essayist Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès (1748–1836) in an unpublished manuscript.

In 1838, the term was reinvented by Auguste Comte (1798–1857). Comte originally studied to be an engineer, but

later became a pupil of social philosopher Claude Henri de Rouvroy Comte de Saint-Simon (1760–1825).

They both thought that society could be studied using the same scientific methods utilized in natural sciences.

Comte also believed in the potential of social scientists to work toward the betterment of society. He held that once scholars identified the laws that governed society, sociologists could address problems such as poor education and poverty.

Comte named the scientific study of social patterns positivism. He described his philosophy in a series of books called *The Course in Positive Philosophy* (1830–1842) and *A General View of Positivism* (1848).

He believed that using scientific methods to reveal the laws by which societies and individuals interact would usher in a new "positivist" age of history. While the field and its terminology have grown, sociologists still believe in the positive impact of their work.

Karl Marx

Karl Marx was one of the founders of sociology. His ideas about social conflict are still relevant today. (Photo courtesy of John Mayall. Karl Marx (1818–1883) was a German philosopher and economist.

In 1848 he and Friedrich Engels (1820–1895) coauthored the *Communist Manifesto*. This book is one of the most influential political manuscripts in history. It also presents Marx's theory of society, which differed from what Comte proposed.

Marx rejected Comte's positivism. He believed that societies grew and changed as a result of the struggles of different social classes over the means of production. At the time he was developing his theories, the Industrial Revolution and the rise of capitalism led to great disparities in wealth between the owners of the factories and workers.

Capitalism, an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of goods and the means to produce them, grew in many nations.

Marx predicted that inequalities of capitalism would become so extreme that workers would eventually revolt. This would lead to the collapse of capitalism, which would be replaced by communism. Communism is an economic system under which there is no private or corporate ownership: everything is owned communally and distributed as needed. Marx believed that communism was a more equitable system than capitalism.

While his economic predictions may not have come true in the time frame he predicted, Marx's idea that social conflict leads to change in society is still one of the major theories used in modern sociology.

While it is no longer a theory employed in Sociology, Comte argued for an understanding of society he labeled The Law of Three Stages. Comte, not unlike other enlightenment thinkers, believed society developed in stages.

- The first was the theological stage where people took a religious view of society.
- The second was the metaphysical stage where people understood society as natural (not supernatural).
- Comte's final stage was the scientific or positivist stage, which he believed to be the pinnacle of social development. In the scientific stage, society would be governed by reliable knowledge and would be understood in light of the knowledge produced by science, primarily sociology. While vague connections between Comte's Law and human history can be seen, it is generally understood in Sociology today that Comte's approach is a highly simplified and ill-founded approach to understand social development.

DEFINITIONS

Sociology is being defined differently by our sociologists and other's each one of course, has its own news about the nature and scope of the subject, as he conceives it.

According to **Ward** "Sociology is science of society".

George Simmel opines that it is a subject which studies human inter-relationship.

Giddins is of the view that "Sociology is scientific study of society".

Max Weber has viewed sociology as "Science which attempts imperative understanding of social actions".

Sorokin is of the opinion that sociology is a study first of all the relationship and correlations between various classes... second between the social and non social aspects of life and third it studies general characteristics common to all classes of society.

Ogburn has said that, "Sociology is concerned with the study of social life and its relations to the factors of culture, natural environment, heredity and group."

Durkheim while defining sociology has said that, "It is the science of collective representation."

We may thus conclude these definitions with the definition of E.S. Bogardus when he says that,

"Sociology may be defined as the study of the ways in which social experiences function in developing, maturing and repressing human beings through inter-personal stimulations."

From all these definitions it becomes clear that sociology is concerned with social relationships and studies society, human interactions, inter-personal and intra-personal relations. It tries to study scientifically social institutions, organizations and systems.

These definitions also make it amply clear that sociologists view the subject differently and that there is no unanimity in this regard.

SUBJECT MATTER OF SOCIOLOGY

While discussing its subject matter of sociologist, Sorokin said that, "It seems to be a study, first of the relationship and correlation between various classes of social phenomena" (correlation between economic and religious, family and moral, judicial and economic, mobility and political phenomena and so on); second that between social and non social (geographical, biological) phenomena; third the study of general characteristics common to all classes of phenomena. Thus according to his view point sociology studies social events, relationships between social and non social phenomena and generalized study of facts common to all aspects of social life.

In his book 'Society, Culture and Personality' he has said that sociology is more or less concerned with the working of human beings. In this study he covers the study of human behavior, social organizations, social phenomena and social values. He is thus altogether opposed to formal school of thought.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISCIPLINE

The first book with the term Sociology in its title was written in the mid-19th century by the English philosopher Herbert Spencer. In the United States, the first Sociology course was taught at the University of Kansas, Lawrence in 1890 under the title Elements of Sociology (the oldest continuing sociology course in America). The first full-fledged university department of sociology in the United States was established in 1892 at the University of Chicago by Albion W. Small, who in 1895 founded the American Journal of Sociology. The first European department of sociology was founded in 1895 at the University of Bordeaux by Emile Durkheim (1896).

In 1919 a sociology department was established in Germany at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich by Max Weber and in 1920 in Poland by Florian Znaniecki. The first sociology departments in the United Kingdom were founded after the World War II. International cooperation in sociology began in 1893 when Rene Worms founded the small Institut International de Sociologie that was eclipsed by the much larger International Sociologist Association starting in 1949.

In 1905 the American Sociological Association, the world's largest association of professional sociologists, was founded.

IS SOCIOLOGY A SCIENCE?

There is a continuing controversy about the nature of sociology. According to some sociologists it is a science, while others strongly refute this claim.

What is a Scientific study?

For a scientific study it is essential that the whole study should be systematic and without any subjectivity. A scientist is supposed to have a clear vision and a pointed approach. He should have capacity to record unbiased decisions and properly classify data's. He should also have vision to collect only such data as is useful for his study. He should conclude his findings after verification of data's and not on morality or certain pre-supposed philosophies, nations and ideas. The most important element of a scientific study is that a scientist should deal with bear facts and not with ideal situations.

Thus, this study should be both factual and systematic. Then another element is that its results should have universal application. Then in a scientific study there should be cause effect relationship and it should also be capable of making certain safe predictions.

Now a question arises as to whether sociology is science or not. Those who support the cause of sociology as science plead that a present day sociologists must be methodological. He must base his conclusions on impartially collected, analyzed and interpreted data. He should also be willing to get his data tested anywhere to established its validity. They also argue that like natural scientists, Sociologists are concerned with hard facts and not with ideal situations. They try to analyses facts of social life as these are. They also believe that there are many social facts and theories which the sociologists have developed after hard labor and these are universally applicable, under similar circumstances.

They also point out that like natural scientists, the sociologists are very much concerned with cause effect relationship e.g. social stratification and social disorganizations are the outcome of certain causes, which have their effects as well. As with the natural scientists, so with the sociologists, it is equal true that like the former the latter can make some safe predictions.

They thus argue that "sociology is a science which attempts the interpretative understanding of social action in order to arrive at a casual explanation of its causes and effects."

Sociology, Not a Science

There is other side of the picture as well. Many believe that society is not a perfect science. Like the results of natural sciences, the results obtained by social scientists cannot be generalized and these also cannot be same under all circumstances and at all places. The conditions always differ from society to society and social changes are unavoidable. These are also very complex. Then it is said that each human beings has his own limitations and he provides information keeping those limitations into consideration. He is not prepared to disclose secrets and thus the information provided is not factual. It is

also said that the many situations are not within the control of sociologists and repeat experimentation is almost impossible.

Each sociologist has subjective approach to the problem under investigation. There is no stage of investigation in which there is no subjectivity. Each one has some secrets which he is not prepared to disclose to the investigators.

Unlike natural scientist, a sociologist has no laboratory facilities and also has no control over material to be experimented i.e. human beings. Not only this, but it is not possible to repeat experiments. It is more or less not possible to make the safe predictions because nature of social problems with which the sociologists are not the same all over the world.

Sociology and Other Social Sciences

The social sciences comprise the application of scientific methods to the study of the human aspects of the world. Psychology studies the human mind and micro-level (or individual) behavior; sociology examines human society; political science studies the governing of groups and countries; communication studies the flow of discourse via various media; economics concerns itself with the production and allocation of wealth in society; and social work is the application of social scientific knowledge in society.

Social sciences diverge from the humanities in that many in the social sciences emphasize the scientific method or other rigorous standards of evidence in the study of humanity.

In ancient philosophy, there was no difference between the liberal arts of mathematics and the study of history, poetry or politics – only with the development of mathematical proof did there gradually arise a perceived difference between scientific disciplines and the humanities or liberal arts.

Thus, Aristotle studied planetary motion and poetry with the same methods, and Plato mixed geometrical proofs with his demonstration on the state of intrinsic knowledge.

This unity of science as descriptive remained, for example, in the time of Thomas Hobbes who argued that deductive reasoning from axioms created a scientific framework; his book, *Leviathan*, was a scientific description of a political commonwealth. Within decades of Hobbes' work, a revolution took place in what constituted science, particularly with the work of Isaac Newton in physics. Newton, by revolutionizing what was then called natural philosophy, changed the basic framework by which individuals understood what was scientific.

While Newton was merely the archetype of an accelerating trend, the important distinction is that for Newton the mathematical flowed from a presumed reality independent of the observer and it worked by its own rules.

For philosophers of the same period, mathematical expression of philosophical ideals were taken to be symbolic of natural human relationships as well: the same laws moved physical and spiritual reality.

For examples see Blaise Pascal, Gottfried Leibniz and Johannes Kepler, each of whom took mathematical examples as models for human behavior directly; in Pascal's case, the famous wager; for Leibniz, the invention of binary computation; and for Kepler, the intervention of angels to guide the planets.

In the realm of other disciplines, this created a pressure to express ideas in the form of mathematical relationships. Such relationships, called Laws after the usage of the time (philosophy of science) became the model that other disciplines would emulate.

In the late 19th century, attempts to apply equations to statements about human behavior became increasingly common. Among the first were the Laws of philology, which attempted to map the change overtime of sounds in a language. In the early 20th century, a wave of change came to science that saw statistical study sufficiently mathematical to be science.

The first thinkers to attempt to combine scientific inquiry with the exploration of human relationships were Sigmund Freud in Austria and William James in the United States. Freud's theory of the functioning of the mind and James' work on experimental psychology had an enormous impact on those who followed.

One of the most persuasive advocates for the view of scientific treatment of philosophy is John Dewey (1859-1952). He began, as Marx did, in an attempt to weld Hegelian idealism and logic to experimental science, for example in his *Psychology of 1887*.

However, it is when he abandoned Hegelian constructs and joined the movement in America called Pragmatism that he began to formulate his basic doctrine on the three phases of the process of inquiry:

Problematic situation, where the typical response is inadequate:

- Isolation of data or subject matter
- Reflective, which is tested empirically

With the rise of the idea of quantitative measurement in the physical sciences (see, for example Lord Rutherford's famous maxim that any knowledge that one cannot measure numerically "is a poor sort of knowledge"), the stage was set for the conception of the humanities as being precursors to social sciences.

Sociology Today

Although sociology emerged in Comte's vision of sociology eventually subsuming all other areas of scientific inquiry, sociology did not replace the other sciences. Instead, sociology has developed a particular niche in the study of social life.

In the past, sociological research focused on the organization of complex, industrial societies and their influence on individuals. Today, sociologists study a broad range of topics. For instance, some sociologists research macro-structures that organize society,

such as race or ethnicity, social class, gender roles, and institutions such as the family.

Other sociologists study social processes that represent the breakdown of macro-structures, including deviance, crime and divorce.

Additionally, some sociologists study micro-processes such as interpersonal interactions and the socialization of individuals. It should also be noted that recent sociologists, taking cues from anthropologists, have realized the Western emphasis of the discipline. In response, many sociology departments around the world are now encouraging multicultural research.

NATURE OF SOCIOLOGY

What is real nature of sociology about this controversy is likely to continue. According to Robert Stead, Sociology is a social science and not a natural science, because it deals with human beings and social phenomena. It is positive and not normative science because it studies social phenomena as it is and not as it ought to be. It is pure and not applied science because it studies underlying factors of a social phenomenon.

In the family of social sciences, sociology is a new entrant. Sociologists are not unanimous about definition of sociology. Wide variety of definition of the subject shows that there are differences of opinion about the scope of the subject. These definitions however make clear that sociology is concerned with human relations and social institutions.

There is a continuing controversy about the nature of sociology. Some claim that sociology to be a science whereas some refute this claim. Views also differ about the scope of sociology. The formal school of thought believe that scope of sociology should not be generalized whereas synthetic school believes that sociology should study society as a whole.

- **August Comte** is considered as the most influential philosopher of 1800s. He is called as the father of sociology. He hoped that systematic study of social behavior will eventually lead to more rational interaction.
- **Durkheim** made pioneering contribution to sociology and is remembered as one of the founding fathers of sociology.
- **Weber** is known for "Verstehen". He said in order to fully comprehend behavior we must learn the subjective meaning people attach to their action.
- **Marx's** theory of class struggle is an incredible contribution to sociology in analyzing the conflict. His influence on contemporary thinking has been dramatic. Sociologists view society in different way. The four perspectives i.e functionalist, conflict, interactionalist and critical are most widely used by sociologists to give an introductory look at the discipline. Functionalist perspective is based on the assumption that society is stable ,orderly system .Society

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is composed of interrelated parts, each of which serves a function and contribute to the overall stability of the society.

According to conflict perspective, groups in society are engage in a continuous power struggle for control of scarce resources. Many sociologists are more interested in understanding society through social interactions. The interactionist perspective generalizes about fundamental or everyday forms of social interaction. Critical perspective says that we live in a society, based on exchange principles of value and profit.

SCOPE OF THE SOCIOLOGY

Sociologist and others differ what should be the scope of sociology. August Comte makes us believe that sociology should try to study social phenomena on scientific lines. He has thus laid stress on scientific approach. Emile Durkheim has tried to separate sociology from other social science subjects and also tried to give an independent status to this subject. In his own way Pareto has tried to give it scientific orientation.

According to him in sociology there should be no place for inferences. He is sure that there is basic unity among various social phenomena. He is of the view that sociology is much of science and social problems should and can be scientifically studied. Max Weber has however said that sociology should merely be interpretative understanding of social actions and nothing beyond that.

Former or Specialist School of Thought: There are two main schools of thought about the scope of sociology. Formal school of thought believes that scope of sociology should not be generalized but confined to the study of some specific aspects of society. The exponents of this school wish to keep the subject pure and independent. According to them it should deal with social relationships, social activities and processes of socialization.

- **Max Weber**, who is the chief exponent of this school of thought, has said that sociology should deal with interpretations of social behaviors only.
- **Vier Kandt**, who is another exponent of this school of thought, is of the view that sociology should confine itself to the study of formal and not the actual behavior of the people in the society.
- **Simmel** has given an abstract concept of sociology, in which stress has been laid on social relationship and social interactions. For him, every society is the mix of this two. Social relations are nothing but social interactions between two individuals. He has said that society is not collections of individuals but it is essentially a psychic interaction between the individuals. It is sum total of social relations between the individuals living in it.
- According to **Simmel** sociology should not be made a general science devoted to the study of social relations

in general. It should be confined to the study of specific social relations because now these are being studied in the context of social production and social heritage.

- **Vone Wiese** is another exponent of this school of thought. He believes that subject matter of sociology is different from other social sciences. He does not agree with the idea that sociology is combination of social sciences but it is a subject which combines different social science subjects. For him sociology as a special science has more importance than general sociology. It should separate its subject matter from other social sciences. Synthetic School of Thought: The school of thought believes that sociology should study society as a whole and not confine itself to the study of only limited social problems.
- **Auguste comte** believes that the scope of sociology should be considerably widened. According to him the study of one aspect of society can lead to misleading results because all aspects of society, like parts of human body, are inter-linked.
- **Hobb-House** and **Sorokin** also contribute to this view point. They too believe that Sociology should study society as a whole. The supporters of this school of thought agree that in our modern times no social science subject can remain isolated altogether ignoring other subjects of study. The scope of sociology, they argue should be general and not narrow.
- **Durkheim** has gone to the extent of saying that “Sociology is science of collective representation.”
- **Sorokin** is the main exponent of this school of thought. He is not satisfied with the traditional views about sociology and thus wants to give it a new approach.

According to him sociology is a systematic science and it has manifold inter-actions. It is concerned with general facts of social life. He is keen to give systematic interpretation of society.

PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY

Sociologists view society in different ways. Some see the world basically as a stable and ongoing entity. They are impressed with the endurance of the family, organized religion, and other social institutions. Some sociologists see society as composed of many groups in conflict, competing for scarce resources.

To other sociologists, the most fascinating aspects of the social world are the everyday, routine interactions among individuals that we sometimes take for granted. The four perspectives that are most widely used by sociologists will provide an introductory look at the discipline. These are the functionalist, conflict, interactionist and critical perspectives.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology as a subject of study is a new comer in the family of social sciences but today it has occupied very important

position, which signifies its utility. It has become very important because it is concerned with human beings who act and react in the Society.

Sociology studies human resources and determines their social strength. It is a body of knowledge which studies social relationships in a systematic way. Needless to say that these relationships are very important for proper conduct of human life.

Sociology is becoming quite popular subject of study because it has some obvious advantages. These may briefly be discussed as under:

- It is a subject which helps us in assessing available human resources and extent of human resources needed for solving our social problems. In this way sociology helps in human planning process which contributes significantly in economic problem.
- It provides us basic and fundamental knowledge about human society, which includes strong and weak points of society, including human relationships. In this way it saves us from duping in the dark.
- Each society is faced with social problems, which in turn create economic and political problems. Some of the social evils are deep rooted and it is essential that these should be rooted out.
- Sociology helps us both in identifying those problems and finding out their solution. Without proper understanding magnitude of the problems, these can not be properly tackled.
- It is sociology which helps us in conciliation and adjustment. Each society has diverse elements. These, if not properly reconciled, can result in dis-organization and de-stabilization of the society.
- It is sociology which helps us in understanding the extent of diversity and the way in which this diversity can be converted into homogeneity.
- It is sociology which helps us in social reconstruction becomes easy.
- Each society has its cultural heritage and wants to preserve that. It is sociology which high-lights and researches past culture heritages and also helps in the development and growth of cosmopolitan culture, so that there are no cultural clashes.
- It helps in bringing family stability. It is sociology which helps us in identifying the causes of family instability and family disorganization. It is again sociology which tells us how emerging de-stabilizing trends in the family should be checked, so that strong family system continues.
- It is sociology which helps us in understanding social problems. Many social problems remain unidentified and many with the passage of time become maladies. It is

essential that these should be timely checked before their tackling becomes difficult. It is sociology which helps us in timely identifying of social problems.

- It helps us in proper understanding the needs of social relationship and the way in which this relationship should be maintained.
- It is sociology which makes us tolerant by telling us good points and healthy customs, traditions, norms and value of other societies
- It enables us to appreciate what is the best in them which needs to be adjusted in our life style. Thus sociology helps us in tolerating others and appreciating their view point.

Hence, the study of sociology is very important for India. It is because we are a developing society and our rulers in the past not only tried to solve our social problems but also allowed these to get deep rooted. The sociologists in India can help us in understanding deep rooted cause of casteism and regionalism, which today pose a great threat to our social, economic and political system. They can also tell us to why really untouchability is not getting rooted out and corruption at all levels in our society is on the increase. Against sociologists in India can play a significant role in our national and emotional integration by identifying the areas where such integration can easily be possible. This can be done with the help of scientific study of customs and traditions. The sociologist can also help in knowing why efforts made so far to raise the living standard of weaker sections of society have failed.

In fact, in our society the sociologists can play a big role because it is passing through very difficult stages of social transition and when it on the cross roads, the sociologists alone can provide proper direction and give proper lead. As already pointed out task becomes difficult because our society is full of diversities and neither problems of all sections of society are same nor solution can be uniform.

Significance of Sociology

Sociology has many practical implications, for our lives, as C. Mills emphasized.

1. Awareness of Cultural Differences: First sociologist allows us to see the social world from many perspectives. Quite often, if we understand how people live, we can have better idea about their problems. Policies, which are meant for solving the problems of people's may fail if they have not understood the life of people. Example – Policies regarding tribal, or slum dwellers rehabilitation or street hawkers shifting bar dancer's profession or even allowing shopkeepers to have late night business, all require practical knowledge of their life.

2. Assessing the Effect of Policies: Many policies related to employment or rehabilitation of people failed miserable since they do not make use of the aims & real needs of people.

Sociologist brings the basic needs, & objectives of people are concerned into light so that the government can understand the causes of failure. Unless people are involved in any programmed mean for them, the programme is not going to be successful. Sociological research points, out deficiencies, in the policy and discrepancy between the people's aims & the policy aims.

3. Self Enlightenment: Sociology provides, knowledge to understand self. It helps us to know why we behave in a particular manner. Many self help groups—Alcoholics, dog lovers, Anonymous, environmentalist, Senior citizen group have learned to help themselves without being dependent on government.

FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

Sociologists view society in different ways. Some see the world basically as a stable and ongoing entity. They are impressed with the endurance of the family, organized religion, and other social institutions. Some sociologists see society as composed of many groups in conflict, competing for scarce resources.

To other sociologists, the most fascinating aspects of the social world are the everyday, routine interactions among individuals that we sometimes take for granted. The four perspectives that are most widely used by sociologists will provide an introductory look at the discipline. These are the functionalist, conflict, interactionist and critical perspectives.

Functionalism

Functionalism, also called structural functional theory, sees society as a structure with interrelated parts designed to meet the biological and social needs of individuals who make up that society. It is the oldest of the main theories of sociology.

In fact, its origins began before sociology emerged as a formal discipline. It grew out of the writings of English philosopher and biologist Herbert Spencer (1820–1903) who likened society to a human body. He argued that just as the various organs in the body work together to keep the entire system functioning and regulated, the various parts of society work together to keep the entire society functioning and regulated (Spencer 1898). By parts of society, Spencer was referring to such social institutions as the economy, political systems, healthcare, education, media, and religion.

Spencer continued the analogy by pointing out that societies evolve just as the bodies of humans and other animals do. One of the founders of sociology, Emile Durkheim, applied Spencer's analogy to explain the structure of societies and how they change and survive over time. Durkheim believed that earlier, more primitive societies were held together because most people performed similar tasks and shared values, language, and symbols. They exchanged goods and services in similar ways. Modern societies, according to Durkheim, were more complex.

People served many different functions in society and their ability to carry out their function depended upon others being able to carry out theirs. Durkheim's theory sees society as a complex system of interrelated parts, working together to maintain stability.

According to this sociological viewpoint, the parts of society are interdependent. This means each part influences the others. In a healthy society, all of these parts work together to produce a stable state called dynamic equilibrium.

Durkheim believed that individuals may make up society, but in order to study society, sociologists have to look beyond individuals to social facts. Social facts are the laws, morals, values, religious beliefs, customs, fashions, rituals, and all of the cultural rules that govern social life.

Each of these social facts serves one or more functions within a society. For example, one function of a society's laws may be to protect society from violence, while another is to punish criminal behavior, while another is to preserve public health.

The English sociologist **Alfred Radcliffe-Brown** (1881–1955) shared Comte's and Durkheim's views. He believed that how these functions worked together to maintain a stable society was controlled by laws that could be discovered through systematic comparison. Like Durkheim, he argued that explanations of social interactions had to be made at the social level and not involve the wants and needs of individuals. He defined the function of any recurrent activity as the part it plays in the social life as a whole, and thereby, the contribution it makes to structural continuity.

Another noted structural functionalist, Robert Merton (1910–2003), pointed out that social processes often have many functions. Manifest functions are the consequences of a social process that are sought or anticipated, while latent functions are the unsought consequences of a social process. A manifest function of college education, for example, includes gaining knowledge, preparing for a career, and finding a good job that utilizes that education. Latent functions of your college years include meeting new people, participating in extracurricular activities, or even finding a spouse or partner.

Another latent function of education is creating a hierarchy of employment based on the level of education attained. Latent functions can be beneficial, neutral, or harmful. Social processes that have undesirable consequences for the operation of society are called dysfunctions. In education, examples of dysfunction include getting bad grades, truancy, dropping out, not graduating, and not finding suitable employment.

CONFLICT THEORY

Another theory with a macro-level view, called conflict theory, looks at society as a competition for limited resources. Conflict theory sees society as being made up of individuals who must

compete for social, political, and material resources such as political power, leisure time, money, housing, and entertainment. Social structures and organizations such as religious groups, governments, and corporations reflect this competition in their inherent inequalities.

Some individuals and organizations are able to obtain and keep more resources than others. These “winners” use their power and influence to maintain their positions of power in society and to suppress the advancement of other individuals and groups. Of the early founders of sociology, Karl Marx is most closely identified with this theory. He focused on the economic conflict between different social classes. As he and Fredrick Engels famously described in their *Communist Manifesto*, “the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed” (1848).

Developing on this foundation, Polish-Austrian sociologist Ludwig Gumplowicz (1838–1909) expanded on Marx’s ideas to develop his own version of conflict theory, adding his knowledge about how civilizations evolve.

In *Outlines of Sociology* (1884), he argues that war and conquest are the basis on which civilizations have been shaped. He believed that cultural and ethnic conflicts led to states being identified and defined by a dominant group that had power over other groups.

The German sociologist Max Weber agreed with Marx that the economic inequalities of the capitalist system were a source of widespread conflict. However, he disagreed that the conflict must lead to revolution and the collapse of capitalism. Weber theorized that there was more than one cause for conflict: besides economics, inequalities could exist over political power and social status. The level of inequalities could also be different for different groups based on education, race, or gender. As long as these conflicts remained separate, the system as a whole was not threatened.

Weber also identified several factors that moderated people’s reaction to inequality. If the authority of the people in power was considered legitimate by those over whom they had power, then conflicts were less intense. Other moderating factors were high rates of social mobility and low rates of class difference.

Another German sociologist, Georg Simmel (1858–1918), wrote that conflict can in fact help integrate and stabilize a society. Like Weber, Simmel said that the nature of social conflict was highly variable. The intensity and violence of the conflict depended upon the emotional involvement of the different sides, the degree of solidarity among the opposing groups, and if there were clear and limited goals to be achieved. Simmel also said that frequent smaller conflicts would be less violent than a few large conflicts.

Simmel also studied how conflict changes the parties involved. He showed that groups work to increase their internal solidarity, centralize power, reduce dissent, and become less tolerant of those not in the group during conflict. Resolving conflicts can release tension and hostility and pave the way for future agreements.

More recently, conflict theory has been used to explain inequalities between groups based on gender or race. Janet Saltzman Chafetz (1941–2006) was a leader in the field of feminist conflict theory. Her books *Masculine/Feminine or Human* (1974), *Feminist Sociology* (1988), and *Gender Equity* (1990) and other studies Dr. Chafetz uses conflict theory to present a set of models to explain the forces maintaining a system of gender inequality as well as a theory of how such a system can be changed. She argues that two types of forces sustain a system of gender inequality. One type of force is coercive and is based on the advantages men have in finding, keeping, and advancing in positions within the workforce. The other depends on the voluntary choices individuals make based on the gender roles that have been passed down through their families. Chafetz argues that the system can be changed through changes in the number and types of jobs available to increasingly large numbers of well-educated women entering the workforce (Turner 2003).

EARLY THINKERS

- **August Comte** : In France, the 19th Century was an unsettling time for the nation’s intellectuals. French monarchy had been deposed in the revolution of 1789 and Napoleon had suffered defeat in his effort to conquer Europe. Philosophers and intellectuals were finding the ways out to improve the society. August Comte is considered as the most influential philosopher of the early 1800s. He believed that in order to improve society the theoretical science of society should be developed and a systematic investigation of behavior should be carried. He Coined the term sociology to apply to the science of human behaviors. Comte hoped that the systematic study of social behavior would eventually lead to more rational human interactions. In Comte’s hierarchy of the Sciences, Sociology was at the top. He called it the “queen”, and its practioners “scientist-priests.”
- **Emile Durkheim** : Durkheim is considered as one of the founding fathers of sociology. He made many pioneering contributions to Sociology including his most important theoretical work on Suicide. Durkheim (1858-1917) was son of a rabbi he was educated in both France and Germany. He has an impressive academic record and was appointed as one of the first professors of the Sociology in France. Durkheim asserted that

behavior must be understood in the larger social context, rather than an individual action. Though his intensive study of the Arunta tribe, he focused on the important functions of religion in reinforcing group solidarity. According to Durkheim, the growing division of labor in industrial society and increasing specialization leads to what he called anomie. In the state of anomie, the confusion and the inability to cope with the circumstances also result in cases of suicide.

- **Max Weber:** Max Weber was born in Germany (1864-1920). He studied legal and economic history, but gradually developed an interest in sociology. Later he became professor and taught at various German universities. He taught the “Verstehen”, to his students. He said that in order to fully comprehend behavior, we must learn the subjective meanings people attach to their actions—how they themselves view and explain their behavior. He is also credited for his key conceptual tool: the Ideal type. The

concept of ideal type can be used to study the family, religion, authority, and economic systems, as well as to analyze bureaucracy.

- **Karl Marx:** Karl Marx (1818-1883) was a critique of existing institutions that a conventional academic career was impossible. He was a revolutionary and spent most of his life in exile from his native Germany. He was very much influenced by the ideas of Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) with whom he formed a lifelong friendship. Marx lived in extreme poverty in England. He pawned most of his possessions, and several of his children died of malnutrition and disease. In Marx's analysis, society was fundamentally divided between two classes i.e. Bourgeoisie and Proletariat who have opposite interests. In his examination of industrial society, he saw the factory as the center of conflict between the exploiters (the owners of the means of production) and the exploited (the workers). Marx's influence on contemporary thinking has been dramatic. His writings inspired those who led the common men.

SUM-UP

- Sociology is a new entrant. Sociologists are not unanimous about definition of sociology. Wide variety of definition of the subject shows that there are differences of opinion about the scope of the subject. These definitions however make clear that sociology is concerned with human relations and social institutions.
- There is a continuing controversy about the nature of sociology. Some claim sociology to be a science whereas some refute this claim. Views also differ about the scope of sociology.
- The formal school of thought believes that scope of sociology should not be generalized whereas the synthetic school believes that sociology should study society as a whole.
- August Comte is considered as the most influential philosopher of the 1800s. He is called as the father of sociology. He hoped that systematic study of social behavior will eventually lead to more rational interaction. Durkheim made pioneering contribution to sociology and is remembered as one of the founding fathers of sociology.
- Weber is known for “Verstehen”. He said in order to fully comprehend behavior we must learn the subjective meaning people attach to their action. Marx's theory of class struggle is an incredible contribution to sociology in analyzing the conflict. His influence on contemporary thinking has been dramatic. Sociologists view society in different ways.
- The four perspectives i.e. functionalist, conflict, interactionist and critical are most widely used by sociologists to give an introductory look at the discipline.
- Functionalist perspective is based on the assumption that society is a stable, orderly system.
- Society is composed of interrelated parts, each of which serves a function and contributes to the overall stability of the society. According to the conflict perspective, groups in society are engaged in a continuous power struggle for control of scarce resources. Many sociologists are more interested in understanding society through social interactions.
- The interactionist perspective generalizes about fundamental or everyday forms of social interaction. The critical perspective says that we live in a society, based on exchange principles of value and profit.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following best describes sociology as a subject?
 - (a) The study of individual behavior
 - (b) The study of cultures
 - (c) The study of society and social interaction
 - (d) The study of economics
2. C. Wright Mills once said that sociologists need to develop a sociological _____ to study how society affects individuals.
 - (a) culture
 - (b) imagination
 - (c) method
 - (d) tool
3. A sociologist defines society as a group of people who reside in a defined area, share a culture, and who:
 - (a) interact
 - (b) work in the same industry
 - (c) speak different languages
 - (d) practice a recognized religion
4. Seeing patterns means that a sociologist needs to be able to:
 - (a) compare the behavior of individuals from different societies
 - (b) compare one society to another
 - (c) identify similarities in how social groups respond to social pressure
 - (d) compare individuals to groups
5. Which of the following was a topic of study in early sociology?
 - (a) Astrology
 - (b) Economics
 - (c) Physics
 - (d) History
6. Which founder of sociology believed societies changed due to class struggle?
 - (a) Emile Comte
 - (b) Karl Marx
 - (c) Plato
 - (d) Herbert Spencer
7. The difference between positivism and antipositivism relates to:
 - (a) whether individuals like or dislike their society
 - (b) whether research methods use statistical data or person-to-person research
 - (c) whether sociological studies can predict or improve society
 - (d) all of the above
8. Which would a quantitative sociologists use to gather data?
 - (a) A large survey
 - (b) A literature search
 - (c) An in-depth interview
 - (d) A review of television programs
9. Weber believed humans could not be studied purely objectively because they were influenced by:
 - (a) drugs
 - (b) their culture
 - (c) their genetic makeup
 - (d) the researcher
10. Which of these theories is most likely to look at the social world on a micro level?
 - (a) Structural functionalism
 - (b) Conflict theory
 - (c) Positivism
 - (d) Symbolic interactionism
11. Who coined the phrase symbolic interactionism?
 - (a) Herbert Blumer
 - (b) Max Weber
 - (c) Lester F. Ward
 - (d) W.I. Thomas
12. A symbolic interactionist may compare social interactions to:
 - (a) behaviors
 - (b) conflicts
 - (c) human organs
 - (d) theatrical roles
13. Which research technique would most likely be used by a symbolic interactionist?
 - (a) Surveys
 - (b) Participant observation
 - (c) Quantitative data analysis
 - (d) None of the above
14. Kenneth and Mamie Clark used sociological research to show that segregation was:
 - (a) beneficial
 - (b) harmful
 - (c) illegal
 - (d) of no importance
15. Studying Sociology helps people analyze data because they learn:
 - (a) interview techniques
 - (b) to apply statistics
 - (c) to generate theories
 - (d) all of the above
16. Berger describes sociologists as concerned with:
 - (a) monumental moments in people's lives
 - (b) common everyday life events
 - (c) both a and b
 - (d) none of the above
17. The term sociology was for the first time coined by:
 - (a) Auguste Comte
 - (b) Ginsberg
 - (c) Aristotle
 - (d) Socrates
18. Sociology emerged as a response to:

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- (a) The issues, controversies and problems associated with 19th century American Society
- (b) The revolutionary social change stemming from the effects of the Industrial Revolution
- (c) The revolutionary social changes stemming from the effect of the Reformation
- (d) The after effect of the World War I.
19. Sociology as a subject deals with:
- (a) Man and society
- (b) Human associations
- (c) Social relations among individuals
- (d) Rights and duties of the citizens
20. Who, out of the following is often called as the father of sociology?
- (a) Durkheim (b) Max Weber
- (c) Auguste Comte (d) Socrates
21. Sociology has been derived from the Latin word 'Societus' and 'logos', which means:
- (a) Friend or companion and science
- (b) Society and laws
- (c) Sociability and science
- (d) Society and science
22. It was as the founder of "Positive" movement that achieved recognition as a philosopher, and although modern sociologists do not consider his theories as anything other than a series of interesting speculations, they recognize that he was responsible for demonstrating the need for an objective systematic study of society.
- (a) Auguste Comte (b) Saint Simon
- (c) Herbert Spencer (d) Emile Durkheim
23. Modern sociological thought and theory, as distinct from the purely contemplative or philosophical analysis of society, emerged in the:
- (a) Late 17th century
- (b) Late 19th century
- (c) Late 18th century and early 19th century
- (d) Early 18th century
24. Relationship central to sociology are those which involve:
- (a) Friendliness
- (b) Conflict
- (c) Mutual recognition and the sense of something shared in common
- (d) Kinship ties
25. Underlying seemingly unconnected, contradictory, chaotic happenings, there are patterns and regularities. It is the focus of a sociologist to:
- (a) Find and study them
- (b) Try and change them
- (c) Make them perfectly regular and patterned
- (d) Study the best patterns
26. Sociology is characterized by a perspective that places in the foreground:
- (a) Individual (b) Man's inborn instincts
- (c) Social interaction (d) Unique social events
27. Which statement is not acceptable to sociological perspective?
- (a) Man has always been in association with other men
- (b) Man is a social animal
- (c) Man is taught by society to exhibit hostility in some situations and friendliness in others
- (d) Man is most biologically determined species of all
28. While studying human behaviour, the sociologist:
- (a) Attempts to justify the values of the society to which he belongs
- (b) Discards values as they are a source of bias
- (c) Determines which values are of greater worth
- (d) Treats values as data which he studies
29. A sociologist is primarily interested in:
- (a) The way in which human being mutually influence each other
- (b) Anything which is related in a causal way to the behaviour of man
- (c) The individuals, since he is convinced that it is individual who make society
- (d) The similarities between human behaviour and the behaviour of other animals
30. Most important goal of sociology is:
- (a) Understanding society
- (b) Prediction of future events that may occur in society
- (c) Control of events in societies
- (d) To bring about revolutionary changes in society
31. 'Man is a social animal' is the famous analysis of human nature. It was said by:
- (a) Auguste Comte (b) Socrates
- (c) Plato (d) Aristotle
32. Which one is known to be the youngest of the social sciences?
- (a) Economics (b) Sociology
- (c) Anthropology (d) Psychology
33. The first western philosopher who undertook a systematic study of the society and can be said to be the sociologist in the history, was:

- (a) Plato (b) Socrates
(c) Thomas Aquinas (d) Comte
34. The study of the different definitions of sociology reveals that it is:
(a) The science of society
(b) A study of the forms of social relationship
(c) A study of social relationship
(d) All of the above
35. Which one is the characteristic of sociology?
(a) It is empirical (b) It is objective
(c) It is value-neutral (d) It is conjectural
36. Most of all, sociological study aims at:
(a) Evolution of ethical code
(b) Social reform
(c) Finding solutions to social problems
(d) Knowledge about human social life
37. A sociologist studies:
(a) All aspects of human life
(b) Social aspects of human life
(c) Evolutionary aspects of human life
(d) Functional aspects of human life
38. A sociologist is:
(a) A reformer (b) A revolutionary
(c) An objective inquirer (d) A preacher
39. Who gave the definition, "Sociology is the science of collective behaviour"?
(a) Cuber (b) Maclver
(c) Burgess (d) Kimball Young
40. Who gave the definition, "Sociology deals with the behaviour of man in groups"?
(a) Simmel (b) Tonnies
(c) Kimball Young (d) Maclver
41. "General sociology is on the whole the story of human beings living together" it is the definition given by:
(a) Kimball Young (b) Ferdinand Tonnies
(c) L.F. Ward (d) L.T. Hobhouse
42. "Sociology is the science which attempts the interpretive understanding of the social man is the definition given by:
(a) Maclver (b) Max Weber
(c) Bogardus (d) Arnold Green
43. According to whom, "the scope of sociology is the study of forms of social relationships"?
(a) Tonnies (b) Max Weber
(c) Small (d) Simmel
44. Of the following, who maintained that social anthropology was the same as comparative sociology?
(a) E. Durkheim (b) A. R. Radcliffe Brown
(c) B. Malinowski (d) A. Comte
45. _____, the French predecessor of Radcliffe-Brown, occupies a unique position in the history of sociological thought. He is regarded as a founding father equally by sociologists and by social anthropologists. He continues to be a source of inspiration to students of human society in every part of the world.
(a) A. Comte (b) Saint Simon
(c) E. Durkheim (d) Marcel Mauss
46. _____ in the 17th century supported the social contract theory in order to explain the relationship of individual and society.
(a) Thomas Hobbes (b) Charles Darwin
(c) A. Comte (d) Herbert Spencer
47. Of the following who introduced the term industrial sociology?'
(a) Auguste Comte (b) Karl Marx
(c) Saint Simon (d) Emile Durkheim
48. Herbert Spencers' model of society was essentially:
(a) Consensus (b) Organismic
(c) Functionalist (d) Conflict
49. According to Comte, like other sciences, the laws of social phenomena could be divided into two major fields of study, statics and dynamics. All sciences, for Comte are concerned with statics, i.e., discovery of laws of _____ and dynamics which was concerned with discovery of laws of succession:
(a) Integration (b) Co-existence
(c) Stagnation (d) Universal social phenomena
50. According to _____ societies were formed by coming together and agreeing, or making a contract to live side by side in peace, rather than continuing to fight one another.
(a) E. Durkheim (b) Thomas Hobbes
(c) A. Comte (d) V. Pareto
51. 'Survival of the fittest' of society was uttered by:
(a) Charles Darwin (b) Herbert Spencer
(c) Fleming (d) Jenny Bentham
52. Who, of the following is not the supporter of formalistic school?
(a) Simmel (b) Vier Kandt
(c) Max Weber (d) Ginsberg
53. Who, of the following advocated the Synthetic school of thought?

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- (a) Ginsberg (b) Aristotle
(c) Plato (d) Simmel
54. To which school the thinker Sorokin belongs?
(a) Formalistic (b) Synthetic
(c) Idealistic (d) Individualistic
55. "Cours de Philosophie" the first book highlighting the special subject of sociology is written by:
(a) August Comte (b) Max Weber
(c) Arnold Green (d) None of the above
56. 'Ethics' and 'Politics' the books dealing with the law, state and society for the first time was written by:
(a) Plato (b) Aristotle
(c) Cicero (d) Sophists
57. Which is most appropriate?
(a) All social sciences study society
(b) Only sociology and social anthropology study society
(c) Only sociology, social anthropology study society
(d) Only sociology studies society
58. Which is not appropriate?
(a) Whereas anthropology studies pre-literate societies, sociology studies modern industrial societies
(b) Both anthropologists and sociologists lay equal emphasis on the study of modern industrial societies
(c) Both anthropologists and sociologists study the pre-literate societies but from different points of view
(d) More and more anthropologists going for the study of modern industrial societies just as more and more sociologists are studying preliterate societies
59. Sociology and social anthropology had both begun asking general questions about the nature and origins of human society as a whole. They became scientific disciplines only when they began to make empirical investigation into particular societies. But the type of societies, social anthropologists and sociologists chose were from the start very different;
(a) Whereas sociologists studied advanced societies---the anthropologists studied simple, primitive societies
(b) Whereas sociologists studied simple primitive societies, anthropologist studied advanced societies
(c) Whereas sociologists studied societies in the West, anthropologists studied mainly Eastern developing societies
(d) Whereas sociology studies modern industrial societies, anthropology studies pre-literate societies
60. Which is not appropriate? Sociologists and Social Anthropologists chose societies whose differences are more manifest than their similarities because:
(a) Of difference in their aims and scope
(b) Of historical factors
(c) Of difference in their method and approach
(d) Of difference in their subject-matter
61. is the meeting point between sociology and psychology '?
(a) Clinical psychology (b) Social psychology
(c) Social work (d) Culture
62. Two _____ theories, those of classical Greek thought and social contract are sometimes regarded by historians of sociology as the foundations of science of society.
(a) Nineteenth century (b) Pre-eighteenth century
(c) Tenth century (d) Fourteenth century
63. The first people to apply analytical method to the study of sociology were:
(a) Auguste Comte
(b) Brown and Malinowski
(c) George Simmel and R. Brown
(d) George Simmel and Durkheim
64. _____ refers to the objective, scientific, unbiased study of society for the purposes of pure knowledge and theoretical advance.
(a) Real sociology (b) Pure sociology
(c) Value neutrality (d) Neutral sociology
65. Who has given concept of 'Pure Sociology'?
(a) Robert Park (b) Lester F. Ward
(c) August Comte (d) Cooley
66. The term _____ was used by George Simmel and it refers to the development of stable patterns of relationships among individuals through social interaction and communication.
(a) Individuation (b) Adaptation
(c) Sociation (d) Interactionism
67. _____ refers to type of sociological analysis, that attempts to differentiate the forms of social interaction from the content of interactions and to analyse the former independently of the latter.
(a) Informal sociology (b) Formal sociology
(c) Pure sociology (d) Neutral sociology
68. Who has given the concept of 'Formal Sociology'?
(a) Giddings (b) Spencer
(c) George Simmel (d) None of the above
69. In sociology, the error of regarding an abstraction as a real phenomenon is called:
(a) Fallacy of ratification (b) Fallacy of abstraction
(c) Fallacy of confusion (d) None of the above

70. _____ refers to a discipline that is primarily concerned with studying the general rather than the particular
 (a) Formal science (b) Formal sociology
 (c) Pure sociology (d) Monothetic science
71. 'Verstehein' is a _____ term meaning 'understanding' and insight of comprehension.
 (a) Spanish (b) German
 (c) Dutch (d) Swedish
72. As defined by _____, the method of Verstehen refers to the use of personal knowledge and insight gained through social interaction and role taking as a total in the understanding of the social behaviour of others.
 (a) Marx (b) Simmel
 (c) Spencer (d) Weber
73. Who gave the name 'Social Physics' to sociology?
 (a) Spencer (b) Sorokin
 (c) Darwin (d) August Comte
74. According to, man goes progressively through three stages of social development, viz., theological, metaphysical and scientific.
 (a) Marx (b) Ralph Dahrendorf
 (c) August Comte (d) Spencer
75. In sociology, who gave the concept of social statics and social dynamics?
 (a) Weber (b) Durkheim
 (c) Merton (d) August Comte
76. According to August Comte _____ is the study of the inter-relationship between the various parts of human societies.
 (a) Social statics (b) Social dynamics
 (c) Positivism (d) Metaphysics
77. As defined by August Comte, _____ is the study of human societies develop and change through time.
 (a) Social statics (b) Positivism
 (c) Social dynamics (d) None of the above
78. Find the odd man out among the following belonging to the 'Formalistic school' of thought.
 (a) Simmel (b) Max Weber
 (c) Tonnies (d) Marx
79. Find the odd man out among the following belonging to the 'Synthetic school of thought'.
 (a) Durkheim (b) Sorokin
 (c) Karl Mannheim (d) Ralph Dahrendorf
80. According to Durkheim, sociology has three principal divisions, viz.
 (a) Social morphology, social physiology and general sociology
 (b) Social morphology, social psychology and general sociology
 (c) Social statics, social dynamics and general sociology
 (d) None of the above
81. Who has divided sociology into systematic and general sociology, and historical sociology?
 (a) Weber (b) Sorokin
 (c) Hobhouse (d) Karl Mannheim
82. Which one of the following methods consists of observation, recording, classification, hypothesis, verification and prediction?
 (a) Historical method
 (b) Scientific method
 (c) Inverse deductive method
 (d) Ideal-type method
83. _____ means a looking at things.
 (a) Observation (b) Recording
 (c) Prediction (d) Verification
84. The two types of observation are:
 (a) Spontaneous and controlled
 (b) Formal and informal
 (c) Open-ended and closed
 (d) None of the above
85. _____ is a tentative proposition, the authenticity of which is yet to be ascertained.
 (a) Conclusion (b) Introduction
 (c) Hypothesis (d) Index
86. Find out the correct sequence of the processes in the scientific method.
 (a) Hypothesis, observation, recording, classification, prediction and verification
 (b) Observation, recording, classification, hypothesis, verification and prediction
 (c) Recording, observation, classification, verification, hypothesis and prediction
 (d) None of the above
87. Sociology cannot make use of method:
 (a) Historical (b) Ideal types
 (c) Scientific (d) Social survey
88. _____ method consists of a study of events, processes and institutions of past civilization for the purpose of finding the origins or antecedents of contemporary social life and thus understanding its nature and working.

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- (a) Inverse deductive method
(b) Ideal type method
(c) Historical method
(d) Experimental method
89. _____ method involves comparisons of various kinds of groups of people in order to find out the difference as well as similarities in their ways of life and thus to find out clues to man's social behaviour.
(a) Historical method
(b) Comparative method
(c) Experimental method
(d) Inverse deductive method
90. Who advocated the 'inverse deductive method' in sociology?
(a) J.S. Mill (b) Wright Mills
(c) Sorokin (d) Hobhouse
91. According to _____ method, an ideal is constructed from concrete cases and then a particular case is evaluated according to the degree of its approximation to the ideals.
(a) Inverse deductive (b) Comparative
(c) Ideal type (d) Experimental
92. _____ is a set of techniques to measure attractions and repulsion in interpersonal relation 'in quantitative and diagrammatic terms'.
(a) Social statistics (b) Sociometry
(c) Social survey (d) Quantitative method
93. The method of sociometry was first used by:
(a) Weber (b) Sorokin
(c) Lipset (d) G. L. Moreno
94. The _____ method consists in the collection of data concerning the living and working conditions of people in a given area with a view to formulate practical social measures for their betterment and welfare.
(a) Social statistics (b) Social survey
(c) Sociometry (d) Ideal type
95. The _____ method is a form of qualitative analysis involving the very useful and complete observation of a person, a situation or an institution.
(a) Inverse deductive (b) Case study
(c) Social Survey (d) Historical method
96. The variety of functionalism that views functions and an activity of an institution which satisfies the need or needs of the individual is known as:
(a) Psychological Functionalism
(b) Sociological Functionalism
(c) Organismic Functionalism
(d) Structural Functionalism
97. The following social thinkers have made great contribution to sociology. What is the chronological order in which they appeared?
(a) Marx (b) August Comte
(c) Durkheim (d) Talcott Parsons
(a) B, A, C, D (b) A, B, C, D
(c) C, A, B, D (d) D, C, B, A
98. In the development of functional school of sociology in what order would you put the following?
(a) August Comte (b) Spencer
(c) Malinowski (d) Radcliffe-Brown
(a) A, B, C, D (b) D, C, B, A
(c) A, C, B, D (d) A, D, C, B
99. Holistic approach in Sociology is a:
(a) Structural functional approach
(b) Cultural approach
(c) Evolutionary approach
(d) Diffusionist approach
100. All sciences share:
(a) Objectivity and clear perception
(b) The scientific method and the goal of objectivity
(c) Value neutrality and testable ideas
(d) Clear-cut aims and an ideological stand
101. Objectivity:
(a) Requires a detached, impersonal view
(b) Requires a person to give secondary importance to his own biases and preferences
(c) Requires person to discard his own beliefs and moral convictions
(d) None of the above
102. Crucial feature of scientific data is its:
(a) Reliability (b) Quality
(c) Quantitative (d) Universal applicability
103. Sociology is a science because it is:
(a) Objective (b) Quantitative
(c) Methodical (d) Qualitative
104. The most frequently used methods of research in sociology is/are:
(a) Experimental method
(b) Explorative method
(c) Descriptive method
(d) Explorative and descriptive methods

- 105.** The study of sociology has a practical importance for everyone because it:
- (a) Helps in controlling the conditions of social life and improving them
 - (b) Assists him to understand himself, his resources and limitations and his potentialities in the society
 - (c) Stimulates them to render services to others and to the common goods
 - (d) Gives knowledge about social conditions and social evils
- 106.** Which of the following is not a drawback of sociology as a science?
- (a) People's resistance to social change
 - (b) Nobody is interested in applying the scientific rules to the study of sociology
 - (c) Ethnocentrism
 - (d) Terminological inefficiency
- 107.** Which of the following is not important to the study of sociology?
- (a) It enables to study the society systematically
 - (b) It helps in solving the social problems
 - (c) It enriches our knowledge of culture
 - (d) It helps in raising the standards of the people
- 108.** Which of the following does not fall under the scope of sociology'?
- (a) The study of society
 - (b) The study of social relationships
 - (c) Study of social action
 - (d) Legal Institutions

ANSWERS

1. (c)	2. (b)	3. (a)	4. (c)	5. (b)	6. (b)	7. (c)	8. (a)	9. (b)	10. (d)
11. (a)	12. (a)	13. (d)	14. (b)	15. (d)	16. (c)	17. (a)	18. (b)	19. (c)	20. (c)
21. (d)	22. (a)	23. (c)	24. (c)	25. (a)	26. (c)	27. (d)	28. (d)	29. (a)	30. (a)
31. (d)	32. (b)	33. (d)	34. (d)	35. (a)	36. (d)	37. (b)	38. (c)	39. (c)	40. (c)
41. (b)	42. (b)	43. (c)	44. (b)	45. (c)	46. (a)	47. (c)	48. (b)	49. (b)	50. (b)
51. (b)	52. (d)	53. (a)	54. (b)	55. (a)	56. (a)	57. (a)	58. (d)	59. (a)	60. (b)
61. (b)	62. (b)	63. (a)	64. (b)	65. (b)	66. (c)	67. (b)	68. (c)	69. (a)	70. (d)
71. (b)	72. (d)	73. (d)	74. (c)	75. (d)	76. (a)	77. (c)	78. (d)	79. (d)	80. (b)
81. (c)	82. (b)	83. (a)	84. (a)	85. (c)	86. (a)	87. (b)	88. (c)	89. (b)	90. (a)
91. (c)	92. (b)	93. (d)	94. (b)	95. (b)	96. (a)	97. (a)	98. (a)	99. (a)	100. (b)
101. (a)	102. (a)	103. (c)	104. (d)	105. (d)	106. (b)	107. (d)	108. (d)		