

**Department of Sociology**

**Ph.D. Entrance Test Syllabus**

**Instructions:** Students seeking admission to the Ph.D. Sociology Programme should prepare for the entrance exam using the M.A. Sociology (Hon) syllabus. We've listed a few topics for your convenience below.

**1. Sociology – The Discipline**

Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology, Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences, Sociology and common sense.

**2. Sociology as Science**

Science, scientific method and critique, Major theoretical strands of research methodology. Positivism and its critique. Fact value and objectivity. Non- positivist methodologies.

**3. Research Methods and Analysis**

Qualitative and quantitative methods. Techniques of data collection. Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

**4. Sociological Thinkers**

Karl Marx- Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle. Emile Durkheim- Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society. Max Weber- Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism. Talcolt Parsons- Social system, pattern variables. Robert K. Merton- Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups. Mead – Self and identity.

**5. Stratification and Mobility**

Concepts- equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation. Theories of social stratification- Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory. Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race. Social mobility- open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

**6. Works and Economic Life**

Social organization of work in different types of society- slave society, feudal society, industrial /capitalist society. Formal and informal organization of work. Labour and society.

**7. Politics and Society**

Sociological theories of power. Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties. Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology. Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

**8. Religion and Society**

Sociological theories of religion. Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults. Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

**9. Systems of Kinship**

Family, household, marriage. Types and forms of family. Lineage and descent. Patriarchy and sexual division of labour. Contemporary trends.

**10. Social Change in Modern Society**

Sociological theories of social change. Development and dependency. Agents of social change. Education and social change. Science, technology and social change.