

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Sociology and Society

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

Sociology = the systematic, scientific study of human society and social relationships.

Term 'sociology' coined by AUGUSTE COMTE in 1838 (first called 'social physics').

Four founding pioneers: COMTE · DURKHEIM · MARX · WEBER.

Sociological imagination (C. Wright Mills, 1959) = link between BIOGRAPHY (personal life) and HISTORY (society).

Personal trouble = private, within the individual, solvable by personal effort.

Public issue = structural, affects many, solvable only by collective / institutional change.

Sociology vs common sense: systematic · evidence-based · comparative · self-critical vs taken-for-granted · individual · unverified.

Society = MORE than a collection of individuals — it is the web of relationships, institutions, norms that pre-exist and outlast the individual.

TWO contexts of emergence: INTELLECTUAL (Enlightenment, reason, science) + MATERIAL (Industrial Revolution, French Revolution, colonialism).

Sister social sciences: economics · political science · history · psychology · anthropology.

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Sociological imagination + troubles vs issues with example

6 marks · 90% of years

Attribute to Mills (1959); define imagination; one-sentence-each contrast; ONE worked example (unemployment) plus ideally one fresh example.

2 Sociology vs common sense knowledge

4 marks · 70% of years

Three axes — systematic / evidence-based / self-critical — then ONE example where sociology overturns common sense (Durkheim & suicide).

3 Intellectual + material contexts of emergence

6 marks · 65% of years

Two paragraphs: Enlightenment (reason/science → Comte 1838) and Industrial+French Revolution+colonialism. Always cover BOTH.

4 Sociology's relationship with another social science

5 marks · 60% of years

Name overlap + name the distinctive focus of each. E.g. economics studies the economy narrowly; sociology studies the economy as embedded in social relations.

5 Who coined 'sociology'? Name the pioneers / the year.

2 marks · 75% of years

Comte · 1838 · pioneers Comte, Durkheim, Marx, Weber. Pure recall — do not over-write.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Recite from memory: who coined 'sociology' (Comte), the year (1838), the four pioneers (Comte/Durkheim/Marx/Weber), and the author of 'sociological imagination' (C. Wright Mills, 1959).

15-30 min

Write a 6-line answer on the sociological imagination WITH your own fresh example of a personal trouble vs a public issue (not the textbook unemployment one).

30-45 min

Make the 3-axis table for sociology vs common sense (systematic / evidence-based / self-critical) and recall the Durkheim-suicide example that overturns common sense.

45-60 min

Draw the emergence funnel: list the intellectual driver (Enlightenment) and the three material drivers (Industrial Revolution, French Revolution, colonialism) with one line each on WHY each mattered.

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer. Target >= 12/15.

75-90 min

Review every wrong MCQ, re-read the matching notes slide, and re-draw the sociology-at-the-centre web of the five sister social sciences from memory.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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