

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Social Institutions: Continuity and Change

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

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

BIG IDEA: each institution (CASTE, TRIBE, FAMILY) shows CONTINUITY *and* CHANGE — never only one.

CASTE — features: ascribed by BIRTH · endogamy (marriage within) · hierarchy + purity/pollution · hereditary occupation · segmental + ranked.

COLONIAL RESHAPING: Census 1881 → 1901 (H.H. RISLEY)
RANKED castes all-India → more RIGID + COUNTABLE + POLITICISED; land settlements fixed caste-class link.

UNTOUCHABILITY: extreme exclusion below the 4 varnas → ARTICLE 17 abolishes it; SC/ST (PoA) Act 1989.

CONSTITUTION vs caste: Art 17 (untouchability) · Art 15/16 (non-discrimination) · Art 46 + 330/332/335 + 338/340 (reservation + commissions).

M.N. SRINIVAS — TWO concepts:

SANSKRITISATION = lower group adopts higher-caste customs (veg, sacred thread) → POSITIONAL mobility WITHIN system (not learning Sanskrit).

DOMINANT CASTE = numerical + economic (land) + political power locally; need NOT be ritually highest (Jats, Reddys, Vokkaligas, Yadavs).

TRIBES — classify by PERMANENT (region · language · physical-racial · size) + ACQUIRED (livelihood: jhum/ hunting/settled/plantation · degree of Hindu incorporation).

TRIBAL DEBATE: GHURYE ('backward Hindus' → integrate) vs ELWIN (protective autonomy) → Nehru middle path; Fifth/ Sixth Schedule + Scheduled

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 Colonial reshaping / changes in the caste system

5 marks · 85% of years
Continuity AND change. Census 1901/Risley + land settlements + Art 17 + reservation. Specific.

2 Sanskritisation (+ dominant caste)

5 marks · 80% of years
Srinivas. Define each, give caste examples, note critique. Don't confuse with learning Sanskrit / Brahmin dominance.

3 Bases of tribal classification + integration vs autonomy

5 marks · 65% of years
Permanent + acquired traits; Ghurye vs Elwin; Scheduled Areas; Santhal/Gond/Bhil examples.

4 Joint vs nuclear family

3 marks · 60% of years
Define both, residence/property/generations, note coexistence + change.

5 Matriliney vs patriliney (Khasi/Nayar)

3 marks · 50% of years
Descent through mother vs father; matriliney ≠ matriarchy; authority often the maternal uncle.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Memorise: 5 features of caste + Census 1901/Risley + Art 17; Srinivas's two concepts; permanent vs acquired tribal traits; matriliney ≠ matriarchy.

15-30 min

Write the 'colonial reshaping of caste' 5-marker with continuity AND change.

30-45 min

Write the 'sanskritisation + dominant caste' 5-marker with caste examples.

45-60 min

Write tribal classification + Ghurye-vs-Elwin; then joint/nuclear + matriliney/patriliney 3-markers.

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill.

75-90 min

Review wrong answers; re-drill the four killer confusions (sanskritisation, dominant caste, matriliney, untouchability).

Areas; Jharkhand (2000); displacement.

FAMILY: JOINT (multi-generation, shared residence/property) vs NUCLEAR (couple + children). Forms COEXIST + CHANGE; urban families often residentially nuclear, functionally joint.

DESCENT: MATRILINY (mother's line — Khasi, Nayar; authority often the maternal UNCLE) vs PATRILINY (father's line, most of India). Matriline ≠ matriarchy.

GENDER + KINSHIP: Leela Dube — kinship rules are GENDERED; the family is a key site of women's subordination.

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