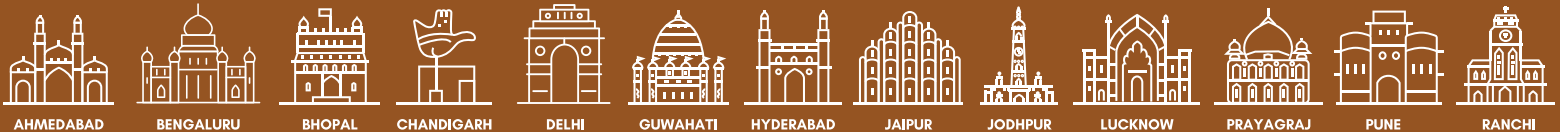


Sociology

Optional Test Series 2026



AHMEDABAD

BENGALURU

BHOPAL

CHANDIGARH

DELHI

GUWAHATI

HYDERABAD

JAIPUR

JODHPUR

LUCKNOW

PRAYAGRAJ

PUNE

RANCHI

ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Sociology stands out among UPSC optional subjects for its clear concepts, logical framework, and wide relevance across the General Studies syllabus. It enables aspirants to understand social realities, governance, and policy issues with analytical precision. As a subject, it combines theoretical depth with practical application—helping aspirants articulate answers that are both conceptually rich and contextually balanced.

However, mastering Sociology requires more than familiarity with thinkers and theories. It calls for clarity in argumentation, the ability to connect Paper I ideas with Indian society in Paper II, and the skill to present sociological analysis in a concise and exam-oriented manner.

Despite sound preparation, many aspirants face specific challenges such as:



Conceptual understanding not translating into exam-fit answers.



Limited exposure to varied question types and evolving UPSC trends.



Unstructured presentation and inadequate use of examples or sociological terms.



Lack of practice in time-bound answer writing and comparative evaluation.



Weak integration between theory and applied contexts.

The **Sociology Optional Test Series 2026** by **VisionIAS** has been designed to address these gaps through a structured testing and feedback-based approach. It enables aspirants to assess their preparation, refine articulation, and progressively build competence across Paper I and Paper II.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

A phased testing schedule designed to ensure complete syllabus coverage and consistent improvement through progressive assessment and guided review.

Sociology Optional Comprehensive Test Series 2026 **16 Tests (8 Unit + 4 Sectional + 4 Full-Length Tests)**

COMPONENT	NO. OF TESTS	DETAILS	NATURE OF QUESTIONS
UNIT TESTS	8	2 Mini-tests per section of the syllabus, covering Sociology Optional in parts	Easy to Medium — focusing on comprehensive syllabus coverage
SECTIONAL TESTS	4	1 Part test per section of the syllabus, covering the full syllabus section-wise	Medium to Difficult — testing analytical understanding to tackle UPSC Mains uncertainty
FULL-LENGTH TESTS	4	2 Full-Length Tests per paper of Sociology Optional, simulating UPSC Mains	Simulation of real UPSC exam for comprehensive performance assessment

PROGRAM FEATURES



Phased Coverage: Unit, Sectional, and Full-Length Tests ensuring complete and balanced syllabus mastery.



UPSC-Aligned Question Design: Reflects current trends, analytical depth, and evolving exam expectations.



Innovative Assessment System™: Comprehensive evaluation focusing on content quality, structure, and presentation, supported by detailed question-wise feedback for targeted improvement.



Model Answers & Test Discussions:

Strengthen conceptual clarity and refine writing through structured post-test analysis.



One-to-One Mentoring:

Personalized guidance to address performance gaps, with insights drawn from toppers' copies and effective writing strategies.



All India Ranking:

Enables comparative performance analysis across a national pool of aspirants.

PROGRAM DETAILS

PROGRAM	FEE (INCLUSIVE OF ALL TAXES)	MODULE NUMBER	STARTING DATE
Sociology Optional Test Series 2026 (16 Tests)	₹14,000	3785	7 th December 2025
Sociology Optional Test Series 2026 (8 Tests)	₹10,000	3786	28 th December 2025

LEARNING OUTCOME

- ◆ Demonstrate conceptual mastery of sociological theories, perspectives, and methodologies.
- ◆ Write analytically structured answers linking theory and empirical illustrations.
- ◆ Incorporate contemporary examples, data, and reports effectively.
- ◆ Build paper-wise integration and consistency in performance.
- ◆ Approach UPSC Mains confidently with exam-oriented precision and balance.

SOCIOLOGY TEST SERIES REFLECTIONS IN UPSC MAINS 2025

The Sociology Optional Test Series has consistently mirrored UPSC's evolving trends, with significant question overlap in both Paper I and Paper II.

The following glimpse reflect direct and thematic correlation between **VisionIAS Sociology Test Series** and **UPSC CSE Mains 2025**.



**Paper 1
Reflections**



**Paper 2
Reflections**

UPSC CSE MAINS 2025 QUESTION		VISIONIAS SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL TEST SERIES QUESTIONS
SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL PAPER I	2.a What is positivism? Critically analyse the major arguments against it	7.(a) "Positivism offers explanation, while critical theory offers emancipation." Critically examine this dichotomy. (3348)
	7b.How do theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim differ in understanding religion? explain	3b.Compare Durkheim approach to religion to that of Max Weber. How do their views on the role of religion in social change differ?(3342)
	7c.What is the nature of relationship between science and religion in modern society?	7b- Discuss the relationship between science and religion in the contemporary world.(3346)
SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL PAPER II	1.(b) Justify that the Indian traditions are modernizing. Also discuss its contributing factors. 10	5.d Is tradition a barrier to modernisation or does modernisation take the form of traditionalism in Indian context? (3344)
	1.(d) How did Colonial Policies for the tribes affected their socio-economic conditions in India? Discuss. 10	7.c Analyze the impact of colonial policies on tribal social structure and economy. (3344)
	1.(e) How would you appropriate to characterise G. S. Ghurye as a practitioner of 'theoretical pluralism'? 10	7.b Discuss the key aspects of G.S. Ghurye's indological approach to Indian society. How applicable is this perspective in understanding contemporary Indian society? (3344)

TEST SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REFERENCE

TEST NO. (CODE)	DATE	TOPICS COVERED	PRIMARY (ESSENTIAL) REFERENCES	SECONDARY (ADDITIONAL) REFERENCES
UNIT TEST 1 [5230]	7 DEC 2025	SOCIOLOGICAL THINKERS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Talcott Parsons – Social system, pattern variables. Robert K. Merton – Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups. Mead – Self and identity. STRATIFICATION AND MOBILITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepts – equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation. Dimensions – Social stratification of class, status group, gender, ethnicity and race. Theories of social stratification – Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory. Social mobility – open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility. 	SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN IGNOU B.A. ESO-13 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY: GEORGE RITZER SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGNOU B.A. ESO-11 IGNOU B.A. ESO-14 IGNOU B.A. ESO-13 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY: GEORGE RITZER POLITICAL THEORY: O.P. GAUBA & SOCIOLOGY: ANTHONY GIDDENS SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN IGNOU B.A. ESO-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOCIAL THOUGHT: R.N. MUKHERJEE
UNIT TEST 2 [5231]	21 DEC 2025	POLITICS AND SOCIETY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. RELIGION AND SOCIETY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociological theories of religion. Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults. Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, religious fundamentalism. 	SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN IGNOU B.A. ESO-13	
SECTIONAL TEST – 1 [5232]	28 DEC 2025	Syllabus of Unit Test 1 and 2.		
UNIT TEST 3 [5233]	11 JAN 2026	SOCIOLOGY: THE DISCIPLINE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology. Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences. Sociology and common sense. 	SOCIOLOGY: A GUIDE TO PROBLEMS AND LITERATURE – T.B. BOTTOMORE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGNOU B.A. ESO-13 SOCIOLOGY: THEMES	

		SOCIOLOGY AS SCIENCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science, scientific method and critique. • Major theoretical strands of research methodology. • Positivism and its critique. • Fact value and objectivity. • Non-positivist methodologies. RESEARCH METHODS AND ANALYSIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative and quantitative methods. • Techniques of data collection. • Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity. 	AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN • IGNOU M.A. MSO-002 SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HEALD SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HEALD – SOCIOLOGY: ANTHONY GIDDENS SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN IGNOU B.A. ESO-11 IGNOU B.A. ESO-13 SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES: HARALAMBOS AND HOLBORN – IGNOU M.A. MSO-002	
UNIT TEST 4 [5234]	25 JAN 2026	WORK AND ECONOMIC LIFE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. SYSTEMS OF KINSHIP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family, household, marriage. • Types and forms of family. • Lineage and descent. • Patriarchy and sexual division of labour. • Contemporary trends. SOCIAL CHANGE IN MODERN SOCIETY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociological theories of social change. • Development and dependency. • Agents of social change. • Education and social change. • Science, technology and social change. 		
SECTIONAL TEST – 2 [5235]	1 FEB 2026	Syllabus of Unit Test 3 and 4.		
UNIT TEST 5 [5236]	15 FEB 2026	A. INTRODUCING INDIAN SOCIETY: PERSPECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indology (G.S. Ghurye). • Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas). • Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai). IMPACT OF COLONIAL RULE ON INDIAN SOCIETY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social background of Indian nationalism. • Modernization of Indian tradition. • Protests and movements during the colonial period. • Social reforms. 	INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT: B.K. NAGLA SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF INDIAN NATIONALISM: A.R. DESAI (Selected chapters) MODERNIZATION OF INDIAN TRADITION: YOGENDRA SINGH (Selected chapters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY: D. N. MAJUMDAR • FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND KINSHIP IN INDIA: PATRICIA OBEROI.
UNIT TEST 6 [5237]	1 MAR 2026	B. SOCIAL STRUCTURE: RURAL AND AGRARIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of Indian village and village studies. • Agrarian social structure – evolution of land tenure system, land reforms. C. SOCIAL STRUCTURE: CASTE SYSTEM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G.S. Ghurye, M.N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille. 	RURAL SOCIOLOGY: DOSHI & JAIN (Selected chapters) • IGNOU M.A. MSO-004 INDIAN SOCIAL SYSTEM: RAM AHUJA IGNOU B.A. ESO-14	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of caste system. • Untouchability – forms and perspectives. <p>D. TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitional problems. • Geographical spread. • Colonial policies and tribes. • Issues of integration and autonomy. <p>E. SOCIAL CLASSES IN INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrarian class structure. • Industrial class structure. • Middle classes in India. <p>F. SYSTEMS OF KINSHIP IN INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lineage and descent in India. • Types of kinship systems. • Family and marriage in India. • Household dimensions of family. • Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour. <p>G. RELIGION AND SOCIETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious communities in India. • Problems of religious minorities. 	<p>INDIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE: NADEEM HASNAIN (Selected chapters) IGNOU B.A. ESO-12</p>	
SECTIONAL TEST – 3 [5238]	8 MAR 2026	Syllabus of Unit Test 5 and 6.		
UNIT TEST 7 [5239]	15 MAR 2026	<p>A. SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA: Visions of Social Change in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idea of development planning and mixed economy. • Constitution, law and social change. • Education and social change. <p>B. RURAL AND AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes of rural development – Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes. • Green revolution and social change. • Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture. • Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration. <p>C. INDUSTRIALISATION AND URBANISATION IN INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution of modern industry in India. • Growth of urban settlements in India. • Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization. • Informal sector, child labour. • Slums and deprivation in urban areas. <p>D. POLITICS AND SOCIETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nation, democracy and citizenship. • Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite. • Regionalism and decentralization of power. • Secularization. 	<p>SOCIAL CHANGE IN INDIA: YOGENDRA SINGH (Selected chapters)</p> <p>INDIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE: NADEEM HASNAIN (Selected chapters)</p> <p>RURAL SOCIOLOGY: DOSHI & JAIN</p> <p>INDIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE: NADEEM HASNAIN (Selected chapters)</p> <p>SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA: RAM AHUJA (Selected chapters) IGNOU M.A. MSOE-004 IGNOU M.A. MSO-004</p> <p>POLITICS IN INDIA: PAUL BRASS (Selected chapters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONTEMPORARY INDIA: CHANDHOKE & PRAYADASHI (Selected chapters) • CONTEMPORARY INDIA: CHANDHOKE & PRAYADASHI (Selected chapters) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY: D. N. MAJUMDAR • FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND KINSHIP IN INDIA: PATRICIA OBEROI. • RURAL SOCIOLOGY: DOSHI & JAIN

UNIT TEST 8 [5240]	22 MAR 2026	<p>E. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN MODERN INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peasants and farmers movements. • Women's movement. • Backward classes & Dalit movement. • Ethnicity and identity movements. • Environmental movements. <p>F. POPULATION DYNAMICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population size, growth, composition and distribution. • Components of population growth: birth, death, migration. • Population policy and family planning. • Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health. <p>G. CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability. • Poverty, deprivation and inequalities. • Violence against women. • Caste conflicts. • Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism. • Illiteracy and disparities in education. 	<p>SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA: GHANSHYAM SHAH (Selected chapters)</p> <p>PRINCIPLES OF POPULATION STUDIES: BHRIDE & KANITKAR (Selected chapters)</p> <p>IGNOU B.A. ESO-16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONTEMPORARY INDIA: CHANDHOKE & PRAYADASHI (Selected chapters) • WOMEN IN INDIA: NEERA DESAI (Selected chapters) • INDIAN SOCIAL SYSTEM: RAM AHUJA (Selected chapters) • IGNOU B.A. ESO-16, SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA: RAM AHUJA (Selected chapters) • SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA: RAM AHUJA (Selected chapters)
SECTIONAL TEST – 4 [5241]	29 MAR 2026	Syllabus of Test 7 & 8.	
FULL LENGTH TEST – 1 [5242]	14 JUN 2026	Complete Syllabus of Sociology I (Full Length Test)	
FULL LENGTH TEST – 2 [5243]	28 JUN 2026	Complete syllabus of Sociology Paper II (Full Length Test)	
FULL LENGTH TEST – 3 [5244]	12 JUL 2026	Complete Syllabus of Sociology I (Full Length Test)	
FULL LENGTH TEST – 4 [5245]	26 JUL 2026	Complete syllabus of Sociology Paper II (Full Length Test)	

Notes

- ◆ Tests are available in both offline and online modes; each test can be attempted once.
- ◆ Tests may be rescheduled (postponed, but not preponed) as per convenience.
- ◆ Evaluated copies, model answers, and discussion videos will be accessible through the student portal.
- ◆ Value Added Material (VAM) and supplementary resources will be provided in digital format.

Our Sociology Toppers

Toppers in Top 200 UPSC CSE 2024

 84 AIR	 110 AIR	 123 AIR	 151 AIR	 163 AIR	 189 AIR
Prastuti Upadhaya	N Chetana Reddy	Priyanshu Agrawal	Nelaturu Sreekanth Reddy	Harsita Agrawal	Anupriya Rai

 7 AIR	 45 AIR	 53 AIR
Aayushi Bansal	Malavika G Nair	Shivani Panchal

Toppers in Top 100 UPSC CSE 2023

 2 AIR	 10 AIR	 23 AIR	 27 AIR	 28 AIR	 48 AIR	 97 AIR
Animesh Pradhan	Aishwaryam Prajapati	Saurabh Sharma	Saikiran Nandala	Pawan Kumar Goel	Anshul Hindal	Aayushi Bansal

10

in **TOP 10** Selections in **CSE 2024**
from various programs of **Vision IAS**

 1 AIR	 2 AIR	 3 AIR
Shakti Dubey	Harshita Goyal GS Foundation Classroom Student	Dongre Archit Parag GS Foundation Classroom Student

 4 AIR	 5 AIR	 6 AIR	 7 AIR	 8 AIR	 9 AIR	 10 AIR
Shah Margi Chirag	Aakash Garg	Komal Punia	Aayushi Bansal	Raj Krishna Jha	Aditya Vikram Agarwal	Mayank Tripathi



DELHI

GMMR ENQUIRY & CLASSROOM CENTRE

33, Pusa Road,
Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,
Opposite Pillar No. 113,
Delhi - 110005

MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTER

Plot No. 857, Ground Floor,
Mukherjee Nagar, Opposite Punjab
& Sindh Bank, Mukherjee Nagar

GTB NAGAR CENTER

Classroom & Enquiry Office,
above Gate No. 2, GTB Nagar
Metro Building, Delhi - 110009

FOR DETAILED ENQUIRY

Please Call:
+91 8468022022,
+91 9019066066

 enquiry@visionias.in  [/c/VisionIASdelhi](https://www.youtube.com/c/VisionIASdelhi)  [/visionias.upsc](https://www.facebook.com/visionias.upsc)  [/vision_ias](https://www.instagram.com/vision_ias)  [VisionIAS_UPSC](https://www.telegram.com/VisionIAS_UPSC)

