

UNIT – I

Sociology: meaning, emergence and uses

Definition · From philosophy · Emergence · Uses · Law

Explanatory Lecture Slides

Invitation to Sociology · Minor-II-1 · Semester I

INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY

Topics covered in this unit

01

Define sociology

02

Explain its emergence in 19th-century Europe

03

Distinguish sociology from social philosophy

04

State uses / relevance

05

Relate sociology to law

06

Name the founding trio

How this unit is organised

01

Definitions

02

Emergence

03

Social philosophy

04

Uses

05

Sociology & law

06

Founders

Definitions of sociology

Comte: the science of society. Durkheim: study of social facts. Weber: interpretive study of social action. Giddens: study of human social life, groups and societies.

- PYQ: definition; relevance (2024).
- Object: society, not the isolated individual.
- Method: empirical + comparative, not pure speculation.
- Alex Inkeles: systems of social action — a KSLU-quoted line.

Definitions of sociology

KEEP TWO

- Durkheim — social facts.
- Weber — social action.

AVOID

- 'Sociology is the study of society' and stop.

Emergence — why the 19th century?

Industrial revolution, French revolution, urbanisation, collapse of old estates, rise of science.

- Comte names it; Durkheim institutionalises it; Marx and Weber explode it.
- PYQ: emergence; socio-political background (notes pattern).
- India: colonial census, caste enumeration, later Ghurye and Srinivas — plant the names for paper II.

Emergence — why the 19th century?

FORCES

- Industry.
- Revolution.
- Science.
- Empire and the 'other'.

NOT A FOUNDER

- Plato wrote social philosophy; he did not do sociology.

From social philosophy to sociology

Philosophy asks what a good society is. Sociology asks how societies actually hang together.

- PYQ: transition from social philosophy; formalistic school (2021 6-mark).
- Formal school (Simmel, Tönnies): forms of interaction.
- Synthetic school (Durkheim, Hobhouse): the whole of social life.
- A law paper needs both: forms (contract, crime) and the whole (caste, family).

From social philosophy to sociology

PHILOSOPHY

- Normative.
- Ought.

SOCIOLOGY

- Empirical.
- Is — then maybe ought.

Uses and relevance

Debunking (Berger), policy, social work, law reform, management of diversity.

- PYQ: relevance of sociology; uses (2024).
- Invitation to Sociology (Berger): see through the official story.
- For a KSLU lawyer: caste in court, family in court, crime as a social fact, sentencing as a social act.

Uses and relevance

PRACTICAL

- Policy.
- Law reform.
- Welfare administration.

INTELLECTUAL

- Debunking.
- Comparative humility.

Sociology and law

Law is a social fact (Durkheim) and a tool of domination or of reform (Marx / Durkheim again).

- Pound: law as social engineering.
- Ehrlich: living law.
- Indian: sociology of caste is not optional if you will argue Art. 15–17.
- This is why a five-year course begins with sociology, not with CPC.

Sociology and law

LAW → SOCIETY

- Hindu Code.
- POCSO.
- RTE.

SOCIETY → LAW

- Custom.
- Public opinion.
- Moral panic.

Founding trio + Comte

Comte (positivism, three stages), Marx (class), Durkheim (solidarity, anomie), Weber (action, types of authority, protestant ethic).

- One line each is a 6-mark.
- Comte's three stages: theological, metaphysical, positive.
- Do not spend the paper on Comte's religion of humanity.

Founding trio + Comte

COMTE / DURKHEIM

- Order.
- Facts.
- Method.

MARX / WEBER

- Conflict.
- Meaning.
- Power.

Uses and relevance

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Cases a KSLU answer should name

CASE

Indian Young Lawyers Association

(2019) 11 SCC 1

A court using sociological facts of exclusion — sociology in a writ.

CASE

Navtej Singh Johar

(2018) 10 SCC 1

Stigma as a social fact the law had reinforced.

CASE

State of Madras v Champakam Dorairajan

AIR 1951 SC 226

Society (caste) meeting equality — and then the First Amendment.

Provisions & materials to quote

Art. 15–17

The caste-and-equality code a sociologist of India must know.

Art. 44

Uniform civil code — sociology of family and the Constitution.

Census Act 1948

The State counting society.

Art. 51A(e)(f)

Duties to harmony and heritage.

Scheduled Castes and T

Law as a reply to a social structure.

10 / 16-mark frames from this unit

Q1

Define sociology. Explain its uses and relevance.

Q2

Explain the emergence of sociology in the 19th century.

Q3

Examine the transition from social philosophy to sociology.

Q4

Discuss the relationship between sociology and law.

Unit recap

- 1 Two definitions: Durkheim and Weber.
- 2 Emergence = industry + revolution + science.
- 3 Philosophy ought; sociology is.
- 4 Pound and Ehrlich are the law-and-society one-liners.
- 5 Founders: Comte, Marx, Durkheim, Weber — one line each.