

UNIT – V

Conformity, deviance and a lawyer's sociology

Conformity · Deviance · Perspectives · Human development

Explanatory Lecture Slides

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

INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY

Topics covered in this unit

01

Define conformity and deviance

02

Place anomie and strain

03

State functionalist, conflict and interactionist perspectives

04

Write a note on human development

05

Revise the five units

06

Prepare 16-mark machines

How this unit is organised

01

Conformity

02

Deviance

03

Anomie

04

Three perspectives

05

Human development

06

Paper recap

Conformity and deviance

Conformity: behaviour inside the norms. Deviance: outside. Crime is a legally specified deviance.

- PYQ: social conformity; social deviance (2022, 2024).
- Deviance is relative (Becker: labelling). Yesterday's sedition is today's free speech, sometimes.
- Not all deviance is crime (breaking a fashion folkway); not all crime is always seen as deviant (white-collar — Sutherland, later paper).

Conformity and deviance

CONFORMITY

- Internalised norms.
- Or mere fear.

DEVIANCE

- Primary (Lemert) then secondary if labelled.

Anomie and strain

Durkheim: anomie as normlessness in a rapid-change society. Merton: strain when culturally approved goals and legitimate means mismatch.

- Innovation, ritualism, retreatism, rebellion — Merton's types of adaptation.
- A 6-mark if you can spell Merton and give one Indian example (exam cheating as innovation).

Anomie and strain

DURKHEIM

- Suicide types; anomie in industrial society.

MERTON

- Goals v means.

Three perspectives — last table

Functionalist (order, Durkheim, Parsons); conflict (Marx, Dahrendorf); interactionist (Mead, Goffman, Becker).

- PYQ: conflict perspective; interactionist; formalistic school (2021–22).
- Function: what does this institution do for the whole?
- Conflict: who benefits?
- Interaction: how is meaning made in this courtroom today?
- A good lawyer uses all three without naming the brands if short of time — but names fetch marks.

Three perspectives — last table

FUNCTION

- Family socialises.

CONFLICT

- Family reproduces patriarchy.

Human development

PYQ: human development; human development 6-mark (2021, 2024).

- UNDP: health, education, living standard — HDI. Not only GDP (your economics paper).
- Sen: capabilities. Nussbaum: a list. Indian: NHRC, Art. 21 case-law, NITI SDGs.
- This is where sociology, economics and Part III shake hands.

Human development

HDI

- Life expectancy.
- Schooling.
- GNI per capita.

LAW

- Art. 21.
- RTE.
- Health rights case-law.

Recap of the invitation

Unit I what and why; II concepts; III culture-group-family; IV control and change; V deviance and perspectives.

- Carry Maclver, Durkheim, Weber, Tönnies, Sumner, Cooley, Merton.
- Paper II will Indianise everything: caste, joint family, unity in diversity, Srinivas.
- Do not walk into paper II without these definitions.

Recap of the invitation

PORTABLE KIT

- Society.
- Community.
- Status-role.
- Culture.
- Control.
- Change.
- Deviance.

THINKERS

- Comte Durkheim Weber Marx.
- Maclver Tönnies Sumner Cooley Merton.

Writing a 16-mark sociology answer

Definition (named), characteristics numbered, Indian illustration, one theorist, one legal hook, conclusion.

- Do not tell your family story unless it is a clean illustration.
- Do not dump the entire caste paper here.
- Underline the theorist's name.

Writing a 16-mark sociology answer

HEADS

- Meaning.
- Features.
- Example.
- Theorist.
- Law.
- Close.

TIME

- 20 minutes. Six heads.

Human development

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Cases a KSLU answer should name

CASE

Sunil Batra v Delhi Administration

(1978) 4 SCC 494

Prison as a social world — deviance, control, Art. 21.

CASE

D.K. Basu

(1997) 1 SCC 416

Police deviance and formal control of the controllers.

CASE

Vishaka

(1997) 6 SCC 241

Workplace as a site of gendered deviance the law had ignored.

Provisions & materials to quote

BNS / IPC general defe

When deviance is excused — law's own labelling.

JJA 2015

A separate track for a class of deviant youth.

PoA Act

When caste structures deviance and victimhood.

Art. 21

Human development as a justiciable floor.

Probation of Offenders

A legal bet that labelling can be avoided.

10 / 16-mark frames from this unit

Q1

Write a short note on social conformity and social deviance.

Q2

Explain functionalist, conflict and interactionist perspectives.

Q3

Write a note on human development.

Q4

Define social control. Is law sufficient as an agency of control?

Unit recap

- 1 Deviance is relative; crime is a legal subset.
- 2 Merton: goals v means. Durkheim: anomie.
- 3 Three lenses: function, conflict, interaction.
- 4 HDI $\neq$ GDP.
- 5 This paper's kit is the vocabulary of every later social-science paper.