STUDY IQ IAS

SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL

(2027- 2028)

NOVEMBER BATCH

Live CLASSES & TEST SERIES



22nd November 2026 1:00 PM

Why Optional Matter in UPSC CSE

Choosing the right optional subject in UPSC CSE Mains can significantly influence your chances of success. It's a highly strategic decision and should be based on multiple factors such as your background, interest, aptitude, availability of resources, and overlap with GS papers. Below is a detailed evaluation of each of the subjects you mentioned — both English and Hindi medium options — to help you make an informed choice:

Optional Subject

The Hidden Power in UPSC Mains

500 Marks at Stake

Optional contributes **500 out of 1750** marks in the Mains exam. A high score here can **transform your final rank.**

The Real Differentiator

While GS papers level the field, the **optional creates the gap.** Many toppers owe their ranks to an outstanding optional score.

Scoring with Strategy

Optional subjects, with a **well-defined syllabus** and **less competition,** offer a chance to score **much higher than GS papers** — if approached smartly.

Subject Familiarity Pays Off

Choosing an optional aligned with your **interest or academic background** makes preparation smoother and answers stronger.

Overlap = Smart Preparation

Subjects like PSIR, Sociology, and Anthropology offer content that overlaps with **GS, Essay, and Interview,** giving you **multiple benefits from single preparation.**

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Exploring the Merits of Sociology

High Success Rate

1

One of the most popular optionals with **20+ toppers in the top 50** over the last 5 years.

Scoring Potential

2

Consistently delivers good results — average scores around **270**, with many aspirants scoring **310–320**.

Extensive GS & Essay Overlap

3

Concepts are highly useful in **Essay, GS Paper 1 (Society)**, and also enrich **GS Paper 2, 3, and Ethics** answers.

Beginner-Friendly

4

Requires **no academic background** and can be **completed in 4–5 months** of focused study — ideal for any serious aspirant.

Predictable and Straightforward

5

Exam questions are generally **direct and less tricky**, making preparation more streamlined.

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StudyIQ Offerings

LIVE Classes

The essence of this Program is the Live classes. StudyIQ through our expert faculties will be conducting Live classes every week from Monday to Saturday.

LIVE Doubts Clearing Sessions

LIVE Doubts Clearing Sessions where students can directly ask questions and clarify their doubts with instructors or subject experts. These sessions are a vital part of our Program .

Recorded Classes

Recorded Class after every Live class will be Provided . Learn at your own pace – ideal for working professionals or students with busy schedules .

Hand Written Notes

Before every class, you will be provided with class notes in the form of CRUX. After the classes, we will be providing the lecture / board PPTs and handwritten notes of that class.

Previous Year Questions

Actual questions that appeared in the Optional Exam in previous years will be Provided This will help in Identifying weak Areas.

Current Affairs Classes

Understanding current affairs adds context to your knowledge. All Current Events related to Optionals will be added in the course .

Mains Answer Writting

Mains answer writing will be conducted throughout the program with evaluation.

One to One Mentorship

During your entire journey, our mentors will track your progress and guide you through your academic journey. Your Mentor will act like a friend, philosopher and guide so that you can have a personalized help during the preparation journey.

Mains Test Series

A weekly Mains answer writing will be conducted throughout the program.

Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions

Weekly Doubts Clearing Sessions where students can directly ask questions and clarify their doubts with instructors or subject experts. These sessions are a vital part of our Program .

Optional Package Comparison

Features	Standard	Elite
400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months	✓	✓
Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✓	✓
Recorded Lectures & Hand written Notes or Crux	✓	✓
Comprehensive Coverage of Every Topic with PYQ Discussion	✓	✓
Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated	✓	✓
Regular answer writing sessions with evaluation	✗	✓
One to one Mentorship 24*7	✗	✓
Mains Test Series (Sectional & Full Length Test)	✗	✓
Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✗	✓
Validity	18 Months	30 Months



Time Table

Date	Chapter	Sub-Topics
22 November	Orientation	
23 November	**Power and Politics**	(a) Sociological theories of power (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, political parties (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution
15 December	**Religion and Society**	(a) Sociological theories of religion (b) Religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, revivalism, fundamen
PAPER-1 FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY		
5th January	**Systems of Kinship**	(a) Family, household, marriage (b) Types and forms of family (c) Lineage and descent (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour (e) Contemporary trends
10th January	**Social Change in Modern Society**	(a) Sociological theories of social change (b) Development and dependency (c) Agents of social change (d) Education and social change (e) Science, technology, and social change

Time Table

Date	Chapter	Sub-Topics
PAPER-2 INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE & CHANGE		
	A. Introducing Indian Society	
17th January	**(i) Perspectives on Study of Indian Society**	(a) Indology (G.S. Ghure) (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas) (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai)
20th January	**(ii) Impact of colonial rule**	(a) Social background of Indian nationalism (b) Modernization of Indian tradition (c) Protests and movements during colonial period (d) Social reforms
	B. Social Structure	
23rd January	**(i) Rural and Agrarian Structure**	a) The idea of Indian village and village studies (b) Agrarian social structure: evolution of land tenure, lan
25th January	**(ii) Caste System**	(a) Perspectives: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille (b) Features of caste system (c) Untouchability - forms and perspectives
27th January	**(iii) Tribal Communities in India**	(a) Definitional problems (b) Geographical spread (c) Colonial policies and tribes (d) Issues of integration and autonomy
30th January	**(iv) Social Classes in India**	(a) Agrarian class structure (b) Industrial class structure (c) Middle classes in India

Time Table

Date	Chapter	Sub-Topics
3rd February	**(v) Systems of Kinship in India**	(a) Lineage and descent in India (b) Types of kinship systems (c) Family and marriage in India (d) Household dimensions of the family (e) Patriarchy, entitlements, sexual division of labour
7th February	**(vi) Religion and Society**	(a) Religious communities in India (b) Problems of religious minorities
	C. Social Changes in India	
9th February	**(i) Visions of Social Change in India**	(a) Idea of development planning, mixed economy (b) Constitution, law, and social change (c) Education and social change
12th February	**(ii) Rural and AgrarianTransformation**	(a) Programmes: rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes (b) Green revolution and social change (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture (d) Problems: rural labour, bondage, migration

Time Table

Date	Chapter	Sub-Topics
15th February	**(iii) Industrialization**	(a) Evolution of modern industry in India (b) Growth of urban settlements in India (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization (d) Informal sector, child labour (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas
18th February	**(iv) Politics and Society**	(a) Nation, democracy and citizenship (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power (d) Secularization
20th February	**(v) Social Movements in Modern India**	(a) Peasants and farmers' movements (b) Women's movement (c) Backward classes & Dalit movements (d) Environmental movements (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements
24th February	**(vi) Population Dynamics**	(a) Population size, growth, composition, distribution (b) Components: birth, death, migration (c) Population Policy and family planning (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child/infant mortality, reproductive health

Time Table

Date	Chapter	Sub-Topics
26th February	**(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation**	(a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems, sustainability (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities (c) Violence against women (d) Caste conflicts (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education
PAPER-1 FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY		
15 March	**Sociology - The Discipline**	(a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences (c) Sociology and common sense
25 March	**Sociology as Science**	(a) Science, scientific method, and critique (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology (c) Positivism and its critique (d) Fact value and objectivity (e) Non-positivist methodologies
5th April	**Research Methods and Analysis**	(a) Qualitative and quantitative methods (b) Techniques of data collection (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability, and validity

Time Table

Date	Chapter	Sub-Topics
16th April	**Sociological Thinkers**	(a) Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle (b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society (c) Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism (d) Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables (e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups (f) Mead - Self and identity
30 April	**Stratification and Mobility**	(a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty, and deprivation (b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist, Marxist, Weberian theory (c) Dimensions - class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race (d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types, sources and causes of mobility
20 May	**Work and Economic Life**	(a) Social organization of work: slave, feudal, industrial capitalist societies (b) Formal and informal organi-zation of work (c) Labour and society

Time Table

Test Series No.	Topics
Sectional Test- 1	Sociology - The Discipline
Sectional Test- 2	Research Methods and Analysis
Sectional Test- 3	Thinkers & Stratification and Mobility
Sectional Test- 4	Work and Economic Life
Sectional Test- 5	Politics and Society
Sectional Test- 6	Religion and Society
Sectional Test- 7	System of Kinship in India
Sectional Test- 8	Social Change in India
Sectional Test- 9	Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India
Sectional Test- 10	Industrialisation and Urbanisation in India
Sectional Test- 11	Social Movements in India
Sectional Test- 12	Challenges of Social Transformations
Sectional Test- 13	Perspectives on the study of Indian society

Our Faculty



Diwakar Botra

Sociology Faculty | UPSC Mentor

- **Renowned educator** with a decade-long track record in guiding UPSC aspirants
- **4-time UPSC Interview Candidate** (2007–2012), bringing firsthand experience of the exam process
- Has been **mentoring students since 2014**, with a deep understanding of UPSC trends and expectations
- Former faculty at prestigious institutes including **Vajiram & Ravi, Mrunal (PDPU), KSG**, among others
- Holds **dual Master's degrees** in **Sociology** and **Public Administration**
- Also holds a degree in **Master of Business Laws (M.B.L.)**

Our Prices

Price: ~~₹24,999~~

₹15,999

Standard

Price: ~~₹38 ,999~~

₹20,999

Elite



Director's Desk

Dear UPSC Aspirants,

At StudyIQ IAS, we know that the journey to becoming a civil servant is not just about studying—it's about dreams, struggles, and relentless perseverance. We have walked this path with thousands of aspirants, learning from your challenges, evolving with your needs, and celebrating your victories. Today, we take that commitment one step further with our most comprehensive and inclusive program yet—The FOUNDATION Batch.

This is not just another course; it's a game-changer. Whether you are starting fresh or refining your strategy, FOUNDATION provides everything you need—from live & recorded lectures, handwritten notes, structured test series, daily quizzes, answer writing practice, interview guidance, and one-on-one mentorship—all in a single, well-structured program. We believe financial constraints should never hold back a dream, which is why we offer affordable pricing, a full fee refund for those who clear Prelims, and ₹11,000 rewards for top performers.

More than just a batch, FOUNDATION is a promise—a promise that no matter where you are in your UPSC journey, you will never feel alone. You will have the best resources, unwavering mentorship, and a community that supports you at every step. This is your time, your moment—to rise, to conquer, and to turn your dream into reality.

Join the FOUNDATION Batch today and take the first step towards your IAS dream with confidence!

Best Regards,
Director's Desk

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