



SOCIOLOGY

OPTIONAL

(2027- 2028)

JANUARY BATCH

 **Live CLASSES & TEST SERIES**



13 January 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

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



Scoring Potential



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

Extensive GS & Essay Overlap

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



Beginner-Friendly



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

Predictable and Straightforward

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 Writing

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 | Gold | Platinum |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 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 | 24 Months |



Time Table

Dates

Units/Topic

Topics / Concepts Covered

PAPER-1 FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 13.01.2026 | 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 |
| 22.01.2026 | Works and Economic Life | (a) Social organization of work: slave, feudal, industrial capitalist societies (b) Formal and informal organization of work (c) Labour and society |
| 29.01.2026 | Politics and Society | (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 |
| 10.02.2026 | 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, fundamentalism |
| 20.02.2026 | 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 |
| 25.02.2026 | 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 |

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Time Table

Dates

Units/Topic

Topics / Concepts Covered

PAPER-2 INDIAN SOCIETY: STRUCTURE & CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 04.03.2026 | (i) Perspectives on Study of Indian Society | (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure) (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas) (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai) |
| 13.03.2026 | (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 | | |
| 14.03.2026 | (i) Rural and Agrarian Structure | (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies (b) Agrarian social structure: evolution of land tenure, land reforms |
| 20.03.2026 | (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 |
| 03.04.2026 | (iii) Tribal Communities in India | (a) Definitional problems (b) Geographical spread (c) Colonial policies and tribes (d) Issues of integration and autonomy |
| 12.04.2026 | (iv) Social Classes in India | (a) Agrarian class structure (b) Industrial class structure (c) Middle classes in India |
| 20.05.2026 | (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 |



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Time Table

| Dates | Units/Topic | Topics / Concepts Covered |
|------------|--|---|
| 24.05.2026 | (vi) Religion and Society | (a) Religious communities in India (b) Problems of religious minorities |
| | C. Social Changes in India | |
| 26.05.2026 | (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 |
| 02.06.2026 | (ii) Rural and Agrarian Transformation | (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 |
| 10.06.2026 | (iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation | (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 |
| 20.06.2026 | (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 |
| 26.06.2026 | (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 |
| 02.06.2026 | (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

| Dates | Units/Topic | Topics / Concepts Covered |
|------------|---|---|
| 04.07.2026 | (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 |
| 10.07.2026 | 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 |
| 20.07.2026 | 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 |
| 30.07.2026 | Research Methods and Analysis | (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods (b) Techniques of data collection (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability, and validity |
| 10.07.2026 | 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 |

Our Faculty



Vivek Rao

Sociology Faculty | UPSC Mentor

- Senior Faculty of Sociology with more than 7+ years in guiding UPSC aspirants.
- During his Preparation, Wrote 5 mains and Appeared Twice in interview (2010-2015).
- Former Senior Faculty at Pretigious Institutions like Crack IAS, SUNYA IAS.
- Mentored hundreds of students successfully in their UPSC Preparation since 2019.
- Distinguished alumni of IIT Delhi and IIM Lucknow.

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Our Prices

Price: ₹24,999

₹15,999

GOLD

Price: ₹38,999

₹20,999

Platinum



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 ₹1,00,000 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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