1. **Question: What is Sociology? What is it scope? (2013)**

 **Or**

 **What is Sociology? What are its areas of study? Explain. (2014**)

**Introduction**

Sociology is the youngest of the social science. The major concern of the subject is society. Hence the subject is also known as the “Science of Society”. As a youngest social science, has required a distinct status for itself. Its importance and usefulness is widely recognized today in everywhere. August Comte, The French Philosopher is also known as the father of Sociology invented the term “Sociology” was the first man who distinguished the subject matter of sociology from all other social science. Comte first used the term Sociology in his famous work “Positive Philosophy at about 1839.

**Meaning**

 The term “Sociology’ was derived from Latin word “Socius”, meaning “companion” or “associate”, and Greek word “Logos” meaning “study” or “science”. Thus combine meaning of these words is “Science of Society”. August Comte defined as the science of social phenomena. Sociology studies the social relationship, society itself. The focus of no other social science is identical with that of sociology.

**Definitions**

1. *“Subject to natural and invariable laws, the discovery of which is the object of investigation”* Auguste Compte.
2. *“Sociology is a general science of society”* Kingsley Davis.
3. *“Sociology is the science that that deals with social groups”* Harry M. Johnson*.*
4. *“Science of social institutions”* Emile Durkheim.
5. *The science of collective behaviour*” Park

**Scope (Subject Matter/Areas) of Sociology**

As a scope of Sociology its main concerns is society and its various units. Sociology as embracive and expanding science has been growing fast and as a result different approaches have been emerging from time to time to enrich the subject. A general outline of agreement among the sociologists regarding the scope of the subject is explained as follows:

1. **Sociological Analysis:** The first concern of sociology is Sociological analysis of society and culture with sociological perspective. For example, a sociologist tries to find out the stages evolution and development of society with sociological perspective. He made an attempt “to analyze the factors and forces underlying historical transformation of society”. For this, sociologists give due importance to the scientific method to find out the facts.
2. **Studies the Primary Units:** Sociology has given sufficient attention to the study of primary units of social life. It concern individual personality, communities, associations, organizations and populations etc.
3. **Basic Social Institutions:** Sociology studies the basic social institutions like family, kinship, religion, property, economic, political, legal, educational, scientific recreational and welfare, aesthetic and expressive institutions.
4. **Fundamental Social Process:** Social process is one the fundamental aspect to be studied in sociology. No sociologist can ignore the fundamental social process to the study of sociology. As fundamental social process it studies the co-operation and competition, socialization, social stratification and differentiation, communication including public opinion, evolution, revolution, conflict, war, social change etc.
5. **Methods of Research:** Unlike the traditional sociologists, the contemporary Sociologists include within the scope of sociology the scientific research methods to find out the facts of social phenomena. The contemporary sociologists try to apply scientific methods of study as applied in the study of natural sciences. A sociologist then tries to formulate research proposition and generalize the theory. The main concern of sociology is inclusion of various types of scientific methods within its jurisdiction as the field of study.
6. **Concerns with Theories:** Without theory it is not possible to study any discipline either it is social or natural science. Like natural science sociology as a discipline also studies and formulate various kinds of theories and these theories are mostly rooted in factual than philosophical. The sociological perspective becomes more meaningful and fruitful when one tries to formulate the theories and proceed towards the fact finding depending upon the theories. Therefore, concern with theories is another important aspect of sociology.
7. **Ventured to make specialization:** Due to explosion of Knowledge sociologists have ventured to make specialization of the subject. As a result so many special branches of sociology have emerged within the arena of sociology and these branches are Sociology of Knowledge, Sociology of History, Sociology of Literature, Sociology of Culture, Sociology of religion, Sociology of Family etc. These specializations of sociological can give vast knowledge to the students of the discipline and without the study of these branches it is not possible to obtain the proper knowledge of sociology.

**Conclusion:** It is clear from above explanation that sociology as a branch of social science includes different aspects of society. It studies about the evolution growth and development of society. It concern individual personality, communities, associations, organizations and populations etc. Sociology studies the basic social institutions like family, kinship, religion, property, economic, political, legal, educational, scientific recreational and welfare, aesthetic and expressive institutions. Sociology as a social science also studies different kinds of theories relating to society and methods of research etc. As society is progressing its areas of study is also expanding day by day.

1. **Question: Explain the growth and development of sociology as a field of study.**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:** Sociology is one of the oldest social sciences. Since the dawn of the human civilization peoples have been thinking about the society that how it could be formed, what should be its destination and what kinds of rules and regulations are needed to manage it. Though they were thinking in sociological terms they were called philosopher, historian, thinkers, law-givers or seers. The growth and development of Sociology can be classified into two stages and these are explained as follows

1. **Period:** Since the emergence of human civilization men have reflected their thinking to establish ideal society where the live. The ideas given by the thinkers, lawgivers, and philosopher are totally sociological in nature. For instance the ideas of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, and Cicero and in Indian context Manu and Kautilya are famous whose writings contributed a lot the development of Sociology as a field of study. Plato’s “Republic”, Aristotle’s “Politics”, Kautilya’s “Arthashatra”, Manu’s “Manusmriti”, Confucius’s “Analects”, Cicero’s “On Justice” are some of the ancient sources of social thought.
2. **Medieval Period:** During the medieval period particularly since the beginning of 16th century, the intellectuals became more active and their thinking gave a new impetus to the study of sociology. The literary works of some famous thinkers of this period clearly revealed to understand and interpret men’s socio-political and economic system. For instances, Machiavelli’s “The Prince”, Thomas Hobbes’ “Leviathan”, Rousseau’s “Social Contract” Montesquieu’s “The Spirit of Laws” Adam Smith’s “Wealth of Nation”, etc. are some of the examples through which it was tried by the thinkers to change socio- economic and political phenomena of society. Thinkers like Sir Thomas More in his “Utopia” Thomasso Campanella in his “City of the Sun”, Sir Francis Bacon in his “New Atlantis”, James Harrington in his “Common Wealth of Oceana” H. G. Wells in his “A. Modern Utopia”, made attempt to project ideal society freeform all drawbacks.
3. **Modern Period:** It is the 19th century where sociology as a subject has flourished in the hands of some prominent social and political thinkers. Among these thinkers Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Herbert Spencer, Durkheim, and Max Weber are famous who contributed a lot the growth and development of the subject. Therefore, it is essential to explain their views in this context. Auguste Comte (1798-1871) - Auguste Comte, the French Philosopher also known as the father of Sociology separated the subject from other social sciences. He was first man who used the term “Sociology” to study the society. Comte tried determining the nature of human society and the laws and principles which helps for the growth and development of society.
4. **Karl Marx (1818-1883):** Karl Marx, the father of scientific socialism though was not a sociologist, yet we can trace many sociological aspects from his theories. The view of Marx was that the task of social scientists is not merely to describe the social phenomena but to bring social change in right direction. He said to bring change in society, class struggle is essential and through class struggle establishment of socialistic pattern of society possible. Marx placed too much emphasis on the economic base of society. The “conflict approach” developed by Marx greatly influenced both the contemporary as well as sociologists of 21st century.
5. **Herbert Spencer (1820-1903):** An English philosopher also contributed much to the development of sociology as a field of study. In his first volume, “Principles of Sociology”, published in 1877 he systematically analyzed the sociological aspects. According to him; the field of study of sociology includes the family, politics, religion, social control and industry or work associations, communities, the division of labour, social differentiation and stratification, the sociology of knowledge and science, and the study of arts and aesthetics.
6. **Emile Durkheim (1858-1917):** Durkheim, a French thinker considered the society is the important unit of sociological analysis. He stressed to the comparative study of societies. According to him, “Comparative Sociology is not a particular branch of sociology; it is sociology itself”. Unlike Max Weber, Durkheim views that the group not the individual is the basic unit of society. Durkheim mentioned various fields of sociological inquiry such as “General Sociology”, “Sociology of Religion”, “Sociology of Law Morals”, “The Sociology of Crime”, “Economic Sociology”, and “Sociology of Aesthetics”. His major works are “Division of Labour in society”, “The Rules of Sociological Methods”, “Suicide”, “and The Elementary Forms of the Republic life”. Through these writings he contributed much to the growth and development of sociology.
7. **Max Weber (1864-1920):** According to Weber individual is the basic unit of society. He applied method of understanding, a special method to study sociology. He wrote much on religion, various aspects of economic life, political parties, authority, bureaucracy and other various large- scale organization, class and caste etc. He also stressed the value neutral study of social phenomena. His writings influenced the contemporary sociologists specially the analytical school.
8. **Development in the 20th Century:** Sociology as a field of study experienced a rapid development during 20th centuries and it flourished particularly in France, Germany, England and United States of America. The famous sociologists of the 20th centuries are Talcott Parsons, R.K. Merton, M. R. MacIver, Kinsley Davis, W. F. Ogburn, Kimball Young, E. A. Ross, Karl Manheim; etc contributed a lot to the growth and development of sociology as field of study. The development of the 20th century provided a great impetus to study social sciences particularly the sociology in all Universities of western countries.
9. **Development of Sociology in India**: In India, the study of sociology started after the First World. At that time in Bombay the “Sociological Bulletin” and in Agra “Journal of Social science” contributed a lot the growth and development of sociology in India. Some famous sociologists who contributed for to growth and development of sociology in India are G.S. Ghurye, R.K. Mukherjee, Humayun Kabir, K.M. kapadia, M.N. Srinivas, S.C. Dube, A. R. Desai etc. Socially India is a diverse country and therefore, sociology as subject has been flourished in India than other countries of the world. It has given more opportunities for the researchers to study the subject. In recent era sociology as a subject is taught in all universities of India.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion it can be said that sociology as science emerged since the origin of human civilization. But for the proper study of the subject the period of the discipline is classified into different phases- the ancient, medieval, modern and post modern. In these phase many scholars contributed a lot to the growth and development of the subject. Among these scholars Plato, Aristotle, Cecero. Kautillya, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, August Comte, Herbert Spencer, Durkheim, Marx etc. are famous.

1. **Question:** **What is Sociology? Explain the nature and scope of Sociology (2015)**

**Answer:** **(For second part of the see the question No – 1)**

 **Sociology as a Science / Nature (characteristics) of Sociology:**

Sociology as a branch social science is a unique one. The nature of it can be understood if its internal characteristics are analyzed. The following are the main characteristics of sociology as prescribed by Robert Bierstadt in his famous book “The Social Order”.

1. **Independent Science:** Sociology is an Independent social science. Sociology is not treated as the branch of other social science like history, philosophy anthropology etc. As an independent social science it has its own field and methods of study.
2. **Social Science not a Physical Science:** Sociology is a social science, is not physical science like physics, chemistry, Biology etc. As a social science it deals with the human being and various institutions relating to that. Sociology studies the social behaviuor, activities and social life of man. As a member of family of social sciences it has also close relationship with other social sciences like political science, economics, history, psychology anthropology etc.
3. **Empirical not a Normative Science:** Sociology is an empirical science not a normative one. On the other hand it can be said that it deals with the facts not the values. There is no place of the statement of “what should be or what ought to be” in the study of sociology and instead of that it gives preference to “What is”. That means sociology is value neutral rather than value oriented. The study of sociology based on objectivity.
4. **Pure Science not an applied Science:** The aim of pure science is only finding out the fact or knowledge and it has no any botheration to apply the acquired knowledge in practical field. On the other hand the aim of the pure science is to apply the acquired knowledge in practical field. Sociology is pure science, because the aim of sociology is the acquisition of knowledge about human society not to utilize the acquired the knowledge. But the knowledge acquired by the sociologists is greatly help the legislators, diplomats, teachers, social workers and the citizens.
5. **Generalizing not Particularizing Science:** The sociologist try to find out the generalize laws and principles regarding the organizations, structures, institutions, groups etc existing in societies. It does not study each and every events particularly happening in the societies and it is also not possible. It tries to generalize the theme on the basis of selected events. For instance, if a sociologist focuses his attention on the joint family system, he does not study the joint family system of each and every society. He focuses his attention on particular joint family and thereby he generalizes the feature and various aspects of joint family system.
6. **General Science not a Special Science:** The scope of sociology is not specific like other social science. Other social sciences like political science, history, economics, etc. have their particular area of study. Political science studies the political activities, economics studies the activities and history studies the historical events human being. But sociology as a subject has no any particular area. It studies all social activities of the human in general way.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, it can be said that sociology is a social science; it is not special science but a special science. Sociology is both normative and empirical science. The main concern of sociology is to find out the social facts and to explain the scientifically the social phenomena.

1. **Question: - Explain the scope of sociology with it relevance in the present age. (2016)**

**Answer: - (For the first part of the question the question No – 1)**

**Relevance of Sociology:** Sociology as the youngest social science is very popular one. Its popularity has been widely recognized today. In this era the scientific study of social phenomena has been realized in everywhere and therefore, the importance of sociology as a discipline also has been increasing. The importance of sociology has been explained as follows:

1. **Studies societies in scientific way:** For the growth and development of society’s scientific study is very essential. Before the emergence of the subject the social phenomena were not studied scientifically. The scientific study of societies has been possible only after the emergence of sociology. Throws light on social nature of man: - It is sociology through which the study of deep nature of human being is possible. Sociology tells us that why man is social animal and why they live in group, communities and societies. It also studies the relationship between the individuals and society.
2. **Helps to lead effective social life:** Sociology helps the individuals to know himself as a member of society. It is the Sociology through which he can adjust himself in society where he is living. Knowledge of society, associations, groups, institutions and their functions make an individual an effective member of society.
3. **Helps to understand other society**: The study of sociology not only helps an individual to understand his own society but also he can know the aspiration, status, occupation, customs, culture, institutions of other society also. As human being it is also essential to know the mood of living of other society.
4. **Enrich culture:** Sociology helps to enrich once own culture. The individual can approach to other societies with the help of study of sociology and this approach makes the peoples broad minded. The individuals can overcome the misconception, prejudices, egoistic ambition and class and religious hatred which help them to enrich their own culture.
5. **Helps to understand social institutions:** There are so many social institutions in our society- family, school, state and government, industries, religion marriage, law and legislation, property etc. Through which our social functions are performed and these institutions also condition our life in many ways. Knowledge of sociology strengthens these institutions and strengthening these institutions we can develop our social life.
6. **Importance of sociology as profession:** Sociology is taught in each and every university of the world. As research activity, sociology has a great demand in many fields like business, government planning, industries, social works, social welfare etc. Once upon a time teaching of sociology as a discipline was confined within classroom but after coming of applied sociology it has been applying in local, national and even in international field to solve the various problems.
7. **Helpful for underdeveloped countries:** Sociologists draw the attention of economists and it is helpful for the economists to build up the developmental models for the third world states. In most of the third world state the social cause is the main for their underdevelopment. Economists have now realized the importance of sociological knowledge to analyze their economic affairs.
8. **Helps to solve the social problems:** The present societies have been confronting with bulk of social problems. These social problems are - over population, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, ill health, family disorganization, racial, crime, community disorganization, untouchability, gambling, alcoholism, Juvenile delinquency, addiction of drugs, Corruptions, prostitution etc. Analysis of these problems through scientific way helps govt. to take necessary steps towards the problems. It is the sociological study through which these problems are properly analyzed.
9. **Necessary for planning of society:** Sociological knowledge is necessary for understanding and planning of society. Social planning becomes easier if individuals have sociological knowledge. It the sociology which can give us knowledge to reform and reorganize the society. Sociology plays a significant rule for social reconstruction of society.
10. **Importance of sociological techniques:** Sociological methods are very useful in social research activities. The researchers have to take the help of survey method in researches relating activities of various social aspects and this survey method is fully developed by the sociologists. In the same way, sociologists provide a great deal of information that is helpful in making decisions on social policy.
11. **Helpful for the welfare of tribal society:** Study of sociology helps several govt. to take necessary steps for the welfare of the tribal people. Along with the civilized society the tribal society also has been facing some social problems. Sociological and anthropological study on tribal society helps several govt. to welfare schemes for the tribal society.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, it can be said that the question of value of sociology is not a question whether or not we should study a subject. But it is simple question of how it is actually to be used. Sociology, in short, has both individual and social advantage.

1. **Question: Point out the reciprocal relationship between Political Science and Sociology**

 **(2013), (2015)**

 **Answer:**

 **Difference between Sociology and Political science**:

1. Sociology is the science of society on the other hand political science is the science of state.
2. Scope of sociology is wider than Political Science. Sociology deals with man as social animal and Political Science deals with man as political animal.
3. Sociology is a general science and political science is special social science.
4. The subject matter of Sociology is both the organized as well as the unorganized communities on the other hand the subject matter of Political Science are only the organized communities.
5. As a subject Sociology is quite young than political science

**Political Science depends upon Sociology:** It is rightly said that without sociological background the study of political science will be incomplete. Sociology supplies materials to political science. Political science deals with the various social groups, organizations, institutions of society. There are so many social problems in each and every society. In Indian context the social problems like dowry system, child marriage, child labour, etc. compels the govt. enact various kinds of laws to solve these social problems. Therefore, Bernes has written “The most significant thing about the sociology and modern political theory is that most of the changes which have been taken place in political theory in the last thirty years have been along the line of development suggested and marked out by sociology” The behaviouralists also suggested the political scientists to follow the methods of sociologists in research activity.

Sociology depends upon Political Science: -Sociology also is to depend on Political Science. Politics is one of the parts of social phenomena and without study of political activities of individuals the study of sociology is will be incomplete. Therefore, a sociologist must conscious about the political activities of society. A sociologist should have knowledge about organized communities of society. Political science deals with the organized communities of society. So a sociologist have to study the organized the communities which are the subject matter of political science.

The two subjects are so interrelated and for this August Comte said that there is no difference whatsoever between them. Catlin has remarked that Political Science and sociology are two facets or aspects of the same figure. According to F. G. Wilson, “It must be admitted, of course, that it is often difficult to determine, whether a particular writer should be considered as sociologist or political theorist or philosopher”

**Relationship:** Though there are some differences between the two subjects yet both are interrelated with each other and this relationship between the two subjects is not new one. If we study Plato’s “Republic” and Aristotle’s “Politics” we can find what kind of relationship was there between sociology and political science. The works of these philosophers were to reconstruct the existing social. In modern time also the all social problems influence the politics of a state. So there is close relationship between the two subjects.

1. **Question: Point out the reciprocal relationship between Economics and Sociology**

 **Answer:**

 **Difference between Sociology and Political science:**

1. The scope of sociology is wider than economics. Sociology as a social science includes all aspects of social activities of human life. But the study of economics is restricted only to the economic activities of people.
2. The primary concern of an economist is to gain material happiness on the other hand the primary concern of a sociologist is to find out the social facts.
3. Economics as a discipline is much older than sociology.
4. Sociology is a science of recent emergence. On the other hand Economics as an especial science is much older than sociology.
5. Though there is some distinction between the two subjects yet these are interrelated. The relationship between the two subjects is explained as follows:
6. Economics depends on Sociology: - Economic problems are greatly related with the social problems. Therefore, to understand the root causes of economic problems an economist should study the social problems of that society. Because most of the economic problems like unemployment problems, poverty etc are social problems. Sociology provides various kinds of data to economists.
7. Again the in some cases the basic problems of economics and sociology is same. The common aspects of economics and sociology are over population, environmental degradation, child and family welfare urbanization etc. Therefore, an economist should study the sociology to find out the root causes of these problems.

**Sociology depends on Economics:**

Sociology is also greatly depends upon economics. According to Marx, economic institutions play a significant role to shape the social structure of a society. In his theory, The Materialistic interpretation of History he clearly said that it is the economic factors which determine the other institutions of society. Sociologists like Sumner, Durkheim and Weber also approached to sociology through economic institutions. In modern times without study of economics it is not possible find out the social fact. A sociologist must have knowledge of economics to understand any social problems.

 **Relationship:** The fact is that there is co-relation between the sociology and economics. Society is influenced by economic factors while the social factors also determine the economic process clearly proves that there is close relationship between the two disciplines.

1. **Question: - Point out the reciprocal relationship between Sociology and History (2014), (2016)**

 **Answer:**

 **Difference between Sociology and History:**

1. Sociology is interested in the study of the present social phenomena. On the other hand history deals with the past events of man. It is silent regarding the present phenomena.
2. Sociology is relatively young social science than History
3. The method of study of sociology is analytical one. On the other hand the method of study of history is descriptive.
4. Sociology is general social science. On the contrary history is individualizing science.
5. Sociology as a social science studies the fact from the sociological point of view. But the study of history is time order.

 Sociology and History as science very much co- related with each other. The two sciences are so closely related that so thinkers like G. Von Bulow refused to separate sociology from history. Both the subjects are interdependence on each other.

**History depends on Sociology:** Historian depends upon sociology. Until recently it was perhaps from philosophy that the historian took his clues to important problems and historical concepts and ideas. But now these are drawn increasingly from sociology. Indeed, we can see that modern historiography and modern sociology have both been influenced in similar ways by philosophy of history.

**Sociology depends on History:** History as a treasury of knowledge supplies raw material s to each social science including sociology. History supplies social knowledge like customs, modes of living, and information regarding the various kinds’ institutions of different stages of human life of people to sociology. This information about human life is great help to sociology. For example, if want to study the marriage system of a particular section of people we have to go the social background of that particular society. And it is the history, which help us to know about the society.

**Mutual Relationship of the subjects:** Sociology provides the social background for the study of history. History now being studied read from the sociological point of view. It is said that history would be meaningless without the appreciation of socially significant events. Further it is often remarked that history would be boring, monotonous prosaic and uninteresting unless the social events are narrated. Historical facts without reference to socially important matters would like a body with flesh, blood and boon, but without life.

1. **Question: - What is Statistical Method? Explain its utility (2015).**

**Answer:**

**Meaning of Statistical Method:**

 **Introduction: -** Since the 17th the statistical have been using in analyzing vital statics concerning people or things. In modern era Prof. Giddings was the first great sociologist who emphasized the significance of statistics in sociological research. In social science the statistical method is used to measure the social phenomena mathematically. In social science it regards.

**Meaning:**

The term “Statistics” is used in two different ways – Firstly, it refers to the application of the statistical methods to social and non-social crises and secondly, it implies the real numerical data collected in relation to those crises. Statistical methods are used for collecting, summarizing, analyzing, and interpreting variable numerical data. Statistical methods are widely used in the life sciences, in economics, and in agricultural science. They also have an important role in the physical sciences in the study of measurement. Data collection involves what has been observed in order to obtain relevant information. Sampling is one of most important ways to choice sufficient number of observations. Experiments with variable outcomes should be conducted according to principles of experimental design. Data summarization is the calculation of appropriate statistics and the display of such information in the form of tables, graphs, or charts.

**Features:**

1. Collection of numerical about social crises or issues cannot be done by other methods. It is questionnaires and survey through which actual data can be collected and these two ways are the part of statistical methods.
2. Another feature of statistical method is the interview. But in interview the respondent may refuse to give answer. Therefore, to overcome the refusal problem sampling is used which can minimize the same to some extent.
3. The collected data in statistical methods cannot be measured like data collected in physical science but they can be ordered.

**Drawbacks:**

1. Collection of numerical information about social issues or problems cannot always is done by direct observation. It has to be done through questionnaires and surveys which have their own limitation.
2. Social statistician is concerned with the problems of interview also. In interview some respondents may refuse to provide the information which they have been asked for.
3. If such respondents are selected out of sampling, the problem of refusal becomes a significant deficiency in the whole process.
4. Social statisticians are often interest in the analysis of data, which can be ordered but not measured.
5. The great difficulty of the statistical method is that mostly social problems are qualitative rather than quantitative.

**Merits (Utility):**

1. Statistical Method is of great help in some cases in order to disclose the relationship between different aspects of social phenomena.
2. It also helps to arrive at generalizations regarding different aspects of social phenomena and their nature, occurrence and meaning.
3. It is an important tool in research in the sense it can be effectively used in issues or problems which involve measurement or numerals.
4. This method can be very effectively used in studies relating to rates of birth and death, divorce and marriage, crime and suicide.
5. Useful information can be obtain by the application of this method in studies pertaining to migration, economic conditions, standard of living, human ecology, public opinion and so on

**Conclusion:** Though there are some drawbacks of statistical method yet this method is very use full in sociological research. Therefore, August Comte, Prof. Giddings also emphasized the importance of this method in sociological research. It is true that the data collected by researchers are most of them are quantitative not qualitative. But still sociologists are trying to reduce quantitative data and make the study more scientific one.

1. **Question: - What is Scientific Method? Explain its Characteristics. (2014, 2016)**

 **Answer:**

**Introduction: -** This method is used both in natural as well as in social science research. Scientific method follows objectivity in their research activities. History of scientific method considers changes in the methodology of scientific inquiry, as distinct from the history of science itself. Scientific method has been the subject of intense and recurring debate throughout the history of science. Despite the disagreements about approaches, scientific method has advanced in definite steps.
**Meaning:**

The scientific method is a body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, or correcting and integrating previous knowledge. To be termed scientific, a method of inquiry is commonly based on empirical or measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning. The method is a continuous process that begins with observations about the natural world. People are naturally inquisitive, so they often come up with questions about things they see or hear, and they often develop ideas or hypotheses about why things are the way they are. The best hypotheses lead to predictions that can be tested in various ways. The strongest tests of hypotheses come from carefully controlled experiments that gather empirical data.

The Oxford defines the scientific method as "a method or procedure that has characterized natural science since the 17th century, consisting in systematic observation, measurement, and experiment, and the formulation, testing, and modification of hypotheses.” Experiments need to be designed to test hypotheses.

**Features:**

1. **Selection of problem: -** Selection of problem is the first step in the way of research activity. The problem may be simple or complex but it should be well defined. Without selection of problem there will be only waste of time and the researcher will not find any direction to achieve the goal. The idea on a particular issue may help one to define the problem.
2. **Formulation: -** After defining the problem the next step is to think to formulate hypothesis. Hypothesis implies the ideas regarding the problem. It means the cause or the causes of the problems as thought by the researcher. It is a tentative explanation of phenomena. The hypothesis which is thought is to be proved by the researcher.
3. **Observation and collection of data:** - The next step is the testing of hypothesis and it can be done only observation and collecting of data about the fact. Data can be collected by interview, schedules, questionnaires, and field observation. The data should be collected on basing upon the nature of research.
4. **Analysis of collected data:** - The next step is the analysis of the collected data in proper way. The data should be classified scientifically. Classification means the arranging the collected data into different groups according to their similarities or dissimilarities.
5. **Generalization:** - After the analyzing and processing of collected data a conclusion have to be done and conclusion means it include a broad area and broad means the generalization of data.
6. **Theory and law formulation:** - Hypothesis and theory are two different things. Hypothesis is some ideas regarding the problem. When hypothesis is tested by collecting and analyzing the data and problem is detected then it is called theory and when theory is proved it is called law.

 **Merits:**

1. It is the scientific method through which the facts of social phenomena come out. It is possible because the social scientists are free from any prejudices.
2. Scientific method is more reliable. The aims and objectives of social scientist is only to find out the fact of society
3. Though the study of behaviour of human being is tough one yet in some situation there is also regularity in their behaviour. Therefore the social institutions can be studied scientifically.
4. If social scientists keep aside his wishes and values from the process of observation objectivity is possible in social research.
5. On the basis of fact finding the policy makers can take effective measure to solve the social problems existing in society.

 **Demerits:**

1. Sociology is a social science and it deals with individuals and their social institutions. So it is not possible for a social scientist to control the human behaviour. Each and individuals have their own motives, emotion, ideas and feelings. These elements affect the investigation of a research.
2. In social research the scientific method cannot be applied properly. Some time in investigation it is often difficult to determine the cause and effect. Again one effect may have several causes.
3. In social research the social phenomena cannot be identified by our sense. Customs, rituals, religion, social institutions cannot be touched and preserved in laboratories like natural sciences.
4. Proper collection data relating to the research is not possible. Because human behaviour is influenced by many factors in society. Some time they hide the actual data due to many reasons. Again persons are not alike. Therefore, due to improper collection of data the fact does not come out.
5. Unlike natural science society is dynamic one, the human behavour also changeable. We cannot formulate laws that hold for all societies and for all times. Therefore, in social research prediction is not possible.
6. In sociology it is not possible for the researchers to accurately follow the objectivity. Because the researcher is himself is part of his data. He may have his own ideas, opinion, prejudice, bias feelings etc.

**Conclusion: -** Though the Scientific method has some drawbacks yet to the study of society this method is used and it has contributed a lot the growth and development of Sociology as a field of study. But it is but it should be remembered that social science is not natural science. Therefore it is not possible to apply scientific method fully in social research activities. Hence, Sociology, in addition to the scientific method makes use of other methods such as the comparative method, statistical method, social survey method, the case study method etc in order to obtain more reliable knowledge about social facts.

1. **Question: - Explain Social Survey Method. Explain its features. (2016).**

**Answer:**

**Meaning of Social Survey Method:**

**Introduction: -** Social surveys are usually for dealing with many related aspects of a social problem. They provide the data for administration, rather than for the illustrative or descriptive material. The modern social survey is said to be the product of the intellectual response of the urban middle classes to the social condition of town life in the 19th Century.

**Meaning:**

The social survey is concerned with the collection of data relating to some problems of great social importance with a view to find out an effective solution for it. The method through which the social facts can be obtained by observation is called survey method. The survey is normally limited to a fixed geographic area or confined to a defined population. The social survey method has the ultimate goal of seeking social facts. It normally involves the following steps: Enunciating the object or purpose of the survey; definition of the problem under study; the delimitation of the area or scope of study; examination of the available evidences or sources relating to the problem; preparation of questionnaire schedule; field work to collect data; arrangement, tabulation and statistical analysis of the data; interpretation of results; deduction and graphic expression.

**Characteristics (Features) of Survey Method:**

1. **Sufficient demographic information:** - Even if you use a customer list or other targeted list for a customer satisfaction or other study, you may later want to analyze the results by smaller segments. Identify segments of interest at the beginning. Then, include a few relevant demographic questions.
2. **Focused surveys**: - Avoid question creep. If you are asking questions about service and support, resist requests from colleagues to insert questions on other issues, such as branding, that waste questions or make the survey seem unfocused.
3. **Clear questions**: - Make questions easy to understand by avoiding acronyms, technical words, complex sentences, and ambiguous language. Define terms, such as "cloud computing" or "the cloud," that can mean different things. Simplify sentences. Be concrete.
4. **One-part questions:**  - Subdivide two-part questions. If participants agree with one part of the question, but not the other, their answers will not be meaningful.
5. **Other options**: - When none of the answers to multiple choice questions apply, respondents will select any response. If you provide options, such as "other," "neutral," or "none-of-the-above," followed by "please explain," responses will be more accurate. And, the comments will provide unexpected insights.
6. **Logical sequencing of questions:**  - When you have formulated the questions, check if the sequence of questions is logical. If you say go from Question 9 to Question 12, make sure to have a Question 12, and make sure that Question 12 logically follows Question 9.
7. **Motivation:**  - Use approaches, such as email, phone calls, or direct mail, to invite the target group to participate in the study. Make sure that participants are sympathetic with the purpose of the survey or are interested in the subjects covered in the survey. Provide an incentive or share some of the results.
8. **Openness:** - Use results as you promised. If you say you will report aggregate data, do not reveal participants' names or company names. Deceptive practices give companies bad reputations and cloud future relationships with participants.

 **Merits:**

1. While studying a field an instigator has close contract with local people and for this purpose he studies more about the problematic situation.
2. Survey method leads to greater objectivity. Since there is close contact of the surveyor with people and observe the situation himself, therefore, greater objectivity is achieved in this method.
3. Survey method provides the opportunities of having full knowledge about a problem and its solution.
4. Thorough study is possible due to the find out of a problem causes and remedies. If these are found then the whole study is possible.
5. Social survey method is very useful for administrators and policy makers. In many countries, legislation was done to remove the causes of problems like child labour, women lobour etc. on the basis of social survey method.
6. Due to social survey we find out the trend towards social change and factors resisting in it way.
7. Social survey is a main source of more information’s collection. It leads to collect facts about a problematic situation and gives information.

 **Demerits:**

1. It is difficult to provide specific training to the researcher as a result; a layman cannot conduct survey because specific training is required for him to study the situation deeply.
2. Social survey method is more time consuming. The researcher has no interest in collection of data due to more time taking and the respondents are not ready to answer because they have no time. So, long time is negative factors in survey method.
3. Survey is more costly and without money it is not possible. So, the higher expenditure of the researcher is a factor for less or no survey.
4. Sampling method is used of a vast areas is also conducted by sampling method is used, there mist by errors in sampling.
5. Survey method is used for the current problems and has no implementation on the past or historical events.
6. Data is collected from a huge field and the respondents would be different. So, there exists no uniformity in data collection through social survey method.

**Conclusion: -** In conclusion we can say that though there are some drawbacks of social survey method in social research activities yet this method is widely accepted and without the help of this method it is also not possible to collect data. A researcher must have to visit the selected area to collect the reliable data.

1. **Question: What is Historical Method? How does it help in expanding our knowledge about**

**society? (2013, 2015)**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:** The process of learning and understanding the background and growth of a chosen field of study or profession can offer insight into organizational culture, current trends, and future possibilities. The historical method of research applies to all fields of study because it encompasses their origins, growth, theories, personalities, crisis, etc. Both quantitative and qualitative variables can be used in the collection of historical information.

**Meaning:**

The Historical Method consists of a study of events, processes and institutions of past civilizations for the purpose of finding the origins or antecedents of contemporary social life and thus of understanding its nature and working. History and Sociology are so much inter-related that some of the sociologists like G. E. Howard regard history to be past Sociology, and Sociology present History, it is evident that our present forms of social life, our customs or ways of living have their roots in the past and they can, therefore, be best explained when they are traced back to their sources. This can be possible only with the help of History.

The acceptance of this method originated another branch of sociology which is known as “Historical Sociology”. Historical Sociology studies the societies of past and through historical investigation the sociologists try to find out the nature of present social system.

**Features**: -

1. **Non-experimental in nature:** - Historical research is carried out to find the facts which have already occurred in the past. It is non-experimental research because the researcher has not control over independent variable as the independent variable has already occurred before this time of the investigation.
2. **Based Chronology: -** In historical research, the researcher collects the information and arranges them according to the order of time then if there is any gap in the information then the researcher fulfills it by his imaginative capacity. Then he concludes some conclusion which may be useful for the future.
3. **Based on past data: -** It was also impossible to analyze data at exactly the same time as it was collected. So every interpretation of present can be considered as based on past data. Therefore, the historical method has to be used in every research. Review of literature which is an integral part of any research, in fact, a historical research.
4. **Particularly problem may arise: -** When the historical problem is studied a particularly problem may be faced by the investigators. Therefore, a key problem is separated out from that.
5. **Use of cross-section study: -** Another feature is that when the data are available not been collected in the form needed in order to describe and understand the problem the researcher use cross-section study for fruit full result.
6. **Descriptive in nature: -** Historical Method is mostly descriptive in nature. Whatever data are collected in historical method these are manifested in descriptive way.

 **Merits:**

1. The contributions of a historical research are that it gives the researchers an idea of a particular place or event.
2. By doing this, the researcher is given a clearer picture of the events, and how it affected the people constituting the institutions.
3. By using all information, the ones involved in the research can make sound decisions.

 **Demerits:**

1. The disadvantages of a historical research include the restriction of the data that is being used to what is only available;
2. Information provided by the present data may be inaccurate, obsolete, or incomplete; the information gathered may not reveal the cause of the problem;
3. The resources available might be conflicting and are hard to find; and finally, the historical research consumes a lot of time.
4. This method cannot help us in studying all the problems of Sociology. The scope of Sociology cannot be limited to the study of facts provided by History.
5. The historical facts, as contained in life histories, diaries, etc., may be revealing but they have little use for scientific investigation, they may not be able to answer all the questions that may be raised, by a sociologist.
6. Further, the historical facts also run the risk of not being studied objectively by the interpreters.
7. **Explain the Impotence (Relevance) of Historical Method in Sociology:**

**Answer:**

1. **Historical Method helps to Find the Origin: -** The historical method helps the researchers to find the origin of contemporary social life and thus under­standing its nature and working. This method is based on the idea that our present forms of social life, our customs and traditions, beliefs and values, and our ways of living as such have their roots in the past and that one can best explain them by tracing them back to their origins.
2. **It helps emerge “historical sociology.” -** The utility and wide acceptances of the historical method have resulted in one of the fields of sociology known as “historical sociology.” “Historical sociology studies societies of the remote as well as of recent past to discover origins of, and find explanations for, our present ways of life.”
3. **It** **helps to understand the emergence of new modern concepts: -** Weber applied this approach in his studies of the origins of Capitalism, the development of modern bureaucracy and the economic influence of the world religions. In these studies particular historical changes of social structures are investigated and interpreted. Very recently C. Wright Mills and Raymond Aron also came under the influence of Weber’s methodology.

**Conclusion: -** The Historical Method is not adequate to study and to find out the sociological fact and phenomenon. Other methods also should be applied to the study sociology. But it should be remembered that Historical Method is one of the most important methods to the study of sociology. Without historical fact it is not possible find out the origin of social institutions. Historical Methods has contributed much to sociology to study the social elements of society

1. **Question: - What is family? Point out the classification and functions of family in India. (2013)**

 **Answer:**

**Introduction: -** The family is the most primary institution in the society. The children are first exposed as social animal in the family. The child develops its basic attitude only in the family. From birth to death the family has constant influence on the life of the people. Every one of us is the member of family and this bondage with family remains after the death also. The family is both primary as well as universal institution. In every stage of human life - primitive, ancient and modern civilized society family occupied a pre- dominant position.

**Meaning: -** The term ‘Family’ was taken from the Latin word’ Famulus’ which implies the ‘Servant’. In Roman law the word denoted a group of producers with their slaves and servant as well as members connected by common descent or marriage. Thus it is clear from this connotation that family is a group of people consisting of man, woman, their children and servants. The meaning of family can be understood better from the definitions as mentioned below:

**Definitions:**

*1. Family is “The biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children”*

 *-* Eliot and Merrill.

***2.*** *Family is “a group defined by sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the protection and upbringing of children”. -* MacIver.

***3.*** *“Family is more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without child,*

Broadly speaking, family refers to the group comprising parents and children. It may also refer, in some cases, to a group of relative and their dependents forming one household. They usually share common residence, at least for part of their lives.

**Classification of Family:**

The classification of family is generally done on the basis of organization, forms of marriage, authority and residence. These classifications of families on different basis are explained as follow:

Joint family, Monogamy Family, Polygamy Family, Polyandrous family, Polyandrous family Patriarchal Family, Matriarchal Family, Patrilocal and Matrilocal, Neolocal, Avunculocal, Matri-patri local.

**Role (function) of Family:**

According to Tamara Gold, a psychologist of America, “family is profoundly important to developmental, emotional and cognitive growth of a child.” Again he said “A child will learn about relationships manners, self-esteem, worth and loyalty, all by watching and participating in family.” The role of family can be classified as essential role and non-essential role:

 **Essential/Primary roles (functions):**

1. **Sex satisfaction: -** The primary function of family is the sex satisfaction. Since ancient period till now the views of social thinkers is that the main objective for the formation of family is only the sex satisfaction. Manu the author of “Manusmriti” and Vatsyayana the author of the “kamasutra” also said that the sexual satisfaction is one of the prime aims of family.
2. **Reproduction and procreation: -** It is the family which sanctions legitimacy to reproduction and recreation to it members. After birth the children are taken care by the family than other institutions. But here it should be mentioned that in modern times special agencies like nursing and child welfare centre have come forward to help the family.
3. **Provision of home: -** Human infancy starts at the family and has to remain for a long period of time in the family. Though in modern era, the most of the functions of the family are performed by some institutions yet it is the home which can take proper care of children than any other institutions.
4. **Socialization:** - It is the family which can serve the people to transform their culture from one generation to another through socialization process. Family preserves the existing culture and also transforms it to the next generation.
5. **Ascribing: Status -** There are two kinds of statuses – Ascribed and achieved status. It is the family which gives the people the ascribed status. The title of an individual is coined in the name of his family and also his identifications are recognized on the basis of family. The religious, residential, social and political status is all conferred to the individual by family.
6. **Values: -** A Child first learns right and wrong in the family. He or she follows the manner, behavior and attitude his parents and these are reflected in their day to day life.
7. **Security: -** The members of the family first get security at the family. It is the duty of the elders in family to protect the younger’s from any threat which comes from the outside. Again due to collective responsibility of family members protect each other.
8. **Skill: -** The children first develop their skill at the family. Sometimes they follow the activities of their elders and sometimes they develop their skill from their own self. It is the family where most of the people prefer to choice their family occupation and accordingly they also develop their own skill on that particular occupation.

**Non-essential/Secondary roles (functions):**

**Economic functions: -** The economic function is the traditional function of family. Previously the family members produced the goods within the family. The family was self-sufficient. There was functional specialization of works. Due to the impact of modernization the family members choice different kinds of occupations.

1. **Social functions: -** Family is the unit where people learn about the customs mores etc. of society. The first lesson of social control is imparted to the children in the family which helps them to adjust in the social environment as a social animal. Family is the custodian of culture of society. It is the family through which the social norms is preserved and transformed from generation to another. Therefore, family is the prime agency of socialization.
2. **Educational functions: -** Another important secondary function of family is imparting the education to the children. Family is the basis of formal education. In spite of great change in the pattern the children learn many things in family. When a child grows up he learn to manage the outer situation and it happens due to his formal education as given by his mother or elders in family.
3. **Religious functions: -** The family is the central ground for the religious training of the children. All religious rituals were practiced at the family. The children learn the religious virtues, ethics, and way of worshiping of God from family. The children follow their parents that how they practice the religious doctrines and this practice greatly influences their mind and creates habit to follow same.
4. **Recreational functions: -** In traditional joint family system the recreation was fully family based. The parents or the elders organized recreational activities for the family. Singing, dancing, playing etc. brought the entire family members to be got together. But due to the impact of modernization the recreational activities of family has been limited. Most the recreational functions which were performed within family are done in outside.
5. **Civic functions: -** It is the family where people first learn about the civic virtues. The children learn the virtues love, affection, tolerance, cooperation sacrifices discipline, obedience etc. in the family. These virtues help them to develop the qualities of good citizenship. Therefore, it is said that family is the cradle of civic virtues.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion it can be said that family as primary unit of society performs several functions, primary as well as secondary. Without family it is not possible to born and brought up the children. It is the family through which the social norms and values are transformed from one generation to another.

1. **Question: Describe the fundamental features of family. How joint family in India is**

 **changing? (2014)**

 **Or**

 **What is family? Explain the features and role family in Indian society. (2016)**

**Answer:**

**Meaning: -** The term ‘Family’ was taken from the Latin word’ Famulus’ which implies the ‘Servant’. In Roman law the word denoted a group of producers with their slaves and servant as well as members connected by common descent or marriage. Thus it is clear from this connotation that family is a group of people consisting of man, woman, their children and servants. The meaning of family can be understood better from the definitions as mentioned below:

**Definitions:**

*1. Family is “The biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children”*

 *-* Eliot and Merrill.

*2. Family is “a group defined by sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the protection and upbringing of children”. -* MacIver.

*3. “Family is more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without child,*

Broadly speaking, family refers to the group comprising parents and children. It may also refer, in some Cases, to a group of relative and their dependents forming one household. They usually share common residence, at least for part of their lives.

**Features (Nature):**

1. **Universality: -** The family is a universal social institution. In every stage of human life the people lived within family. Though some modern trends have changed some aspect of family yet as the prime unit of society the importance of family is not decreased.
2. **Small Size: -** The family is the primary and small institution of society. In nuclear family it consists of husband, wife and their children. But in Comparison to nuclear family to some extend the joints family is large in size.
3. **Sexual Relationship: -** The sexual relationship brings the man and woman to come close and to form family.
4. **Choice of Mates:** - The selection of mates is different from society to society. In some where the mates are chosen individually and some where they are selected by the elders. Various rules govern the selection process of mates.
5. **Form of Marriage:** - The marriage system is the way to form family. Religion or rituals of society occupy a pre- dominant position to establish the system of marriage. Marriage may assume any one of the form – monogamy, polygamy, polyandry or group marriage.
6. **Common Home: -** A common home is another important feature of family. Without a dwelling place it is not possible to rear and bear the children. The common home gives the shelter to family from the bad effect of anti- social elements and environmental pollution.
7. **Nomenclature system:** - Every family is known on the basis of its name. The descent may be recognized through male line or female line. In patriarchal system it is known in the name of father and in the matriarchal system the descent is known in the name of mother.
8. **Profession: *-*** Every family needs economic provision for its maintenance. It the responsibility of the head of the family to earn for his or her family. Therefore, each and every family chooses some profession to maintain its expense.
9. **Interaction and communication system:** - Family is composed by the groups of people who are tied by the social norms. Therefore, the interaction and communication system is fixed by the same such as the husband and wife mother and father son and daughter etc.
10. **Emotional Basis: -** Emotion is closely ties with family. Love between husband and wife, parents and children make family an institution of self- sacrifice. Therefore, emotion is common feature and foundation of each family. It is the emotion which ties the family members altogether.

**Changing trend of joint family in India:**

The changes in structural and functional aspects of joint family in India are explained as follows:

1. **Trend to Small Size: -** The size of the traditional joint family was large. But the changes in social economic life of the people have also changed the outlook of the people towards the joint family. The ideas of individualism brought about the changes in the attitude of joint family. Therefore, the joint family has been transforming itself towards nuclear family.
2. **New Residence: -**The neo-local residence is another changing trend of joint family. It is general tendency of couples in Indian to separate themselves from the bondage of joint family and to live separately in another place. The tendency on the one hand creates nuclear family on the other hand neo-local residence coming to existence more and more.
3. **Attachment with joint family: -** Though the married couples who have set new home in distance place yet the couple try to maintain their relation with their former joint family. Some of them continue their connection with their former joint family which is staying far distance. In Indian society most of the couples consider that it as their moral duty to keep touch with their elders.
4. **Equality among the Individual: -** Once upon a time in Indian society the elders dominated the joint family system. The elders enjoyed more freedom and privileges. The women were kept subordinate to the men. They did not have any say in the family matters. But now many changes have occurred in joint family. The woman plays the role of consultant and her involvement is considered as important one in decision making in the family and it has been possible due to the impact of modern education system
5. **Selection of Mate: -** In traditional joint family it was the duty of the parents to select the mates of their children. But this trend in joint family has changed in modern educated family. The preference of choosing of mate no longer belongs to only to the parents. The boys and the girls are given first preference to choice their mate.
6. **Trend to Individualism: -** The power structure of joint family has been changing. The traditional family was individual centric. The head of the family dominated the family members. But the new cultural conditions that have arisen on the wake of individualism have declined the authoritarian nature patriarchal joint family system. The father is now considered as the constitutional head not an absolute head of the family.

**Conclusion: -** In conclusion it can be said that tremendous changing trend has been occurring in nuclear family. Now, the bond of family is not considered as the part of religion. It is conceived as the civil contract between man and woman. It is the impact of urbanization, industrialization and modern education which are responsible for the change of family system. The changing trend is not confined within a particular area but it is a universal phenomena.

1. **Question: - What is Family? Examine its functions and relevance of family as a primary social unit. (2015)**

**Answer: - (See the first part of answer of question No. 13)**

**Relevance of Family:**

**Introduction:** According to Tamara Gold, a psychologist of America, “family is profoundly important to developmental, emotional and cognitive growth of a child.” Again he said “A child will learn about relationships manners, self-esteem, worth and loyalty, all by watching and participating in family.” The relevance of family as primary unit of society can be understood from the functions performed by it.

1. **Family is essential to meet the need of sex satisfaction:**  The primary function of family is the sex satisfaction. Since ancient period till now the views of social thinkers is that the main objective for the formation of family is only the sex satisfaction. Manu the author of “Manusmriti” and Vatsyayana the author of the “kamasutra” also said that the sexual satisfaction is one of the prime aims of family. To establish permanent sex relationship family is the legal way which is recognized by the society.
2. **Family is the basis of reproduction and procreation:**  The result of sex satisfaction is the reproduction and recreation. It is the family which sanctions legitimacy to reproduction and recreation to family. Through reproduction system the human being transforms its heredity from one generation to another. After birth the children are more taken care by the family than other institutions. But here it should be mentioned that in modern times special agencies like nursing and child welfare centre have come forward to help the family.
3. **It provides the provision of home:** Human infancy starts at the family and has to remain for a long period of time in the family. Though in modern era, the most of the functions of the family are performed by some institutions yet it is the home which can take proper care of children than any other institutions. Therefore among the basic needs the home is the most important one. It is the family which compels the human being to make home to fulfill their needs.
4. **Family is the first agency of socialization:**  It is the family which can serve the people to transform their culture from one generation to another through socialization process. Family preserves the existing culture and also transforms it to the next generation. Family teaches the people the norms, values, customs beliefs, ideals of society etc. Through socialization in the family the children can participate in social activities and therefore, the family is considered as the prime agency of socialization.
5. **Ascribed Status can be obtained by family:** There are two kinds of statuses – Ascribed and achieved status. It is the family which gives the people the ascribed status. The title of an individual is coined in the name of his family and also his identifications are recognized on the basis of family. The religious, residential, social and political status is all conferred to the individual by family. But the ascribed status of the people is changeable according to time and situation and most often the achieved status decrease the importance of ascribe status.
6. **Social Values are learned in family:** A Child first learns right and wrong in the family. He or she follows the manner, vehaviuor and attitude his parents and these are reflected in their day to day life. Committed and involved parents can motivate and strengthen mental strength of their children. It is the family where the children can learn about the values and the values are essential for social control.
7. **Family provides Security to individuals: -** The members of the family first get security at the family. It is the duty of the elders in family to protect the younger’s from any threat which comes from the outside. Again due to collective responsibility of family members protect each other. The most important support parents can give their children is consistent structure to the daily routine of life. That structure and consistency gives the child security.
8. **Skills children are developed in family:** The children first develop their skill at the family. Sometimes they follow the activities of their elders and sometimes they develop their skill from their own self. It is the family where most of the people prefer to choice their family occupation and accordingly they also develop their own skill on that particular occupation.

**Conclusion:** From the above mentioning points it can be said that family is an essential primary unit of society. It is the family where the children born and brought up properly. Family is the first social unit which gives the first lesson of socialization to the children. Protection or security is very important for the people and they feel security only in family. Therefore, family is an essential unit of society and from the sociological points of view it has relevance in society.

1. **Question: What is society? What are its components? How does Society change occur? (2013)**

 **Or**

**(For the third part of the question see the second part of answer of question No 17)**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:** There are five basic components of the human societies: population, culture, material products, social organization, and social institutions. These components may either deter or promote social change.

**Meaning of Society:** The term “Society” is derived from the Latin word “Socious” that means association or companionship. Thus society means a larger group of individuals, who are associative with each other. A society is a group of people involve in persistent social interaction, or larger social group sharing the same geographical or social territory, typically subject to same political authority and dominant culture expectation. Societies are characterized by patterns of relationship between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions; a given society may be described as the sum total of such relationships among the constituent members. More broadly, and especially within structuralist thought a society may be illustrated as an economic, social, industrial or cultural infrastructural, made up of, yet distinct from, a varied collection of individuals.

**Definitions:**

1. *“It is system of relationship that exists among the individuals of the society”*  **-- Prof Wright.**
2. *“Any group of people who have limited and worked together long enough to get themselves organized and to think of themselves as a social unit with well defined limits”* ***—*Linton**.
3. *“It is the largest groups in which individual have relationships”* ***--* A. W. Green.**
4. *“It is a web of social relationship, which s always changing”* ***-*- *MacIver.***
5. *“Society is an artificial device of natural economy” --* **Adam Smith.**
6. **Population:** The size of population greatly affects the social change. If the population is large there are more chances of social changes. More people will usually result in more ideas pushing for greater social changes because a larger population generates more problems. There is greater need to solve these solutions as a result there will be more social change. A large population has also more norms, laws and sanctions which help for the social change.
7. **Culture:** Culture includes values, beliefs, norms, knowledge, language, and symbols. Culture can both deter and promote social changes. A society's belief and values can be essential for technological development. Some societies tend to be more conservative and would like for things to continue to be the same, which deters the social changes. However, if a society gains more knowledge, there will be more social changes. New information and discoveries will result in new inventions and will help to change the society.
8. **Material products:** The society where there are limited material productions, there is less chances of social change because there is limited scope of alternative to use the goods. On the other hand, where material products are more, there will more changes of social change because people will try to find other alternatives goods and ultimately there will be social change.
9. **Social organization:** Social organization is a network of relationship between its members. There are people who hold social positions and political roles that may deter or promote changes. Reformers who hold office positions will persuade more changes in society while conservationist will want things to remain the same.
10. **Social institutions:** Social institutions consist of the education system, family, economy, government, and religion. The education system of society has a big influence on the society. If education system in a society is promoting changes, people of that may easily accept that kinds of changes or may be react as vice versa. A person's upbringing may influence other persons in the direction of change or may put push deterrence of change.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, it can be said that social change is natural and universal. From primitive society till now so many changes occurred in human society. But these changes are not automatic. There are several factors which are responsible for social change in society.

1. **What do you mean by society? Discuss different factors responsible for the social changes.**

**(For the first part of the question see the first part of answer of question No 16)**

Main factors which affect social change can be discussed a follows:

1. **Natural Factors**: Natural factors are more important factors which play a significant role in unifying or disintegrating the society. Storm, earthquake, flood, drought, disease etc. are natural events which can disrupt the social system. Natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, draughts, famines and other natural disasters always changes in the social phenomena and life of the people.
2. **Geographical Factors of Social Change:** The geographical conditions always affect the social system and act as factors of social change. The cultural life of the people mostly depends upon the geographical environment. Development and Progress of country also depends upon the availability of natural resources, their exploitation and how these being preserved. But, It is necessary to remember that physical environment changes slowly and in a society social change can come at a fast rate. Therefore, the geographic factors are not the sole determining factors of social change. Other factors also help to social change.
3. **Biological Factors:** Biological factors also affect social change. Biological factors are those factors which determine the structure, selection and hereditary qualities of generations. The human element is ever changing. Each new generation is different from previous generation. It is different in form, ideas and in many other ways from the one gone before
4. **Demographic Factors:** The Demographic factors also influence the social change. The increasing or decreasing of population always brings social changes. A constantly rising of population gives birth to poverty, unemployment, disease and several other related problems. On the other hand, a low birth-rate means leads to decrease in the size of the population. When population becomes low, the country cannot make full use of the natural resources.
5. **Ideational Factor:**  The development of science and secularization of thought have contributed a lot to the development of new modern outlook. We no longer follow many customs or habits merely because they have the age-old authority of tradition. On the contrary, our ways of life have increasingly become on the basis of rationality.
6. **Political Factor:** State is the most powerful organization which regulates the social relationships. It has the power to legislate new laws, repeal old ones to bring social change in the society. Laws regarding child marriage, widow remarriage, divorce, inheritance and succession, untouch­ability are some of the examples which have brought many changes in the social structure of Indian society.
7. **Economic Factors:** The economic factor is one of the most important factors of social change. Marx said that it is the economic factor which changes the total course of history. According to him, all social and political structure grows up on the basis of economic structure. When there are changes in the means of production, always changes occur in the social organization. Each and every institution in society like of marriage and family took place under the influence of the means of production. When the society progressed to agricultural stage, the social organization became more and complex. People settled down at a particular place for raising crops. In the era of Industrial revolution several inventions came and society is changed tremendously. Along with development of industrialization, urbanization also has emerged and is playing a significant role to social change
8. **Cultural Factors:** The cultural factors also play a role in bringing about social change. Our social life depends upon our beliefs, ideas, values, customs, conventions, institutions and the like. When there is a change in these, it influences the social life. Nowadays marriage is not regarded as a part religious institution. It is considered as a contract between man and woman and consequently the number of divorcees has registered a big increase. The new love and need for working couples has acted j as a source of big change in family relations and culture. Thus, socio-economic and cultural factors always act as big and formidable factors of social change.
9. **Science and Technology as factors of Social Change**: In contemporary times science and technology happens to be the most important factor of social change. New scientific inventions and technologies always greatly influence the social life. Ogburn and Nimkoff rightly observe, “The most wonderful and universal phenomenon of modern life is not capitalism, but science and technology and capitalism is only it’s by product.”

 **Conclusion**: From the above explanation it can be said the traditional society has been changing tremendously and in this regard several factors are responsible for the changing pattern of society. These factors are natural factors, geographical factors of social change, biological factors, demographic factors, ideational factor, political factor, economic factors, cultural factors, science and technology as factors of social changes etc.

**18. Question: What is community? What are the characteristics of community? (2014**)

**Answer:**

 **Introduction: -** The members of any group small or large live together in such a way that they share the basic condition of common life. The basic condition of the concept is that one can live a whole life within a community i.e. city, tribe or village. It may be self-sufficient in fulfillment of basic needs. Small communities exist within large communities as cities within district, the district within a province, the province within the whole state and the states within the whole world.

**Meaning: -** Socrates, the father of political science said that the person who is independent of his fellow beings and is unable to live in community or society is either Beast or God. Community is the combination of two Latin words i.e. ‘cam’ means together and ‘munis’ means serve i.e. serve together is called community. In simple term a community is a population rooted in one place with and dependence on other members. Taken together, the wide variety of tasks performed by members within is an attempt to ensure that social and economic needs will be met in a stable and predictable way.

**Definitions:**

1. **“***It is a social group with some degree of we feeling and living in a given area” –* Bogardes.
2. **“***Total organization of social life within a limited area” ----* W. Ogbu.
3. **“***It is the smallest territorial group that can embrace all aspects of social life” --* Davis.

**Characteristics/ Features of Community:** Meaning of community can be better be understood if we if we analyze it characteristic. These characteristics determine whether a group of people is community or not. The characteristics of community are explained as follows:

1. **Group of People: -** The first characteristic of community is that people are bound themselves in a group. This group may be small or large. Without the grouping it is not possible to imagine about the community. Due to its grouping, there is strong sense of unity among the members of the community.
2. **Definite Region: -** The second characteristic of community is the fixed region. A group of people who have no any fixed territory cannot form community. Once upon a time the Jew did not have any fixed place. But after 1948 they occupied a small territory naming Israel and therefore, they are now living as a community in that territory. The territory need not be fixed forever. A community may change its own territory as per need of time and situation. A group of nomadic people change their living place. But majority of them live in fixed place and have strong feelings of unity.
3. **Strong Sense owe feeling: -** Due to living in a fixed place and having common culture and follow the same customs and rituals the members of the community have strong sense of unity. Whatever problems arise as threatening to the community the members of the community confront the same and try their best efforts to redress themselves from that problems. With this the members emotionally identify themselves. This emotional identification of the members distinguishes them from other community.
4. **Natural in Nature: -** Community is naturally organized. It is neither created by govt. nor by any institution. It grows spontaneously and the members of the community occupy their places in it only by birth. Therefore, like other natural phenomena, the communities have also some natural characteristics.
5. **Permanence in Nature: -** This is another nature of community. The crowd or the gathering of people cannot be called community. Because it ends as time passes. But the community does not end along with passing of time and situation. It remains forever and it happens because of the permanence living of the individuals in a fixed place.
6. **Similarity in every walk of life: -** The members of the community live in fixed place and follow the same the customs, norms, values, language, rituals and traditions. Therefore, similarity in every walk of life is one of the most important features. These similarities bring a strong sense of unity among them.
7. **Wider Goals: -** A community has wider goals. Members of a community associate not for the fulfillment of specific goal but for a variety of goals. These goals are to protect the customs and traditions, to protect the religion, to find out the living ways and mean, common welfare of the community etc. These are quite natural for community.
8. **Organized Social Life: -** This is another important feature of community. A community is marked by organized social life. It means a community includes all aspects of social life. There is strong we feeling among the members of the community. They organize themselves to find the ways and means to resolve their various kinds of socio-economic problems.
9. **Particular Name: -**. It is the name of a particular community through which one community can be separated from others. India is country of diversity having different kinds of communities and it is the main feature of Indian society. In India each and every community is known on the basis of its name. The example the people living in Assam is Assamese community; the people living in Bangle are Bengalese etc. But as a whole India is a community known as Indian community.
10. **No Legal Status:** - The community has no any legal law. It is not a like person whose legal interest can be protected by the law of state. It has no rights and duties in the eyes of law. But if interests of members of the community are curtailed by any person or organization, the legal law can protect the same applying various legal measures.
11. **Size of Community: -** A community is classified on the basis of its size. A community may be big or small. Village is a small community, a nation is a big community and the world is the biggest community.
12. **Question: Examine the concept of role and status. Explain their importance in the study of human being. (2015)**

 **Answer:**

 **Meaning of Role and Status:** Naturally all human being are not equal. They have different capacity and needs. But as social animal they have to live together and therefore integration and co-ordination among them is very important. These needs can be fulfilled only when they work together co-coordinating their talent, time and strength. No one can satisfy all the goals and desires by himself. The individual come to understand that no one can do the all work and therefore prepare themselves to create an environment of functional specialization where the different members of society do different work. Thus a co- ordination of division of labour is achieved through assigning duties and rights to each individuals and statuses are created in society on the basis of work. The statuses which are created on the basis of work are called ‘Role’. Therefore, role and status are interrelated with other. Role is the functions performed by each individual in society and status implies the position of people in society which is acquired on the basis of role performed by them.

**Definitions of Role and Status:**

1. *“A role is the function of a status” ---------* **Young and Mack.**
2. *“Role is the dynamic or the behavioural aspects of status…….A role is what an individual in the status he occupies” ---------* **Robert Bierstedt***.*
3. *“Status is a place in a particular system, which a certain individual occupies at a particular time.” -- Ralph Linton.*
4. ***“****A status is a position in a social group or grouping, a relation to other position held by individual in the group or grouping.”* **---Morris Ginsberg.**

**Role and Status (2013, 2014, 2016)**

Status implies the position or the rank one holds in a social group, and, Role refers to the specific functions that one is expected to perform in that social group. Every status holder is a role performer. Status and Role, is inter-connected. In a social group, every member has a status role position. All status roles do not command similar position authority; or the social recognition authority. Status- role of a father, as the head of a family, in patriarchal society, like that of ours differs, from his status-role in a matriarchal society. The relationship between Role and status can be explained as follows:

1. **Both are interrelated:** Status and role are interrelated with each other. Status is a position of a person which is determined by the role performed by people in respective areas. Statuses are occupied and roles are played. Role is a one kind of obligation that an individual fulfill and on the basis of role, he gets the status or privileges. In other words, it can be said that on the basis of role, an individual can get his status. Therefore, the roles and status are the two sides of a same coin. On cannot be separated from other.
2. **The same status can do different role:** The personality, ability, talent, efficiency vary from person to person. Therefore, having occupying the same status the different person play different role in society. For example, though the status of Prime Minister is the same for Nehru to Dr Monmohan singh yet each of them played different role in same status. It happens due to their different personality.
3. **Both are dynamic in nature:** Both status and role are dynamic in nature. If role changes, the status will also change with the new role. For instance, if the obligations of an office bearer increase he acquires new duties with new status. It happens both in case of degradation and promotion of an employee. If his duties increase, his status will increase and if decrease the same will also decrease. Therefore, both status and role are dynamic in nature.
4. **Role may be played without status:** Though role and status are interrelated with each other yet it is possible to have one without other. For example, if a Principal of a college gives resignation or he retires, till the appointment of a new Principal someone is appointed as in charge Principle. But for his role he cannot demand or get the same status or privileges of Principal. In home also sometime a mother plays the role of nurse when a child becomes ill. But she cannot get the same status of nurse in hospital.
5. **A status is institutionalized Role:** Robert Bierstedt said that status is institutionalized role. He did not separate status from role. According to him, the roles of an individual is regularized, standardized and formalized in the society at large or in specific association or institution and on the basis of his role the status is determined.
6. **Society is divided on basis of Role and Status:** The capacity of individual differs from each other. Therefore, on the basis of capacity the role are distributed among the members of society. Resultantly, different kinds of groups emerge in society and these groups have separate identity and the members of these groups also get specific status.

**Importance of Role and Status:** The social role and status is of great importance both for the individual and society.

1. An individual wins respect in society by virtue of his role and status. An increase in the individual’s role and status entitles him to more respect than before.
2. Marriages in almost every society are contracted on the basis of role and status. Everyone wants to marry his sons and daughters into of a family equal if not superior status.
3. Role and status go together. The role of an individual determines his status and his role changes along with a change in his status. The role structure of a group is the same thing as its status structure.
4. Status entitles a person to enjoy several prerogatives, for example, in England no one can file a suit against the royal family. Thus an individual gets much direct and indirect advantage from social status.
5. We have seen the role and status system is a universal characteristic of human society. It constitutes the organization of group life and determines who is to carry what kind of function.
6. Role and Status is necessary in the socialization functions and in co-ordination of the specialized functions of a community.
7. It is important for affording incentives for effort and in promoting the sense of responsibility, dependability and satiability so necessary for co-operative living.

From the above mentioning points its can be easily understood that the role and status has great importance for individual as well as for the society. Therefore, role and status system should not be tight. It should be flexible. A status system which lacks flexibility and is not subject to change with changing conditions effect upon the life of the group.

1. **Short Note:**
2. **August Comte. (2013)**

August Comte (1798-1857) was a great French thinker, a famous social philosopher and the first sociologist. It was he who laid the foundation of sociology and is acclaimed as the “Father of Sociology”. He insisted that the science of society, that is, sociology, should be treating on par with other sciences. Sociology has gone far ahead in the scientific tradition about which Comte had insisted. The community of sociologists remains ever grateful to Comte for his pioneering works to make sociology a science. The main works of August Comte are – ‘Prospectus of the Scientific Work Required for the Reorganization of society’, Positive Philosophy’, ‘Positive Polity’ ‘The law of three stages’ etc. The influence of Charles Darwin and his ‘Theory of Organic Evolution’ had its impact on Comtean views including his law of three stages.

Comte as the father of sociology first of all he set out the name of the subject as ‘Social Physics’. But later on he changed the name as ‘Sociology’ combining Latin word ‘Socius’ and Greek word ‘Logos’ which respectively means the ‘Society’ and ‘Science’, that implies the ‘Science of Society’ According Comte, sociology represents the culmination of the development of science. It is based on mathematics and depends on biology, chemistry, physics and astronomy. He said that sociology would require some time to attain the full status of the positive science. Comte argues believe that sociology would be helpful to become scientifically by means of his writing.

1. **Karl Marx. (2014)**

Karl Marx (1818-1883) was born in the Rhenish city of Trier in Germany. Marx had received his early education in Trier. In 1835, he joined the law faculty at Bonn University and ultimately took his law degree from Berlin University in 1836. In 1841, he received the PhD in from university of Jena. The important works of Karl Marx are Das Capital, Communist Manifesto, and Critique of Political Economy etc. Marx nowhere called himself a sociologist. Still his social thought and ideas have a great sociological significance. During the recent year’s attention is being paid to Marxian thought and toward his contribution to the fields such as history, economics, political science, sociology. He contributed different kinds of theories regarding socialism to the political science but his writings are also having great importance to the study of sociology. He provided the theory of Materialistic Interpretation of History, Labor Value Theory, Theory of Surplus Value, Theory of Class Struggle, dictatorship of Proletariat Dialectical Materialism etc. which have also significance to the context sociological study.

1. **Community. (2013)**

**Meaning:** Socrates, the father of political science said that the person who is independent of his fellow beings and is unable to live in community or society is either Beast or God. Community is the combination of two Latin words i.e. ‘cam’ means together and ‘munis’ means serve i.e. serve together is called community. In simple term a community is a population rooted in one place with and dependence on other members. Taken together, the wide variety of tasks performed by members within is an attempt to ensure that social and economic needs will be met in a stable and predictable way. There are different Types of Communities - Community of action, Community of Practice, Community of Place, Community of Interest, Community of Circumstance, and Virtual Community:

**Definitions:**

1. “*It is a social group with some degree of we feeling and living in a given area” –* Bogardes.
2. “*Total organization of social life within a limited area” ----* W. Ogbu.
3. “*It is the smallest territorial group that can embrace all aspects of social life” –* Davis.

**Characteristics/ Features of Community:**

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2. The second characteristic of community is the fixed region. A group of people who have no any fixed territory cannot form community. A community may change its own territory as per need of time and situation.
3. Due to living in a fixed place and having common culture and follow the same customs and rituals the members of the community have strong sense of unity.
4. Community is naturally organized. It is neither created by govt. nor by any institution. It grows spontaneously and the members of the community occupy their places in it only by birth.

Besides these features the community has some other features like - permanence in nature, similarity in every walk of life, wider goals, organized social life, particular name, no Legal Status, and size etc.

1. **Role and Status (2013, 2014, 2016)**

Status implies the position or the rank one holds in a social group, and, Role refers to the specific functions that one is expected to perform in that social group. Every status holder is a role performer. Status and Role, is inter-connected. In a social group, every member has a status role position. All status roles do not command similar position authority; or the social recognition authority. Status- role of a father, as the head of a family, in patriarchal society, like that of ours differs, from his status-role in a matriarchal society. The relationship between Role and status can be explained as follows:

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6. **Society is divided on basis of Role and Status:** The capacity of individual differs from each other. Therefore, on the basis of capacity the role are distributed among the members of society. Resultantly, different kinds of groups emerge in society and these groups have separate identity and the members of these groups also get specific status.
7. **Achieved Status. (2013)**

The status or the position that a person has earned out of his own personal efforts is called achieved status. This status can be obtained by the ability, capacity and efforts of the people. Some persons can achieve a particular status if there are available facilities but some persons can also obtain this kind status in odd and difficult situation where there are no any adequate facilities. The achieved status is based on the ability, education, earned property, special skill etc. of the people. A person who is able to show his ability in various fields, such as social service, sports, education etc. can obtain higher and better status.

1. **Ascribed Status. (2014)**

The status which is given to an individual on the basis of the situation in the society is called ascribed status. Such status may be given by birth or by placement is a social group. For instance, an individual can enjoy a particular status due to his birth in a rich family. A child can get a family status which includes the title and prestige through birth in a particular family. In almost every society particularly in patriarchal system, it is the elder person who is respected. On the other hand, in matriarchal system, elder women are respected. Since the ascribed status is determined by birth the Brahmins get higher status as compared to other caste in the society. The ascribed status is based on sex, age, kinship race, religion etc.

1. **Distinction between the Ascribed and Achieved Status:**
2. Ascribed status is the gift from the society to the individual. On the other hand, the achieved status is not the gift from society. It is based on the characteristics and ability of person.
3. For an achieved status certain conditions like ability, efficiency, economic status etc. are necessary. But no qualifications required for achieved status. For example, the elders in the family are bound to be respected.
4. Generally ascribed status is based on age, race caste, kinship, etc. On the other hand, achieved status does not depend on these determinants. It is only based on the ability and qualification of the individual.
5. Ascribed status is more stable and rigid in nature; its basis does not change easily. Achieved status has an unstable basis and it is itself changeable.
6. Ascribed status occupies an important place in a traditional society. But in modern societies it is achieved status which is given more importance because in this respect, it is personal qualities and achievements through which the achieved status can be achieved.
7. In regard to the ascribed status the actions that flow from authority are unpredictable. In regard to achieved status the role or the action of authority is more or less predictable.
8. In ascribed status there is co-relationship between the status and role. In relevance to the achieved status it cannot said that there shall be co-relationship between the achieved status and the role.
9. Ascribed status has greater relationship with the customs, traditions and other existing factors of the society. But there is no relationship with customs and tradition in achieved status.
10. **Concept of Social Class. (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)**

If the caste system is the unique feature of Hindu society in India, the class system is universal, found in every society of the world. Some time the word ‘class’ is used to denote a group of people having same profession – the doctors, engineers, advocates, teachers, artists, students etc. In material life the class is also used to denote the quality of goods as good, better and best. But class in social context is used to explain the social stratification of the people. Economy is the main criteria to determine the classes or class statuses in the society. Social class is a segment of society with all the members of all the ages and the sexes who share the same general status. MacIver said that social intercourses are limited by the consideration of social status by distinction between higher and lower, there exist a social class.

 **Definitions:**

1. *“A social class is a category or group of persons having definite status in society which permanently determines their relation to other groups”.*  ---- P. Gisbert.
2. *“A social* is *the aggregate of persons having essentially the same social status in a given society”.* -------- Ogburn and Nimkoff.
3. **Basic Features of Caste. (2015)**

Caste system is a highly complex phenomenon for the Hindu society. It is not easy task to explain these phenomena. An attempt is done by Dr. G.S. Ghurye to explain the nature of caste in his book, “Caste and Class in India”. These natures are explained as follows:

1. **Hierarchical Division of society: -** The Hindu society is hierarchical in its nature. There are the feelings of ‘highness’ and ‘lowness’ or ‘superiority’ and ‘inferiority’ among the members of the society. The Brahmins are the top of the hierarchy and ‘sudras’ or ‘Dalit’ which are to the lowest position of the hierarchy.
2. **Segmental Division of Society: -** The Hindu society is segmented on the basis of caste. Besides four major castes there is more than 200 hundred sub-caste in Hindu society. They have their own customs, rituals, informal roles.
3. **Restriction on Food: -** Restriction on food is another important feature of caste in India. From who and which kinds of food can be taken by the castes are decided by their respective caste. The Brahmins can take ‘pakka’ foods, the fried food from the lower caste but the ‘kaccha’ foods, the foods which are prepared by water by the lower castes are restricted for them.
4. **Restriction on Social Relationship: -** There are some social restrictions in caste system. The lower castes, untouchables have to keep distance themselves from the upper caste, The Brahmins.
5. **Disabilities of some castes: -** In traditional caste system the lower castes particularly the Harijan were not allowed to use the public places like well, restaurants, temples, educational institutions etc **Besides** these features there are some other feature of caste system and these are - privileges for certain castes, restriction on occupational choice, restriction on marriage.

**Conclusion: -** From the above mentioned features it can be said that though caste system is found all most in all societies yet it is unique for Indian Hindu society. In traditional Hindu society the people were classified on the basis of functions or there was functional specialization based on gradation. This classification was done for the smooth functioning of the state system. But gradually some restrictions were imposed on the down trodden caste and the system became tighter which created a lot of problems for Hindu society

1. **Meaning of Stratification. (2014, 2016)**

Differentiation is the law of nature. Human society is not homogenous but heterogeneous in nature. Though the basic human organs or structure are same but they are mentally they are not same. Their intellectual, moral, religious, political, psychological aspects are different from each other. The members of the society are categorized on the basis of superior, inferior and equality. Diversity and inequality is created by nature and people naturally inherit these social phenomena. Therefore, in everywhere there is stratification among the people.

The members of all society are differentiated on the basis of role played by them. Among these roles some regarded more prestigious, valuable and higher than others. The individuals who perform the more important role are rewarded with high status and who perform fewer roles is kept in lower position. So there is hierarchical system in society. The individuals are arranged on the basis of their role performs in society. This hierarchical system of individual in society is called social stratification. There are two ways and means to stratify the people – One is achieved i.e. class and other is ascribed i.e. the caste. Class stratification is universal one and especially it is found in capitalist society on the other hand, though caste stratification is also universal yet it is specially exist in India and it is one of the most important features of Indian society.

1. **Join Family. (2015)**

**Meaning:**  The joint family system also known as undivided ore extended family. Joint family is that kind of family where parents, their married and unmarried children and grandchildren live together. In joint family the son does not separate himself from family after marriage but stay continue with his parent under the same roof. The property in joint family is considered as the common property and earnings of all are put in a common fund. The non- earning members also have their share in common property. it is a traditional family headed by the father or the elder of the family.

**Definitions:**

**I .**  *“A joint family is group of people who generally live under one roof, who eat food coocked at one at one hearth, who hold property in common and who participate in common worship and are related to each other as some particular type of kindred.”*   *--* **Smt. Iravati Karve*.***

**ii***. “In a joint family not only parents and children, brothers and step-brothers live on the common property, but it may sometime include ascendants and collaterals up to many generations.”* **-- Jolly**

In simple words it can be said that is the combination of smaller family into a large family and which last long to three or more generations including at least grandparents’ parents and children.Joint family has some characteristics and these are - large in size, common household common kitchen, shared property, common religion, central – authority, co-operation, absence of special privileges, arrange marriage system and self-Reliant.

1. **Gender. (2015, 2016)**

**What’s gender?**

Gender is much bigger and more complicated than assigned sex. Gender includes gender roles, which are the of expectations society. Ideas about how men and women are expected to behave, dress, and communicate all contribute to gender. Gender is also a social and legal status of girls and boys, men, and women. It’s easy to confuse sex and gender. Just remember that biological or assigned sex is about biology, anatomy, and chromosomes. Gender is society’s set of expectations, standards, and characteristics about how men and women are supposed to act.

**What’s gender identity?**

Gender identity is how one feel inside and how one express those feelings.  Clothing, appearance, and behaviors can all be ways to express your gender identity. Most people feel that they’re either male or female.  Some people feel like a masculine female, or a feminine male. Some people feel neither male nor female. These people may choose labels such as “gender queer,” “gender variant,” or “gender fluid.”  Once feelings about your gender identity begin as early as age 2 or 3. Gender identity is how you feel inside and how you express your gender through clothing, behavior, and personal appearance. It’s a feeling that begins very early in life.

1. **Question: Define Social stratification. Discuss the characteristics of social stratification.**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:** Differentiation is the law of nature. Human society is not homogenous but heterogeneous in nature. Though the basic human organs or structure are same but they are mentally they are not same. Their intellectual, moral, religious, political, psychological aspects are different from each other. No two individuals are exactly alike. The members of the society are categorized on the basis of superior, inferior and equality. Diversity and inequality is created by nature and people naturally inherit these social phenomena. Therefore, in everywhere there is stratification among the people.

**Meaning:** The members of all society are differentiated on the basis of role played by them. Among these roles some regarded more prestigious, valuable and higher than others. The individuals who perform the more important role are rewarded with high status and who perform fewer roles is kept in lower position. So there is hierarchical system in society. The individuals are arranged on the basis of their role performs in society. This hierarchical system of individual in society is called social stratification. There are two ways and means to stratify the people – One is achieved i.e. class and other is ascribed i.e. the caste. Class stratification is universal one and especially it is found in capitalist society on the other hand, though caste stratification is also universal yet it is specially exist in India and it is one of the most important features of Indian society.

**Definition:**

1. “*The process by which individuals or groups are ranked in a more or less ending hierarchy of status is known as social stratification”*  -------------- Ogburn and Nimkoff.
2. “*Social stratification is the division of society into permanent groups of categories linked with each other by the relationship of superiority and subordination.” --------------* Gisbert
3. *“Social stratification is a horizontal division of society into ‘high’ and ‘lower’ social units”.-* Raymond W. Murry.

**Nature (Characteristics) of Social Stratification:**

M.M Tumin, (1919-1994) an American sociologist who was specialized in race relations classified the Characteristics of social stratification as follows:

1. **It is social:** Stratification is social in nature. It is not biological one. Some the biological aspects such as age, sex, height, strength, intelligence etc. also make social stratification. But these aspects are not sufficient to explain the social stratification in society. For instance, the manager in a corporate sector attains dominance over the subordinates not due to his physical strength but for by having socially recognized traits. His education, talent, skill, Knowledge, personality etc. are the socially recognized aspects for which he has been able attain the top position in his business.
2. **It is ancient:** The social stratification is quite ancient in nature. According to archeological experts the stratification also existed in small wandering groups of people. But at that time the main criteria of determination of stratification age and sex. The women and the children were kept to the last of stratification. In medieval period some other criteria also came into being to stratify the society and these are the rich and poor, the powerful and humble, the freeman and slaves etc. In Greek city state the stratification was made on the basis of citizens and slaves. Kuatilya also made social stratification for the proper and smooth running of administration in the state.
3. **It is Universal:** The stratification can be found in everywhere in the world. It is a common phenomenon for all society. There are poor and rich people in every society. Again both rich and poor class also can be stratified on the basis of their property. According to Sorokin a sociologist said, “All permanent organized groups are stratified”
4. **It is in the Divers Form:** The stratification cannot be found in uniform. Diversity is its unique feature. In ancient Rome the society was stratified as the patrician and plebian, The Greek society was divided as citizens and slaves. In China there was also social stratification. There were mandarins, merchants, farmers and soldiers in Chinese society. The ancient Hindu ‘Samaj’ was stratified on the basis of functions as *Brahmins, Kshastriya Vaishyas and the Sudras.* This trend of social stratification is still going on in Hindu society in India. From original major four castes more than 200 hundred castes have emerged and resultantly more stratifications are seen in Hindu society.
5. **It is Consequential:** The stratification has its own consequences. The most important desired and often the scarcest things in human life are distributed unequally because of stratification. The system leads two kinds of consequences *– i. Life chances and ii. Life styles.* *Life chances* refer to such things as infant mortality, Physical and mental illness, marital conflict etc. On the hand *lifestyles* refer such matters as – the mode housing, residential areas, one’s education, relationship between parents and children, the kinds of books, magazine, TV shows etc. Life chances are not depends on one’s own wish or it can be said it is involuntary. On the other hand, Life style is mostly voluntary in its nature and depends on one own desire.

**Conclusion:** From the above mention points regarding the nature of social stratification it is clear that social stratification is a social as well as universal phenomena, it found in each and every society of the world. Social stratification is not new concept. Since the ancient period till now it has been going on in society as system. Social stratification is not found in uniform it creates diversities in society.

1. **What do you mean by caste? Explain the nature of caste in Indian context.**

**Answer:**

**Introduction:** Caste and class are the two forms of social stratification. Caste is found in Ancient Egypt, Japan, Burma, Persia etc. But though it is found in those societies yet caste stratification is the unique feature of Indian society. It is one of the major criteria to determine the social stratification in India. Caste system cannot be separated from Indian society. It is connected with the Hindu religion, custom, tradition marriage, morals, manners, foods cloths occupations etc. It has been dominating in every sphere of social life i.e. socio-political and economic life of the people.

**Meaning:** The term ‘Caste’ was derived from the Spanish or Portuguese word ‘Caste’, which implies the ‘breed’. Along with English men the Portuguese also migrated to India and came to the touch of Indian society. They used the term to denote the division in the Indian society. The word ‘caste’ also means the ‘race’ or ‘kind’. In Sanskrit the ‘caste’ is used as ‘Varna’, means the ‘color’. The society which is divided on the basis of ‘race’, color, occupation etc is called ‘caste’. Caste is also sometime used as ‘Jati’

**Definition:**

1. *“When status is wholly predetermined so that men are born to their lot without any hope of changing it, then the class takes the extreme form of caste.” ---* MacIver and page
2. *“When a class is somewhat strictly hereditary, we may call it a caste.” ---* C.H. Cooley.
3. *“Caste is a system of stratification in which mobility up and down the status ladder, at least ideally may not occur*.” ---A.W. Green.

**Characteristics (Nature) of Caste:**

Caste system is a highly complex phenomenon for the Hindu society. It is not easy task to explain these phenomena. An attempt is done by Dr. G.S. Ghurye to explain the nature of caste in his book, “Caste and Class in India”. These natures are explained as follows:

1. **Hierarchical Division of society:** The Hindu society is hierarchical in its nature. There are the feelings of ‘highness’ and ‘lowness’ or ‘superiority’ and ‘inferiority’ among the members of the society. The Brahmins are the top of the hierarchy and are considered the ‘pure’ caste and the ‘sudras’ or ‘Dalit’ which are also known as ‘untouchables’ are kept to the lowest position of the hierarchy. In India, no question arises regarding the position of these two castes in the caste hierarchical system. It accepted by all Hindus that the Brahmins are superior and the ‘Dalit’ or the ‘untouchables’ are the inferior.
2. **Segmental Division of Society:** The Hindu society is segmented on the basis of caste. Besides four major castes there is more than 200 hundred sub-caste in Hindu society. They have their own customs, rituals, informal roles. To regulate their conduct they have their own Caste Panchayat. Each caste gets its position or status in society on the basis of their birth not on the basis of their accomplishment. Their position is unchangeable, unacquirable and inalienable.
3. **Restriction on Food:** Restriction on food is another important feature of caste in India. From who and which kinds of food can be taken by the castes are decided by their respective caste. The Brahmins can take ‘pakka’ foods, the fried food from the lower caste but the ‘kaccha’ foods, the foods which are prepared by water by the lower castes are restricted for them. They also cannot eat some vegetable like garlic, onion, cabbage beat root etc. Beef is fully restricted for them. On the other hand, there is no restriction for ‘Harijan’ to eat beef.
4. **Restriction on Social Relationship:** There are some social restrictions in caste system. The lower castes, untouchables have to keep distance themselves from the upper caste, The Brahmins. The Brahmins feel that the approaching or touching of lower caste will defile or pollute them. For instances, In Kerala for a long time the ‘Nayar’ could approach the ‘Nambudari’, the Brahmins. They had to keep them distance from the Brahmins. In Tamilnadu also the ‘Shanar’ was expected to keep distance at least 24 paces from the Brahmins. This created the untouchability practice in Hindu.
5. **Disabilities of some castes:** In traditional caste system the lower castes particularly the Harijan were not allowed to use the public places like well, restaurants, temples, educational institutions etc. They were deprived of certain civil, social and religious rights. They were compelled to live outside the city, in villages and slum areas. It is recorded that during the rule of ‘Peshwa’ in Maharashtra the lower castes like ‘Mahar’ and ‘Mangs’ were not allowed to pass through the gates of Poona during the morning and evening times. Because at that time the shadows become long and if they touch the Brahmins, would impure them
6. **Privileges for Certain Castes:** On the contrary to the lower castes some upper castes specially the Brahmins enjoyed some special privileges in socio-economic and political fields. The Brahmins were not suffered in anywhere. The Brahmins were saluted by everyone but they did not salute anyone in society. The public places like educational institutions, the restaurants, hotels, theatre halls, public vehicles were monopoly for the Brahmins. Without the Brahmins no religious functions could perform by the society. In simple words the upper castes enjoyed all social, political, legal and religious privileges.
7. **Restriction on Occupational Choice:** For a long period of time there was occupational restriction in caste system. The occupations were based gradation. Some occupations like learning, teaching, priesthood were considered superior and sacred and only the upper castes had the right to choice these occupations. Washing, shoe-making, oil-grinding, barbering, pottery etc. was considered the degrading works and only the lower caste had to perform these works. They did not have right to choice the occupation of the occupation of the upper castes. But agriculture, trade and laboring in the field were open for all castes.
8. **Restriction on Marriage:** The caste system also imposes restriction on marriage system. Caste is endogamous system. Each caste is sub-divided and it is the caste rule that the marriage should be done within the bride and groom belonging the same caste. There was only inter-caste marriage. The outer-caste marriage was considered as offence. Though the impacts of modernizations to some extent have changed the outlook yet the traditional caste marriage is continuing till now.

**Conclusion:** From the above mentioned features it can be said that though caste system is found all most in all societies yet it is unique for Indian Hindu society. In traditional Hindu society the people were classified on the basis of functions or there was functional specialization based on gradation. This classification was done for the smooth functioning of the state system. But gradually some restrictions were imposed on the down trodden caste and the system became tighter which created a lot of problems for Hindu society

1. **Question: Evolution or Growth and development of caste system in India.**

**Answer:**

**Changes (Evolution) in Caste system in India:**

Caste as an integral part of Hindu society and therefore, it is essential to know the origin, growth and development of the system. But it is not possible to trace precisely the same. For the purpose of study the evolution of caste system can be classified into three phases – Ancient to Medieval Age, The British Age and change after independence. These are mentioned as follows:

1. **Ancient to Medieval Age:** The caste system developed slowly over time based on the traditional beliefs of the Aryan nomads who began moving unto the subcontinent about 1000 BC. Each caste had clear defined role. Members of each caste were obliged to look after one another. These traditions were later took the shape as part of Hindu religion. The traditional caste system was also called the ‘Varna’. The castes or the Varnas were classified into four categories – The Brahmins, the Kashtriyas, the Vaishyas and the Sudras. Again these four castes were divided into several sub-castes. The Brahmins were the priests, teachers and advisers of the kings. They are the top of the hierarchical system. No religious functions could be performed without the Brahmins. They resided in cities and town areas and aristocracy was their living condition. The Kashtryas were the warrior caste. The main functions were to maintain law and order and to protect the territory from the foreign aggression. They also involve in decision making but their decisions were overruled by the Brahmins. The Vaishyas were the skilled farmers and merchants. They occasionally had leadership positions in local villages. The unskilled workers were called the Sudras. They involved in the farms of the upper castes. Gradually they became the untouchable caste in the society. Till the British Period no changes in caste system was seen. It was the British rule which brought lot of changes in caste system.
2. **The British Age:** After consolidating their rule in India the British introduced some rule and as a uniform Legal, judicial system and legislative emerged in political system which greatly changed the caste system in Hindu society. First of all, the new system affected the role of caste panchayats. The British enacted several laws relating to the caste and marriage. These laws shook the caste system of Hindu society. Among these laws, ‘The Caste Disabilities Removal Act of 1850’, ‘The Hindu Widow Marriage Act of 1856’ and ‘The special marriage Act of 1872’ were significant Here another thing is to be mentioned that it is the British rule which coined the lower as the scheduled caste. Along with the efforts of British, some Indian social reform movement also contributed a lot to change the caste system in India. To boast the movement several organizations were formed by Indian social reformers. ‘The Brahma Samaj’ was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the ‘Prarthanna Samaj’ by Justice Ranade, ‘The Arya Samaj’ by Swami Dayananda Saraswati, ‘Ram Krishna Mission’ by Vivekananda, ‘Satyashodak Samaj’ by Jytirao Phooly, and ‘The Theosophical Society’ by Annie Besant etc. These organizations tried to remove the superstition practiced in Hindu society. During that golden period the British also introduced the English education in India which carried with it the western scientific outlook. It had a great impact on the caste system in Indian society. The industrialization revolution and urbanization gave a severe blow to the integrity of the caste system. The necessities of city life decreased the practices of taboos and dominance of the Brahmins over the lower castes.
3. **Change after independence**: The political independence of the country had greatly changed the caste system in India in socio-economic and political field. These changes can be classified into two categories – Changes in the traditional features of caste and changes in the role for the functioning of the caste.
4. **Changes in the traditional features of caste:** If we explain the first category, it is observed that so many changes have emerged within the caste system. The religious basis of caste system have been relaxed, restriction in food habits have also been decreased, the heredity of occupation are not associated with the castes, to some extent the inter-caste marriage i.e. the endogamy system has lost its basis, the special privileges which Brahmins enjoyed in medieval and in British Period are no more now. The constitutions have removed all such provisions; caste as segmented provisions of Hindu society has lost it validity. The role caste panchayats to resolve the socio-economic and political problems has been declined or disappeared.
5. **Changes in the role for the functioning of the caste**: The constitutions have provided some rights to all citizens of India irrespective of their castes and religions. The people are more conscious now and therefore, every caste wants to safeguard its interest getting organized. The non Brahmins caste today is getting they more organized to challenge the supremacy of the Brahmins. In political field, castes are more politicized than earlier. Elections are fought on the basis of castes. In constitution there are some provisions to uplift socio-economic conditions of the backward classes. Mutual interdependence of caste system which existed for the centuries is reinforced by the institutional system of “jajmani”. The lower castes are following the upper caste in all aspects life. Tremendous change has occurred in the life style of the lower castes.
6. **Define caste. What are the factors responsible for the growth of caste system?**

**Answer: (For the first part of the answer see the question No 2)**

**Factors responsible for the Change in Caste System in India:** There are several factors which are responsible for the changes in the caste system. These factors are explained point wise as follows:

1. **Special provisions for Lower castes:** The concept “Equality before law”, “Equal protection of and “Equal opportunities to all” greatly struck the traditional caste system in India. The British introduced various kinds of laws to bring equality among the people of India. After independence the drafting committee under the leadership of Dr. Ambedkar tried best to give social justice to the law castes adopting some constitutional measures. The practice of untouchability was declared unlawful through articles of 15 and 16 of the constitution. Some special provisions system is also adopted to ensure to develop the socio-economic and political conditions of the lower caste. For instance, some constituencies are kept reserve for the Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe.
2. **Acceleration of Modern Education:** Though the modern education system cannot completely free people from the hold of caste system, yet it has given a great jolt to the system. The British introduced the western scientific education system in India. In traditional system the education system was the monopoly of Brahmins. But new education system was free for all castes. It has created awareness among the all castes especially in the lower castes regarding their rights and privileges.
3. **Industrialization, Urbanization and Westernization:** These three factors have given tremendous blow to the traditional caste system. Due to the industrialization several kinds of job were created. Needs of functional specialization founds its new impetus. The jobs were offered not on the basis of caste but on the basis of skill. The acceleration of urbanization compelled the upper caste to stay with lower castes. All men are busy in urban life and therefore, there is no time for the people to follow the norms and customs of caste barriers. In modern times, the people either literate or illiterate are the follower of western life. Therefore, the importance caste system has declined in Indian society.
4. **Modern Transport and Communication:** Modern transport and communication system greatly has changed the traditional caste system. The means of transport like bus, train, airplane, ship etc. are used commonly by all people in the society. It is not possible to found out the caste identity in busy life of the people. The modern means of communications also tremendously have influenced the caste system. The means communications like – Television, newspaper, periodical journal, magazine, telephone, telegraph, etc are means through which it has been essay for the people to communicate with each others. These changes in transport and communication system have also changes the outlook of the people towards the caste system.
5. **Impact of Freedom Struggle**: The freedom struggle was fought against the British rule by all caste. The leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar minimize the gap between the upper and lower caste. Gandhi popularized the word “Harijan”, meaning “The people of God”. He tried his best to root out the practice of untouchabilty from Hindu society. According to him, it is “a leper wound in the whole–body of Hindu politic”. To some extend these efforts of Indian freedom fighters changed the caste system in India.
6. **Establishment of Democratic System:** After interdependence, the democratic type of govt. was formed and this system a great blow to the caste system. The Fundamental Right included in Part III of constitution give justice to all section of society. The concepts like ‘All are equal before law” “Equal protection to all” and “Equal opportunities to all” are enshrined in Indian constitution which in turn changed the traditional caste system.
7. **New Legislations:** Different kinds of law were passed by British as well as after independent by Indian govt. to reform the Hindu society. “The Caste Disabilities Removal Act,” 1872 passed by the British govt. to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the lower castes. After independence “Hindu Marriage Act,” 1956, “The untouchability Offence Act” of 1956 was passed by Indian parliament to remove the bad effect of caste system in India.
8. **Impact of Social Reform Movement:** Social reform movement contributed a lot change the traditional caste system. Various kinds of organizations were formed by the Indian dignitaries to reform the rigidity of Hindi society. These were Satyashodhak Samaj, Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj Ram, Krishna Mission etc.
9. **Emergence of New Class System:** The emergence of Industrialization, modernization and urbanization has created new classes in society. These new classes are the upper class, middle class and the lower class. The status of individuals is determined by economy and skill not by caste. Due to emergence of new classes great mobilizations are seen in the traditional caste system.
10. **Threat of Conversion of Lower Castes:** This is another blow to the traditional caste system. In India, due to oppressive role of upper castes towards the lower caste, a great number of lower caste people changed their religion and converted to Islam and Christianity. This tendency still going on. Therefore, it is observed that some time the lower castes give threatening of conversion toward the upper caste. This threatening compels the upper caste to minimize the caste rigidity imposed by them on lower castes. Resultantly, many changes have taken place in caste system in India

.**Conclusion:** In conclusion it can be said that the traditional caste system has lost it rigidity in socio-economic and political field. There sever factors which contributed to change caste system in India. Among them the adoption of democratic ideal are more important. It is tried to eradicate the evils of caste system through constitutional measures. Untouchability is prohibited and is declared as an offence in India. But, it is better to mention here that though caste system is banned as social evil yet it has been playing a significant role in Indian political system. Politically it took place a new dimension in Indian politics.

1. **Question: Define caste system. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of caste system.**

**Answer: (For the first part of the answer see the question No 2)**

**Advantages of Caste system:**

There are some advantages and disadvantages of caste system and these are mentioned as follows;

**Advantage:**

1. Caste is based on the specialization of function. The person having special skill and knowledge in particular field of work is bestowed the function. It increases the harmony in the society.
2. It creates feelings of unity among members of the same caste which promote the spirit of cooperation among them.
3. Caste organization gives strength to a particular caste. The members can easily fight for legal justice in organize way. Therefore it works as a source of stability.
4. Caste prohibits the inter-caste marriage and thereby it is possible to preserve the racial identity.
5. To preserve the ‘caste culture’, the caste system is very effective measure.

 **Disadvantages of Caste system:**

1. Caste system has divided the Hindu society into different groups. It is observed that this grouping is creating hostile and conflicting situation in the Hindu society.
2. It has become an obstacle in the way of unity among the people. It caste-patriotism also dangerous for the unity and integrity of the nation.
3. Caste system and democracy is totally antagonistic to each other. Democracy supports the equality and caste system creates inequality in the society. Therefore, it becomes a barrier in the way of success of democracy.
4. Caste system is an ancient and traditional practice. So people easily do not like to discard this traditional institution. Resultantly, it makes the society static not dynamic.
5. In caste-ridden society the women are kept subordinate, they are not allowed to go with ahead with equal pace with the male people.
6. **Question: What do you mean by class? Discuss the evolution of class system.**

**Introduction:** If the caste system is the unique feature of Hindu society in India, the class system is universal, found in every society of the world. Some time the word ‘class’ is used to denote a group of people having same profession – the doctors, engineers, advocates, teachers, artists, students etc. In material life the class is also used to denote the quality of goods as good, better and best. But class in social context is used to explain the social stratification of the people. Economy is the main criteria to determine the classes or class statuses in the society.

**Meaning of Caste:**

Social class is a segment of society with all the members of all the ages and the sexes who share the same general status. MacIver said that social intercourses are limited by the consideration of social status by distinction between higher and lower, there exist a social class.

A social class is a group of people of similar status, commonly sharing comparable levels of power and wealth. In sociology, social classes describe one form of social stratification. When a society is organized by social classes, as opposed to by castes, it is theoretically possible for people to attain a higher status than the status with which they started. This movement is possible because social classes are not based on birth but on factors such as education and professional success. For example, someone born into a low-income family can achieve a higher status through education, talent, and work, or perhaps through social connections. A society organized according to social classes, then, allows for some social mobility.

 **Definitions:**

1. *“A social* is *the aggregate of persons having essentially the same social status in a given society”. --------* Ogburn and Nimkoff.
2. *“A social class is any portion of the community marked off from the rest social status”.*

 *------* MacIver and Page

1. *“Social classes are aggregates of individuals who have the same opportunities of acquiring goods, the exhibited standard of living”. -----* Max Weber

**Development (Evolution) of class:**

 In primitive society there was no class in the society. In that period the people did not find any time and opportunity to establish their superiority over their neighbor in the society. They were so much busy in the struggle with the opponents and due to that classes were not created in the society. Another reason for not the emerging of classes is that there was no any private property. The natural resources were used commonly. Therefore, no class distinctions were seen in primitive society. There was no difference of rich and poor. But as society was progressing, new types social structure also evolved. The different stages of societies which contributed to the growth of class system among the individuals are explained as follows.

1. **Slavery Society:** The slavery is the first stage of emergence of class system. First of all the savage tribes strengthened its military power and the conquered enemies eaten, tortured or some time killed. But after a while the some softening attitude grew among them and instead of eating or killing, the captive particularly the children and women were spared and enslaved and gradually this attitude was also extended to the male. Resultantly two classes came into existence – one master and another is slave. Thus class social stratification in society was created by the people.
2. **Feudal Society**: The trend of modern class system was started during the feudal system in middle age. In that society the owners of the land were the feudal who were also called the land lord, were in the top position of social hierarchical system and the tenets, were also known as the serf were kept to the bottom the hierarchy. The other classes like the servant, soldiers, fighters, or the artisans occupied the middle position of the hierarchical system and thus various types of classes emerged in feudal social system.
3. **Bourgeoisie Society:** With the beginning of industrial revolution the class system of medieval period has completely changed. According to Marx, in industrial society, there are two types of class – the capitalist or bourgeoisie and proletariat. The capitalists using their huge amount capture political power and thus occupy the highest position of social strata. On the other hand the proletariats are divorced from management as well as from the profit. They only sell their labor in cheap rates and get nothing except exploitation from the capitalist. Their socio-economic condition is become miserable and thus they as a class occupy the lowest position of social strata.
4. **Rise of Middle class:** The division on of society into capitalist and the labor is not final division of society. There is another new class has emerged which has completely changed the structure of class system and this class is the middle class. The traditional middle class is different from the modern middle class. The main profession of traditional middle class was the trade and was mostly homogenous in nature. On the other hand, along with trader the members of the modern middle class are mostly serviceman – the teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, architects etc. and this class do not come from one group but from different sections of society and therefore it is heterogeneous in nature. The middle class by its nature occupy the middle position of capitalist and labor class in social strata. The middle class has been divided into three sub-classes in terms of their income and living standard. These sub-classes are upper middle class, middle middle class and lower middle class.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion it can be said that the class system does not suddenly came into existence. It has emerged gradually as the time passes. There are so many phases of growth and development classes in society and economy is the main criteria which determine position of classes in social strata.

1. **Question: Define class system. Explain the features of social class.**

**Answer:**

**Nature (features) of Social Class:** There are certain characteristics of class system. These characteriscts are explained as follows.

Class is a status group: Class is totally is a status group. In society there are different kinds of performed by different individuals. On the basis of their functions they obtain different kinds of statuses. The people may be residents of different society but the same statuses of the people do not bear any obstacle to assimilate them with the people of other society. The idea of social status separates the people not only physically but also mentally.

1. **Class status achieved:** Unlike caste system the class status is achieved. It is not ascribed like the caste system. The birth criteria are not considered to determine class status. The achievement of an individual mostly decides his status. Therefore, there is mobilization of status in class system. Due to his achievement a member of a low class can achieve the status of higher class.
2. **It is universal:** In ancient society there was no any class. But as society has been progressing, new classes also have been also emerging with its new strata. It is the impact of modernization and new economic system which have created new classes in every society. Therefore, the class is not confining within a particular society like caste system, it is found in everywhere and in every society. It is a universal phenomenon.
3. **Class consciousness:** This is another important feature of class. Class is associated with class consciousness. It is one kind of sentiment which exists in the mind of members of same class. The class consciousness creates unity among the members. Due to the class consciousness some similarities are seen in the attitude, behavior and life style among the members of the same class.
4. **Mode of feeling:** Feeling of equality, feeling of inferiority and feeling of superiority are three kinds of class feeling which exist in class system. Feeling of equality exist in the mind of members of same class, feeling of inferiority is seen if it is compared with the socio-economic status of higher class than its own and feeling of superiority is seen if comparison is made with the lower class having low status in the class hierarchical system. This class feeling brings class consciousness class solidarity among the different classes.
5. **It is a stable group:** The social class is stable in its nature. The status of class can only change if tremendous changes occur in socio-economic and political life in society. It happens only when there is war, revolution within the state, social movement, economic crises and drastic political changes. In Russia and China the feudal class was replaced by proletariat class only by revolutionary means. After independent in India the ‘Jamindary’ system was system abolished through drastic constitutional measures.
6. **Life style:** The social classes can be distinguished from each other by the life which the members of the class follow in society. The attitude, behavour, customs are not similar of all castes. The life style of include the dress, houses, recreations, culture, mode of communication etc. It becomes easy to expose that what is the position of a particular class in class hierarchy.
7. **Class is an open group:** This one of the most important features of social class. Unlike caste system there is no any restriction of social mobility in class system. It is an ‘open group’. The avenue is open to upward as well as also downward. The members of lower class can move to higher position in class hierarchy due to achievement or someone can come down to the lower position of the hierarchy.
8. **Mainly based on economy:** According to Karl Marx, economy is the sole determinant on which classes are formed in society. He classified the society into two classes as bourgeoisie or capitalist and proletariat or labor on basis of economy. But it is not true that the economy is the mere factor which determines the class status. There are other factors also which determine the class status and these are – class consciousness, class solidarity, class identification, wealth, education, occupation etc. Thus it can be said that classes is not formed merely on the basis of economy, there are something more than these.
9. **Different kinds of classes:** According to sociologist there are three kinds of class in society i.e. Upper Class, Middle Class and Lower Class. Warner and Lunt in their book ‘Social Life of a Modern Community’ classified the traditional class as *– The Upper-Upper Class, The Lower- Upper Class, The Upper-Middle Class, The Upper-Middle Class, The Middle-Middle Class, The Upper-Lower Class, The Middle-Lower Class and Lower-Lower Class.* Karl Marx Classified the social classes as *‘haves’* and ‘*have nots’* or as rich or poor or as bourgeoisie and proletariat. Another sociologist, Sorokin classified the social class as – economic, political and occupational.

**Conclusion:** From the above explanation we can come to the conclusion that unlike caste system the class system is universal social phenomena found in each and every society. In class system the people are classified on the basis of various determinants and among these the economy as a determinant plays a significant role.