PUNJAB PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION (CCE) SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY

Total Marks: 100

	Topics
1	**Introduction to Sociology and Core Sociological Concepts:** • Meaning, nature, scope and historical development of Sociology as a discipline. • Sociology and common sense; sociology in relation to anthropology, psychology, economics, political science, and other social sciences. • Social groups, society, community, association, social institutions, social structure, social systems and social organization. • Status and role: ascribed status, achieved status, master status, role conflict and role strain. • Forms and processes of social interaction: cooperation, competition, conflict, accommodation and assimilation. • Social control, conformity and deviance as basic processes of social order.
2	**Culture, Socialization and the Development of Self:** • Culture: material and non-material culture, ideal and real culture, norms, values, beliefs, symbols, language, folkways, mores, customs and laws. • Subculture, counterculture, ethnocentrism, xenocentrism, cultural relativism, cultural diffusion, acculturation and assimilation. • Primary and secondary socialization; resocialization and total institutions. • Agencies of socialization: family, school, peer groups, religion, media, workplace and digital platforms. • Charles Horton Cooley: looking-glass self. • George Herbert Mead: I and Me, significant others, generalized other, role-taking, play stage and game stage. • William F. Ogburn: cultural lag and the uneven pace of technological and normative change.
3	**Sociological Perspectives:** • Structural functionalism: social order, integration, manifest and latent functions; Talcott Parsons and Robert K. Merton. • Conflict and neo-Marxist perspectives on power, inequality and institutions. • Symbolic interactionism: meaning, interaction, self and identity; Mead, Blumer and Goffman. • Feminist sociology: liberal, radical, Marxist/socialist, intersectional and postmodern approaches. • Exchange theory, phenomenology and ethnomethodology. • Modernism and postmodernism; selected ideas of Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bourdieu, Michel Foucault, and Jurgen Habermas.
4	**Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory:** • Ibn Khaldun; Asabiyyah (social solidarity), social change, rise and decline of civilizations, Nomadic and sedentary societies, political authority, economy, education, and historical method. • Al-Farabi; ideal society, political organization, social cooperation, leadership, morality, and social order.

	Topics
	• Al-Ghazali; morality, social behavior, family, education, social responsibility, ethics, economic conduct, and community life. • Ibn Rushd; reason, law, politics, social organization, justice, and the relationship between religion and rational inquiry. • Auguste Comte: positivism, social statics, social dynamics and the Law of Three Stages. • Herbert Spencer: social evolution, organic analogy and militaristic/industrial societies. • Karl Marx: historical materialism, mode of production, class struggle, surplus value, exploitation and alienation. • Emile Durkheim: social facts, division of labour, mechanical and organic solidarity, anomie, suicide and religion. • Max Weber: social action, verstehen, ideal types, rationalization, bureaucracy, authority and class-status-party. • Georg Simmel: Formal sociology and forms of social interaction, sociation (Vergesellschaftung), dyad and triad, the stranger, Conflict as a Form of Social Interaction, Exchange, The Philosophy of Money, Objective Culture and Subjective Culture. • Phenomenology; critical theory; Pierre Bourdieu; Anthony Giddens; Michel Foucault; Zygmunt Bauman; intersectionality; postcolonial and decolonial thoughts.
5	**Social Research in the Digital Age:** • Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods • Digital ethnography • Online surveys • Big data • Computational social science • Social-network analysis • Research using social media • AI-assisted research • Ethics • Data privacy; and • Research integrity
6	**Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, and Society:** • Sociology of AI • Algorithmic decision-making • Automation • Generative AI • AI and employment • Algorithmic bias • AI and education • Surveillance • Predictive policing • Digital inequality • Human-machine interaction • Ethics of AI

	Topics
7	**Digital Sociology and Platform Society:** • Social media • Digital identities • Online communities • Influencers • Platform capitalism • Dating apps • Digital intimacy • Cyberculture • Misinformation • Echo chambers • Digital surveillance • Digital divide • Smartphone society
8	**Social Stratification and New Inequalities:** • Class, status and power • Wealth inequality • Global inequality • Precarity • Social mobility • Elite reproduction • Caste, ethnicity and gender inequality • Digital inequality
9	**Population, Migration and Displacement:** • Demographic transition • Ageing • Youth bulge • Fertility, fecundity, and mortality • Borders, Migration and irregular migration • Refugees • Forced displacement • Climate migration • Diasporas • Transnationalism
10	**Sociology of Health, Mental Health and Well-being:** • Social determinants of health • Medicalization • Health inequalities • Mental-health crisis • Loneliness • Work and mental health • Digital mental health • Social impact of pandemics

	Topics

11 Crime, Deviance and Social Control:

- Classical explanations of deviance
- Surveillance society
- Cybercrime and online harms
- Hate crime
- Gender-based violence
- Organized crime
- Extremism, violence, and terrorism
- Predictive policing, AI and policing
- Criminalization and social exclusion

12 Political sociology, social movements, and populism:

- State and civil society
- Power and authority
- Democracy
- Populism
- Polarization
- Nationalism
- Authoritarianism
- Political participation
- Digital politics
- Misinformation
- Social movements
- Resource mobilization
- Political opportunity
- New social movements
- Digital activism
- Hashtag movements

13 Globalization, Glocalization and Global South Sociology:

- Global capitalism
- World systems
- Dependency
- Glocalization
- Transnational culture
- Global inequalities
- Development
- Postcolonial sociology
- Indigenous knowledge

14 Climate Change and Environmental Sociology:

- Climate change as a social problem
- Environmental justice
- Climate inequality
- Disasters
- Climate migration

	Topics
	• Ecological modernization • Risk society • Food and water insecurity • Climate resilience
15	**Contemporary Social Problems of Pakistan:** • Poverty • Food insecurity • Unemployment • Extremism, violence, and terrorism • Child abuse and child labour • Gender-based violence • Drug use and trafficking • Polarization • Housing and urbanization • Misinformation • Environmental degradation

Suggested readings:

1. Adams, B. N., & Sydie, R. A. (2002). *Classical Sociological Theory*. Pine Forge Press.
2. Al-Dihlawi, S. W. A. (2005). *The Conclusive Argument from God: Shah Wali Allah of Delhi's Hujjat Allah al-Baligha* (M. K. Hermansen, Trans.). Brill.
3. Al-Ghazali. (2016). *The Principles of the Creed* (K. Williams, Trans.).
4. Al-Ghazali. (2017). *The Mysteries of Purification* (M. F. Aresmouk & M. A. Fitzgerald, Trans.).
5. Alatas, S. F. (2013). *Ibn Khaldun*. Oxford University Press.
6. Alfarabi. (2015). *The Political Writings: Selected Aphorisms and Other Texts* (C. E. Butterworth, Trans.). Cornell University Press.
7. Alfarabi. (2016). *The Political Writings: Political Regime and Summary of Plato's Laws* (C. E. Butterworth, Trans.). Cornell University Press.
8. Appelrouth, S., & Edles, L. D. (2021). *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
9. Averroes. (2001). *Faith and Reason in Islam: Averroes' Exposition of Religious Arguments* (I. Y. Najjar, Trans.). Oneworld Publications.
10. Averroes. (2009). *The Book of the Decisive Treatise Determining the Connection Between the Law and Wisdom* (C. E. Butterworth, Trans.). Brigham Young University Press.
11. Benhabib, S., & Shachar, A. (Eds.). (2025). *Lawless Zones, Rightless Subjects: Migration, Asylum, and Shifting Borders*.

12. Bernard, H. R., & Wutich, A. (2026). *Social Research Methods* (3rd ed.).

13. Born, A. M. (2026). *Social Ladders: Urban Inequality and the Ideal of Social Mobility*.

14. Brechin, S. R., & Lee (Eds.). (2025). *Routledge Handbook of Climate Change and Society* (2nd ed.).

15. Brzeziński et al. (Eds.). (2025). *Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence and Beyond: Theorising Society and Culture of the 21st Century*.

16. Collins, R. (1994). *Four Sociological Traditions*. Oxford University Press.

17. Craib, I. (1992). *Modern Social Theory: From Parsons to Habermas* (2nd ed.). Harvester Wheatsheaf.

18. Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2024). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.

19. Davidson, A. *Social Determinants of Health* (2nd ed.).

20. Dillon, M. (2020). *Introduction to Sociological Theory: Theorists, Concepts, and Their Applicability to the Twenty-First Century* (3rd ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.

21. Edles, L. D., & Appelrouth, S. (2015). *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings* (3rd ed.). SAGE Publications.

22. Elliott, A. (2009). *Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction*. Routledge.

23. Farley, Flota, & Carter. (2024). *Sociology* (8th ed.).

24. Fisher, M. (2024). *How to Create Societies for Human Wellbeing*.

25. Giddens, A. (1984). *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration*. University of California Press.

26. Grønmo, S. (2026). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches* (2nd ed.).

27. Harrington, A. (Ed.). (2005). *Modern Social Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford University Press.

28. Ibn Khaldun. (2026). *The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History* (F. Rosenthal, Trans.; unabridged ed., Vol. 1). Princeton University Press.

29. *Intersectional Challenges to Cohesion? On Marginalization in an Inclusive Society*. (2024).

30. Joas, H., & Knöbl, W. (2009). *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures*. Cambridge University Press.

31. Kalberg, S. (2017). *Max Weber's Comparative-Historical Sociology Today: Major Themes, Mode of Causal Analysis, and Applications*. Routledge.

32. Karner et al. (2023). *Sociology in Times of Glocalization*.

33. Mackert, J. (2024). *On Social Closure: Theorising Exclusion, Exploitation, and Elimination*.

34. Méndez, M. L., Savage, M., & Lareau, A. (Eds.). (2026). *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Global Elites*.

35. Mistri, Reja, & Das (Eds.). (2025). *Migration Studies: The Fundamentals*.

36. Ore, T. E. *The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality* (8th ed.).

37. *The Oxford Handbook of Sociology for Social Justice*. (2024). Routledge.

38. *The Oxford Handbook of Social Stratification*. (2026).

39. Power, S. A. (2026). *Inequality: The View from Manywheres*.

40. Ritzer, G., & Stepnisky, J. (2022). *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots: The Basics* (6th ed.). SAGE Publications.

41. Ritzer, G., & Stepnisky, J. (2024). *Sociological Theory* (11th ed.). SAGE Publications.

42. Seidman, S. (2016). *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today* (6th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.

43. Staggenborg, S., & Ramos. *Social Movements* (4th ed.).

44. Tripathi, & Rosak-Szyrocka (Eds.). (2025). *Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Society*.

45. Väänänen, A. (2024). *The Rise of Mental Vulnerability at Work*.

46. Vanhala, L., & Calliari (Eds.). (2025). *Governing Climate Change Loss and Damage*.

Note: **The above list is only suggestive and not exhaustive. Candidates may consult other standard books and relevant material covering the prescribed syllabus.**

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