

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Ph. D. Entrance Examination
Sociology

I Write a brief outline of a research proposal on the theme that you wish to take up for your PhD work, sharply stating the research question, major objectives and methods. Please ensure that your familiarity with the existing scholarship on the question is reflected in the proposal. (24 marks; not more than five pages).

II Answer any two of the following. Some of these questions are related to contemporary events or phenomena. But that is not an invitation to write commonsensical answers. We are interested in seeing the sociological modes through which you will approach the contemporary world. Please do not write simple opinion pieces. Your argument must be coherent, logical and substantiated. (20+20=40 marks; not more than three pages)

1. 'Science has been utopian and visionary from the start; that is one reason "we" need it.', asserts Donna Haraway. Write a critical essay on the feminist interrogation of 'scientific objectivity'.
2. "'Science' was the basis of claims to legitimacy made by many people in late colonial India. Not every claim to 'science' as a legitimator was regarded as 'science' by contemporary practitioners of science. This obviously means that the historian must make a distinction between a professional practice of science and the claims made, for instance, by the Arya Samaj to a 'Vedic' science, and carefully avoiding conflating the two.", thus argues a historian of science and development. In the backdrop of current controversies about past, science and nationalism, how does a sociologist respond to claims over science?
3. What is Tribe-Caste Continuum? Discuss the position of key scholars and the contemporary relevance of the idea.
4. Write an essay describing and explaining Erving Goffman's concept of "total institutions", and its relevance for contemporary society, especially in the context of the emergence of 'surveillance society'.

5. According to Andre Beteille "*Increased opportunities for individual mobility have weakened the identities of class but have done little to affect the identities of caste*". Explain whether you agree or disagree with this statement. What are the political consequences of increased opportunities for individual mobility vis a vis class or caste?
6. *Is the soul sexed?* How does corporeal and psychic interpretation in the sociological discourse of gender and sexuality analyse the subjection, resistance and reinterpretation of bodily and bodily-being?

III Write Short Notes on any three of the following (12+12+12=36 marks; 2 pages each)

1. Debates in anthropology on contemporary nature of adivasi relationship with state in central India.
2. New social movements
3. Bourdieu's notion of 'social field'
4. Reference Group
5. Hypergamy and Hypogamy
6. Nation-State and Nationalism
7. Reflexivity in qualitative research