Indira Gandhi National Open University
Elective Course in Sociology
ESO-11: The Study of Society
Tutor Marked Assignment
(TMA)

Maximum Marks: 100 **Programme Code: BDP**
Weightage 30% **Course Code: ESO-11**
Assignment Code: ESO-11/AST/TMA/2026-27

Answer all the questions

Section-1

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1. Examine the major concerns of sociology. 20

2. Describe the salient features of social organization in simple societies. 20

Section-2

Answer the following in about 250 words each.

3. What is social group? Discuss its types. 12

4. Explain the significance of kinship. 12

5. Discuss the main features of post-industrial society. 12

6. Is there discrimination in education? Discuss. 12

Section-3

Answer the following in about 100 words each.

7. What is a stateless society? 06

8. Differentiate between manifest and latent functions. 06

1. Examine the major concerns of sociology. 20

Answer

Sociology is the systematic study of human society, social relationships, institutions and patterns of social life. It asks how people live together, how their actions are shaped by society and how they, in turn, change society. Auguste Comte gave the discipline its name, while thinkers such as Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber helped develop its central questions. Sociology studies everyday experiences as well as large processes such as industrialisation, urbanisation and globalisation. Its distinctive concern is to understand the connections between individual lives and wider social arrangements.

Social relationships and social interaction

An important concern of sociology is the way people interact and form relationships. Cooperation, competition, conflict, accommodation and exchange are part of daily life. These processes can be seen in families, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and online communities. Sociologists examine not only what people do but also the meanings they attach to their actions. For example, greetings and forms of address differ across communities because they express learned ideas of respect, age and status.

Social groups, institutions and organisation

Human beings live in social groups rather than in complete isolation. Sociology studies primary groups such as families and friendship circles, and secondary groups such as professional associations. It also examines major institutions: family, marriage, kinship, education, economy, religion and the political system. Institutions organise social activities through accepted rules, roles and expectations. A family provides care and socialisation, while schools transmit knowledge and credentials. However, institutions can also reproduce inequality. Sociology therefore asks how institutions work, how they are connected and whose interests they serve.