

SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL by Bibhash Sharma for MAINS 2026

Sociology Optional Learning & Validation Exercise (SOLVE)

- ◆ **Total Tests:** 36
- ◆ **Frequency:** 2–3 tests per week
- ◆ **Question Count:** 7–10 questions per test
- ◆ **Evaluation:** All questions evaluated
- ◆ **Detailed discussion** with model answers
- ◆ **Mentorship:** One-to-one guidance
- ◆ **Ideal for Students Who:**
 - Wish to strengthen their conceptual foundation
 - Seek discipline through a structured preparation plan
 - Are keen to discuss topics in-depth with a mentor i.e. Bibhash Sharma

STARTS

09

Nov.
2025

Sociology Practice & Revision Intensive Test Series (SPRINTS)

- ◆ **Total Tests:** 10
- ◆ **Sectional Tests:** 6 (3 each for Paper I & II)
- ◆ **Full-Length Tests:** 4
- ◆ **Evaluation:** All questions evaluated
- ◆ **In-depth discussion** with model answers
- ◆ **Mentorship:** One-to-one guidance
- ◆ **Ideal for Students Who:**
 - Have completed the full Sociology syllabus at least once
 - Are yet to score 280+ marks across Paper I & II

STARTS

09

Nov.
2025

Students seeking comprehensive, structured preparation can enroll in both **SPRINT** and **SOLVE** for gradual, in-depth progress.



Sociology Optional by EliteIAS for Mains 2026

EliteIAS Sociology Optional Learning & Validation Exercise (SOLVE)

36 Answer Writing Tests

Starts – **3rd November, 2025** (calendar in Annexure II)

About Sociology Optional Learning & Validation Exercise (SOLVE)

Sociology Optional Learning & Validation Exercise (SOLVE) is an answer-writing program designed for UPSC Optional subjects. The program **includes 2–3 tests per week**, with 7 questions in each test, ensuring comprehensive evaluation for every answer.

The SOLVE program is structured to address three key challenges faced by students:

- To help students maintain a regular and disciplined schedule for Optional preparation for UPSC Mains 2026.
- To provide an incremental, day-by-day study plan that ensures steady progress and concept reinforcement.
- To cover important and recurring Previous Year Questions (PYQs), keeping in mind UPSC's trend of repeating themes in Optional papers.

Mentorship: You will be assigned a dedicated mentor - Bibhash Sharma - with whom you can stay connected throughout the program to discuss feedback, clarify doubts, and seek guidance related to your Optional subject. Mentorship sessions will be conducted online via Zoom or Google Meet, ensuring seamless access and personalized attention.

You can discuss your test papers directly with the mentor to gain insights on answer presentation, content enrichment, and overall improvement.

Each candidate will receive tailor-made strategic guidance, focused on their individual strengths and areas for growth.

The EliteIAS SOLVE and SPRINTS programs can be combined for a comprehensive, focused, and result-oriented preparation for UPSC Mains Optional 2026.

EliteIAS Sociology Practice & Revision Intensive Test Series (SPRINTS)

6 Sectional Tests (3 each on Paper 1 and 2) +
4 Full Length Tests

Starts – **9th November, 2025** (calendar in Annexure I)

About Sociology Practice & Revision Intensive Test Series (SPRINTS)

The Test Series Program covers the entire Sociology syllabus through **6 sectional tests** and **4 full-length syllabus tests**. Each test is followed by comprehensive evaluation, a detailed solution document, and in-depth test discussions to strengthen conceptual understanding.

The SPRINTS program aims to ensure:

- Students will practice writing answers that mirror the pattern and difficulty level of the actual UPSC examination.
- Each test will be thoroughly evaluated, with personalized feedback provided on every answer.
- Students will receive detailed solutions and participate in comprehensive test discussions to enhance the quality and depth of their answers.

Course	Fees (for both Online & Offline)
Sociology SPRINTS	Rs. 13,980/- (inclusive of all taxes)
Sociology SOLVE	Rs. 13,980/- (inclusive of all taxes)
Sociology SPRINTS + SOLVE	Rs. 24,220/- (inclusive of all taxes)



Fee Payment & Enrollment

Students can enroll in the program by paying the fees through the below means.

- By visiting the website: <https://www.eliteias.in> and making payment through Net Banking / Debit / Credit Card / UPI etc.
- By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in HDFC bank Accounts. For this Option, please email us at info@eliteias.in

For any query you can call us at +91 8810446682 or write to us at info@eliteias.in

Terms & Condition

- Students enrolled in any course of EliteIAS must get a physical ID card for availing services in the offline mode. A nominal fee of Rs. 50 will be payable for the same.
- Your test copies will be evaluated within 10 working days of copy submission.
- Copies must be submitted within three weeks of the test release for timely evaluation. We recommend that you stick to the timetable and write tests on designated days. The commitment of 10 working days evaluation is valid only for copies submitted in this time period.
- All fees once paid are non-refundable in nature. The course is also non-transferable in nature to another person.
- The course will be valid till **30 September, 2026**.
- Each program of EliteIAS is linked to EliteIAS Account with a fixed mobile number. No sharing of any programs is allowed. If candidates are found sharing programs, EliteIAS shall be free to terminate that or all program access to the candidate without any refund to the candidate. The company may initiate legal proceedings against candidates found sharing and selling such content.
- EliteIAS shall have full rights to close admissions as per its capacity. EliteIAS shall be free to amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- **Force Majeure:** Elite Academy for Education & Training Pvt Ltd ("EAET") will deliver this program on best effort and good faith basis. By subscribing to the program, you understand that in the case of a force majeure event, such as natural disaster, calamity, outbreak of a pandemic, accident, bodily harm, sickness to any persons directly involved in delivery of the program EAET reserves right to modify, change or discontinue the program and shall not be liable for any financial obligations arising out of it. All disputes will be subject to jurisdiction of Delhi High Court.



Annexure – I (SPRINTS Calendar)

S. No.	DAY & DATE Test Code	TOPICS
PAPER 1		
1	09 November, 2025 Sunday (302301)	SECTIONAL TEST 1 - Units 1-3 (Sociology- The Discipline, Sociology as Science and Research Methods and Analysis)
2	16 November, 2025 Sunday (302302)	SECTIONAL TEST 2 - Units 4 & 5 (Sociological Thinkers , Stratification & Mobility)
3	23 November, 2025 Sunday Sunday (302303)	SECTIONAL TEST 3 - Units 6 to 10 (Work, Politics, Religion, Kinship, and Social Change)
4	30 November, 2025 Sunday (932204)	FULL LENGTH TEST 1 (PAPER 1)
PAPER 2		
5	7 December, 2025 Sunday (302305)	SECTIONAL TEST 4 - Part A (full) + Part B (Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:, Caste System and Tribal Communities in India)
6	14 December, 2025 Sunday (302306)	SECTIONAL TEST 5 - Part B (Social Classes in India, System of kinship in India, Religion and Society) + Part C (Visions of Social Change, Rural and Agrarian transformation , Industrialisation and Urbanisation)
7	21 December, 2025 Sunday (302307)	SECTIONAL TEST 6 (UNIT 7-9) - Part C: Politics and Society , Social Movements, Population Dynamics, and Challenges of Social Transformation
8	28 December, 2025 Sunday (302308)	FULL LENGTH TEST 2 (PAPER 2)
9	Post Prelims	FULL LENGTH TEST 1 (PAPER 1)
10	Post Prelims	FULL LENGTH TEST 2 (PAPER 2)



Annexure – II (SOLVE Calendar)

SPRINTS tests are denoted in coloured columns for students' opting for SPRINTS + SOLVE

S. No.	DATE DAY	TEST TYPE Code	TOPICS
PAPER - I			
1	03 November, 2025 Monday	SOLVE (372501)	Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe, emergence of Sociology, Sociology and common sense.
2	05 November, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372502)	Sociology - The Discipline: Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences. Sociology as Science: Science, scientific method, and critique.
3	07 November, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372503)	Positivism and its critique. Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
4	10 November, 2025 Monday	SOLVE (372504)	Non-positivist methodologies. Fact, value, and objectivity.
5	12 November, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372505)	Research Methods: Qualitative and quantitative methods, Techniques of data collection, Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability, and validity.
6	14 November, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372506)	Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
	17 November, 2025 Monday	SECTIONAL TEST 1 (302301)	Units 1-3 (Sociology- The Discipline, Sociology as Science and Research Methods and Analysis)
7	19 November, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372507)	Sociological Thinkers: Emile Durkheim - Division of labor, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
8	20 November, 2025 Thursday	SOLVE (372508)	Sociological Thinkers: Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
9	23 November, 2025 Sunday	SOLVE (372509)	Sociological Thinkers: Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables.
10	25 November, 2025 Tuesday	SOLVE (372510)	Sociological Thinkers: Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups. Mead - Self and identity.
11	27 November, 2025 Thursday	SOLVE (372511)	Stratification and Mobility: Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty, deprivation. Social mobility - open and closed systems, types, sources, causes.
12	28 November, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372512)	Stratification and Mobility: Theories of social stratification (structural functionalism, Marxism, Weberian theory). Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity, and race.
	29 November, 2025 Saturday	SECTIONAL TEST 2 (302302)	Units 4 & 5 (Sociological Thinkers , Stratification & Mobility)
13	01 December, 2025 Monday	SOLVE (372513)	Work and Economic Life: Social organization of work - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society, Formal and informal organization of work. Labour and society.
14	03 December, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372514)	Politics and Society: Theories of power, Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, political parties.
15	05 December, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372515)	Politics and Society: Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology. Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.
16	08 December, 2025 Monday	SOLVE (372516)	Religion and Society: Sociological theories of religion, animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults, secularization, fundamentalism, religion and science, secularisation, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.
17	10 December, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372517)	Systems of Kinship: Family, household, marriage, types and forms of family, patriarchy, sexual division of labor. Lineage and descent, Contemporary trends.

18	12 December, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372518)	Social Change in Modern Society: Sociological theories of social change, Development and dependency, Agents of social change, education and social change. Science, technology, and social change.
	14 December, 2025 Sunday	SECTIONAL TEST 3 (302303)	Units 6 to 10 (Work, Politics, Religion, Kinship, and Social Change)
	16 December, 2025 Tuesday	SECTIONAL TEST 6 (302304)	FULL LENGTH TEST PAPER 1
PAPER - II			
19	18 December, 2025 Thursday	SOLVE (372519)	Perspectives on Indian Society: Indology (G.S. Ghure), Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas), Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).
20	19 December, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372520)	Perspectives on Indian Society: Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai), D.P. Mukherji, R.K.Mukherji, Subaltern perspective
21	20 December, 2025 Saturday	SOLVE (372521)	Impact of Colonial Rule: Social background of Indian nationalism, modernization of Indian tradition, Protests, movements during the colonial period, social reforms.
22	22 December, 2025 Monday	SOLVE (372522)	Rural and Agrarian Social Structure: Indian village and village studies, agrarian social structure, land tenure system, land reforms.
23	24 December, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372523)	Caste System: Perspectives on the caste system (Ghurye, Srinivas, Dumont, Beteille), Features of caste, untouchability.
24	26 December, 2025 Friday	SOLVE (372524)	Tribal Communities: Definitional problems, geographical spread, colonial policies, integration, and autonomy.
	29 December, 2025 Monday	SECTIONAL TEST 4 (302305)	Part A (full) + Part B (Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:, Caste System and Tribal Communities in India)
25	30 December, 2025 Tuesday	SOLVE (372525)	Social Classes in India: Agrarian class structure, Industrial class structure, Middle classes.
26	31 December, 2025 Wednesday	SOLVE (372526)	Kinship in India: Lineage and descent, types of kinship systems, family, and marriage, Household dimensions of the family, Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.
27	02 January, 2026 Friday	SOLVE (372527)	Religion in India: Religious communities, problems of religious minorities.
28	05 January, 2026 Monday	SOLVE (372528)	Visions of Social Change: Development planning and mixed economy, Constitution, law, education and social change.
29	07 January, 2026 Wednesday	SOLVE (372529)	Rural and Agrarian Transformation: Rural development programs, Green revolution, Changing modes of production, Migration, and rural labor issues.
30	09 January, 2026 Friday	SOLVE (372530)	Industrialization and Urbanization: Evolution of industry, Growth of urban settlements in India, working class, informal sector, child labor, slums.
	12 January, 2026 Monday	SECTIONAL TEST 5 (302306)	Part B (Social Classes in India, System of kinship in India, Religion and Society) + Part C (Visions of Social Change, Rural and Agrarian transformation , Industrialisation and Urbanisation)
31	13 January, 2026 Tuesday	SOLVE (372531)	Politics and Society: Nation, democracy, citizenship, political parties, pressure groups, elites, regionalism, secularization.
32	15 January, 2026 Thursday	SOLVE (372532)	Social Movements: Peasants, women's movement, Backward classes, Dalit movements, environmental movements, identity movements.
33	17 January, 2026 Saturday	SOLVE (372533)	Population Dynamics: Size, growth, composition, birth, death, migration, sex ratio, infant mortality, reproductive health, Population Policy and family planning
34	19 January, 2026 Monday	SOLVE (372534)	Challenges of Social Transformation: Crisis of development, displacement, environmental problems, sustainability, Violence against women
35	21 January, 2026 Wednesday	SOLVE (372535)	Challenges of Social Transformation: Poverty, deprivation, inequality, violence against women.



36	22 January, 2026 Thursday	SOLVE (372536)	Challenges of Social Transformation: Caste conflicts, ethnic conflicts, Illiteracy and disparities in education
	23 January, 2026 Friday	SECTIONAL TEST 6 (302307)	Part C: Politics and Society , Social Movements, Population Dynamics, and Challenges of Social Transformation
	27 January, 2026 Tuesday	Full length 2 (302308)	FULL LENGTH TEST PAPER 2
	Post Prelims		FULL LENGTH TEST PAPER 1
	Post Prelims		FULL LENGTH TEST PAPER 2