

2026

SOCIOLOGY

Course No. : SOC/C – 07

(Family, Marriage and Kinship)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

The questions are of equal value

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

Answer any **five** questions

1. a) Examine how the nature vs. culture debate helps us rethink the idea of family in contemporary society. Using examples, construct your own definition of “family” that reflects current social transformations.

6+6

Or

- b) Compare traditional and emerging forms of marriage. How do changing discourses challenge classical sociological definitions? Critically analyse how gender roles are constructed and negotiated within family and marriage in present-day India.

4+4+4

2. a) Evaluate the relevance of structural-functional and cultural approaches in understanding kinship today. Propose an alternative framework to study kinship in a rapidly globalising world.

6+6

Or

- b) Discuss how descent and residence patterns shape power relations within families. Use comparative examples. How do digital mediation, individual choice, and shifting social norms reshape patterns of alliance formation? Illustrate with relevant examples.

6+6

(Turn Over)



3. a) How does Euro-American kinship differ from other kinship systems in its conceptualisation of individuality and family? Reflect on whether these distinctions are still valid in a globalised world. Support your argument with examples. 8+4

Or

- b) Examine kinship as practice through marriage strategies in any society of your choice. Critically discuss the sociological implications of fictive kinship and genetics in redefining relatedness. 6+6

4. a) Compare the kinship structures of any two communities from Northeast India in terms of inheritance, residence, and descent. Reflect on how these structures influence gender relations and power dynamics. 6+6

Or

- b) Discuss the transformation of joint and extended families in India in the context of urbanisation and migration. Examine how marriage transactions reflect broader socio-economic structures. 7+5

5. a) Critically analyse how new reproductive technologies and surrogacy challenge traditional notions of kinship. Design a sociological argument either supporting or critiquing these technologies from an ethical and cultural perspective. 7+5

Or

- b) Discuss how LGBTQ+ perspectives transform our understanding of family and kinship. Evaluate the sociological significance of live-in relationships, single parenting, and divorce as emerging family forms. 6+6

