Syllabus and Sample Questions
for the Entrance Examination for MA Culture, Society, Thought
2024 entry

Syllabus

The question paper will have two parts:
A. General Aptitude and Reading Comprehension
B. Subject Questions (Culture, Society, Thought)

A. General Aptitude

Quantitative Aptitude

Data interpretation: data graphs (bar graphs, pie charts, and other graphs representing data), 2- and 3-dimensional plots, maps, and tables Numerical computation and estimation: ratios, percentages, powers, exponents and logarithms, permutations and combinations, and series Mensuration and geometry Elementary statistics and probability.

Analytical Aptitude

Logic: deduction and induction, Analogy, Numerical relations, and reasoning

Spatial Aptitude

Transformation of shapes: translation, rotation, scaling, mirroring, assembling, and grouping Paper folding, cutting, and patterns in 2 and 3 dimensions

Verbal Aptitude

Basic English grammar: tenses, articles, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, verb-noun agreement, and other parts of speech.
Basic vocabulary: words, idioms, and phrases in context, reading and comprehension, Narrative sequencing.

Reasoning and Comprehension
This part is to test the candidate's ability to comprehend and interpret written information – skills that are critical to study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The section will not directly test language competence in terms of grammar, vocabulary etc. The focus is instead on critical reasoning (similar to what is often found in exams like LSAT, GRE, GMAT etc.) and analysis of the text and its stylistic and rhetorical structure.

• **Reading Comprehension** – ability to understand complex language material in short paragraphs and answer questions regarding them.
• **Expression** – questions on stylistic and rhetorical aspects of a short passage including corrections or modifications of particular sentences.
• **Analytical reasoning** – ability to understand relationships in statements or short passages and being able to draw reasonable conclusions/inferences from them.
• **Logical reasoning** – Thinking critically to evaluate or to predict an argument, identify the main and supporting arguments, predict outcomes etc.

B. Subject Questions (Culture, Society, Thought)

- Multi-genre literatures in English—poetry, the novel and other forms of fiction including the short story, drama, creative non-fiction, and non-fiction prose—with emphasis on the long 19th and 20th centuries

- Literary criticism and theory; critical and cultural intellectual-traditions and approaches widely referred to and used in the discipline of English

- Classical Indian Philosophy

  - Orthodox Systems: Sānkhya, Yoga, Nyāya, Vaiśeṣika, Mīmāmsā, Vedānta

  - Heterodox Systems: Cārvāka and, Buddhism

  - Bhagavadgītā, and Dharmaśāstras

  - Śaivasiddhānta, VīraŚaivism, Śāktism and Vaiṣṇavism

- Contemporary Indian Philosophy

  - Vivekananda, Iqbal, Gandhi and Ambedkar

  - C4.3 Classical and Modern Western Philosophy

  - Metaphysics in Modern Philosophy: Substance, Mind-Body Dualism, the existence of God, Problem of Solipsism, Self and Personal Identity, Phenomena and Noumena

  - Epistemology: Theory of Causation, Descarte's Method of Doubt, cogito ergo sum, Principle of Non-contradiction, Sufficient Reason, Kant's Copernican Revolution, Hegel's Dialectics, Spirit, and Absolute Idealism.

  - Ethics: Concepts of Good, Right, Justice, Duty, Obligation, Cardinal Virtues

- Contemporary Western Philosophy: Wittgenstein on Language and Reality, Meaning and Use; Husserl's Phenomenological Method; Sartre's Concept of Freedom; Nietzsche on the Critique of Enlightenment; Richard Rorty's Critique of Representationalism; Rawls' Veil of Ignorance, Principle of Justice

- Classical Sociological Traditions: Emile Durkheim (Social Solidarity, Social Facts, Religion, Functionalism, Suicide, Anomie, Division of Labour, Law; Max Weber (Types of authority, Social action, Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism, Bureaucracy, Ideal type, Methodology); Karl Marx: Class and class conflict, dialectical and historical materialism, capitalism, surplus value, alienation)

- Claude Levi Strauss (Myths, Structuralism)

- Erving Goffman (Symbolic interaction, dramaturgy); ·Clifford Geertz (Culture, thick description)

- Post-Modernism, Post-Structuralism and Post-Colonialism: Pierre Bourdieu, Michel Foucault, Jurgen Habermas, Anthony Giddens, Frankfurt School

- Sociological Concepts: Social Structure; Culture; Network; Status and Role; Identity; Community; Socialization; Diaspora; Values, Norms and Rules; Personhood, Habitus and Agency; Bureaucracy, Power and Authority; Self and society

- Social Institutions: Marriage, Family and Kinship; Economy; Polity; Religion; Education; Law and Customs
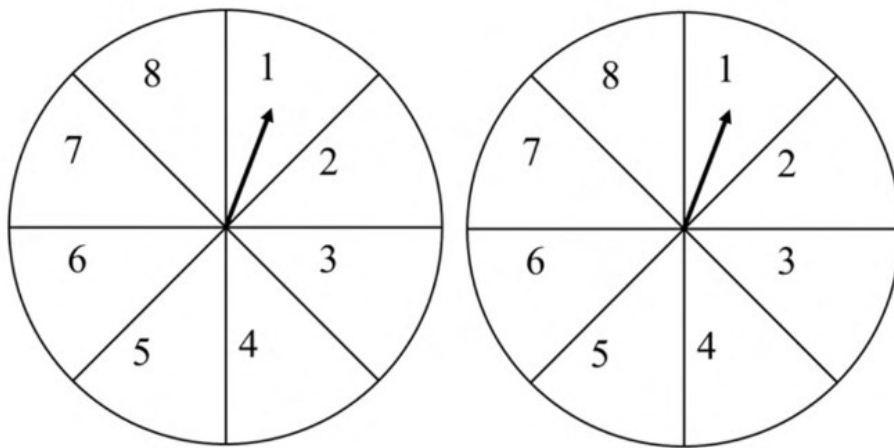
- Social Stratification: Social Difference, Hierarchy, Inequality and Marginalization: Caste and Class; Status and Power; Gender, Sexuality and Disability; Race, Tribe and Ethnicity

- Agrarian Sociology and Rural Transformation: Rural and Peasant Society; Caste-Tribe Distinction and Continuum

- Introduction to social movements: Nature, Definitions, Characteristics; Social Movement and Social Change; Types of social movements (Reform, Rebellion, Revival, Revolution, Insurrection, Counter Movement)

- Perspectives on the Study of Development: Definitions and Indices; Liberal, Marxist, and Neo-Marxist Perspectives (Dependency theory, World Systems); Epistemological Critiques of Development; Alternative development paradigms; Feminist critique; Human development.

Sample Questions

Section 1: General Aptitude

Q1 – Q4 carry ONE mark each

Q1. A game consists of spinning an arrow around a stationary disk as shown below. When the arrow comes to rest, there are eight equally likely outcomes. It could come to rest in any one of the sectors numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 as shown. Two such disks are used in a game where their arrows are independently spun. What is the probability that the sum of the numbers on the resulting sectors upon spinning the two disks is equal to 8 after the arrows come to rest?

- A. 7/64
- B. 5/64
- C. 3/32
- D. 1/16

Q2. The arithmetic mean of five different natural numbers is 12. What is the largest possible value among the numbers?
- A. 48
- B. 50
- C. 55
- D. 60

Q3. Choose the option that is OPPOSITE of the given word: AMELIORATE

- A. Improvise
- B. Decline
- C. Worsen
- D. Demand

Q4. Which option is an adjective derived from the word "Parliament"?
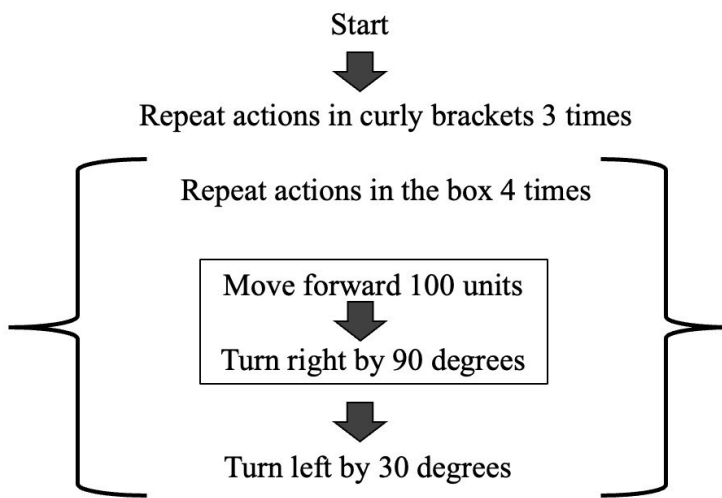
- A. Parliamentarian
- B. Parliamentary

        C. Parleys

        D. Parliamentarity

Q5 – Q8 carry TWO marks each

Q5. The time shown on an analog clock is 15 minutes past 3. The angle between the hour hand and the minute hand is:
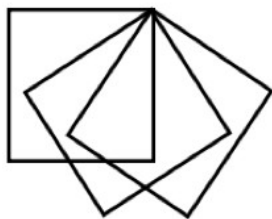
    A. 0°
    B. 7.5°
    C. 15°
    D. 22.5°

Q6. Starting from the top of a page and pointing downward, an ant moves according to the commands given below.

Start

Repeat actions in curly brackets 3 times

Repeat actions in the box 4 times

Move forward 100 units

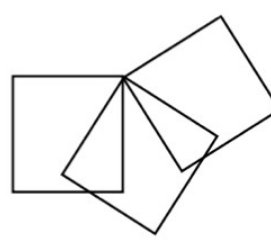Turn right by 90 degrees

Turn left by 30 degrees
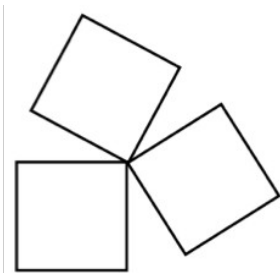
Which is the correct path traced by the ant?
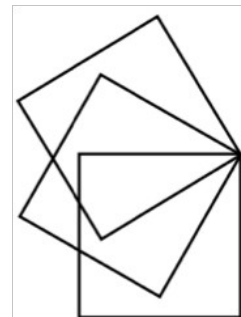
A.

C.

B.

D.

Two marks comprehension

Read the following passage and answer questions 7 and 8.

In its current popular use among media theorists, the concept of linearity is at least as ambiguous as that of nonlinearity. Since linearity is not an intrinsic part of the codex structure, we must ascribe its dominance there as primarily an ideological one, perhaps inherited when it succeeded the more strictly linear papyrus scroll as an even more effective way to preserve and represent lengthy texts. The structure of the codex, however, while perfectly suited to linearity, also eased the way for nonlinearity. In that respect, the codex technology is at least as important as the computer in the development of nonlinear textuality. Another often-used term with strong ideological undercurrents is interactivity. This word has long been associated with the use of computers that accept user input while a program is running as opposed to "batch" computers, which process only preloaded data without interruption. Interactive thus came to signify a modern radically improved technology, usually in relation to an older one.

Q7.   The given passage identifies the term "linearity" to be ambiguous. Which of the following statements corroborate this ambiguity?

A. The papyrus scroll has a strictly linear structure.
B. The structure of the codex is perfectly suited to linearity.
C. "Batch" computers process only preloaded data without interruption.
D. Dominance of linearity in the codex is primarily an ideological one.

Q8.   According to the passage the term "interactivity" signified 'improved' technology, usually in relation to an older technology? Which is this older technology?
A. Papyrus scrolls
B. Codex
C. "Batch"computers
D. All of the above

Section 2: Culture, Society, Thought

Q1 – Q6 carry ONE mark each

Q1.   Which, among the following, would not constitute social action according to Weber?

A. Winking at a friend
B. Listening to music on your phone and ignoring a colleague in the lift
C. Unintended collision of two cyclists
D. Two cyclists about to collide trying to dodge each other

Q2.   Complete the following sentence: Saying that gender and sex identities always match would be…

A. True, since the parity between sex and gender is naturally given and it is necessary to maintain this congruence.

B. True, since the difference between sex and gender is only lexical and has no existence in the real world.

C. False, since gender role is learnt socially, and it is not attached naturally to sex.

D. False, since gender role comes naturally attached to sex but is performed in the real world only after puberty in accordance with sexual identity.

Q3. Match the following pairs of writers and the languages they wrote in, and choose the best option A, B, C, D:

Sr. No.	Language	Writers
p	Russian	i) Franz Kafka
q	French	ii) Anton Chekov
r	Spanish	iii) Victor Hugo
s	German	iv) García Márquez

A. p-ii, q-i, r-iv, s-iii
B. p-ii, q-iii, r-iv, s-i
C. p-i, q-iv, r-iii, s-ii
D. p-ii, q-iii, r-i, s-iv

Q4. He was not a native speaker of English, but learned it in his twenties and became one of the greatest writers in the English language. He was born in Poland and spoke Polish and French before he mastered English. He also had a remarkable life as a sailor and traveled to many exotic places, which inspired his novels and stories.

Who was he?
A. Isaac Bashevis Singer
B. Joseph Conrad
C. Vladimir Nobakov
D. Aleksandar Hemon

Q5. In the Mīmāmsā system, *apūrva* stands for a link/relation between
A. An act (action) and its outcome.
B. The past and the present.
C. Perception and inference.
D. Creator and creation.

Q6. In Plato's *Republic*, the virtue of moderation is present:
A. Only in the guardians
B. In the auxiliaries and guardians
C. Only in the money makers
D. Throughout the republic

Q7 – Q12 carry TWO marks each

Q7. The movement for intellectual self-reliance… is based on the principle, firstly that the life of the mind is a group affair as well as an individual affair, so that our object should be strengthen the intellectual sinews of national intellectual life as well as to improve its quality and relevance. intellectual self-reliance, in a word, is the achievement of independent home-rule or swaraj in the internal and external life of national intellectual institutions". (Uberoi, J. S. (1974). For a Sociology of India: New outlines of structural sociology, 1945-1970. *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 8(1), 135-152.)

Which of the following can be correctly inferred from the above statement?

   i) We must ensure that international exchanges are based on mutuality, reciprocity and equality.

   ii) We must ensure that academic exchanges do not replicate old patterns of dominance and hegemony.

   iii) We must ensure that intellectual self -reliance relies solely on home-grown or swadeshi ideas.

A. i, ii and iii can be inferred

B. only ii and iii can be inferred

C. only iii can be inferred

D. only i and ii can be inferred.

Q8.   Fill in the blank with the correct option:

_____provides a/an _____link between caste and gender in India.

A. Marriage, structural

B.   Stratification, empirical

C.   Class, financial

D. Mobility, ascribed

Q9. A widely used narrative technique, it allows narrators to temporarily inhabit the consciousness
    of any of their characters. It is called _____ .
       A. Localized Speech
       B. Free Indirect Speech
       C. Mimicked Speech
       D. Empathetic Speech

Q10. What do the following works have in common?
    Andha Yug, *The Second Turn*, *Parva*, *Sarpa Satra*

       A. All of them are plays.
       B. All are based on the Mahabharata.
       C. All have women as primary protagonists.
       D. All are 19th century works.

Q11. In the Vaiśeṣika system, which of the following is NOT *padārtha* (category)?
       A. Guṇa (Quality)
       B. Ātman (Spirit/Soul)
       C. Dravya (substance),
       D. Karma (action or motion)

Q12. Ludwig Wittgenstein, in his Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, writes, "A picture can depict any
reality whose form it has." Which of the following proposition(s) will NOT be in line with this?

    A. A picture can always display a pictorial form
    B. A picture has logical form.
    C. A logical picture can depict the world.
    D. A picture can depict its pictorial form.

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Question Paper Pattern

Duration: 3 hours*

General Aptitude

Sections: General Aptitude (GA) + Subject (Culture, Society, Thought)

Type of questions: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Questions for testing these abilities   (a) Recall

(b) Comprehension

(c) Application

(d) Analysis & Synthesis

Marking scheme:	Questions carry 1 mark or 2 marks
Negative marking:	For a wrong answer chosen in an MCQ, there will be negative marking.
	For a 1-mark MCQ, 1/3 mark will be deducted for a wrong answer.
	For a 2-mark MCQ, 2/3 mark will be deducted for a wrong answer.

General Aptitude (including Verbal Aptitude and Reading Comprehension)	40 marks
Subject (Culture, Society, Thought)	60 marks

*PwD candidates with benchmark disability greater than 40% are eligible for compensatory time of one hour. PwD candidates with less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing are eligible for compensatory time subject to production of a certificate as stated in Appendix-I of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.