

Examrace: Downloaded from examrace.com

For solved question bank visit doorsteptutor.com and for free video lectures visit [Examrace YouTube Channel](#)

Historical Method: Introduction, Definitions and Need for Historical Methods in Sociological Study

Get unlimited access to the best preparation resource for IAS : Get [detailed illustrated notes covering entire syllabus](#): point-by-point for high retention.

Introduction

- Origin – Historical Sociology
- Can be traced in writings of Marx and Weber
- ‘All history is a history of class struggle’
- Qualitative method from Quantitative or Scientific temperament
- Interdisciplinary like study of cultural history
- Study of events and institutions of past civilizations to find the origin of contemporary society

Definitions

- If sociology is defined as the study of human society, with an emphasis on generalizations about its structure and development then " , Burke would say, " history is defined as the study of human societies ... placing the emphasis on the differences between them " -Burke
- G. E. Howard regard history to be past Sociology, and Sociology present History.

Need for Historical Methods in Sociological Study

- To understand the role of past events in the society's structure today
- Changeability of entities and ideas with time and context
- Time and space-based change in society
- To find roots of our present forms of life
- Clearer picture of the subject

Sources

- **Primary**: Images, songs, recordings, published or unpublished writings

- **Secondary:** Journal articles, Government documents, autobiographies, and memoirs, etc.

Use of archives:

- Archives are repositories, places where relevant materials are deposited and stored.
- Material stored as holdings in form of records, books, private collections, microfilms, etc.

Narrow Scope

- No evidence if literature and texts can be trusted
- They are mostly in the form of life stories
- Lack of objectivity and scientific investigation
- Not capable of addressing all problems of society today
- Relies on interpretation

Conclusion

- Examining changes in society over time
- Use of sources from the past to re-construct an event or happening in contemporary society

MCQ

Q. 1. Assertion: When using the historical method, language knowledge is even more important.

Reason: Historical method often means also being able to work comfortably with multiple languages other than English since often 'primary sources' are available in local languages and not English.

1. A is false, and R is the wrong explanation of A
2. A is correct, and R is the correct explanation of A
3. A is false, but R is true
4. R is false, but A is true

Ans: 2

Q. 2. Consider the following statements:

- a) Archives maintain records while libraries are repositories for books and journals.
- b) Archives do not necessarily subscribe to journals or retain books.

A. a is true

- B. b is true
- C. Both are false
- D. Both are true

Ans: D

#Methodology

#QuantitativeMethods

#HistoricalMethod (New2019)

#UGC-NET

-Manishika

Developed by: [Mindsprite Solutions](#)