

HUL 272 Introduction to the Sociology of India

Major Exam 21-11-08 Time: 8.00-10.00am

Total Marks: 35

Part I

Long answers

1. Explain the relationship between religion and identity by examining the identity construction processes involved in the articles by Gooptu (urban poor in U.P. towns) and Ahmed (Shia-Sunni in Lucknow). **(10 marks)**
2. Discuss how tribal religion differs from world/Great Tradition religions. What kind of religion do the tribes of India practice? Is it closely connected with their ecology and their social structure? What are the processes of conversion (to any Great Tradition religion) that tribals may be subjected to? Give examples **(10 marks)**

Part II (10 marks)

Answer five out of the questions given below. Each question carries 2 marks

1. Explain the terms parochialization and universalization.
2. What are rites of passage and why are they marked/observed by ceremonies and rituals. Give an example from any culture.
3. What strategies were followed by a) upper castes b) OBC castes and c) untouchables to establish a religious identity for themselves?
4. What are the different meanings of jihad?
5. Why do Shias observe Muharram?
6. What is the difference between tribe and caste?
7. What were the three approaches suggested towards tribals at the time of Independence?
8. What are de-notified tribes?

Part III (5 marks)

Write a short note on any one of the following topics focusing on one core issue and your opinion on the topic. (limit one page)

Religious Conversions, Caste among Christians and Muslims, Gandhi and Ambedkar on caste, Child marriage, Purdah, Naxalite movement and Common civil code.