

BSOM-162

FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

BACHELOR OF ARTS (MAJOR)

SOCIOLOGY

BAFSO

ASSIGNMENT

July 2025 and January 2026

COURSE CODE: BSOM-162

UNDERSTANDING INDIAN SOCIETY



**SCHOOL OF SOCIALSCIENCES
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068**

Dear Student,

As we have informed you in the Programme Guide, evaluation at IGNOU consists of two parts: i) continuous evaluation through assignments, and ii) term-end examination. In the final result, assignments of a course carry 30% weightage while 70% weightage is given for term-end examination.

You will have to do three Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA) for a six-credit course and two TMAs for a four credit course. This Assignment booklet has TMAs for the core course **BSOM-162 UNDERSTANDING INDIAN SOCIETY**, which is a six-credit course. The booklet therefore has three TMAs whose total marks add up to 100 and carry a weightage of 30 %.

Section I has Descriptive Category Questions (DCQs). These are meant for writing essay type answers, with an introduction and a conclusion. These are intended to test your ability to describe your understanding/knowledge about the topic in a systematic, to-the-point and coherent manner.

Section II has Middle Category Questions (MCQs). These questions require you to first analyse the topic in terms of arguments and explanations and then write the answers in a concise manner. They are meant to test your ability to distinguish, compare and contrast, or clear understanding of the concepts and processes.

Section III has Short Category Questions (SCQs). These questions are meant to improve your skill of recall in brief the relevant/precise information about persons, writing, events, or clear understanding of concepts and processes.

Before you attempt the assignments, please read the instructions carefully provided in the Programme Guide. It is important that you write the answers to all the TMA questions in your own words. Your answers should be within the approximate range of the word-limit set for a particular section. Remember, writing answers to assignment questions will improve your writing skills and prepare you for the term-end examination.

As mentioned in the Programme Guide, you need to submit all the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination.

Submission of the completed assignments:

Admission batch	Last date of submission	Place of submission
July 2025	30 th April 2026	Coordinator of the student's study centre
January 2026	31st October 2026	

You must obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. If possible, keep a xerox copy of the assignments with you.

The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre has to send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi.

We expect you to answer each question as per guidelines for each category as mentioned in the assignment. You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

- 1) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully, go through the Units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange them in a logical order.
- 2) **Organisation:** Be a little selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion.

Make sure that your answer:
 - a) is logical and coherent;
 - b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs, and
 - c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation.
- 3) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answer, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

Wish you all the best!

**Discipline of Sociology,
SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi**

BSOM-162: UNDERSTANDING INDIAN SOCIETY

Tutor Marked Assignments

Course Code: BSOM-162

Assignment Code: ASST/TMA / 2025-26

Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all the questions.

Section I

Answer the following Descriptive Category questions in about 400 words each.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Examine the forms and bases of diversity in India. | 20 |
| 2. Analyse the major changes and elements of continuity in the caste system in contemporary India. | 20 |

Section II

Answer the following Middle Category questions in about 250 words each.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 3. Describe the distinctive characteristics of tribal communities in India. | 10 |
| 4. Discuss the key factors contributing to the rise of communalism in India. | 10 |
| 5. Examine the impact of British colonial rule on class formation in Indian society. | 10 |

Section III

Answer the following Short Category questions in about 100 words each.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. Development and change as modernization | 6 |
| 7. Polyandry | 6 |
| 8. Interplay between caste and politics in India | 6 |
| 9. The sociological significance of kinship in Indian society | 6 |
| 10. Difference between Varna and caste | 6 |