

MASO

Master's Degree Programme in Sociology

First Year

M.A. Sociology

**Assignment
January 2026 sessions &
July 2026 and January 2027 sessions**

MSO-107: Foundations of Social Science Research



**FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068**

ASSIGNMENTS

Dear Student

We have explained in the Programme Guide for the Master's Degree Programme in Sociology (MA Sociology) that you would have to complete one **Tutor** Marked Assignment (TMA) for each of the courses.

In these assignments, we have included several types of questions to sharpen your ability, to describe, to analyse and to critique, and to ensure that you know and are able to write over a topic systematically and coherently. In these assignments there are some broad descriptive and analytical questions. There are 10 questions in each assignment, with two sections. In each section there are five questions.

Your answers for a broad question worth 20 marks should be within the approximate range of 500 words each. It could be advisable to have a group discussion on the questions with your co-learners and the Academic Counsellors in the Study Centres before you attempt these assignments. Remember you are encouraged only to share each other's ideas and not to copy answers at all. Group discussion and constant practice of writing answers to assignment questions will help you to write better answers to questions in the term-end examination. It is important that you write answers to all questions **in your own words**.

Admission Cycle	Date of Submission	To be sent
For students admitted in January 2026 Batch	30 th September, 2026	To, The Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you
For students admitted in July 2026 Batch	31 st March, 2027	
For students admitted in January 2027 Batch	30 th September, 2027	

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 SR&E Division at IGNOU, New Delhi.

Some Tips for Doing Assignments

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind while doing the assignments:

- 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) **Organization:** Be selective and analytical before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to the introduction and conclusion.
- 3) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answer, you can write down the final version for submission. Write each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

Wishing you all the best,

Faculty of Sociology
School of Social Sciences
IGNOU Delhi – 110 068

Indira Gandhi National Open University
MSO-107: Foundations of Social Science Research
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Programme Code: MASO
Course Code: MSO-107
Assignment Code: MSO-107/AST/TMA/2026-2027

Maximum Marks: 100
Weightage: 30%

Answer any *five* questions in about 500 words each.

	Marks
1. Explain the logic of inquiry in social science research. How does it differ from common-sense understanding of social reality?	20
2. What is mean by ‘understanding from below’? Outline its significance in sociological research.	20
3. What is epistemology? Examine the major epistemological issues in social science research.	20
4. What is the empirical approach in social research?	20
5. Discuss Bacon’s Contribution to philosophy of social sciences.	20
6. Critically examine the feminist approach to social research.	20
7. What is hermeneutics? Discuss its contribution to the understanding of social action and meaning.	20
8. Explain the main principles of positivism. Present the major criticisms of the positivist approach.	20
9. Explain the major tenets of comparative method. Critically examine its use in social research.	20
10. Explain the culturalist approach to the understanding of social reality.	20