

MSO

Master's Degree Programme in Sociology

**Second Year
M.A. Sociology**

**Assignment for students admitted in
July 2025 and January 2026 sessions**

Assignment for the Elective Courses:

- MSOE-001: Sociology of Education
- MSOE-002: Diaspora and Transnational Communities
- MSOE-003: Sociology of Religion
- MSOE-004: Urban Sociology
- MPS-003: India: Democracy and Development
- MPA-016: Decentralization and Local Governance



**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 TMAs) 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. In case of short question worth 10 marks it should be within 250 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 July 2025 Batch	31 st March, 2026	To, The Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you
For students admitted in January 2026 Batch	30 th September, 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 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 with to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

Wishing you all the best,

**Indira Gandhi National Open University
Elective Course in M.A. Sociology
MSOE-003: Sociology of Religion
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)**

**Maximum Marks: 100
Weightage: 30%**

**Programme Code: MSO
Course Code: MSOE-003
Assignment Code: MSOE-003/AST/TMA/2025-2026**

Answer any five questions selecting at least *two* from each Section. Your answer should be in about 500 words each.

Section-I

1. Discuss the sociological perspective on religion. 20
2. Examine Marxian approach to the understanding of religion. 20
3. Discuss the functional interpretation of religion. 20
4. Explain the concept of healing with suitable examples. 20
5. Discuss the perspective of Clifford Geertz on religion. 20

Section-II

6. Is totemism a reality? Discuss with reference to the writings of Lèvi-Strauss. 20
7. Discuss Peter Berger's viewpoint on the future of religion in society. 20
8. What is religious conversion? Explain its sociological interpretation. 20
9. Examine the social context of the emergence of Buddhism. 20
10. Discuss the main reasons that contributed to the wide spread of the cult of Sai Baba of Shirdi. 20