

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE  
TARAS SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF KYIV  
FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY

APPROVED

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**PROGRAM OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (INTERVIEW)**  
**for the Master Degree Program on Sociology,**  
**the educational program "Sociology" (054)**  
**(for foreign applicants with Bachelor's degree)**

## **I. General provisions**

The entrance examination is an important part of the educational process and is aimed at comprehensive and objective evaluation of knowledge and skills, acquired by applicants through institutional education and self-education. Such evaluation makes it possible not only to determine the quality of educational background of entrants, but also to map its weaknesses for effective planning of their study at Master's program.

## **II. Recommendations on administration of the examination (format and evaluation requirements)**

The entrance examination includes testing of applicant's theoretical knowledge and practical skills, acquired in the course of Bachelor's program in Sociology at educational institutions of other countries.

The entrance examination is administered in written and oral communication format. Every applicant receives personal question sheet, which contains two opened-ended questions on theory of Sociology and research methods. The entrance examination pursues the goal of establishing qualification of applicants and, therefore, is scored as either passed or not passed.

The answers of applicants should demonstrate their mastery of classical and contemporary sociological theories and approaches, intelligent use of sociological concepts, understanding of purpose and functions of the program of sociological research, awareness of specific features and principles of selection of data collection methods.

The entrance examination aimed at identification of applicant's qualification in Sociology and is evaluated within two-point evaluation scale (passed or failed). For intermediate evaluation the commission uses the 100-point scale where the 100 grade is the highest evaluation, and the 60 grade is the lowest evaluation allowing the applicant to take part at the entrance competition. Marking scale: Fail, D, C, B, A. The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, or Fail. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The applicant's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes on Sociology. For the grade of D the applicant must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the applicant must show good results. For the grade of B the applicant must show very good results. For the grade of A the applicant must show excellent results.

The applicants, whose answers are estimated less than 60 score, will be barred from the entrance competition.

The applicant's answers will be checked and evaluated deliberatively by special academic examination commission. The final examination score will be confirmed by signatures of the commission's all members. It should be made public within a day after administering of the examination.

## **PROGRAM FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

### **1. Sociology as a science. Origins and development of sociological knowledge.**

Specific features of sociology as a science, its research object. Major approaches to scientific definition of the social. Sociology is within system of social sciences and humanities, its main functions. The historical stages in development of sociology.

The system of sociological knowledge and its components. Foundation of the general sociological theory: principles, concepts, and cognitive models, theoretical and empirical methods. General sociological theory and middle-range theories. Theoretical and empirical levels of sociological research. Basic and applied research in sociology. Macro- and micro-levels of sociological knowledge.

Auguste Comte's positivism. Herbert Spencer's evolutionism. Karl Marx's historical materialism. Émile Durkheim's sociologism. Interpretive sociology of Max Weber. Structural functionalism (Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton).

Multi-paradigmatic parameters of the contemporary sociology. Classification of the main sociological paradigms (according to George Ritzer).

### **2. Society as a system**

The concept of society and its principal features. Society as a social system, and its basic components. Talcott Parsons' concept of social system.

Types of societies: pre-industrial (traditional), industrial, post-industrial (information societies). Modern and post-modern societies.

The forms and types of social processes. Modern demographic process, their impact on global, regional and national development. Migration, its variation and social consequences. Globalization, its waves and social consequences.

Social changes. Social development. Evolutionary, revolutionary, reformatory, modernizing, and transformational changes. Stagnation in societal development. Impact of globalization on social development.

### **3. Culture as a component of social system**

The concept of culture. Value-normative, symbolic, and material aspects of culture. Social functions of culture.

Forms and types of culture. Material and spiritual culture. National culture, subculture, and counter-culture. Value-oriented interactions. Traditional, material and post-material values.

The concept of socialization. Major stages of socialization of a person. Factors, agents, and mechanisms of socialization. Micro- and macro- social conditions for personal formation and development.

The concepts of norm and pathology. Deviant behavior. Deviant and delinquent behavior. Types of deviations.

### **4. Social structure and stratification**

Social structure and its basic components. Historical types of social structure.

The concept of social status; the basic sociological parameters of social status as an analytical category. Social role: definition, characteristics, and types. Social identity and its types. Conflict of roles, conflict of identities. Social groups and their types (primary and secondary, reference groups, small and large, formal and informal). Major features of social group.

Social classes and factors of their formation. Types of class structures. Anthony Giddens's concept of class structure of the advanced capitalist societies. Class conflict and struggle.

The concept of social stratification. Forms and types of stratification. Historical types of stratification. Pitirim Sorokin's theory of social stratification.

Social mobility and its varieties. Channels of the ascending (bottom-up) social mobility in the modern society.

## **5. Social institutions and organizations**

The concept of social institution. Social needs and social institutions. Social institutions as the means of organization and regulation of social relations. Structural components of social institutions.

Social institutions, norms, and social control. The concept of social control. Types of social control. Functions of social control. Formal and informal control. Institutions and agents of social control. Social sanctions and their varieties.

Typology of social institutions. Formal and informal institutions. Functions and dysfunctions of social institutions.

The concept of organization in sociology. Major characteristics of social organizations. Major structural elements of organizations. Types of organizations. Formal and informal organizations. Bureaucracy as a specific kind of social organization.

## **6. Social action, social interaction, and social relations.**

The concept of social action, its structure and types (according to Max Weber). Talcott Parsons' theory of social actions system.

Definition of social interaction and its major forms. Types of social interactions.

Social relations, their definition and types. The concept of social conflict: definition, factors, and types. Mechanisms of social solidarity and integration.

## **7. Sociological research: definition, types, and stages.**

The concept of sociological research. Functions and types of sociological research. Basic stages of sociological research.

Program of sociological research as the statement and argumentation of methodological, instrumental, and procedural foundations of the research. Qualitative and quantitative sociological research, their kinds and procedures.

Methods of sociological data collection. Specific features of sample research. Sociological survey and its varieties. Interview. Observation. Analysis of documents. Observational research. Content analyses.

The basic statistics for analysis and estimation of sociological data.

## Recommended Readings

1. Anthony Giddens. *Introduction to Sociology* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2013).
2. George Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology* (SAGE Publications 2014).
3. George Ritzer, *Modern Sociological Theory* (McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2003).
4. John Macionis, *Sociology* (Pearson, 2013).
5. David Grusky, and Kate Weisshaar (Ed.). *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective*. -. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2014. Boulder: Westview Press.
6. Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*, Seventh Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2017.
7. Lior Gideon. *Handbook of Survey Methodology for the Social Sciences*. Springer Science+Business Media New York, 2012.