

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD
(Department of Mass Communication)

Course: Basic Concepts in Social Sciences-II (5638)
Semester: Autumn, 2025

Level: MSc

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Each assignment carries 100 marks.
2. Write the assignments in your own words.
3. Since the nature of questions in the assignment requires you to be more analytical therefore, supplement the material of the study guide with information from other suggested readings. Some of the questions require the use of examples from a Pakistani perspective/setting. So, do not simply rehash material from the study guide verbatim, but rely on synthesizing materials from different units of the study guide in your own language.

Best of Luck

(Dr. Shahid Hussain)
Course Coordinator

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD
(Department of Mass Communication)

WARNING

1. **PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
2. **SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

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Please read the following instructions for writing your assignments.

(AD, BS, BEd, MA/MSc, MEd) (ODL Mode).

1. All questions are compulsory and carry equal marks but within a question the marks are distributed according to its requirements.
2. Read the question carefully and then answer it according to the requirements of the questions.
3. Avoid irrelevant discussion/information and reproducing from books, study guide or allied material.
4. Hand-written scanned assignments are not acceptable.
5. Upload your typed (in Word or PDF format) assignments on or before the due date.
6. Your own analysis and synthesis will be appreciated.
7. Late submission of assignments will not be accepted.
8. The students who attempt their assignments in Urdu/Arabic may upload a scanned copy of their hand written assignments (in PDF format) on University LMS. The size of the file should not exceed 5MB.

Total Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 40

ASSIGNMENT No. 1
(Units 10–14)

- Q.1) Discuss the significance of socialization in shaping individual identity and behaviour. Compare and contrast the major sociological and psychological perspectives on this process. (20)
- Q.2) Critically examine the impact of group dynamics on individual decision-making. How do concepts like conformity, compliance, and obedience operate within group settings? (20)

- Q.3) Define collective behaviour. Analyse its various forms, such as crowd, mass, and public behaviour, and assess how structural strain and emergent norm theories explain these phenomena. (20)
- Q.4) Evaluate the role of communication variables—such as source credibility, emotional appeals, and audience characteristics - in persuasion and attitude change. (20)
- Q.5) What is Social Psychology? Highlight its interdisciplinary nature and critically review at least two key theoretical frameworks that underpin this field. (20)

Total Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 40

ASSIGNMENT No. 2
(Units 15–18)

- Q.1) Critically assess the viability of different forms of government (e.g., democracy, authoritarianism, monarchy) in addressing contemporary global challenges such as inequality, political instability, and climate change. (20)
- Q.2) Examine the role of pressure groups in democratic and authoritarian regimes, evaluating whether they contribute to or undermine political accountability and public interest. (20)
- Q.3) Analyse the concentration of power within executive institutions, and critically evaluate how different executive types may enable or hinder democratic governance and political transparency. (20)
- Q.4) Compare the Western and Islamic perspectives on sovereignty, and critique the extent to which each framework accommodates pluralism, popular will, and global interconnectedness. (20)
- Q.5) Critically evaluate the judiciary's role in maintaining the rule of law, especially in societies facing political interference, judicial activism, or systemic inequality. Include an analysis of how judicial independence is practically ensured or eroded. (20)