

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

**Course: Basic Concepts in Social Sciences - Part-I (9275)**  
**Semester: Autumn, 2025**

**Level: BS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Each assignment carries 100 marks.
2. Write the assignments in your own words.
3. Your answers should not be based only on the information given in the study guide; rather, these should be based on the suggested readings prescribed in each unit of the guide.

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: 50**

**ASSIGNMENT No. 1**  
**(Units: 1-5)**

- Q.1** Critically assess the scientific status of Sociology by examining its methodological foundations, scope of inquiry, and the debate surrounding objectivity in social research. (20)
- Q.2** Evaluate the evolving role of educational institutions in shaping power structures and social inequality within contemporary societies. (20)
- Q.3** With reference to cross-cultural contexts, critically analyze how culture shapes social identity and examine whether the distinction between 'culture' and 'society' remains tenable in a globalized world. (20)

- Q.4** Examine the major theories of social change, and critically evaluate their relevance in explaining the dynamics of technological disruption and socio-political transformations in the 21st century. (20)
- Q.5** Critically explore the concepts of authority and state, focusing on their legitimacy, resistance, and transformation in the face of rising populism and decentralization of power. (20)

**Total Marks: 100**

**Pass Marks: 50**

## **ASSIGNMENT No. 2**

### **(Units: 6-9)**

- Q.1** Assess the role of Pakistan's banking sector in perpetuating or mitigating socio-economic disparities. To what extent has financial inclusion been achieved, and how can banking reforms contribute to equitable development? (20)
- Q.2** Critically evaluate the stock market's actual contribution to economic development in Pakistan. In your answer, assess whether the stock market effectively reflects economic fundamentals or merely serves speculative interests. (20)
- Q.3** Discuss the relationship between balance of payments and balance of trade with special reference to Pakistan's recurring deficits. Critically analyse whether Pakistan's current trade policies align with global economic trends and domestic economic needs. (20)
- Q.4** Examine the structural and policy-induced causes of inflation in Pakistan. Evaluate the effectiveness of current inflation control mechanisms and suggest alternative, evidence-based strategies for sustainable price stability. (20)
- Q.5** Identify and critically analyse the systemic barriers to Pakistan's economic progress. How do governance issues, institutional weaknesses, and external dependencies hinder long-term development? Support your arguments with relevant examples. (20)