

*The state examination takes the form of an informed discussion of a selected topic and respective authors in the context chosen by the student, typically in the context of their dissertation research. In the discussion, students demonstrate their understanding of the topic and their ability to situate it in the theory and epistemology of social science. Student's arguments should be based on the ideas of one of the recommended group of authors relevant to the discussed topic. The purpose of the exam is not to test detailed knowledge of all the listed authors, but to verify the ability of the student to conduct a professional discussion of the selected topic. In the methodological part, students are recommended to use relevant texts on research methodology, see examples given in the methodology section below.*

## **Questions – General Part**

### ***Sociological Theory***

#### **1. Social Action Theory and Social Structure**

(e.g. Parsons, Habermas, Bourdieu, Giddens, Coleman, Berger and Luckmann, Latour)

#### **2. Sociological Concepts of Modernity: Early, Late/Reflexive and Post-modernity**

(e.g. Weber, Frankfurt School, Bauman, Beck, Giddens, Latour)

#### **3. Communication, Discourse and Symbolic Power: Society as a Communicative Reality**

(e.g. Habermas, Mead, Foucault, Luhmann, Lazarsfeld)

#### **4. Inter-subjectivity and the Interaction Order in Society**

(e.g. Mead, Goffman, Garfinkel, Schütz, Hochschild)

#### **5. Globalization and Neoliberalism**

(e.g. Robertson, Sassen, Wallerstein, Streeck, Harvey, Boltanski, Crouch)

#### **6. Multiculturalism, Post-colonialism/Neo-colonialism/Decolonization, Feminism and Technology** (e.g. Haraway, Butler, Benhabib, Fraser, Taylor, Raewyn Connell, Said)

### ***Epistemology***

#### **1. Philosophy of Science and Epistemological Discussions on the Nature of Social Science**

(e.g. Weber, Popper, Kuhn, Feyerabend, Schütz, Winch, Foucault, Merton, Bloor, Barnes, Latour)

#### **2. Positivism, Empiricism and Structuralism in Social Science and Sociology**

(e.g. Comte, Durkheim, Lazarsfeld, Feyerabend, Lévi-Strauss)

#### **3. Interpretive Approaches, Constructivism, Pragmatism and Post-structuralism in Social Science and Sociology**

(e.g. Weber, Schütz, Mead, Berger and Luckmann, Foucault, Latour, Baudrillard)

## ***Methodology***

### **1. Principles and Problems of Quantitative Research (Survey Analysis)**

Sources:

Wolf, C., Joye, D., Smith, T. W., & Fu, Y. C. (Eds.). 2016. *The SAGE handbook of survey methodology*. Sage.

Treiman, D. J. 2008. *Quantitative data analysis: doing social research to test ideas*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

And other sources, based on personal preferences.

### **2. Principles and Problems of Interpretive (Qualitative) Research**

Sources:

Brinkmann, S. & Kvale, S. 2015. *InterViews: learning the craft of qualitative research interviewing*. Los Angeles: Sage.

David, M. 2010. *Methods of interpretive sociology*. London: SAGE.

And other resources, based on personal preferences.

### **3. Reflexivity and Ethical Issues in Social Science Research**

Sources:

Panter, A. T., & Sterba, S. K. (Eds.). 2011. *Multivariate applications series. Handbook of ethics in quantitative methodology*. Routledge.

Miller, T., Birch, M., Mauthner, M., & Jessop, J. (Eds.). 2012. *Ethics in qualitative research*. Sage.

Hammersley, M., & Traianou, A. 2012. *Ethics in qualitative research: Controversies and contexts*. Sage.

Mertens, D. M., & Ginsberg, P. E. 2009. *The handbook of social research ethics*. Sage.

Mauthner, N. S., & Doucet, A. 2003. Reflexive accounts and accounts of reflexivity in qualitative data analysis. *Sociology*, 37(3), 413-431.

Lumsden, K. 2019. *Reflexivity: theory, method, and practice*. Abingdon: Routledge.

And other resources, based on personal preferences.