

Economic Sociology exam 2016

Guidelines for answering the questions:

The question on order in classical sociological theory should explain Durkheim's point on material and non-material social facts. How the non-material social facts like norms and values are the cornerstone of the creation of order in society, and how the increasing quest for rationality is the core explanation of the creation of order according to Weber. The explanation of what Weber meant by 'the ironcage of rationality' is relevant.

Aspers explains in his book in great detail the difference between markets for standard goods and markets for status goods and how the first function more or less in accordance with standard economic theory while the last is a more diversified market where values and status plays a role in the function of the market. This should be reflected in the answer. Aspers' critique of neoclassic economic theory is visible especially in his concluding sections of his books chapters – but partly with a lack of references to contemporary developments in economic theory. Both points – the critique – and the lack of reference to recent developments should be explained.