

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF HOW TO START SOCIOLOGY

Few basic things while starting sociology

1. Prefer to read minimal sources along with making of your own notes
2. **Put data, studies etc** – If you quote data of NFHS-5, World Bank, Niti Aayog etc it will always give you an edge over others. You can't expect to remember each and every data so it is always better to write it in your notes and keep revising and practicing
3. Quote Optimum number of **Thinkers** while answering. It provides edge and helps you to write a scholarly answer. But, excessive number of mentioning of thinkers won't be possible as you have limited space. So, use optimum number of thinkers by prioritizing. This you will learn while writing answers.
4. Always keep last year questions in mind. It gives you an idea what to read and what to leave. Remember, **you cannot read everything and definitely you must not read everything**. It will be a sure recipe to disaster.
5. Be regular reader of newspaper and try to put current data in your answer – it will give edge
6. Develop a habit of thinking while reading sociology

This I will try to make you understand through a small example

Suppose you have a topic. Say - Modernity and social changes in Europe and rise of sociology.

You follow these steps for maximum output

- a. Read Last Year Questions related to this topic before actually you have read this topic. Remember I am not talking about solution but just questions. You can get books which have already segregated the questions for you such as Vishal Publication Book for Sociology
- b. Read the topic from the source keeping in mind the last year questions that were asked from it
- c. 1st reading – keep casual. **PLEASE KEEP YOUR PEN/PENCIL ASIDE**. Read it like a story. People have the habit of underlining everything in first reading itself. You might be making the same mistake with your GS too. Never ever underline in first reading. Your focus should not be to underline the topic but to understand the topic
- d. Now again go through the questions and give the topic the 2nd reading. Mark important keywords – JUST KEYWORDS BUDDY. **LET NOT THE FULL BOOK BE UNDERLINED ELSE WHAT IS THE USE OF UNDERLINING**. Remember in 150-250 words answers – mostly we remember keywords which are important for exam and not line by line. Ultimately, you will use your own words while using keywords

- e. Now spare your 5 minutes and see the questions. Try to attempt. Oh! I am not asking to write the answer that time only. I am asking you to see the question, take the pen and try to just write keywords what you want to write on that question. In this way, you have crossed the hurdle of understanding the topic and it will also give you a boost. If needed, turn pages for that portion which you are forgetting
 - f. I have seen many who read fast while understanding nothing in sociology. This is opposite, to be slow at first with proper understanding and then picking the pace. Try this. You will definitely get the confidence. If you give just 3 hours a day, it is enough to complete sociology like this with confidence.
7. Write answer the next day. See your answer and compare it with standard answer available. Solution from Chronicle Publication is good but you can also frame and choose your own answers. I just remember **Post Modernist Jean Francois Lyotard** (don't worry about technical term – you will know him in sociology) – There is no such thing as absolute truth. Same way, there is no such thing as absolutely best answer as long as you are writing relevant and to the point. The Mantra is to believe in yourself and your answer based on what you have read. Remember one thing – **IF YOU ARE LOVING YOUR ANSWER, EXAMINER WILL ALSO LOVE YOUR ANSWER AS WE ALWAYS KNOW WHETHER WE ARE WRITING SENSE OR NON-SENSE IN THE ANSWER.** Good news – Now you have covered the topic holistically. Just keep revising that occasionally.
8. See, just now you got basic fundamental of Post Modernism. Sociology is this much easy.
9. You can do this with GS papers as well

Remember, **A SMALL PROGRESS EACH DAY ADDS UP TO BIG RESULT.**

I HOPE IF YOU FOLLOW THIS STRATEGY, SOCIOLOGY WON'T BE A NIGHTMARE. I WILL BE SHARING SOCIOLOGY STRATEGY SHORTLY TOO.

Ask me anything if you have doubts.

Regards,

Apka Apna

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