

how to prepare Sociology

Dear Candidate, given the **Limited Time** that you have and the **Infinite Syllabus** that you have to prepare for the Civil Services Examination, it becomes very important to manage your time wisely and utilize your energy efficiently. It becomes all the more important in light of the fierce competition that you face ahead. Here, I would like to recall a line from the book *You Can Win* by Shiv Khera, that,

“Winners don’t do different things, they do things differently”.

Now, I would like to brief you about our unique approach for preparing Sociology optional for the Civil Services Examination.

Firstly and foremost, you must understand that no matter how many sleepless nights you may spend preparing for this examination, ultimately, it is only those 3 hours (at the examination hall during the Mains (Written) Examination) that are going to decide your fate. So it is very important for the candidates to prepare their subject strictly in an **Exam Oriented** manner. What is important here is not how much you have studied for the exam but how much you would be able to write at the time of the exam? So, what is important here is not to master the subject in all its possible details but rather, one should prepare the subject strictly in a professional manner keeping in mind the demands for ‘conceptual clarity’, ‘analytical reasoning’ and ‘correct writing expression’ as set forth by Union Public Service Commission. Only then one can hope to cover the syllabus for this exam in a time-bound manner with better chances of success. This you would realize step-by-step as you move along these notes and with vital inputs from my side during the course of your preparation.

Secondly, one must follow a **Theme-Based Approach** instead of Topic-Based Approach, whereby one should identify the major theme that underlies a given topic and runs through several other related sub-topics. Particularly, in light of the revised syllabus and the changing orientation of the Civil Services Examination, it has become all the more important to adopt theme-based approach because many a times questions are also asked on topics which are not mentioned in the syllabus. Though at the outset such questions may appear to be out of syllabus to the candidate but actually they are not. Questions on such topics are basically of implied nature and thus very much a part of the major theme that underlie the topic mentioned in the syllabus. So by following a theme-based approach we can cover not only those topics that are mentioned in the syllabus but also those which are of implied nature.