

SOMP Key Idea Approach for Mains Mentorship 2023

ART AND CULTURE

SOMP KEY IDEA APPROACH

Often when students write answers, despite knowing content and all nit-picks of answer writing they find themselves ranging in average and sometimes even below average marks. The answer writing is not just about writing the right content but also **about writing it in the right manner**. Now the question arises what is the right manner that SOMP speak off?

Students write with the knowledge that they acquire over hour readings and learning and try to produce it in their own language in answer sheets. But is writing in general language sufficient to **fetch that 1 mark extra**? Then how are you making our answer subject specific, by using the same words in every subject. That definitely doesn't seem right and surely is questionable. Therefore, it is essential to understand that while following norms of answer writing, its structure or presentation is essential, use of appropriate language which is subject specific is equally needed.

This study material prepared by SOMP is to fulfill this demand of answers and make them specific from general. It gives valuable key ideas which can be readily included in answers at suitable places to acquire specificity. Not only this, after going through this material an aspirant can quickly revise the key terminologies used to express critical ideas. While substituting them for a larger sentence will make answers enriched as well as well composed, sentencing the quotes in answers has the possibility of fetching more marks in this tug of war.

The purpose of the document is to provide key words used in every sub section of the syllabus of UPSC CSE and help ***SOMP Mains Mentorship 2023 students*** to understand their importance and use. To fulfill this objective the material contains Theme areas, Key ideas associated with it, Context of these key ideas and a statement which provides a glimpse of its use. Alongside it also consist of quotes related to themes which are general in nature and can be quoted in answers. The material also guides you about various specific areas in which these materials can be utilized to replace general casual words.

SOMP hopes to help and ensure that our students get through their tough journey and our support in this process eventually makes them realize it. So we hope that you will utilize this study material well and enrich your answers in the exam hall. All the best.

Quotes- ART AND CULTURE

- India is not only a nation but also an idea and a culture: **PM Modi**
- Indian culture goes beyond tolerance, talks of acceptance: **PM Modi**
- “India is a country in which every great religion finds a home.” - **Annie Besant**
- “India is a place where colour is doubly bright. Pinks that scald your eyes, blues you could drown in.” – **Kiran Millwood Hargrave**
- “In India, we celebrate the commonality of major differences; we are a land of belonging rather than of blood.” – **Shashi Tharoor**
- “India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great-grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.” – **Mark Twain**
- “To other countries, I may go as a tourist, but to India, I come as a pilgrim.” – **Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- “India has two million gods, and worships them all. In religion all other countries are paupers; India is the only millionaire.” – **Mark Twain**
- If America is a melting-pot, then to me India is a thali, a selection of sumptuous dishes in different bowls. Each tastes different, and does not necessarily mix with the next, but they belong together on the same plate, and they complement each other in making the meal a satisfying repast.- **Shashi Tharoor**
- ONE approach to India is “ the India of snow peaks and tropical jungles, with seventeen major languages and 22,000 district "dialects", inhabited by nearly 940 million individuals of every ethnic extraction known to humanity.” **Shashi Tharoor**
- The idea of India is not based on language, not on geography, not on ethnicity and not on religion.
- The idea of India is of one land embracing many.-**Shashi Tharoor**

SUB THEME: ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Key Idea: Architectural Narrative

- **Context:** In the realm of architecture and design, the term "Architectural Narrative" stands as a foundational concept. It encompasses the practice of imbuing built environments with stories and meanings that extend beyond mere functionality. Architectural narratives weave together history, culture, and human experiences, transforming structures into vessels of storytelling and symbolism.
- **Statement:** "Architectural Narrative" elevates buildings from static structures to dynamic storytellers. It encourages architects to infuse spaces with cultural identities, historical echoes, and emotional resonances.

Key Idea: Urban Architecture

- **Context:** In the context of urban development and city planning, "Urban Architecture" takes center stage. It encompasses the design and arrangement of buildings, public spaces, and infrastructure within urban landscapes. Urban architecture shapes the visual identity of cities and influences the ways in which people interact with and experience urban environments.
- **Statement:** Urban Architecture is the art of harmonizing aesthetics and functionality on a grand scale, creating spaces that accommodate diverse activities while fostering a sense of community and identity.

Key Idea: Grid Iron pattern

- **Context:** Within the realm of design and architecture, the "Grid Iron Pattern" holds a significant place. This pattern is characterized by a regular grid of intersecting lines, often forming squares or rectangles. It is used in the context of planning of Harappan Civilisation Cities.
- **Statement:** The grid iron pattern provides a systematic and organized urban layout, facilitating navigation and efficient land use while influencing the aesthetics and functionality of cities and neighborhoods as used in Indus Valley Civilisation cities.

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Key Idea: Architectural Language

- **Context:** Architectural language refers to the unique set of design elements, forms, materials, and principles that architects use to communicate ideas and concepts through their creations.
- **Statement:** Architectural language shapes the visual and functional aspects of buildings, reflecting cultural influences, design philosophies, and the intended experiences within architectural spaces.

Key Idea: Housing Typology

- **Context:** Housing typology refers to the categorization and classification of different types of residential buildings based on their architectural characteristics, layout, design principles, and functional configurations.
- **Statement:** There were multiple housing typologies in Harappan cities which depict the social differentiation and presence of classes.

Key Idea: Vernacular Architecture

- **Context:** Vernacular architecture refers to the traditional and locally adapted building styles and techniques that emerge from the specific cultural, climatic, and social contexts of a region, often passed down through generations.
- **Statement:** Vernacular architecture embodies the wisdom of communities, harmonizing human needs with the environment and reflecting the rich cultural heritage of a place, showcasing the ingenuity of people in creating functional and sustainable structures.

Key Idea: Renaissance Art

- **Context:** Renaissance art refers to the artistic movement that emerged in Europe during the 14th to 17th centuries, characterized by a revival of classical aesthetics, humanism, perspective, and a focus on realistic depiction of subjects.
- **Statement:** Renaissance art marked a transformative period in Western art history, celebrating human potential, scientific inquiry, and cultural rebirth, resulting in masterpieces that continue to inspire and influence artistic expression today.

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Key Idea: Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb

- **Context:** Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb, also known as Ganga-Jamuni culture, refers to the syncretic and harmonious cultural amalgamation between Hindu and Muslim communities in India, particularly in the realms of art, music, and daily life.
- **Statement:** Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb symbolizes the coexistence and shared heritage of different religious and cultural groups, fostering unity and celebrating the diversity that enriches the social fabric of India.

Key Idea: Paradisiacal Elements

- **Context:** Paradisiacal elements in architecture refer to design features, motifs, or arrangements that evoke a sense of paradise or an idealized, heavenly environment within built spaces. e.g. Charbagh in Taj Mahal, Humayun's Tomb
- **Statement:** Paradisiacal elements in architecture are meant to create a sense of tranquility, beauty, and serenity, often using natural materials, lush landscapes, and aesthetic forms to transport occupants to a state of imagined perfection.

Key Idea: Greek Column Order

- **Context:** Greek column order refers to the distinct styles of columns employed in ancient Greek architecture, each characterized by specific proportions, decorative elements, and structural features.
- **Statement:** The Greek column orders—Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian—stand as enduring symbols of classical architecture, reflecting the aesthetic and functional ideals of ancient Greece while influencing architectural design across different cultures and epochs.

Key Idea: Climate-Sensitive Design

- **Context:** Climate-sensitive design refers to architectural and urban planning practices that take into consideration the local climate conditions, aiming to create buildings and spaces that respond effectively to climatic challenges and promote energy efficiency, comfort, and sustainability.
- **Statement:** Climate-sensitive design prioritizes the relationship between the built environment and the natural climate, ensuring that buildings and spaces are optimized to enhance human well-being while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

Key Idea: Symbolic Architecture

- **Context:** Symbolic architecture involves the use of design elements, forms, and structures to convey deeper meanings, cultural values, beliefs, or ideas beyond their functional purposes.
- **Statement:** Symbolic architecture serves as a visual language, communicating cultural, religious, or ideological messages that resonate with people, shaping the identity and significance of built spaces in profound and enduring ways.

Key Idea: Arabesque Design

- **Context:** Arabesque design is an intricate and ornamental style often found in Islamic art and architecture, characterized by complex geometric patterns and flowing, interlacing motifs.
- **Statement:** Arabesque design showcases the mastery of geometry and aesthetics, reflecting the fusion of art and mathematics in Islamic culture while contributing to the rich visual tapestry of Islamic architecture and artistic expression.

Key Idea: Knowledge-Intensive Sectors

- **Context:** Knowledge-intensive sectors are industries that heavily rely on intellectual capital, specialized skills, and advanced knowledge to create value and drive innovation.
- **Statement:** Knowledge-intensive sectors thrive on expertise and intellectual prowess, generating high-value products, services, and advancements that propel societies towards greater sophistication and progress.

Key Idea: Rhythm, Symmetry and Pattern

- **Context:** Rhythm, symmetry, and pattern in architecture refer to fundamental design principles used to create visual harmony, order, and aesthetic appeal in built environments.
- **Statement:** Rhythm, symmetry, and pattern in architecture guide the arrangement of elements, facilitating a sense of coherence and beauty that elevates architectural spaces and evokes a profound sensory experience for occupants and observers alike.

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Key Idea: Sculptural Embellishment

- **Context:** Sculptural embellishment involves the incorporation of three-dimensional artistic elements, often in the form of sculptures, reliefs, or decorative carvings, to enhance the aesthetic and symbolic qualities of architectural structures.
- **Statement:** Sculptural embellishment transforms architecture into a canvas for artistic expression, infusing buildings with cultural narratives, symbolism, and visual allure that transcend mere function and elevate them to works of art.

Key Idea: Stylistic Elements

- **Context:** Stylistic elements encompass the distinctive design features, motifs, and characteristics that define a particular architectural style, period, or cultural context.
- **Statement:** Stylistic elements serve as the visual vocabulary of architecture, allowing buildings to convey historical, cultural, and artistic nuances through their unique combinations of forms, materials, and decorative details.

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SUB THEME: Culture and Folk Art

Key Idea: Cultural Disconnect

- **Context:** Cultural disconnect refers to the lack of understanding, empathy, or alignment between individuals or groups from different cultural backgrounds, often resulting in misunderstandings, miscommunications, or clashes of values.
- **Statement:** Cultural disconnect highlights the importance of fostering cross-cultural awareness and effective communication to bridge gaps, promote mutual respect, and create harmonious interactions in diverse societies.

Key Idea: Cultural Synchronisation

- **Context:** Cultural synchronization refers to the process of aligning or harmonizing cultural practices, values, and behaviors among individuals or groups to facilitate effective communication, collaboration, and understanding.
- **Statement:** Cultural synchronization fosters unity and cooperation by recognizing and respecting cultural diversity while finding common ground that promotes shared goals, mutual respect, and a cohesive sense of community.

Key Idea: Cultural Prism

- **Context:** Cultural prism metaphorically represents the diverse perspectives, interpretations, and dimensions through which individuals view and experience a particular culture, often influenced by their backgrounds, beliefs, and personal experiences.
- **Statement:** Cultural prism emphasizes the richness and complexity of human interactions with culture, illustrating how different angles and facets contribute to a vibrant mosaic of understanding and appreciation.

Key Idea: Visual Expression

- **Context:** Visual expression refers to the communication of ideas, emotions, or concepts through visual elements such as images, artwork, design, and other visual media.
- **Statement:** Visual expression transcends language barriers, offering a powerful means to convey messages and evoke emotions, engaging audiences on a profound level through the language of imagery and aesthetics.

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Key Idea: Calligraphic Style

- **Context:** Calligraphic style refers to the distinct manner in which handwriting or lettering is rendered, often characterized by unique strokes, curves, and artistic flourishes that contribute to the overall aesthetic appeal of written or designed text.
- **Statement:** Calligraphic style combines artistry with the written word, transforming letters into visually captivating forms that reflect cultural traditions, personal creativity, and the beauty of the written language.

Key Idea: Brilliance of Color

- **Context:** Brilliance of color describes the vividness, intensity, and luminosity of hues used in art, design, or visual media, often evoking strong emotions and creating visual impact. Used in the context of folk motifs and paintings.
- **Statement:** The brilliance of color adds depth and emotion to artistic creations, capturing attention and conveying feelings or meanings through the interplay of vibrant shades and tones.

Key Idea: Minuteness of Decorative Details

- **Context:** Minuteness of decorative details refers to the intricate and finely crafted ornamentation and embellishments found in art, architecture, and design, often requiring meticulous attention to small, intricate elements.
- **Statement:** The minuteness of decorative details elevates creations to a level of exquisite craftsmanship, adding layers of beauty and sophistication that enhance the overall aesthetic experience and cultural significance.

Key Idea: Rich Cultural Heritage

- **Context:** Rich cultural heritage refers to the wealth of traditions, customs, art, history, and values that a society or community inherits from previous generations, shaping its identity and providing a sense of continuity.
- **Statement:** A rich cultural heritage is a treasure trove of wisdom and creativity, reflecting the collective achievements and expressions of a people over time, and serving as a source of inspiration, pride, and connection.

Key Idea: Intangible Heritage

- **Context:** A decentralized database is a type of database system where data is stored and managed across multiple locations or nodes rather than in a single central location, enhancing security, accessibility, and scalability.
- **Statement:** Intangible heritage is a repository of human creativity and identity, preserving the intangible threads that connect communities and enrich societies with the depth of their cultural expressions and shared experiences.

Key Idea: Music Vocabulary

- **Context:** Music vocabulary refers to the specialized terms, terminology, and language used to describe various elements of music, such as musical notes, scales, rhythms, genres, and techniques.
- **Statement:** Music vocabulary is essential for communicating and understanding the nuances of musical composition, performance, and analysis, enabling musicians and enthusiasts to engage in meaningful discussions about the art form.

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Key Idea: Diffused Culture

- **Context:** Diffused culture refers to the spread and dispersion of cultural elements, practices, and influences across different regions or societies, often leading to the blending and adaptation of cultural traits.
- **Statement:** Diffused culture showcases the dynamic interactions between different communities, resulting in the exchange of ideas, traditions, and values, contributing to the evolving mosaic of global cultural diversity.

SUB THEME: BHAKTI TRADITION AND SUFISM

Key Idea: Personalized Devotion

- **Context:** Personalized devotion refers to individualized expressions of religious or spiritual practices, where individuals connect with their beliefs in unique ways that resonate with their personal experiences and convictions e.g. Bhakti Movement and Sufism.
- **Statement:** Personalized devotion of Bhakti movement allowed individuals to forge a deep and intimate relationship with their faith, tailoring their religious practices to reflect their own understanding, emotions, and connection to the divine.

Key Idea: Intermixing of Culture

- **Context:** Intermixing of culture refers to the blending and merging of different cultural elements, traditions, and practices that occurs when different communities come into contact and interact.
- **Statement:** The intermixing of culture results in a dynamic exchange of ideas, customs, and values, enriching societies with a diverse tapestry of influences and contributing to the continuous evolution of cultural expressions and identities.

Key Idea: Cultural Pot

- **Context:** Cultural pot symbolizes the metaphorical mixing and mingling of various cultural elements, traditions, and influences within a diverse society or community.
- **Statement:** The cultural pot represents the vibrant fusion of different backgrounds, languages, customs, and beliefs, creating a dynamic and harmonious blend that enriches the fabric of society and fosters mutual understanding.


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Key Idea: Salad Bowl of Culture

- **Context:** Salad bowl of culture is a metaphor that illustrates cultural diversity by likening it to a salad where different ingredients maintain their distinct identities while contributing to the overall mix.
- **Statement:** The salad bowl of culture celebrates the coexistence of diverse cultural backgrounds, allowing each individual or group to maintain their unique heritage and traditions while collectively contributing to the richness and flavour of a multicultural society.


Key Idea: Indo-Islamic Traditions

- **Context:** Indo-Islamic traditions refer to the cultural, artistic, and architectural influences that emerged from the interaction between Islamic and Indian civilizations, particularly during the medieval period.
- **Statement:** Indo-Islamic traditions showcase the synthesis of diverse cultural elements, blending Islamic architectural styles with indigenous art forms, resulting in a unique cultural heritage that is a testament to India's rich history of intercultural exchange.



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