

SOMP Key Idea Approach for Mains Mentorship 2023

ENVIRONMENT

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 marks 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- Ecology-Environment

- "What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another" **MAHATMA GANDHI**
- This is our world, a common world. Everybody should feel a common responsibility"— **BAN KI MOON**
- "Climate change is simply, the greatest collective challenge we face as a human family"— **BAN KI MOON**
- "Sustainable development and climate change are two sides of the same coin"— **BAN KI MOON**
- "Human activity is the cause of the climate problem. So human action must be the solution." – **UN Secretary-General**
- "Climate change is happening now & to all of us. No country or community is immune. And, as is always the case, the poor & vulnerable are the first to suffer and the worst hit." **UN Secretary-General**
- "We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children" **Mr. Lester Brown**
- "We are the first generation to get impacted by climate change, and last who can do something about it" (**Barack Obama, Paris COP**)

PHRASES

- Think before you trash it.
- A little effort towards saving the environment is better than no effort.
- If you cannot reuse, refuse.
- Let us nurture nature to have a nurturing future.
- Better Environment, Better Tomorrow. Save the planet Earth.
- Use. Recycle. Reuse.
- Let us save our environment.
- Our planet's alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action.
- Lend a hand to save the planet.
- It's not yours, not mine. It's ours. Help protect our Mother Earth.
- Keep the oceans blue, the planet green, and the animals safe.
- Raise your voice, not pollution.
- No pollution is the only solution.

STAND POST

- Wipe out pollution before it wipes you out.
- You are the key to a cleaner and pollution-free air.
- Love to breathe, save the trees.
- Save the Earth, Save Yourself.
- Think green. Be green. Stop polluting.

ENVIRONMENT

- Conserve what our children deserve.
- Eradicate pollution, Save the environment
- Stop polluting and start living.
- Prevent pollution, protect nature.
- Plant trees to make our environment pollution-free.

SUB THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Key Idea: Environmental Auditing

Context: An objective procedure for evaluating an organization's actions and services in regard to: Evaluating compliance with pertinent internal and regulatory obligations. making management of environmental activities easier.

Statement: The company conducted an environmental audit to assess its ecological footprint and compliance with sustainability standards.

Key Idea: Preservative Approach

Context: The "Preservative Approach" in environmental conservation refers to a strategy that aims to conserve natural resources and ecosystems by minimizing human impact and ensuring their long-term sustainability.

Statement: By adopting the Preservative Approach, the national park management focuses on maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem, limiting visitor access to sensitive areas, and employing non-intrusive methods for wildlife monitoring.

Key Idea: Conservative Approach

Context: The conservative approach in environmental management refers to a strategy that emphasizes caution, preservation, and minimal impact on natural resources and ecosystems. It prioritizes maintaining the status quo and avoiding significant changes that could potentially disrupt the environment.

Statement: In adopting a conservative approach to forestry, the company ensures that only a limited number of trees are harvested each year, preserving the overall health of the forest and promoting long-term sustainability.

Key Idea: Environmental Compliance

Context: Environmental compliance refers to the adherence of individuals, organizations, and industries to laws, regulations, and standards set to protect the environment and ensure responsible resource management.

Statement: The manufacturing plant consistently monitors its wastewater disposal practices to ensure strict environmental compliance, preventing any potential harm to nearby water bodies and ecosystems.

Key Idea: Human-Environment Interactions

Context: Human-environment interactions encompass the ways in which people interact with and influence their surroundings, encompassing both positive and negative impacts on the natural world.

Statement: Through sustainable urban planning and green infrastructure, cities can enhance human-environment interactions, creating spaces where residents can thrive while minimizing the ecological footprint on the surrounding landscapes.

Key Idea: Bioenvironmental Systems

Context: Bioenvironmental systems refer to the intricate relationships and interactions between living organisms and their environment, including the study of ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecological processes.

Statements: Researchers are investigating bioenvironmental systems in wetland habitats, exploring how various species and ecological processes interact to maintain the delicate balance of nutrient cycling and water purification.

Key Idea: Ecological Politics

Context: Ecological politics refers to the intersection of environmental issues and political decision-making, encompassing policies, regulations, and ideologies that address environmental concerns and sustainable resource management.

Statement: Ecological politics play a pivotal role in shaping government policies that aim to mitigate climate change, emphasizing international cooperation and the adoption of renewable energy sources to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Key Idea: Bio-Ecological Imperialism

Context: Bio-ecological imperialism refers to the phenomenon where certain species, often introduced by humans, become invasive and disrupt native ecosystems, leading to ecological imbalances and potential harm to local biodiversity.

Statement: The introduction of non-native predators to control pest species inadvertently resulted in bio-ecological imperialism, as the predators began to negatively impact indigenous species and upset the natural equilibrium of the ecosystem.

Key Idea: Environmental Ethics

Context: Environmental ethics involves the study of moral principles and values that guide human interactions with the environment, including the responsibility towards nature, the rights of non-human entities, and the consideration of long-term ecological impacts.

Statement: Environmental ethics advocates for a perspective that recognizes the intrinsic value of all living beings and promotes a sense of stewardship, inspiring individuals and societies to make choices that prioritize environmental sustainability and the well-being of the planet.

Key Idea: Eco-terrorism

Context: Eco-terrorism refers to acts of violence, sabotage, or vandalism committed by individuals or groups with the intent of promoting their environmental or ecological agendas through fear and intimidation.

Statement: While some individuals may resort to eco-terrorism in their passion for environmental causes, the vast majority of activists and organizations emphasize peaceful methods and advocacy to address pressing ecological issues and promote change.

Key Idea: Ecomedia

Context: Ecomedia encompasses various forms of media, such as films, documentaries, literature, art, and online content, that focus on environmental issues, sustainability, and the relationship between humans and the natural world.

Statement: Ecomedia, including documentaries like 'An Inconvenient Truth' and online platforms dedicated to eco-friendly living, have become powerful tools for raising awareness about environmental challenges and inspiring positive actions on a global scale.

Key Idea: Ecofeminism

Context: Ecofeminism is a philosophical and social movement that explores the connections between the oppression of women and the degradation of the environment, advocating for a holistic approach to addressing both gender and environmental issues.

Statement: Ecofeminism highlights the parallels between the domination of women and the exploitation of nature, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to achieve gender equality and environmental sustainability.

Key Idea: Ecofascism

Context: Ecofascism is a term used to describe an extreme and often authoritarian ideology that combines elements of environmentalism with fascist principles, advocating for strict control over population, resources, and society in the name of preserving the environment.

Statement: Ecofascism represents a dangerous and controversial ideology that misappropriated environmental concerns to support oppressive and exclusionary agendas, highlighting the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between legitimate environmental activism and extremist ideologies.

Key Idea: Biosemiotics

Context: Biosemiotics is an interdisciplinary field that explores the communication and signification processes within and between living organisms, as well as how these processes relate to broader ecological systems and evolution.

Statement: Biosemiotics delves into the study of how animals, plants, and even microorganisms communicate through signs and symbols, shedding light on the intricate web of meanings and interactions that shape the fabric of life on Earth.

Key Idea: Bioregionalism

Context: Bioregionalism is a concept that emphasizes the importance of defining human communities based on the ecological and geographical boundaries of distinct natural regions, fostering a deeper connection between people, their environment, and local resources.

Statement: Bioregionalism encourages communities to align their lifestyles and activities with the unique characteristics of their natural surroundings, fostering sustainable practices and a sense of stewardship for the local ecosystem.

Key Idea: Environmental Liabilities

Context: Environmental liabilities refer to potential financial obligations and legal responsibilities that individuals, organizations, or governments might face due to environmental damage or pollution caused by their actions.

Statement: The company's merger included a thorough assessment of potential environmental liabilities to ensure that any contaminated sites or pollution-related risks were identified and addressed in accordance with regulatory standards.

Key Idea: Environmental Reclamation Reserve

Context: An environmental reclamation reserve is a designated area where efforts are made to restore, rehabilitate, and rejuvenate ecosystems that have been degraded or damaged due to human activities, often with the aim of preserving biodiversity and natural resources.

Statement: The establishment of the environmental reclamation reserve allowed for the revitalization of a former mining site, turning it into a thriving habitat for native flora and fauna.

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Key Idea: Green Marketing

Context: Green marketing, also known as eco-marketing or sustainable marketing, involves promoting products or services by highlighting their environmentally-friendly attributes, with the goal of appealing to environmentally-conscious consumers and contributing to sustainability efforts.

Statement: Through strategic green marketing campaigns, companies can effectively communicate their commitment to sustainability and driving demand for products that have a reduced ecological impact.

Key Idea: Environmental Conflict

Context: Environmental conflict refers to disagreements, disputes, or tensions that arise due to differing interests, values, or goals related to environmental issues, such as resource management, land use, pollution, or conservation.

Statement: Environmental conflict arises from differing perspectives on how to balance economic development and ecological preservation, prompting debates for sustainable resolutions.

Key Idea: Ecological Footprint

Context: The ecological footprint is a metric used to quantify the environmental impact of human activities on the planet's ecosystems. It calculates the amount of biologically productive land and sea area required to provide the resources a population consumes and to absorb the waste it generates.

Statement: The ecological footprint assesses humanity's demand on nature, measuring resource consumption and waste production against the planet's ecological capacity.

SUB THEME: ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

Key Idea: Homeostatic Mechanisms

Context: Homeostatic mechanisms are physiological processes that help maintain a stable internal environment within living organisms, allowing them to function optimally despite external changes.

Statement: Homeostatic mechanisms ensure that an organism's vital parameters, such as temperature and pH, remain balanced by regulating internal processes in response to external fluctuations.

Key Idea: Queer Ecology

Context: Queer ecology is an emerging field that explores the intersections between LGBTQ+ identities and environmental issues, examining how gender and sexual diversity are connected to ecological systems and environmental justice.

Statement: Queer ecology explores the links between LGBTQ+ experiences and environmental concerns, revealing the ways in which diverse identities intersect with and influence ecological dynamics.

Key Idea: Environmental Governance

Context: Environmental governance refers to the collective processes, structures, and institutions that manage and regulate environmental resources, policies, and actions at local, national, and international levels.

Statement: Environmental governance involves the coordination of policies, regulations, and actions among governments, organizations, and communities to ensure sustainable resource management and ecological well-being.

Key Idea: Eco-Conscious

Context: Being eco-conscious means being aware of and mindful about the environmental impact of one's actions and choices, and actively making decisions that prioritize sustainability and reduced ecological harm.

Statement: Living an eco-conscious lifestyle involves making deliberate choices that consider the environment, from reducing waste and energy consumption to supporting sustainable products and practices.

Key Idea: Environmental Economics

Context: Environmental economics is a field that examines the relationship between economic activities, environmental resources, and sustainability. It focuses on assessing the costs and benefits of environmental policies, regulations, and interventions.

Statement: Environmental economics evaluates how economic decisions impact the environment, analyzing the trade-offs between economic growth, resource use, and ecological well-being.

Key Idea: Ecological Economics

Context: Ecological economics is a branch of economics that emphasizes the integration of ecological and environmental factors into economic analysis. It aims to develop economic models that account for the complex relationships between human well-being and the health of ecosystems.

Statement: Ecological economics seeks to create economic frameworks that recognize the interconnectedness of human societies and the natural world, aiming for sustainable and equitable outcomes.

SUB THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Key Idea: Precautionary Principle

Context: The precautionary principle is a guiding concept in environmental policy and decision-making. It suggests that when there is a potential risk of harm to the environment or human health, even in the absence of full scientific certainty, precautionary measures should be taken to prevent or mitigate those risks.

Statement: The precautionary principle in environmental management advocates for proactive actions to address potential risks, emphasizing the importance of preventing harm rather than waiting for conclusive scientific evidence.

Key Idea: Polluter Pays Principle

Context: The polluter pays principle is a foundational concept in environmental economics and policy. It states that those who generate pollution or environmental harm should bear the costs of mitigating or cleaning up that pollution.

Statement: The polluter pays principle asserts that those responsible for environmental damage should be financially responsible for its cleanup and remediation, promoting accountability for negative ecological impacts.

Key Idea: Inter-generational Equity

Context: Intergenerational equity is a principle that highlights the importance of ensuring fairness and justice between different generations. It focuses on the idea that present actions and decisions should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs and enjoy a healthy environment.

Statement: Intergenerational equity requires present decisions to safeguard resources and a healthy environment for the well-being of future generations.

Key Idea: Eco-Conscious Capitalism

Context: Eco-conscious capitalism, also known as sustainable capitalism or green capitalism, involves incorporating environmental considerations into business practices and economic systems. It seeks to balance profit generation with environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Statement: Eco-conscious capitalism promotes businesses that prioritize sustainable practices, demonstrating how profitability can coexist with environmental preservation and societal well-being.

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Key Idea: Environmental, Social, and Governance

Context: Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) refers to a set of criteria used to assess the sustainability and ethical performance of a company or investment. These criteria evaluate the company's impact on the environment, its social practices, and the quality of its governance.

Statement: ESG factors provide a framework for evaluating businesses based on their environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance practices, helping investors make informed decisions aligned with sustainability goals.

Key Idea: Ethical or Sustainable Investment

Context: Ethical or sustainable investment involves making financial decisions that align with personal values and sustainability goals. It focuses on investing in companies or projects that prioritize environmental responsibility, social justice, and ethical business practices.

Statement: Ethical or sustainable investment empowers individuals to support companies that uphold environmental and social standards, aligning financial decisions with personal values for a more sustainable future.

Key Idea: Greenwashing

Context: Greenwashing refers to the deceptive practice of portraying a company, product, or service as environmentally friendly or sustainable, often through misleading advertising or marketing, while not actually implementing substantial environmental efforts.

Statement: Greenwashing involves presenting a false image of environmental responsibility to consumers, creating an illusion of sustainability without meaningful actions to back up the claims.

Key Idea: Triple bottom line-People, Planet, and Profit

Context: The triple bottom line is a framework that evaluates the success of an organization based on three interconnected dimensions: people (social), planet (environmental), and profit (economic). It emphasizes the importance of achieving positive outcomes in all three areas.

Statement: The triple bottom line approach evaluates organizational success by considering its impact on people, planet, and profit, encouraging a balanced focus on social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and economic performance.

SUB THEME: MISCELLANEOUS

Key Idea: Best Management Practices

Context: Best Management Practices (BMPs) in environmental management refer to guidelines, strategies, and methods designed to minimize negative impacts on the environment while achieving desired goals. These practices promote sustainable resource use and responsible stewardship.

Statement: Best Management Practices in environmental management provide effective strategies and guidelines to minimize ecological harm and promote sustainable practices across various industries and activities.

Key Idea: Eco-Sensitive Approach

Context: An eco-sensitive approach involves adopting practices and strategies that prioritize the preservation and protection of sensitive ecological areas, species, and ecosystems. It emphasizes minimizing human impact and promoting sustainable coexistence with nature.

Statement: An eco-sensitive approach aims to safeguard delicate ecosystems by implementing measures that respect and preserve their unique characteristics, ensuring long-term ecological health and balance.

Key Idea: Eco Anxiety

Context: Eco-anxiety refers to a psychological and emotional distress experienced by individuals due to concerns about environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecological degradation. It can result from a sense of powerlessness in the face of large-scale environmental challenges.

Statement: Eco-anxiety is a growing emotional response to the overwhelming environmental challenges that can lead to feelings of stress, helplessness, and worry about the future of the planet.

Key Idea: Climate Overshoot

Context: Climate overshoot occurs when human activities cause greenhouse gas emissions to exceed the Earth's capacity to absorb and mitigate them. This leads to an accumulation of gases in the atmosphere, resulting in higher temperatures and contributing to climate change.

Statement: Climate overshoot refers to the situation where human-generated greenhouse gas emissions surpass the planet's ability to naturally balance them, causing long-term changes in the climate system.

Key Idea: Climate Justice

Context: Climate justice is a concept that advocates for addressing the unequal impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and vulnerable populations. It emphasizes the need to ensure fair distribution of both the burdens and benefits of climate action.

Statement: Climate justice calls for equitable solutions to climate change that prioritize the needs and rights of disadvantaged communities, aiming to rectify historical and systemic inequalities exacerbated by environmental challenges.

Key Idea: Climate Emergency

Context: The climate emergency refers to the urgent and critical state of the Earth's climate due to the rapid increase in greenhouse gas emissions, leading to rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and other severe ecological impacts.

Statement: The climate emergency underscores the pressing need for immediate and comprehensive action to mitigate the escalating effects of climate change and prevent further irreversible damage to the planet.

Key Idea: Climate Forcing

Context: Climate forcing refers to any external factor that influences the Earth's climate, such as changes in solar radiation, greenhouse gas concentrations, or volcanic activity. These factors can either warm or cool the climate, contributing to long-term trends in temperature.

Statement: Climate forcing factors, whether natural or anthropogenic, exert an influence on the Earth's climate system by either amplifying or counteracting temperature changes over time.



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