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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q4(b)

**"Participant observation is the most effective tool for collecting facts." Comment.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 1 · 15 marks · Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2016/participant-observation-is-the-most-effective-tool-for-collecting-facts-comment/>

**Whyte**

Street Corner Society: prolonged participation revealing informal organisation.

**Going native**

Risk that the observer loses the capacity to report against the group's self-image.

**Reactivity**

People change when watched; a limit on "natural" facts.

**Census**

The contrasting tool when the fact is a national count, not a scene.

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