

# How to Read a Book

## Chapter 19 Discussion Questions

1. What fields and departments typically constitute the core of social science? Discuss why professional schools like law, education, as well as psychology and history are typically not considered social sciences? (p. 290 - 292)
2. Why does social science writing often seem easier to read than other types of expository writing? What factors contribute to this apparent ease? (p. 292-293)
3. The same factors that make social science seem easy to read also make it difficult. Explain how the reader's commitment to particular views creates obstacles to understanding. (p. 294-295)
4. How does the use of technical terms in social science differ from their use in the "hard sciences" like physics and chemistry? What is meant by "stipulation of usage," and why is it more difficult in social science? (p. 294-295)
5. Why do the authors use the phrase "social science literature" rather than "social science book"? What is the significance of this distinction? (p. 297)
6. It is customary in social science to read several books about a subject rather than one book. How does this differ from reading in philosophy, history, or other fields? (p. 297)
7. How do the rules of analytical reading apply to social science, and why do the authors suggest that a fourth level of reading (syntopical reading) is necessary? (p. 297 - 298)

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