

UPSC MAINS TEST SERIES 2025 ANTHROPOLOGY (Optional Subject)

(Optional Subject)

Available in English Medium Only

STARTING: 12TH JANUARY 2025

Total 16 Tests

8 Sectional

8 Full Syllabus

Available in Online and Offline Mode

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Salient Features

- The language-style and nature of the questions are in line with the questions asked by the Union Public Service Commission and based on deep understanding and knowledge.
- The topics asked in the question are based on the important and relevant topics asked by the Commission which will be directly and indirectly helpful in the main examination.
- Simple and effective presentation of model answers with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.
- Emphasis on preparing better answers through illustrations, examples, graphic analysis, etc. required in answer writing by adopting scientific approach.
- Use of only standard books and sources during model answer writing.
- Necessary interval between each test for proper preparation.

Test Code	Date	Syllabus	Test Code	Date	Syllabus
Test-1 OPT-A-2501	12 January, 2025 (Sunday)	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2,2, 2,3, 2,4, 2.5	Test-9 OPT-A-2509	23 March, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper I
Test-2 OPT-A-2502	19 January, 2025 (Sunday)	3, 4, 5, 7, 1.8, 8	Test-10 OPT-A-2510	30 March, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper II
Test-3 OPT-A-2503	2 February, 2025 (Sunday)	1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 10	Test-11 OPT-A-2511	8 June, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper I
Test-4 OPT-A-2504	9 February, 2025 (Sunday)	6, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 12	Test-12 OPT-A-2512	22 June, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper II
Test-5 OPT-A-2505	16 February, 2025 (Sunday)	1.1,1.2,1.3,2	Test-13 OPT-A-2513	13 July, 2025	Full Length Paper I
Test-6 OPT-A-2506	2 March, 2025 (Sunday)	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4	Test-14 OPT-A-2514	(Sunday)	Full Length Paper II
Test-7 OPT-A-2507	9 March, 2025 (Sunday)	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3	Test-15 OPT-A-2515	27 July, 2025 (Sunday)	Full Length Paper I
Test-8 OPT-A-2508	16 March, 2025 (Sunday)	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2,9.1, 9.2, 9.3	Test-16 OPT-A-2516		Full Length Paper II

^{*}For detailed breakup of syllabus, kindly refer to the subsequent pages.

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TEST SCHEDULE					
Test Code	Test Date	Subject			
Test-1 OPT-A-2501	12 January, 2025 (Sunday)	 1.1 Meaning, Scope and Development of Anthropology. 1.2 Relationship with other disciplines: Social Sciences, behavioural Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Earth Sciences and Humanities. 			
		1.3 Main branches of Anthropology, their scope and relevance:			
		(a) Socio-cultural Anthropology. (b) Biological Anthropology.			
		(c) Archaeological Anthropology. (d) Linguistic Anthropology.			
		2.1 The Nature of Culture: The concept and characteristics of culture and civilization; Ethnocentrism vis-à-vis Cultural Relativism.			
		2.2 The Nature of Society: Concept of Society; Society and Culture; Social Institution; Social groups; and Social stratification.			
		2.3 Marriage: Definition and universality; Laws of marriage (endogamy, exogamy, hypergamy, hypogamy, incest taboo); Types of marriage (monogamy, polygamy, polyandry, group marriage). Functions of marriage; Marriage regulations (preferential, prescriptive and proscriptive); Marriage payments (bride wealth and dowry).			
		2.4 Family: Definition and universality; Family, household and domestic groups; functions of family; Types of family (from the perspectives of structure; blood relation, marriage, residence and succession); Impact of urbanization industrialization and feminist movements on family.			
		2.5 Kinship: Consanguinity and Affinity; Principles and types of descent (Unilineal, Double, Bilateral, Ambilineal); Forms of descent groups (lineage, clan, phratry, moiety and kindred); Kinship terminology (descriptive and classificatory); Descent, Filiation and Complimentary Filiation; Descent and Alliance.			
Test-2 OPT-A-2502	19 January, 2025 (Sunday)	3. Economic organization: Meaning, scope and relevance of economic anthropology; Formalist and Substantivist debate; Principles governing the production, distribution and exchange (reciprocity, redistribution and market), in communities, subsisting on hunting and gathering, fishing, swiddening, pastoralism, horticulture, and agriculture; globalization and indigenous economic systems.			
		4. Political organization and Social Control: Band, tribe, chiefdom, kingdom and state; concepts of power, authority and legitimacy; social control, law and justice in simple societies.			

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		 Religion: Anthropological approaches to the study of religion (evolutionary, psychological and functional); monotheism and polytheism; sacred and profane; myths and rituals; forms of religion in tribal and peasant societies (animism, animatism, fetishism, naturism and totemism); religion, magic and science distinguished; magico-religious functionaries (priest, shaman, medicine man, sorcerer and witch). Culture, language and communication: Nature, origin and characteristics of language; verbal and non-verbal communication; social context of language use. (a) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology: Relative and Absolute Dating methods. (b) Cultural Evolution- Broad Outlines of Prehistoric cultures: 				
		(i) Paleolithic (ii) Mesolithic (iii) Neolithic				
		(iv) Chalcolithic (v) Copper-Bronze Age (vi) Iron Age				
		8. Research methods in anthropology: (a) Fieldwork tradition in anthropology (b) Distinction between technique, method and methodology (c) Tools of data collection: observation, interview, schedules, questionnaire, Case study, genealogy, life-history, oral history, secondary sources of information, participatory methods. (d) Analysis, interpretation and presentation of data.				
Test-3 OPT-A-2503	2 February, 2025 (Sunday)	1.4 Human Evolution and emergence of Man: (a) Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution. (b) Theories of Organic Evolution (Pre- Darwinian, Darwinian and Post- Darwinian). (c) Synthetic theory of evolution; Brief outline of terms and concepts of evolutionary biology (Doll's rule, Cope's rule, Gause's rule, parallelism, convergence, adaptive radiation, and mosaic evolution).				
		1.5 Characteristics of Primates; Evolutionary Trend and Primate Taxonomy; Primate Adaptations; (Arboreal and Terrestrial) Primate Taxonomy; Primate Behaviour; Tertiary and Quaternary fossil primates; Living Major Primates; Comparative Anatomy of Man and Apes; Skeletal changes due to erect posture and its implications.				
		1.6 Phylogenetic status, characteristics and geographical distribution of the following: (a) Plio-pleistocene hominids in South and East Africa - Australopithecines. (b) Homo erectus: Africa (Paranthropus), Europe (Homo erectus heidelbergensis), Asia Homo erectus javanicus, Homo erectus pekinensis). (c) Neanderthal Man- La-Chapelle-auxsaints (Classical type), Mt. Carmel (Progressive type). (d) Rhodesian man. (e) Homo sapiens — Cromagnon, Grimaldi and Chancelede.				
		1.7 The biological basis of life: The Cell, DNA structure and replication, Protein Synthesis, Gene, Mutation, Chromosomes, and Cell Division.				
		9.1 Human Genetics: Methods and Application: Methods for study of genetic principles in man-family study (pedigree analysis, twin study, foster child, co-twin method, cytogenetic method, chromosomal and karyo-type analysis), biochemical methods, immunological methods, D.N.A. technology and recombinant technologies.				

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		 9.2 Mendelian genetics in man-family study, single factor, multifactor, lethal, sub-lethal and polygenic inheritance in man. 9.3 Concept of genetic polymorphism and selection, Mendelian population, Hardy- Weinberg law; causes and changes which bring down frequency – mutation, isolation, migration, selection, inbreeding and genetic drift. Consanguineous and non-consanguineous mating, genetic load, genetic effect of consanguineous and cousin marriages. 9.4 Chromosomes and chromosomal aberrations in man, methodology. (a) Numerical and structural aberrations (disorders). (b) Sex chromosomal aberrations – Klinefelter (XXY), Turner (XO), Super female (XXX), intersex and other syndromic
		disorders. (c) Autosomal aberrations – Down syndrome, Patau, Edward and Cri-duchat syndromes. (d) Genetic imprints in human disease, genetic screening, genetic counseling, human DNA profiling, gene mapping and genome study. 9.5 Race and racism, biological basis of morphological variation of non-metric and metric characters. Racial criteria, racial traits in relation to heredity and environment; biological basis of racial classification, racial differentiation and race crossing in man.
		9.6 Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker- ABO, Rh blood groups, HLA Hp, transferring, Gm, blood enzymes. Physiological characteristics- Hb level, body fat, pulse rate, respiratory functions and sensory perceptions in different cultural and socioeconomic groups.
		9.7 Concepts and methods of Ecological Anthropology. Bio-cultural Adaptations – Genetic and Non-genetic factors. Man's physiological responses to environmental stresses: hot desert, cold, high altitude climate.
		9.8 Epidemiological Anthropology: Health and disease. Infectious and non-infectious diseases. Nutritional deficiency related diseases.
		10. Concept of human growth and development: stages of growth - pre-natal, natal, infant, childhood, adolescence, maturity, senescence Factors affecting growth and development genetic, environmental, biochemical, nutritional, cultural and socio-economic Ageing and senescence. Theories and observations - biological and chronological longevity. Human physique and somatotypes. Methodologies for growth studies.
Test-4 OPT-A-2504	9 February, 2025 (Sunday)	6. Anthropological theories: (a) Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer) (b) Historical particularism (Boas); Diffusionism (British, German and American) (c) Functionalism (Malinowski); Structural- functionlism (Radcliffe-Brown) (d) Structuralism (L'evi - Strauss and E. Leach) (e) Culture and personality (Benedict, Mead, Linton, Kardiner and Cora – du Bois). (f) Neo - evolutionism (Childe, White, Steward, Sahlins and Service) (g) Cultural materialism (Harris) (h) Symbolic and interpretive theories (Turner, Schneider and Geertz) (i) Cognitive theories (Tyler, Conklin) (j) Post- modernism in anthropology
		11.1 Relevance of menarche, menopause and other bioevents to fertility. Fertility patterns and differentials.
		11.2 Demographic theories- biological, social and cultural. 11.3 Biological and socio-ecological factors influencing fecundity, fertility, natality and mortality.

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		12. Applications of Anthropology: Anthropology of sports, Nutritional anthropology, Anthropology in designing of defence and other equipments, Forensic Anthropology, Methods and principles of personal identification and reconstruction, Applied human genetics — Paternity diagnosis, genetic counseling and eugenics, DNA technology in diseases and medicine, serogenetics and cytogenetics in reproductive biology.
Test-5 OPT-A-2505	16 February, 2025 (Sunday)	1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization — Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic - Chalcolithic). Protohistoric (Indus Civilization): Pre- Harappan, Harappan and post- Harappan cultures. Contributions of tribal cultures to Indian civilization.
		1.2 Palaeo – anthropological evidences from India with special reference to Siwaliks and Narmada basin (Ramapithecus, Sivapithecus and Narmada Man).
		1.3 Ethno-archaeology in India: The concept of ethno-archaeology; Survivals and Parallels among the hunting, foraging, fishing, pastoral and peasant communities including arts and crafts producing communities.
		2. Demographic profile of India Ethnic and linguistic elements in the Indian population and their distribution. Indian population - factors influencing its structure and growth.
Test-6 OPT-A-2506	2 March, 2025 (Sunday)	 3.1 The structure and nature of traditional Indian social system — Varnashram, Purushartha, Karma, Rina and Rebirth. 3.2 Caste system in India- structure and characteristics, Varna and caste, Theories of origin of caste system, Dominant caste, Caste mobility, Future of caste system, Jajmani system, Tribe caste continuum. 3.3 Sacred Complex and Nature- Man-Spirit Complex. 3.4 Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity on Indian society. 4. Emergence and growth of anthropology in India-Contributions of the 18th, 19th and early 20th Century scholar-administrators. Contributions of Indian anthropologists to tribal and caste studies.
Test-7 OPT-A-2507	9 March, 2025 (Sunday)	 5.1 Indian Village: Significance of village study in India; Indian village as a social system; Traditional and changing patterns of settlement and inter-caste relations; Agrarian relations in Indian villages; Impact of globalization on Indian villages. 5.2 Linguistic and religious minorities and their social, political and economic status. 5.3 Indigenous and exogenous processes of socio-cultural change in Indian society: Sanskritization, Westernization, Modernization; Inter-play of little and great traditions; Panchayati raj and social change; Media and social change. 6.1 Tribal situation in India – Bio-genetic variability, linguistic and socio-economic characteristics of tribal populations and their distribution. 6.2 Problems of the tribal Communities — land alienation, poverty, indebtedness, low literacy, poor educational facilities, unemployment, underemployment, health and nutrition. 6.3 Developmental projects and their impact on tribal displacement and problems of rehabilitation. Development of forest policy and tribals. Impact of urbanization and industrialization on tribal populations.

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Test-8 OPT-A-2508	16 March, 2025 (Sunday)	 7.1 Problems of exploitation and deprivation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. 7.2 Social change and contemporary tribal societies: Impact of modern democratic institutions, development programmes and welfare measures on tribals and weaker sections. 7.3 The concept of ethnicity; Ethnic conflicts and political developments; Unrest among tribal communities; Regionalism and demand for autonomy; Pseudo-tribalism; Social change among the tribes during colonial and post-Independent India. 8.1 Impact of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and other religions on tribal societies. 8.2 Tribe and nation state — a comparative study of tribal communities in India and other countries. 9.1 History of administration of tribal areas, tribal policies, plans, programmes of tribal development and their implementation. The concept of PTGs (Primitive Tribal Groups), their distribution, special programmes for their development. Role of N.G.O.s in tribal development. 9.2 Role of anthropology in tribal and rural development. 9.3 Contributions of anthropology to the understanding of regionalism, communalism, and ethnic and political movements.
Test-9 OPT-A-2509	23 March, 2025 (Sunday)	• Full Length Paper I
Test-10 OPT-A-2510	30 March, 2025 (Sunday)	• Full Length Paper II
Test-11 OPT-A-2511	8 June, 2025 (Sunday)	• Full Length Paper I
Test-12 OPT-A-2512	22 June, 2025 (Sunday)	• Full Length Paper II
Test-13 OPT-A-2513	13 July, 2025	• Full Length Paper I
Test-14 OPT-A-2514	(Sunday)	• Full Length Paper II
Test-15 OPT-A-2515	27 July, 2025	• Full Length Paper I
Test-16 OPT-A-2516	(Sunday)	• Full Length Paper II

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UPSC (2024) & Drishti IAS Mains Test Series (Anthropology Optional) Comparative Analysis

PAPER-I **Test Series UPSC** Question **Ouestion Drishti IAS Test Series Ouestion UPSC Ouestion** Marks (Code) Code Number • How does culture differ from civilization? 10 A-2401 2. (b) 1. (a) Attributes of culture Describe the attributes of Culture? • What are the important features of Indus valley A-2405 3. (a) civilization? Examine the conditions that may 1. (b) • Harappan maritime trade 10 have led to urbanization in the Indus Region. A-2409 5. (a) • Kinship Behavior 1. (c) • Critical perspective on avoidance and joking relationship 10 A-2403 5. (e) • Lethal and Sub-lethal gene. 1. (d) • Lethal and sublethal genes 10 • Discuss historical particularism as a critical • Critically examine the Historical Particularistic A-2404 2. (c) 2. (a) 20 approach of Franz Boas to the study of culture. development to the classical evolutionism. • Describe the evidences of food production and • Describe the socio cultural characteristics of the 2. (c) domestication of animals with special reference to 15 A-2405 2. (b) Neolithic period in India. Mehrgarh. Throw light on its significance. • What is meant by karyotype? How does its analysis • Describe the molecular mechanisms underlying help in diagnosis of the chromosomal aberrations in 20 A-2409 3. (b) 3. (a) sex chromosome aberrations in humans. man? • Discuss the impact of urbanization and feminist • Define urbanization and discuss its impact on family A-2401 4. (b) 3. (b) 15 movements on family in India. in India with examples. • Discuss the nature and logic of anthropological • Discuss the contemporary challenges in fieldwork A-2404 6. (a) field work methods. How these differ from those 3. (c) 15 method in anthropological research. of other social sciences? Discuss. • Critically discuss the characteristics of the • Analyze the contribution of Ruth Benedict in A-2411 4. (c) psychological types in the cultures of the American 20 4. (a) development of culture and personality school. South-West as observed by Ruth Benedict.

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A-2405	4. (a)	Describe the salient features and distribution of Upper Paleolithic cultures in India. Add a note on the tool traditions of the Upper Paleolithic period.	4. (b)	Discuss the Acheulian and Oldowan traditions of Indian Paleolithic cultures with suitable illustrations.	15
A-2415	8. (a)	• Genetic Counselling offers significant information to parents about genetic aberrations, yet genetic counselling suffers from various problems." Elaborate.	4. (c)	What is genetic counselling? Briefly discuss various steps involved in it.	15
A-2402	1. (b)	Kula Ring Exchange.	5. (b)	Cultural relevance of the Kula	10
A-2415	4. (a)	Discuss the scope of political Anthropology. How do political organizations of simple societies establish law and justice?	5. (d)	Authority and forms of political organization	10
A-2413	8. (c)	• Explain the role of forensic anthropology in personal identification.	6. (b)	Discuss the applications of forensic anthropology with suitable examples.	15
A-2413	4. (c)	What is myth? In what ways do anthropologists' interpretations of myth vary in understanding its function within social structures?	6. (c)	How does Lévi-Strauss look at the Tsimshian myth of Asdiwal? Critically discuss Lévi-Strauss' theory of structuralism in the light of his study of mythologies.	15
A-2413	6. (b)	Critically examine the theory of Post modernism in Anthropology.	7. (a)	• Critically explain the notion of 'deconstruction' in the light of the postmodern works of Jacques Derrida.	20
A-2401	8. (b)	Define social stratification and Discuss any three major approach to explain social stratification.	8. (a)	Examine critically the concept of social stratification as a basis for sustaining social inequality.	20
A-2413	6. (c)	Describe Rh blood group system. Discuss its role in Hemolytic disease in the newborn.	8. (b)	Describe the genetics and inheritance patterns of the ABO and Rh blood groups in man.	15
A-2403	3. (c)	Explain the biological changes that made human beings capable of making cultures.	8. (c)	Critically discuss the synergistic effect of biological and cultural factors in human evolution.	15



	PAPER-II							
Test Series (Code)	Question Code	Drishti IAS Test Series Question	UPSC Question Number	UPSC Question	Marks			
A-2412	6. (b)	• Examine the role of tribal art and crafts in enriching Indian cultural heritage. Mention the steps taken by Indian government to conserve them.	1. (d)	Artisan tribes of Jharkhand	10			
A-2416	7. (c)	Write a note on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) highlighting challenges faced by them and Government initiatives for them.	2. (a)	• Critically discuss the recent welfare measures initiated by the Government for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Comment why PVTGs were erroneously called Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).	20			
A-2408	5. (d)	Role of Gram Sabha under PESA	2. (b)	How is PESA Act empowering local self-governance and impacting women's political participation?	15			
A-2416	4. (a)	• Trace the growth and development of anthropology in India, highlighting key phases and developments.	2. (c)	• Deconstruct the colonial history of Indian Anthropology highlighting the critical role played by the Indian Anthropologists in sustaining its autonomy.	15			
A-2407	5. (b)	M.N. Srinivas' works on village studies.	3. (b)	Compare and contrast the approaches of M.N. Srinivas and L.P. Vidyarthi to social change in village India.	15			
A-2414	5. (d)	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Indian Tribes.	4. (a)	What are the ethical concerns in biological and socio- cultural anthropology because of recent advances in AI and genetic research?	20			
A-2408	7. (c)	Write a note on tribal movement of North east and central India.	4. (b)	Write an essay on the life history of tribal activist and freedom fighter Birsa Munda. What was the impact of his sacrifice on tribal society?	15			

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A-2402 A-2407	5. (c) 3. (a)	 Demographic Transition. Examine the impact of meta-son preference on the demographic structure and population growth in India. 	4. (c)	What are the demographic challenges of India's changing population dynamics in the next 50 years?	15
A-2407	1. (e)	Scheduled Areas	5. (d)	Status of Sixth Schedule Areas	10
A-2406	1. (d)	Backward class.	5. (e)	Constitutional Safeguards for Backward Classes	10
A-2412	4. (a)	• "Tribal health is an interplay of a number of socio-cultural, environmental and genetic factors." Elucidate.	7. (a)	Critically examine existing paradigms of holistic health for the marginalised sections of society drawing inferences from COVID-19 pandemic.	20
A-2416	3. (c)	Discuss various theories regarding the origin of the caste system, highlighting criticism of each theory.	7. (b)	Discuss the theories on origin of caste system and its criticism in India. Differentiate between caste, class and race.	15