

UPSC ANTHROPOLOGY OPTIONAL SYLLABUS



Complete Syllabus
Paper I & Paper II



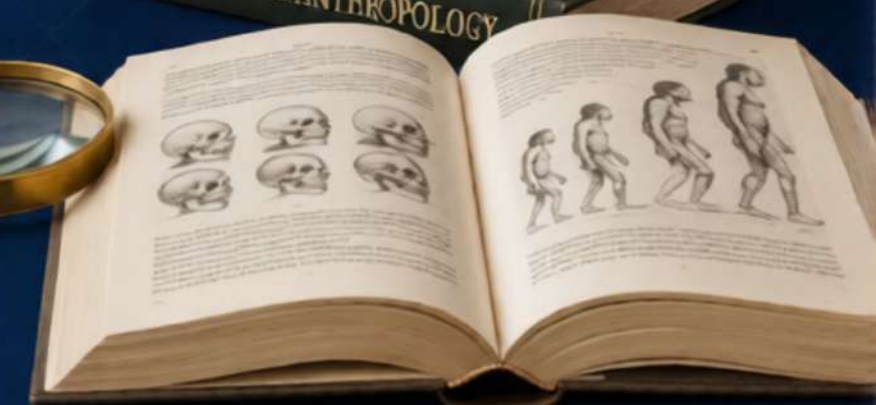
Detailed Topics
Unit wise Breakdown



Exam Pattern
Marks & Structure



Preparation Tips
Strategy & Resources



UPSC Anthropology Syllabus

Paper 1: Socio-Cultural & Biological Foundations

- 1. Meaning, Scope and Development of Anthropology**
- 2. Relationships with other disciplines: Social Sciences, Behavioural Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Earth Sciences and Humanities.**
- 3. Main Branches of Anthropology, their Scope and Relevance**
 - (a) Social- cultural Anthropology.
 - (b) Biological Anthropology.
 - (c) Archaeological Anthropology.
 - (d) Linguistic Anthropology.
- 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; Stage of human evolution; Brief outline of terms like Hominid and Hominine; Major primates; Major fossil finds from Siwaliks and Africa; Geological dating methods.
- 5. Characteristics of Primates**
 - (a) Evolutionary Trend and Primate Taxonomy.
 - (b) Primate Adaptations; (Arboreal and Terrestrial) Primate Taxonomy.
 - (c) Primate Behaviour; Tertiary and Quaternary fossil primates; Living Major Primates; Comparative Anatomy of Man and Apes; Skeletal changes due to erect posture and their implications.
- 6. Phylogenetic status, characteristics and geographical distribution**
 - (a) Australopithecines
 - (b) Homo erectus: The Neanderthal Man
 - (c) Rhodesian man
 - (d) Homo sapiens — Cromagnon, Grimaldi and Chancelade
- 7. Biological Basis of Life**

The Cell, DNA Structure and Replication, Protein Synthesis, Gene, Mutation, Chromosomes, and Cell Division.
- 8. Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology**
 - (a) 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

9. Nature of Culture

The concept and characteristics of culture and civilization; Ethnocentrism vis-à-vis cultural Relativism.

10. The Nature of Society

Concept of Society; Society and Culture; Social Institutions; Social groups; and Social stratification.

11. 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).

12. Family

Definition and universality; Family, household and domestic groups; functions of family; Types of family (conjugal, nuclear, extended, joint); Impact of urbanization, industrialization and feminist movements on family.

13. 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 Complementary Filiation; Descent and Alliance.

14. Economic Organization

Meaning, scope and relevance of economic anthropology; Formalist and Substantivist debate; Principles governing 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Anthropological theories

- (a) Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer)
- (b) Historical particularism (Boas); Diffusionism (British, German and American)
- (c) Functionalism (Malinowski); Structural- functionalism (Radcliffe-Brown)
- (d) Structuralism (Levi - 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

18. Culture, language and communication

Nature, origin and characteristics of language; verbal and non-verbal communication; social context of language use.

19. 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.

20. Human Genetics

Methods for studying 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.

21. Mendelian genetics in man- family study

Single factor, Multifactor, Lethal, Sub-lethal and polygenic inheritance in man.

22. 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.

23. Chromosomes and chromosomal aberrations in man

Numerical and structural aberrations (disjunction, translocation, inversion, deletion, duplication, pericentric inversion, fragile site, turner and Klinefelter's syndrome).

24. Race and racism

- (a) Physical anthropology of race and modern biological theories of race.
- (b) Relevance of menarche, menopause.

25. Ageing and human longevity

Concepts of age; ageing process; Ageing and senescence; Biological and social meanings of ageing; Factors affecting longevity.

26. 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.

27. Epidemiological Anthropology

Health and disease. Infectious and non-infectious diseases. Nutritional deficiency related diseases.

28. Concept of human growth

Growth curve, Auxologic technique, factors affecting growth; Anthropometry, Body composition, Human Somatotypes.

29. 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.

UPSC Anthropology Syllabus Paper 2: Indian Anthropology & Tribal Issues

1. Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

- (a) Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic - Chalcolithic).
- (b) Protohistoric (Indus Civilization): Pre- Harappan, Harappan and post- Harappan cultures. Contributions of tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

2. Paleo - anthropological evidences from India

- (a) Primate taxonomy; Primate behaviour; Tertiary primates; Dryopithecus and Ramapithecus.
- (b) Siwalik man; Narmada Man (Homo erectus).
- (c) Modern Homo sapiens in India: Their age, distribution, physical characteristics and affinities with other populations.

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.

4. Demographic profile of India

Ethnic and linguistic elements in the Indian population and their distribution. Indian population - factors influencing its structure and growth.

5. The structure and nature of traditional Indian social system

Varnashrama, Purushartha, Karma, Rina and rebirth.

6. 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.

7. Sacred Complex and Nature-Man-Spirit Complex

Sacred Complex in tribal situation. Sacred Complex and its relevance to spatial organization of society. Nature-man-spirit complex in tribal society.

8. Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity on Indian society

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.

9. Emergence, growth and development in India

Indian Social System - Generalized features, caste, tribe, kinship and marriage, religion, impact of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, tribal religion and impact of cultural contacts on Indian tribal society.

10. Tribal situation in India

Bio-genetic variability, linguistic and socio-economic characteristics of tribal populations and their distribution.

11. Problems of the tribal Communities

Land alienation, poverty, indebtedness, low literacy, poor educational facilities, unemployment, underemployment, health and nutrition.

12. Developmental projects and their impact on tribal displacement and rehabilitation

Problems of rehabilitation, development projects and their impact on tribals, Dams, Submerged, Forests, Mining, Industrialization.

13. Problems of exploitation and deprivation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

14. Social change and contemporary tribal societies

Impact of modern democratic institutions, development programmes and welfare measures on tribals and weaker sections.

15. 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.

16. Impact of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and other religions on tribal societies

Tribe and nation state - a comparative study of tribal communities in India and other countries.

17. History of administration of tribal areas

Tribal policies, plans, and programmes of tribal development and their implementation.

18. The concept of tribes

Race, language, culture; Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.

19. Impact of modern democratic institutions and welfare measures on tribals

Development programmes and their impact on tribal displacement and rehabilitation.

20. Role of anthropology in tribal and rural development

Contributions of anthropology to the understanding of regionalism, communalism, and ethnic and political movements.