

Anthropology Syllabus 2025 for UPSC for Mains Exam

Anthropology Syllabus for UPSC 2025 for Paper 1

Topic	Details
1) Meaning, Scope, and Development of Anthropology	Study of human beings and their societies from a holistic perspective.
1.1) Relationships with Other Disciplines	Interdisciplinary connections with Social Sciences, Behavioural Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Humanities.
1.2) Main Branches of Anthropology and Their Scope and Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social-Cultural Anthropology- Biological Anthropology- Archaeological Anthropology- Linguistic Anthropology
1.3) Human Evolution and the Emergence of Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution.- Theories of Organic Evolution: Pre-Darwinian, Darwinian, and Post-Darwinian.- Synthetic theory of evolution and key concepts such as Doll's rule, Cope's rule, Gause's rule, parallelism, convergence, adaptive radiation, and mosaic evolution.
1.4) The Biological Basis of Life	Examination of genetics, human growth and development, and biological aspects of human life. Topics include: Cell, DNA structure and replication, protein synthesis, genes, mutation, chromosomes, and cell division.
1.5) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology	Study of archaeological investigation, principles, and chronology of prehistoric cultures.
1.6) Cultural Evolution	Analysis of cultural changes and transformations through Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Copper-Bronze Age, and Iron Age.
2) Nature of Culture, Society, Marriage, Family, and Kinship	Exploration of culture, society, marriage, family, and kinship variations across cultures.
3) Economic Organization	Meaning, scope, and relevance of economic anthropology. Covers debates (Formalist vs. Substantivist), production, distribution, and exchange systems like reciprocity, redistribution, and markets in different subsistence systems. Examines globalization and indigenous economic systems.

4) Political Organisation and Social Control	Analysis of political systems, governance structures, and mechanisms of social control in bands, tribes, chiefdoms, kingdoms, and states. Includes concepts of power, authority, legitimacy, social control, law, and justice in simple societies.
5) Religion	Examination of religious beliefs, practices, rituals, and their cultural significance.
6) Anthropological Theories	Study of theoretical perspectives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan, Frazer)- Historical particularism (Boas)- Diffusionism (British, German, American)- Functionalism (Malinowski) and Structural Functionalism (Radcliffe-Brown)- Structuralism (Lévi-Strauss, E. Leach) etc.
7) Culture, Language, and Communication	Exploration of the relationship between culture, language, and communication patterns. Includes verbal and non-verbal communication and social context of language use.
8) Research Methods in Anthropology	Utilisation of methods like fieldwork, observation, interviews, questionnaires, case studies, genealogy, oral history, and participatory methods. Analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data.
9) Human Genetics	Study of genetic principles, methods (pedigree analysis, twin study, cytogenetics), Mendelian genetics, genetic polymorphism, Hardy-Weinberg law, consanguineous mating, genetic load, and related topics.
10) Concept of Human Growth and Development	Examination of processes and factors influencing human growth and development.
11) Relevance of Menarche, Menopause, and Other Bioevents	Study of biological milestones like menarche, menopause, and their impact on fertility patterns and differentials.
12) Applications of Anthropology	Covers topics like anthropology of sports, nutritional anthropology, forensic anthropology, genetic counselling, paternity diagnosis, DNA technology in medicine, and serogenetics.

UPSC Anthropology Syllabus 2025 for Paper 2:

Topic

Subtopics

Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prehistoric: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Neolithic-Chalcolithic- Protohistoric (Indus Civilization): Pre-Harappan, Harappan, Post-Harappan- Contributions of tribal cultures to civilization
Palaeoanthropological Evidence from India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Siwaliks and Narmada basin (Ramapithecus, Sivapithecus, Narmada Man)
Ethno-archaeology in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Concept of ethnoarchaeology- Survivals and parallels among hunting, foraging, fishing, pastoral, peasant, arts and crafts producing communities
Demographic Profile of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ethnic and linguistic elements and their distribution- Factors influencing population structure and growth
Traditional Indian Social System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Varnashrama, Purushartha, Karma, Rina, Rebirth
Caste System in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Structure and characteristics- Varna and caste- Origin theories- Dominant caste, caste mobility, future of caste- Jajmani system, tribe-caste continuum
Sacred Complex and Nature-Man-Spirit Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Christianity on society
Anthropology in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contributions of 18th-20th century scholar-administrators- Indian anthropologists on tribal and caste studies
Indian Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Village as a social system- Settlement patterns, inter-caste relations- Agrarian relations- Impact of globalization
Linguistic and Religious Minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social, political, economic status
Socio-Cultural Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sanskritization, Westernization, Modernization- Interplay of little and great traditions- Panchayati Raj, media, and social change
Tribal Situation in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bio-genetic variability, linguistic, socio-economic characteristics- Distribution of tribal populations
Problems of Tribal Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Land alienation, poverty, indebtedness, low literacy- Poor educational facilities, unemployment, underemployment- Health, nutrition

Developmental Projects and Tribals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tribal displacement, rehabilitation issues- Forest policy impact on tribals- Urbanisation and industrialization effects
Exploitation and Deprivation of Weaker Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes- Constitutional safeguards
Social Change in Tribal Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Impact of democratic institutions, development programs- Welfare measures, modernity's influence
Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Political developments, unrest, regionalism, autonomy demands- Pseudo-tribalism, colonial/post-independence tribal changes
Religion and Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Impact of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam
Tribes and Nation-State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Comparative study with other countries
Tribal Administration and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- History of tribal area administration- Policies, plans, development programs- Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) and special initiatives- Role of NGOs
Role of Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding regionalism, communalism, ethnic movements- Contribution to tribal and rural development