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Anthropology short notes

Cultural materialism (Harris)

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination • Anthropology Paper 1 • Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)

(g) Cultural materialism (Harris)

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

Revision notes for the Anthropology optional. Confirm thinkers and examples against standard texts and recent papers.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/archives/anthropology-notes/paper-1/cultural-materialism/>

Cultural Materialism (Harris)**Definition**

ETIC (Outsider's Scientific Perspective)

Example / case study

M Harris examples (Abtes, USSR, Sacred cow, Islam) Increase in marriage age despite same biological adolescence Some cultural practices become maladaptive when conditions change. Practices once useful may become harmful or irrelevant.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs. • Structural Functionalism - Radcliffe-Brown

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