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Anthropology short notes

## Economic Organization

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

3. 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.

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

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

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### 3. Economic Organization

#### Definition

Anthropology studies humans as an integrated whole.

#### Meaning

##### Definition

Use field studies and empirical data.

##### Example / case study

Islamic banking → interest-free system based on moral-religious principles

#### Thinkers

S.C. Roy: used Horoko (true human) for tribe. Ernest Gellner - four steps of national identity: shared formal education; cultural homogenisation; language standardisation; anonymity among members that produces a feeling of sameness. Christophe Jaffrelot - two-step rise of Hindu nationalism: stigmatise an 'other' as a common enemy; then unify Hindus across caste, class and region. E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure.

#### Scope

##### Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

**Example / case study**

Information is reconstructed almost entirely through archaeological evidence. Together they explain humans from biological, cultural, linguistic and historical perspectives. Anthropology today extends far beyond the study of tribes.

**Thinkers**

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

**Relevance Of Economic Anthropology****Definition**

relevance of economic anthropology

**Example / case study**

Islamic banking → interest-free system based on moral-religious principles Economy as a by-product of human social living, not merely profit maximisation

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