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Q5(e)

Forensic Anthropology.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Applications of Anthropology

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 counselling and eugenics, DNA technology in diseases and medicine, serogenetics and cytogenetics in reproductive biology.

Core demand of the question

- Write a note on Forensic Anthropology
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Forensic anthropology identifies unknown remains from bone.

It estimates age, sex, stature, and trauma.

Disaster and rights work use the same kit.

DNA supplements morphology.

Taphonomy stops over-reading every crack as a crime.

Introduction

Forensic anthropology applies osteology and human variation to legal identification. It reads bone when soft tissue will not name the person.

Body**Tasks**

- Estimate **age**, **sex**, **stature**, and a broad **ancestry** from the skeleton.
- Read **trauma**, burning, and time since death, with **taphonomy** as a caution.
- Assist **DVI** after disasters and human-rights exhumations, as **Clyde Snow** showed.

Methods

- Pelvis and skull for sex; pubic symphysis and dentition for age; long-bone regression for stature.
- DNA from bone now joins, it does not erase, morphological skill.
- Indian practice sits in forensic medicine departments with anthropology support.

Flow diagram

Forensic anthropology -> Age sex stature
Forensic anthropology -> Trauma taphonomy
Forensic anthropology -> DVI DNA records

Conclusion

- **Forensic anthropology is legal osteology:** a **biological profile** and trauma from remains, then a match to records or DNA.

Facts & figures

Clyde Snow

Applied skeletal ID to political killings and crashes.

Biological profile

The four-way estimate that narrows missing-person lists.

Taphonomy

Post-mortem change that can mimic injury.

DVI

Disaster victim identification protocols that include anthropologists.