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Q8(c)

**Critically discuss A.L. Kroeber's contribution to kinship studies.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Kinship

2.5 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 Complimentary Filiation; Descent and Alliance.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2023/critically-discuss-a-l-kroebers-contribution-to-kinship-studies/>

**Classificatory Systems of Relationship (1909)**

Kroeber's paper arguing that kin terms are cultural classifications produced by a small set of principles.

**Lewis Henry Morgan**

Earlier evolutionary treatment of classificatory and descriptive systems as stages; Kroeber rejected that fossil reading.

**Superorganic**

Kroeber's claim that culture has a level of order not reduced to individual minds or to biology.

**W. H. R. Rivers**

Genealogical method from the British side; a complement to American term-list comparison.

**David Schneider**

Later critique that anthropological kinship imported a European biological folk model into the grid of types.

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