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Q1(a)

Attributes of culture

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · The Nature of Culture

2.1 The Nature of Culture: The concept and Characteristics of culture and civilization; Ethnocentrism vis-a-vis cultural Relativism.

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.

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E. B. Tylor

Primitive Culture (1871) defined culture as the complex whole of learned capabilities and habits acquired as a member of society.

Enculturation

The process through which a person learns a cultural repertoire; it distinguishes cultural transmission from genetic inheritance.

Geertz

Culture consists of publicly available webs of significance. Thick description recovers the code that gives an act its local meaning.

Trobriland Kula

Malinowski showed that ceremonial exchange is integrated with rank, partnership, navigation and magic rather than being mere barter.

Critical limit

Wolf and practice theorists reject cultures as sealed, harmonious containers; histories, markets and unequal actors cross every boundary.

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