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Q4(a)

Critically discuss the characteristics of the psychological types in the cultures of the American South-West as observed by Ruth Benedict.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 20 marks · Culture and personality (Benedict, Mead, Linton, Kardiner and Cora-du Bois)

(e) Culture and personality (Benedict, Mead, Linton, Kardiner and Cora-du Bois)

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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Patterns of Culture

Benedict's 1934 work presented cultures as configurations selected from a broad range of human possibilities.

Apollonian Pueblo

Zuni and related Pueblo material was interpreted through moderation, cooperation, ritual order and restraint of individual excess.

Dionysian contrast

Intensity, vision, ordeal and conspicuous achievement were illustrated with non-Pueblo cases, including Plains and Northwest Coast materials.

Boasian inheritance

Configuration translated historical particularism into patterned ethos while rejecting biological race as the cause of cultural temperament.

Key limitation

A cultural style cannot be assumed to describe every individual; history, faction, gender and colonial power complicate the portrait.

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