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Q8(c)

Critically discuss the synergistic effect of biological and cultural factors in human evolution.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution.

(a) Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution.

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-1/2024/critically-discuss-the-synergistic-effect-of-biological-and-cultural-factors-in-human-evolution/>

Lactase persistence

Adult milk digestion evolved through different regulatory variants in several dairying populations, a classic convergent gene-culture case.

Laetoli

Footprints around 3.66 million years old demonstrate habitual bipedal locomotion well before major Homo brain expansion.

Cooking hypothesis

Wrangham links cooked food to higher energy returns and reduced digestive costs; archaeological timing remains a major limitation.

Cooperative breeding

Hrdy argues that care by individuals beyond the mother helped shape human social cognition and prolonged childhood.

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