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Q2(a)

Discuss historical particularism as a critical development to the classical evolutionism.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 20 marks · Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer)

(a) Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer)

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/discuss-historical-particularism-as-a-critical-development-to-the-classical-evolutionism/>

Boas, 1896

The Limitations of the Comparative Method of Anthropology argued that formal similarity does not prove common origin or identical evolutionary sequence.

Classical ladder

Morgan's savagery-barbarism-civilisation and Frazer's magic-religion-science exemplify universal, ranked sequences.

Four-field evidence

Boas joined cultural anthropology with linguistics, archaeology and biological anthropology to reconstruct a population's particular history.

Race, language, culture

Boas rejected their necessary correspondence, undermining biological-racial explanations of cultural difference.

Boasian students

Kroeber, Lowie, Benedict and Mead developed culture areas, critique of evolutionism, configuration and enculturation respectively.

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