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Q1(e)

Culture and embodiment.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · 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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Thomas Csordas

He argued for embodiment as a paradigm: the body is the existential ground of culture, not a biological object plus a cultural overlay.

Pierre Bourdieu, habitus

Lasting bodily dispositions formed by social position. Culture appears as practical sense rather than a set of explicit rules.

Marcel Mauss

Techniques of the body: culturally transmitted ways of using the body, such as walking, swimming and childbirth.

Scheper-Hughes and Lock

The mindful body: individual body, social body and body politic as three lenses on embodiment and health.

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