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Q3(b)**Discuss 'incest taboo' as the basis of development of kinship systems in human societies**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Marriage

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2.3 Marriage: Definition and universality; Laws of marriage (endogamy, exogamy, hypergamy, hypogamy, incest taboo); Type of marriage (monogamy, polygamy, polyandry, group marriage). Functions of marriage; Marriage regulations (preferential, prescriptive and proscriptive); Marriage payments (bride wealth and dowry).

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Elementary Structures of Kinship

Claude Lévi-Strauss's seminal 1949 work establishing alliance theory and the role of the incest taboo in exchange systems.

Westermarck Effect

Edward Westermarck's psychological hypothesis that individuals raised in close domestic proximity develop an innate sexual aversion.

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