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Q2(b)**How do religious beliefs help people to devise cultural mechanisms to adapt to their environment? Discuss in detail with appropriate examples**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Social-cultural Anthropology.

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(a) Social-cultural Anthropology.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

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

Marvin Harris (Cultural Materialism)

Analyzed how religious taboos, such as the sacred status of cattle in India, function as rational economic and ecological adaptations.

Roy Rappaport (Ritual Regulation)

Conducted seminal anthropological research among the Tsembaga Maring of New Guinea, demonstrating how ritual pig sacrifices regulate ecosystem carrying capacity.

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