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Anthropology short notes

Cultural Evolution

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology GS 1 · Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)

(b) Cultural Evolution-Broad Outlines of Prehistoric cultures:

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

Revision notes for the Anthropology optional. Confirm thinkers and examples against standard texts and recent papers.

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Cultural Evolution

Definition

Scientific perspective | Humanistic perspective

Example / case study

Oxygen discovered independently by two scientists Indicates force larger than individual → culture

Thinkers

• E.B. Tylor & L.H. Morgan - cultural evolution.: G.P. Murdock - systematic cross-cultural comparison. • Margaret Mead - Samoa & New Guinea (comparative temperament) James G. Frazer - The Golden Bough (comparative mythology). E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

• Studies different cultures across time and space

Example / case study

Oxygen discovered independently by two scientists Indicates force larger than individual → culture

Thinkers

• E.B. Tylor & L.H. Morgan - cultural evolution.: G.P. Murdock - systematic cross-cultural comparison. James G. Frazer - The Golden Bough (comparative mythology). E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

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