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Anthropology short notes

Meaning of Anthropology.

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

Meaning of Anthropology.

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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Meaning

Definition

Anthropology is the holistic, comparative study of humans - biological evolution, culture, language, institutions and behaviour - across time and space (anthropos = human; logos = study).

Example / case study

Harappan urban planning is reconstructed from material remains, showing how archaeology recovers past social organisation. Tribal welfare uses anthropological field methods such as PRA/RRA so schemes fit local culture rather than a one-size plan.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. L.P. Vidyarthi - three phases of Indian anthropology: Formative (1774-1919, colonial surveys), Constructive (1920-1949, institutional fieldwork), Analytical (from 1950).

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