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Q5(d)

Varnashrama and its contemporary relevance

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 2 · 10 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

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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Article 17

Abolishes untouchability and makes its practice an offence, a direct constitutional break with varna-purity as law.

Dumont

Read varna ideology as purity and hierarchy, with the renouncer as a structural outside; villages still centred on the householder.

Ambedkar

Rejected varna as a reformable order and argued for the annihilation of caste as a graded inequality.

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