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Q3(b)

**Define the concepts of 'Descent' and 'Alliance'. Differentiate between North Indian and South Indian Kinship systems with examples**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Systems of Kinship in India

Systems of Kinship in India: Lineage and descent in India; Types of kinship systems; Family and marriage in India; Household dimensions of the family; Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.

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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**Descent**

Rule of group assignment across generations, often agnatic in north Indian Hindu kinship.

**Alliance**

Marriage as lasting exchange between groups; Dumont applied this strongly to South India.

**Karve**

Regional mapping of North and South Indian kinship types.

**Village exogamy**

Common northern rule that one does not marry inside the natal village.

**Cross-cousin preference**

Common Dravidian pattern linking mother's brother and sister's child as repeat affines.

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