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UPSC Mains 2025 Anthropology Paper 1

Questions only

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains/anthropology/gs-1/2025/>

Answer key at the end of this PDF

Attempt the paper first. After the last question, this pack closes with a compiled answer key: official letters in boxed exam order, then a question-wise list with Solution links to WRAP Exams.

Q1(a) • 10 marks

Mendelian and non-Mendelian traits.

Topic • Mendelian genetics in man-family study, single factor, multifactor, lethal, sub-lethal and polygenic inheritance in man.

Solution —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/mendelian-and-non-mendelian-traits/>

Q1(b) • 10 marks

Theoretical significance of Purum kinship-system.

Topic • Kinship

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/theoretical-significance-of-purum-kinship-system/>

Q1(c) • 10 marks

Osteodontokeratik culture and its makers.

Topic • Paleolithic

Solution —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/osteodontokeratik-culture-and-its-makers/>

Q1(d) • 10 marks

Smell as a signal among non-human primates.

Topic • Characteristics of Primates

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/smell-as-a-signal-among-non-human-primates/>

Q1(e) • 10 marks

Culture and embodiment.

Topic • The Nature of Culture

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/culture-and-embodiment/>

Q2(a) • 20 marks

Discuss the Miocene hominoid remains and their significance in evolution

Topic · Characteristics of Primates

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/discuss-the-miocene-hominoid-remains-and-their-significance-in-evolution/>

Q2(b) • 15 marks

Compare and contrast the symbolic approaches of Clifford Geertz and Victor Turner to understand culture

Topic · Symbolic and interpretive theories (Turner, Schneider and Geertz)

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/compare-and-contrast-the-symbolic-approaches-of-clifford-geertz-and-victor-turner-to-understand-culture/>

Q2(c) • 15 marks

How political economy is integrated with ecological and adaptability perspectives in bio-cultural anthropology?

Topic · Concepts and methods of Ecological Anthropology: Bio-cultural Adaptations

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/how-political-economy-is-integrated-with-ecological-and-adaptability-perspectives-in-bio-cultural-anthropology/>

Q3(a) • 20 marks

How anthropologists assess the nutritional status of a community? Discuss the significance of intersectionality of ecology, culture, and social inequality in the study of nutritional anthropology

Topic · Applications of Anthropology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/how-anthropologists-assess-the-nutritional-status-of-a-community-discuss-the-significance-of-intersectionality-of-ecology-culture-and-social/>

Q3(b) • 15 marks

Critically examine the drawbacks in assuming culture as an 'integrated-closed system' in understanding of contemporary society

Topic · The Nature of Society

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/critically-examine-the-drawbacks-in-assuming-culture-as-an-integrated-closed-system-in-understanding-of-contemporary-society/>

Q3(c) • 15 marks

Differentiate between pedigree and genealogical analyses. Discuss the history and application of these methods in anthropological studies

Topic · Human Genetics

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/differentiate-between-pedigree-and-genealogical-analyses-discuss-the-history-and-application-of-these-methods-in-anthropological-studies/>

Q4(a) · 20 marks

Anthropology provides a multidimensional understanding of human beings by bridging the gap between science and humanities. Elucidate

Topic · Applications of Anthropology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/anthropology-provides-a-multi-dimensional-understanding-of-human-beings-by-bridging-the-gap-between-science-and-humanities-elucidate/>

Q4(b) · 15 marks

Write a note on Mousterian tool tradition, Mousterian culture and its makers

Topic · The Nature of Culture

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/write-a-note-on-mousterian-tool-tradition-mousterian-culture-and-its-makers/>

Q4(c) · 15 marks

Critically examine James Frazer's theory of evolutionism. Elucidate the place of religion in modernity

Topic · Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer)

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/critically-examine-james-frazers-theory-of-evolutionism-elucidate-the-place-of-religion-in-modernity/>

Q5(a) · 10 marks

Multispecies, Multi-sited and Critical Ethnography.

Topic · Meaning, Scope and development of Anthropology.

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/multispecies-multi-sited-and-critical-ethnography/>

Q5(b) · 10 marks

Evolutionary significance of menopause.

Topic · Relevance of menarche, menopause and other bioevents to fertility. Fertility patterns and differentials.

Solution —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/evolutionary-significance-of-menopause/>

Q5(c) · 10 marks

Fission track dating method and its applications.

Topic · Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/fission-track-dating-method-and-its-applications/>

Q5(d) · 10 marks

Mitochondrial DNA and human evolution.

Topic · The biological basis of Life

Solution —

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/mitochondrial-dna-and-human-evolution/>

Q5(e) • 10 marks

Foetal origin of adult diseases and contribution of David Barker.

Topic · Culture, Language and Communication

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/foetal-origin-of-adult-diseases-and-contribution-of-david-barker/>

Q6(a) • 20 marks

What are genetic markers? Discuss their applications in understanding population variation, disease association and forensics

Topic · Applications of Anthropology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/what-are-genetic-markers-discuss-their-applications-in-understanding-population-variation-disease-association-and-forensics/>

Q6(b) • 15 marks

"The agenda of biological anthropology became more scientific from the middle of the twentieth century." Justify

Topic · Biological Anthropology.

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/the-agenda-of-biological-anthropology-became-more-scientific-from-the-middle-of-the-twentieth-century-justify/>

Q6(c) • 15 marks

Describe briefly the theoretical perspectives in linguistic anthropology to explain the relationship of culture, language and thought

Topic · Linguistic Anthropology.

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/describe-briefly-the-theoretical-perspectives-in-linguistic-anthropology-to-explain-the-relationship-of-culture-language-and-thought/>

Q7(a) • 20 marks

How the study of variation in forms of marriage led to rethinking on the concepts of social reproduction, kinship and family?

Topic · Family

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/how-the-study-of-variation-in-forms-of-marriage-led-to-rethinking-on-the-concepts-of-social-reproduction-kinship-and-family/>

Q7(b) • 15 marks

What are the major theories proposed in support of the origin of food production? How the change in subsistence economy brought revolution during this period?

Topic · Neolithic

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/what-are-the-major-theories-proposed-in-support-of-the-origin-of-food-production-how-the-change-in-subsistence-economy-brought-revolution-during-this-period/>

Q7(c) · 15 marks

Critically discuss the centrality of the African continent in the narrative of human evolution

Topic · Cultural Evolution

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/critically-discuss-the-centrality-of-the-african-continent-in-the-narrative-of-human-evolution/>

Q8(a) · 20 marks

How the theories of postmodernism are relevant in promoting social justice and empowerment of marginalised communities?

Topic · Post-modernism in anthropology.

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/how-the-theories-of-postmodernism-are-relevant-in-promoting-social-justice-and-empowerment-of-marginalised-communities/>

Q8(b) · 15 marks

'Genome-wide Disease Association Studies (GWAS) advanced our understanding of health and disease.' Discuss

Topic · Genetic imprints in human disease, genetic screening, genetic counseling, human DNA profiling, gene mapping and genome study.

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/genome-wide-disease-association-studies-gwas-advanced-our-understanding-of-health-and-disease-discuss/>

Q8(c) · 15 marks

Examine the utility of human remains in forensic analysis. Discuss the facial reconstruction technique

Topic · Applications of Anthropology

Solution — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/examine-the-utility-of-human-remains-in-forensic-analysis-discuss-the-facial-reconstruction-technique/>

Compiled answer key

Last pages of this pack. Each question links to the WRAP model answer on wrapexams.com.

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Q1(a) 10 marks	Q1(b) 10 marks	Q1(c) 10 marks	Q1(d) 10 marks
Q1(e) 10 marks	Q2(a) 20 marks	Q2(b) 15 marks	Q2(c) 15 marks
Q3(a) 20 marks	Q3(b) 15 marks	Q3(c) 15 marks	Q4(a) 20 marks
Q4(b) 15 marks	Q4(c) 15 marks	Q5(a) 10 marks	Q5(b) 10 marks
Q5(c) 10 marks	Q5(d) 10 marks	Q5(e) 10 marks	Q6(a) 20 marks
Q6(b) 15 marks	Q6(c) 15 marks	Q7(a) 20 marks	Q7(b) 15 marks
Q7(c) 15 marks	Q8(a) 20 marks	Q8(b) 15 marks	Q8(c) 15 marks

Question-wise key

Q1(a) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(b) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(d) · 10 marks Solution

Q1(e) · 10 marks Solution

Q2(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q2(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q2(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q3(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q3(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q3(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q4(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q4(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q4(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q5(a) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(b) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(c) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(d) · 10 marks Solution

Q5(e) · 10 marks Solution

Q6(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q6(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q6(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q7(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q7(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q7(c) · 15 marks Solution

Q8(a) · 20 marks Solution

Q8(b) · 15 marks Solution

Q8(c) · 15 marks Solution

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