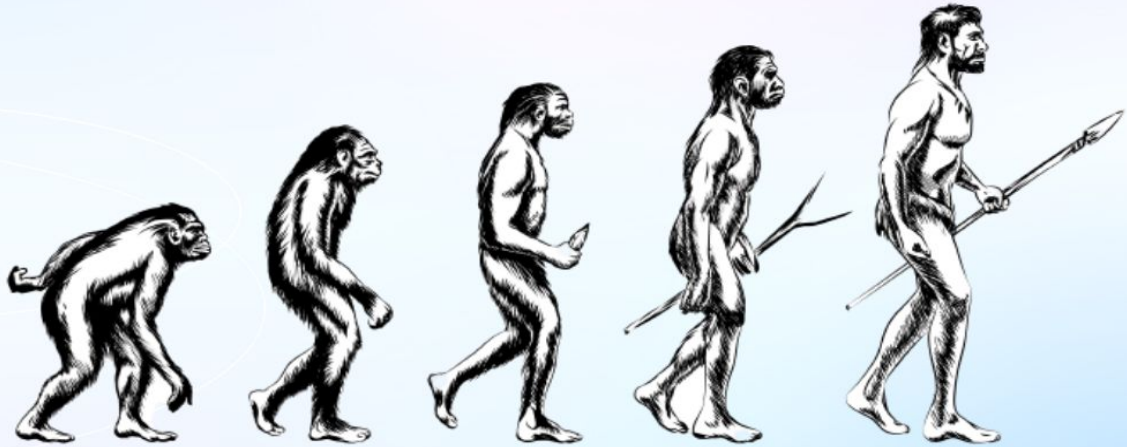


ANTHROPOLOGY

1000+ QUESTIONS FOR MAINS



TOPIC WISE QUESTIONS: PAPER I + PAPER II
(UNSOLVED)

PYQ ASKED IN UPSC MAINS (1985 - Latest)
TOPIC WISE ARRANGED QUESTIONS
QUESTIONS BASED ON VARIOUS BOOKS
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
MOST PROBABLE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS
1000+ ANTHROPOLOGY QUESTIONS



सत्यमेव जयते

MADE FOR UPSC
CSE IAS EXAM



www.anthroholic.com



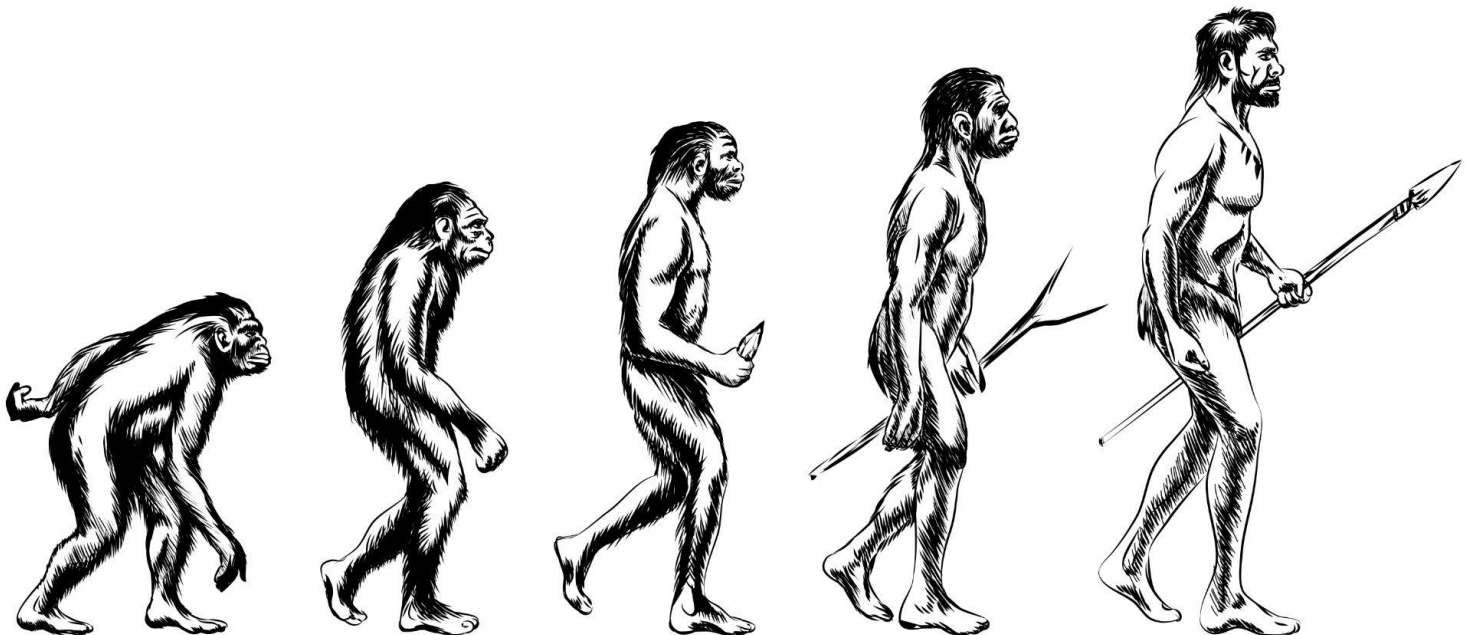
@anthroholic



@anthroholic

Contents

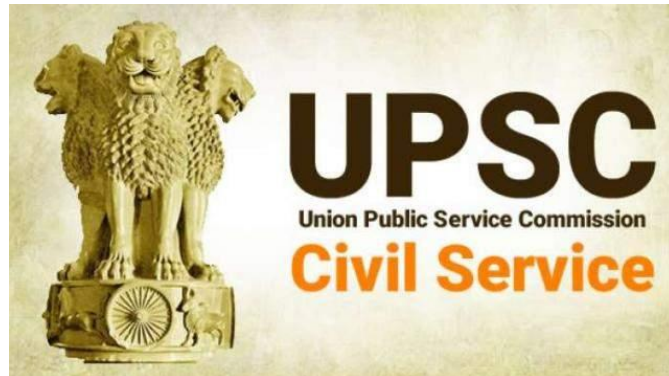
1. PYQ (1985 - Latest) PAPER - I
2. PYQ (1985 - Latest) PAPER - II
3. PRACTICE QUESTIONS & MOST PROBABLE QUESTIONS
4. QUESTIONS FROM BOOK EMBER & EMBER



1

Previous Year Questions (1985 - 2025)

PAPER - I



1.1 Meaning Scope & Development of Anthropology

- Scope and relevance of Social and Cultural Anthropology. (10 Marks, 2023)
- "Anthropology is the systematic, objective and holistic study of humankind in all time and places." Elaborate the argument. (20 Marks, 2022)
- "The bio-cultural approach is the hallmark of Biological Anthropology". Explain
- Critically examine the role of Anthropology in contemporary India. (15 Marks, 2014)
- Define Anthropology. Describe major branches of Anthropology elaborating on any one of its branch. (20 Marks, 2017)
- Relevance of Anthropology.

1.2 Relationship with other disciplines

- Anthropology provides a multidimensional understanding of human beings by bridging the gap between science and humanities. Elucidate. (20 Marks, 2025)
 - Elaborate the scope of anthropology and elucidate its uniqueness in the field of other social sciences. (20 Marks, 2021)
 - How do you situate Anthropology in Social Sciences. (10 Marks, 2013)
 - Difference between Social Anthropology and Sociology (10 Marks, 2016)
-

1.3 Main branches of Anthropology, their scope and relevance

- “The agenda of biological anthropology became more scientific from the middle of the twentieth century.” Justify. (15 Marks, 2025)
 - How can Synergising the core branches of anthropology reinvigorate the holistic spirit of the discipline? (20 Marks, 2020)
 - The relationship between Linguistics and Social-Cultural Anthropology (10 Marks, 2019)
 - Define Anthropology. Describe major branches of Anthropology elaborating on any one of its branch. (20 Marks, 2017)
 - Differences between Social Anthropology and Sociology. (10 Marks, 2016)
 - Archaeological Anthropology (10 Marks, 2015)
 - Major Subdivisions of Anthropology (10 Marks, 2014)
 - Linguistic Anthropology (10 Marks, 2013)
 - Sociology Basics: Society and Culture
 - Archaeological Anthropology (10 Marks 2015, 1992)
 - Linguistic Anthropology (10 Marks, 2013)
 - Linguistic Anthropology (1990)
 - Social & Cultural Anthropology (1994)
 - Theme of Linguistic Anthropology (1989)
 - New Physical Anthropology (1989)
-

1.4 Human Evolution and emergence of Man

- Mitochondrial DNA and human evolution. (10 Marks, 2025)
 - Critically discuss the centrality of the African continent in the narrative of human evolution. (15 Marks, 2025)
 - Critically discuss the synergistic effect of biological and cultural factors in human evolution. (15 Marks, 2024)
 - What is hominization process? Discuss the major trends in human evolution with the help of suitable examples and illustrations. (20 Marks, 2023)
 - The losses and gains of erect posture. (10 Marks, 2021)
 - Explain the genetic mechanisms of micro and macro evolution. (20 Marks, 2021)
 - Elucidate how Darwin and Post-Darwin theories of evolution resulted in the development of Synthetic theory of evolution. (15 Marks, 2020)
 - Adaptive primate radiation (10 Marks, 2019)
 - Explain the biological changes that made human beings capable of making culture. 20 marks (2018)
 - Elucidate the biological and cultural factors in Human evolution. (2016)
 - Elucidate Biological & cultural factors in Human Evolution. (15 Marks 2015)
 - Critically examine the Darwin's theory of evolution in understanding Evolution. (15 Marks, 2015)
 - Biological Evolution of early man (1997)
 - How Darwinism differs from the synthetic theory of organic evolution? (1994)
 - What is Synthetic Theory of Evolution? Discuss how this theory helps us in understanding the evolutionary mechanism. (1993)
 - Synthetic theory of evolution (1992)
 - What is organic evolution? Give evidences for human evolution. (1992)
 - What is Organic Evolution? Describe the theories of organic evolution. (1991)
 - Theory of organic evolution (1985)
 - Microevolution (1990)
 - Elucidate the theory of Evolution as put forward by Lamarck. Give a critical account of the processes of organic evolution and explain how they contribute to speciation. (LQ – 1988)
 - Biological evolution and concept of new Physical Anthropology (1986)
 - Lamarckism & Darwinism (1986)
-

1.5 Characteristics of Primates; Evolutionary Trend and Primate Taxonomy

- Smell as a signal among non-human primates. (10 Marks, 2025)
 - Discuss different forms of primate social organisation. (15 Marks, 2022)
 - Illustrate with examples the various types of locomotion patterns and the non-human primates. (15 Marks, 2020)
 - Jane Goodall's contribution in studying primate behaviour (10 Marks, 2020)
 - Discuss the evolutionary significance of bipedalism and erect posture (20 Marks, 2019)
 - Bring out the comparative anatomical features of man and apes. Discuss their evolutionary significance. (2017)
 - Explain the skeletal changes due to erect posture and their implications. (2016)
 - Elucidate the skeletal differences between humans and chimpanzees. (15 Marks 2014)
 - Role of Primatology in Anthropological studies. (10 Marks 2013)
 - Discuss the anatomical changes that occurred in Man due to erect posture. (1998)
 - Discuss primate locomotion with special reference to adaptation to arboreal life. (1996)
 - Adaptive radiation in primates (1995)
 - Primate (1994)
 - Narrate with reasons man's place in primate order (1994)
 - Discuss the similarities and differences between Chimpanzee & Man in salient physical and anatomical characteristics. (1993)
 - Anthropoid Apes (1992), * Anthropoid apes (1987)
 - What are the characteristic physical features of the primates? Show the position of man among the other primates in a tabular form. (1992)
 - Why is Man a primate? Describe the place of Man in the animal kingdom. (1991)
 - Why is man included in the Primate Order? Discuss in detail. (1989)
 - Characters of Primates (1988)
 - Discuss the evolution of primates with special reference to dentition – (1986)
 - What are the different fossil primates of the Palaeocene & Eocene times? Discuss critically the contribution of these primates to human origin? (1986)
 - Give a brief account of the distribution and physical features of the Asiatic Anthropoid apes. (1985)
-

1.6 Phylogenetic status, characteristics and geographical distribution of the following

- Osteodontokeratic culture and its makers. (10 Marks, 2025)
 - Discuss the Miocene hominoid remains and their significance in evolution. (20 Marks, 2025)
 - Multispecies, Multi-sited and Critical Ethnography. (10 marks, 2025)
 - Discuss the geographical distribution of Homo erectus. Taking into account its physical features, where does it fit in human evolutionary line? (20 Marks, 2024)
 - Discuss major species of Australopithecus discovered from South and East Africa. Describe the discovery, physical features and significance of Taung baby. (20 Marks, 2023)
 - Should we still distinguish between 'classic' and 'progressive' Neanderthals? Discuss the controversy surrounding Neanderthal's position in human evolution. (15 Marks, 2022)
 - What are the physical and cultural characteristics of Homo erectus? Discuss its phylogenetic status. (20 Marks, 2021)
 - Critically evaluate the contesting theories of the emergence and dispersal of modern Homo sapiens. (20 Marks, 2020)
 - Olduvai Gorge (10 Marks, 2019)
 - "Europeans are closer to Neanderthals." Critically discuss in view of the African origin of humankind. (15 marks, 2019)
 - Describe the culture related to homo erectus. (15 marks, 2018)
 - Write short notes of 150 words on Rhodesian Man(2016)
 - Describe the Salient characteristics & Geographical distribution of Homo erectus. (20 Marks 2015)
 - Asian Homo erectus (10 Marks 2014)
 - Comment briefly on the phylogenetic position of Australopithecines (10 Marks 2012)
 - Neanderthal Man (15 Marks, 2011)
 - Describe major skeletal similarities & differences between Home Erectus & Homo Sapiens (30 Marks, 2011)
 - Culture of Homo erectus (15 Marks, 2010)
 - Homo Habilis (20 Marks, 2009)
-

1.7 The biological basis of Life

- Mitochondrial DNA and human evolution. (10 Marks, 2025)
-

1.8 Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology

- Write a note on Mousterian tool tradition, Mousterian culture and its makers. (15 Marks, 2025)
 - Fission track dating method and its applications. (10 Marks, 2025)
 - Chronometric dating (10 Marks, 2024)
 - Discuss the Acheulian and Oldowan traditions of Indian Paleolithic cultures with suitable illustrations. (15 Marks, 2024)
 - Describe the evidences of food production and domestication of animals with special reference to Mehrgarh. Throw light on its significance. (15 Marks, 2024)
 - Prehistoric Significance of Rakhigarhi. (10 Marks, 2023)
 - Identify the major Mesolithic sites and describe the typo-technological features with special reference to India. (15 Marks, 2023)
 - Discuss the Paleolithic environment in light of available evidences with special reference to India. (15 Marks, 2023)
 - Cultural impact of Iron Age. (10 Marks, 2023)
 - Enumerate the evidence of animal domestication in the Indian microlithic industry. (15 Marks, 2022)
 - Discuss with suitable examples the typo-technological problems in Indian palaeolithic industry with reference to environmental hypotheses. (15 Marks, 2022)
 - Mesolithic rock art in Indian subcontinent (10 Marks, 2022)
 - Discuss the salient features of different traditions of European Mesolithic. (20 Marks, 2021)
 - Describe the features of early farming cultures and Neolithic of the Near East. (20 Marks, 2021)
 - Thermoluminescence (TL) dating. (10 Marks, 2021)
 - Difference between Lower Paleolithic culture and Middle Paleolithic Culture with suitable examples. (15 Marks, 2020)
 - Natufian Culture (10 Marks, 2020)
 - Relative Dating Methods (10 marks, 2019)
-

1.8 Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology

- Elucidate Mesolithic culture and associated rock art with examples from India. (15 Marks, 2019)
 - Discuss briefly the major traditions in the Upper Palaeolithic culture of Europe. (15 Marks, 2019)
 - Discuss with examples the Megalithic culture of India in the archaeological context. (20 Marks, 2019)
 - Give an account of the consequences of food production of Neolithic culture. (15 Marks 2018)
 - Town Planning of Harappan Culture (10 Marks, 2018)
 - Explain the impact of discovery of iron technology on contemporary society. (15 Marks, 2018)
 - What are dating methods? Discuss one absolute method and one relative methods in detail. (2017)
 - Salient features of Mesolithic culture (2017)
 - Critically examine the Stewardian view of neoevolutionism. (2017)
 - Neolithic Cultures of India (10 Marks, 2016)
 - Paleolithic Culture (10 Marks 2015)
 - Delineate the salient features of Chalcolithic cultures. (2016)
 - Describe the Neolithic culture of India. (15 Marks 2014)
 - Describe the absolute dating methods in Archaeology, Highlighting the importance of each method. (15 Marks 2014)
 - Carbon-14 method of dating (10 Marks 2013)
 - Problems of dating in Prehistoric Archaeology (1997)
 - Radiometric methods of dating fossils (1996)
 - Chronometric dating methods (1995)
 - Why is the Neolithic phase of culture 'in Europe called revolution? Describe its distinctive features. (1995)
-

2.1 The Nature of Culture: The concept and characteristics of culture and civilization; Ethnocentrism vis-à-vis cultural Relativism

- Critically examine the drawbacks in assuming culture as an 'integrated-closed' system in understanding of contemporary society. (15 Marks, 2025)
 - Culture and embodiment. (10 Marks, 2025)
 - Attributes of Culture (10 Marks, 2024)
 - William Ogburn and Cultural lag (10 Marks, 2023)
 - Discuss the historical and cultural contexts that led to superseding ethnocentrism with cultural relativism in anthropology. (15 Marks, 2022)
 - Human Rights and Cultural Relativism (10 Marks, 2020)
 - Cultural Relativism (10 Marks, 2019)
 - Short notes on Cultural Relativism (10 Marks, 2016)
 - Is culture unique to human beings? Critically examine. (15 Marks 2014)
 - Why the concept of Cultural Relativism been so dear to Anthropologists? (20 Marks 2013)
 - Bring out the distinguishing features of culture and civilization. (15 Marks 2013)
 - Cultural relativism and subsequent violation of Human rights? (15 Marks, 2010)
 - Components of culture vast and varied". Explain this statement. (2002)
 - Culture trait and culture complex (1999)
 - Super organic view of culture (1998)
 - Pattern of culture (1998)
 - Acculturation and Contra - acculturation (1997)
 - What do you understand by cultural relativistic approach & ethnocentric approach in the study of culture" Discuss the logical premises of cultural relativistic approach. (1997)
 - Cultural Relativism (1995)
 - Culture as construct or reality (1989)
 - How does culture differ from civilization? Describe the attributes of Culture? (1987)
 - Cultural Relativism (1987)
-