

Answer key
59372

Duration: 3 hours

Marks: 100

NB: All questions are compulsory & carry equal marks.

Q. 1. Attempt any two of the following:

1[A] Give a formal definition of Anthropology and analyze its constituent parts. [10]

Anthropology is the study of the diversity of human cultures across the world. It focuses on the cultures of people who are different from the researcher. Historically it has developed into a discipline which engages in a holistic understanding of human life. Over a period of time anthropology diversified into various sub-disciplines. The classical sub disciplines of anthropology are: biological anthropology, pre-historic archaeology, anthropological linguistics and cultural anthropology

1[B] What do you mean by 'field-work'? [2]

Give a brief historical background on fieldwork technique in Anthropology. [4]

Bring out the significance and types of fieldwork adopted by Anthropologists. [4]

Fieldwork originated as the most discussed anthropological method. Since anthropology primarily dwelt with the other cultures and otherness in one's own culture, intensive engagement with the lifeworlds of the people became imperative. Thus begins the journey of ethnographic fieldwork as the preferred method of inquiry in anthropology. Field work can be non-participant observation and participant observation.

1[C] Give a diagrammatic presentation on the branches of Anthropology.

Explain them briefly [10]

Biological anthropology: study of primates and genetics

Pre-historic archaeology: study of the time that existed before the civilizations of the world came to be

Linguistics: exploration into the relationship of language and culture

Cultural anthropology: it probes the dynamics of culture in human societies.

Q. 2. Attempt any two of the following:

2[A] Discuss the chief characteristic features of culture. [10]

It is learned behaviour. It is abstract. It is patterned. It includes attitudes, patterns and values. It includes material objects. It is symbolic. Shared by members of society and is pervasive. It is also super organic.

2[B] Define and explain the meaning of Ethnocentrism. [2]

Why do people become ethnocentric? [2]

What are the basis for Ethnocentrism? [2]

Bring out the positive aspects of Ethnocentrism. [2]

What are the problems with Ethnocentrism? [2]

Ethnocentrism is at once a high favourable evaluation of one's own culture as well as a judgemental attitude towards other cultures. Since having a favourable evaluation of one's own culture is functional for human society, all people tend to be ethnocentric in some degrees. However, deep seated prejudice

that lurks in the minds of people propel ethnocentric ideas and practices. There are hardly any positive aspects of ethnocentrism per se. However, one may talk about the goodness of having a favourable opinion about one's own culture. The problems with ethnocentrism are galore. They begin with small scaled hate to genocide and ethnic cleansing.

2[C] Name the scholar who drew our attention to the concept of cultural relativity. [2]

What do you mean by cultural relativity? [2]

Bring out the utility of the methodological devise of cultural relativity. [2]

Explain the distinction between Absolute view of cultural relativism & critical cultural relativism; cite relevant examples to illustrate this.[4]

Franz Boas and his students clearly rooted their studies and perspectives on cultural relativism. It is a stance that all cultures are inherently functional and have evolved in unique historical patterns. It is the most suited attitude for anthropologist since he/she is professionally committed to the study of other peoples cultures. Absolute cultural relativism is problematic since it can condone even practices which go against the basic notions of human rights.

Q. 3. Attempt any two of the following:

3[A] Distinguish between "Oral Religions" & "Religions of the Book" with examples for each. [2]

Describe the functions of religion. [3]

Explain briefly the forms of primitive tribal religion – animism, animatism, manatism, bongatism, naturism, fetishism, totemism, magic and taboos. [5]

Religions of the book have one or more books which are considered sacred and they become authoritative for explanation and conduct. The authorised interpretation of the text becomes central in such religions. In oral religions, there are no central codified doctrines and there is a general sense of fluidity.

Religion plays very important functions in society. They are, religion brings in sense of unity, it acts as a safety valve for the excesses in society, it reduces the sense of alienation among the believers, it provides a sense of belonging.

In anthropology Tylor has demonstrated how religions evolved from one stage to another, from animism to polytheism and later monotheism

3[B]Discuss "Religion & Cultural Ecology". [10]

[C]"The Taliban imposed an extremely repressive, sectarian Islamic regime on the Afghan people – women, men & even killing Shiite Muslims of the Hazari minority" – Discuss in detail.

[10]

Religion have set codes and dogmas about the human-nature interface. The connection between ecology and culture is mediated through religion

The Taliban constituted one extreme example of religious fundamentalism which went against all established notions of human rights and womens rights. The answer needs to have analysis of these excesses and the manner which they justified them.

Q. 4. Attempt any two of the following:

4[A] List the sub-types under uncentralized and centralized political system [2]

Discuss in detail the political system: Chiefdoms [8]

Centralised political systems are part of industrial and complex societies where as uncentralised political systems are very much part of the pre-industrial and tribal social orders.

Chiefdom was the predominant political system among the indigenous communities across the world. Different communities had their own ways of recruiting chiefs and the way in which their inheritance went from one to the other was also cultural codified.

4[B] What is the place of distribution & exchange in a tribal economy? [2]

Mention the three modes of distributing goods. [2]

Explain the notion of property, & different types of property, with special reference to property systems in tribal societies. [6]

System of exchange is central to any human society. Classical anthropologists have studied systems of exchange that existed in tribal societies. For example, Malinowski studied the kula ring and Marcel Mauss talked about the gift as exchange. Property systems in tribal societies are markedly different from the capitalist industrial societies.

4[C] Describe, in detail, the economic system of the Trobriand Islanders. [8]

Name the Anthropologist who undertook their study. [2]

The economic system of the Trobriand islanders is that of the kula exchange. The anthropologist who studied that is Malinowski

5. Write NOTES on ANY TWO of the following:

5[a] Participant & non-participant observation. [10]

Participant observation is an emic perspective while non-participant observation is etic

5[b] Characteristics of Anthropology. [10]

Anthropology is an interdisciplinary study which includes many sub disciplines. It is a holistic discipline which seeks to produce knowledge about humans and their cultures in all its diversity.

Anthropology is a critical discipline since it challenges the common notions about ways of life in the public sphere.

5[c] What is it like being an Anthropologist & doing Anthropology? [10]

Since anthropology is the study of cultures, it offers an anthropologist a variety of methodologies and standpoints. Since it is also based on ethnographic field work it gives the anthropologist a close look at the vagaries of culture in different parts of the world.

5[d] Band. [10]

Band is a small unit of collective behaviour which is found most often among the indigenous peoples of the world.
