QuickNotes

FREE STUDY NOTES · PDF

UGC NET Paper 2

Anthropology (007)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Introduction to Anthropology
02 Biological Anthropology and Human Evolution
03 Prehistoric Archaeology
04 Theories of Culture
05 Kinship, Marriage and Family
06 Economic and Political Anthropology
07 Anthropology of Religion
08 Research Methods in Anthropology
09 Indian Anthropology and Tribal Studies
10 Applied and Development Anthropology

getquicknotes.com
Edition: November 2026

CONTENTS

What's inside

Ten units of focused revision notes. Each unit ends with a box of key revision points.

01 **Introduction to Anthropology** — 3
Meaning, scope and branches of anthropology, and its relation to other sciences.

02 **Biological Anthropology and Human Evolution** — 4
Primates, hominin evolution, human variation and genetics.

03 **Prehistoric Archaeology** — 5
Stone Age cultures, tool traditions and dating methods.

04 **Theories of Culture** — 6
Evolutionism, diffusionism, functionalism, structuralism and later theories.

05 **Kinship, Marriage and Family** — 7
Kinship terminology, descent, marriage rules and family types.

06 **Economic and Political Anthropology** — 8
Exchange, reciprocity, and political organisation in societies.

07 **Anthropology of Religion** — 9
Theories of religion, magic, rituals and shamanism.

08 **Research Methods in Anthropology** — 10
Fieldwork, participant observation and ethnographic techniques.

09 **Indian Anthropology and Tribal Studies** — 11
Tribes of India, constitutional safeguards and Indian anthropologists.

10 **Applied and Development Anthropology** — 12
Applications of anthropology in development, health and policy.

How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Introduction to Anthropology

Meaning, scope and branches of anthropology, and its relation to other sciences.

- Anthropology: the holistic, comparative study of humans.
- Branches: social-cultural, biological (physical), archaeological, linguistic.
- E. B. Tylor's definition of culture (*Primitive Culture*, 1871): 'that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom...'.

★ Key revision points

- Four branches of anthropology.
- Tylor's culture definition: 1871.
- Anthropology is holistic and comparative.
- Linguistic anthropology studies language in culture.

UNIT 02

Biological Anthropology and Human Evolution

Primates, hominin evolution, human variation and genetics.

Hominin	Notes
Australopithecus	Bipedal; 'Lucy' (A. afarensis)
Homo habilis	'Handy man'; early stone tools
Homo erectus	Spread out of Africa; use of fire
Neanderthals	Europe and West Asia
Homo sapiens	Anatomically modern humans; Africa ~300,000 years ago

Mendel's laws; Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium ($p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$); ABO blood groups.

★ Key revision points

- Lucy = Australopithecus afarensis.
- Homo erectus first used fire.
- Hardy–Weinberg: $p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$.
- Homo habilis = 'handy man'.

UNIT 03

Prehistoric Archaeology

Stone Age cultures, tool traditions and dating methods.

- Palaeolithic (lower, middle, upper), Mesolithic (microliths), Neolithic (farming, polished tools).
- Tool traditions: Oldowan, Acheulian (handaxes), Mousterian.
- Indian sites: Bhimbetka (rock shelters), Attirampakkam, Mehrgarh, Burzahom.
- Dating: radiocarbon (C-14, half-life ~5,730 years), potassium–argon, dendrochronology, thermoluminescence.

★ Key revision points

- Acheulian = handaxes.
- C-14 half-life ≈ 5,730 years.
- Bhimbetka = rock shelters.
- Microliths = Mesolithic.

UNIT 04

Theories of Culture

Evolutionism, diffusionism, functionalism, structuralism and later theories.

Theory	Key thinkers
Classical evolutionism	Tylor, Lewis Henry Morgan (*Ancient Society*, 1877)
Diffusionism	British, German (*Kulturkreis*), American schools
Historical particularism	Franz Boas — cultural relativism
Functionalism	Malinowski (needs)
Structural-functionalism	Radcliffe-Brown
Structuralism	Lévi-Strauss
Interpretive / symbolic	Clifford Geertz (thick description), Victor Turner

★ Key revision points

- *Ancient Society* (1877) = Morgan.
- Cultural relativism = Boas.
- Thick description = Geertz.
- Structuralism = Lévi-Strauss.

UNIT 05

Kinship, Marriage and Family

Kinship terminology, descent, marriage rules and family types.

- Descent: patrilineal, matrilineal, bilateral, double; residence — patrilocal, matrilocal, neolocal.
- Marriage: monogamy, polygyny, polyandry (e.g. Todas, historically); preferential cross-cousin marriage.
- Kinship terminologies (Morgan): Hawaiian, Eskimo, Iroquois, Omaha, Crow, Sudanese.
- Alliance theory — Lévi-Strauss; descent theory — Radcliffe-Brown, Fortes.

★ Key revision points

- Kinship terminology types = Morgan.
- Alliance theory = Lévi-Strauss.
- Neolocal = new independent residence.
- Polyandry = one woman, several husbands.

UNIT 06

Economic and Political Anthropology

Exchange, reciprocity, and political organisation in societies.

- **Kula ring** — Malinowski (*Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, 1922, Trobriand Islands).
- **Potlatch** — Pacific Northwest; Marcel Mauss — *The Gift*.
- Karl Polanyi: reciprocity, redistribution, market exchange; Marshall Sahlins: generalised, balanced, negative reciprocity.
- Political organisation (Elman Service): band, tribe, chiefdom, state. *The Nuer* — Evans-Pritchard (segmentary lineage).

★ Key revision points

- Kula ring = Malinowski (1922).
- *The Gift* = Mauss.
- Band–tribe–chiefdom–state = Service.
- *The Nuer* = Evans-Pritchard.

UNIT 07

Anthropology of Religion

Theories of religion, magic, rituals and shamanism.

- **Animism** — Tylor; **animatism** (mana) — R. R. Marett.
- Frazer (*The Golden Bough*): magic → religion → science; sympathetic magic (homeopathic and contagious).
- Rites of passage — Arnold van Gennep (separation, liminality, incorporation); Turner — liminality and communitas.
- Durkheim — totemism; sacred and profane.

★ Key revision points

- Animism = Tylor; animatism = Marett.
- Rites of passage = van Gennep.
- *The Golden Bough* = Frazer.
- Communitas = Victor Turner.

UNIT 08

Research Methods in Anthropology

Fieldwork, participant observation and ethnographic techniques.

- **Participant observation** — pioneered by Malinowski in the Trobriand Islands.
- Techniques: genealogical method (W. H. R. Rivers), case study, key informants, life history, interviews.
- Emic (insider) vs etic (outsider) perspectives.
- Ethics: informed consent, do no harm.

★ Key revision points

- Participant observation = Malinowski.
- Genealogical method = Rivers.
- Emic = insider view.
- Key informants help ethnographers.

UNIT 09

Indian Anthropology and Tribal Studies

Tribes of India, constitutional safeguards and Indian anthropologists.

- **Anthropological Survey of India** — founded 1945, Kolkata.
- Scheduled Tribes: Article 342; Fifth Schedule (Scheduled Areas) and Sixth Schedule (tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram).
- 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- Forest Rights Act, 2006; PESA 1996.
- Scholars: S. C. Roy (father of Indian ethnography), Verrier Elwin, D. N. Majumdar, L. P. Vidyarthi.

★ Key revision points

- AnSI: 1945, Kolkata.
- 75 PVTGs.
- Sixth Schedule: four north-eastern states.
- Forest Rights Act: 2006.

UNIT 10

Applied and Development Anthropology

Applications of anthropology in development, health and policy.

- Applied anthropology: development projects, rehabilitation, public health, forensics.
- Medical anthropology — illness, healing systems.
- Forensic anthropology — skeletal identification.
- Action anthropology — Sol Tax.

★ Key revision points

- Action anthropology = Sol Tax.
- Forensic anthropology identifies remains.
- Medical anthropology studies health and culture.
- Development anthropology informs projects.

QuickNotes

Learn Quickly. Prepare Smartly.

More free study notes

Free PDFs for UGC NET Paper 1, every Paper 2 subject, IBPS RRB and SSC CHSL — no sign-up.

www.getquicknotes.com

Free for personal study — not for sale. You may share this PDF unchanged and free of charge.

QuickNotes is an independent educational platform. It is not affiliated with, endorsed by or connected to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Testing Agency (NTA) or any government examination authority. These are original revision notes; always refer to the official notification for exam dates, eligibility, pattern and syllabus.

Found a mistake? Email support@getquicknotes.com · Edition: November 2026