QuickNotes

FREE STUDY NOTES · PDF

UGC NET Paper 2

Folk Literature (071)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Folklore: Concept and Scope
02 Genres of Folk Literature
03 Early Theories
04 Historic-Geographic Method
05 Structural and Psychological Approaches
06 Functional and Performance Approaches
07 Indian Folk Narrative Tradition
08 Oral Epics and Folk Songs
09 Folk Performing Traditions
10 Fieldwork and Folklore Today

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 **Folklore: Concept and Scope** — Definition, characteristics and branches of folklore. 3

02 **Genres of Folk Literature** — Myths, legends, folktales, songs, proverbs and riddles. 4

03 **Early Theories** — Mythological, anthropological and diffusion theories. 5

04 **Historic-Geographic Method** — The Finnish method and tale-type indexing. 6

05 **Structural and Psychological Approaches** — Propp, Lévi-Strauss and psychoanalytic readings. 7

06 **Functional and Performance Approaches** — Folklore in context and as performance. 8

07 **Indian Folk Narrative Tradition** — Classical story collections and collectors. 9

08 **Oral Epics and Folk Songs** — Regional oral epics and song traditions. 10

09 **Folk Performing Traditions** — Folk theatre, dance and storytelling. 11

10 **Fieldwork and Folklore Today** — Collecting, archiving and the role of folklore today. 12

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

Folklore: Concept and Scope

Definition, characteristics and branches of folklore.

- Term 'folklore' coined by **William Thoms** (1846).
- Characteristics: oral transmission, traditional, variation, anonymity, collective ownership.
- Branches (Dorson): oral literature, material culture, social folk custom, performing folk arts.

★ Key revision points

- 'Folklore' coined by Thoms, 1846.
- Oral transmission and variation.
- Four branches = Richard Dorson.
- Folklore is collectively owned.

UNIT 02

Genres of Folk Literature

Myths, legends, folktales, songs, proverbs and riddles.

Genre	Feature
Myth	Sacred narrative about origins; set in a remote past
Legend	Believed to be historical; human heroes
Folktale	Fictional; for entertainment
Ballad	Narrative song
Proverb	Short traditional saying
Riddle	Puzzle question

★ Key revision points

- Myth = sacred origin story.
- Legend = believed historical.
- Folktale = fiction.
- Ballad = narrative song.

UNIT 03

Early Theories

Mythological, anthropological and diffusion theories.

- Brothers Grimm — *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* (1812).
- Solar mythology — Max Müller.
- Monogenesis vs polygenesis; Indianist theory (Benfey — Panchatantra as source).

★ Key revision points

- Grimm brothers: 1812.
- Solar mythology = Max Müller.
- Indianist theory = Benfey.
- Polygenesis = independent origins.

UNIT 04

Historic-Geographic Method

The Finnish method and tale-type indexing.

- Finnish school — Julius and Kaarle Krohn; Antti Aarne.
- **Aarne–Thompson–Uther (ATU)** tale-type index.
- Stith Thompson — *Motif-Index of Folk-Literature*.

★ Key revision points

- Finnish method = historic-geographic.
- ATU tale-type index.
- Motif-Index = Stith Thompson.
- Antti Aarne classified tale types.

UNIT 05

Structural and Psychological Approaches

Propp, Lévi-Strauss and psychoanalytic readings.

- **Vladimir Propp** — *Morphology of the Folktale* (1928): 31 functions, 7 dramatis personae.
- Lévi-Strauss — structural study of myth (binary oppositions).
- Psychoanalytic: Freud, Jung (archetypes), Alan Dundes.

★ Key revision points

- Propp: 31 functions (1928).
- Binary oppositions = Lévi-Strauss.
- Archetypes = Jung.
- Dundes: psychoanalytic folklore.

UNIT 06

Functional and Performance Approaches

Folklore in context and as performance.

- Functionalism — Malinowski; William Bascom's four functions of folklore.
- Performance theory — Richard Bauman; Dell Hymes (ethnography of speaking).
- Oral-formulaic theory — Parry and Lord (*The Singer of Tales*).

★ Key revision points

- Four functions = Bascom.
- Performance = Bauman.
- Oral-formulaic theory = Parry and Lord.
- Ethnography of speaking = Hymes.

UNIT 07

Indian Folk Narrative Tradition

Classical story collections and collectors.

- *Panchatantra* (Vishnu Sharma), *Jataka* tales, *Kathasaritsagara* (Somadeva), *Hitopadesha*.
- Collectors: Verrier Elwin, Devendra Satyarthi, A. K. Ramanujan (*Folktales from India*).

★ Key revision points

- *Panchatantra* = Vishnu Sharma.
- *Kathasaritsagara* = Somadeva.
- *Folktales from India* = Ramanujan.
- Jataka = Buddha's former lives.

UNIT 08

Oral Epics and Folk Songs

Regional oral epics and song traditions.

- Oral epics: Pabuji (Rajasthan, with phad scroll), Alha–Udal (Bundelkhand), Dhola.
- Folk song types: work songs, seasonal songs, life-cycle (sanskar) songs, lullabies.
- Bauls of Bengal (UNESCO intangible heritage).

★ Key revision points

- Pabuji = Rajasthan phad tradition.
- Alha–Udal = Bundelkhand.
- Bauls: UNESCO-listed.
- Sanskar songs mark life events.

UNIT 09

Folk Performing Traditions

Folk theatre, dance and storytelling.

- Storytelling: Burra katha (Andhra), Pandavani (Chhattisgarh — Teejan Bai), Villu Paattu (Tamil Nadu).
- Folk theatre: Yakshagana, Tamasha, Nautanki, Jatra.

★ Key revision points

- Pandavani = Chhattisgarh.
- Teejan Bai = Pandavani.
- Burra katha = Andhra.
- Jatra = Bengal.

UNIT 10

Fieldwork and Folklore Today

Collecting, archiving and the role of folklore today.

- Fieldwork: observation, recording, transcription, informed consent.
- Archives: National Folklore Support Centre; IGNCA.
- UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).

★ Key revision points

- UNESCO ICH convention: 2003.
- Transcription preserves oral texts.
- IGNCA archives cultural material.
- Informed consent in fieldwork.

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