

ANTHROPOLOGY

OPTIONAL 2026

MAY BATCH

LIVE CLASSES & TEST SERIES

- 12 rankers in the last 2 years
- Answer writing evaluation within 48 hours
- 24x7 Mentorship from subject experts
- Additional Mentorship by Akashdeep Sir through Zoom sessions



By - Akashdeep Singh Sir
Senior Faculty - Anthropology



10th May '25



1:00 PM

Study Iq is introducing a comprehensive Anthropology Optional Course cum Test Series Programme. The objective of this course is to help students understand the subject matter more conceptually as well as to impart answer writing skills to the students.

Anthropology Optional Batch 2026 – 27



It is said that Optional determines the destiny of UPSC journey. It is the most important weapon to conquer this exam. To get into the final list, one must ace the optionals.

To help you sail with a comfortable margin in Anthropology Optional, StudyIQ is here with its Anthropology Foundation Course

1 >

Major overlap with multiple GS papers.

2 >

It is the shortest major optional & time-saving in nature

3 >

Scoring 300+ is easier compared to other major optionals.

4 >

It is the only major optional with over 10% success rate from 2013-19

5 >

It is the only optional with two AIR-1 in past 5 years

6 >

It can be considered as the only optional which acts like a bridge between humanities & science.

Features

Gold

Platinum



400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months



Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty



Recorded Lectures and Crux



Comprehensive Coverage of Every Topic with PYQ Discussion



Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated



Discussion of all the Previous Year Questions



Regular answer writing sessions with evaluation



One to one Mentorship 24*7



Mains Test Series (Sectional & Full Length Test)



Optional Gyan Bhandar



Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty



Validity

18 Months

30 Months

STUDY PLAN

Week	Focus	Topics
1.	Foundations of Anthropology and Basics of Human evolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Meaning, Scope, and Development of Anthropology1.2 Relationship with Other Disciplines (Social, Behavioural, Life, Medical, Earth Sciences, Humanities)1.3 Main Branches (Social-Cultural, Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic)1.4 Human Evolution (Biological & Cultural factors, Theories of Organic Evolution, Synthetic theory, Key evolutionary terms)1.5 Characteristics of Primates (Taxonomy, Fossil Primates, Comparative Anatomy, Skeletal Changes)
2.	Human Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.6 Phylogenetic Status & Distribution (Australopithecines, Homo erectus, Neanderthal, Rhodesian Man, Homo sapiens variants)1.7 Biological Basis of Life (Cell, DNA, Protein Synthesis, Mutation, Chromosomes)
3.	Prehistoric Archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.8 (a) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology & Dating Methods (Relative vs. Absolute)Prehistoric Cultures (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age)
4.	Socio-Cultural Foundations (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Nature of Culture (Concepts, Characteristics, Ethnocentrism, Relativism)2.2 Nature of Society (Institutions, Groups, Stratification)2.3 Marriage (Definition, Endogamy, Exogamy, Types, Functions, Regulations, Payments)2.4 Family (Definition, Types, Impact of Urbanization/Industrialization/Feminist Movements)2.5 Kinship (Consanguinity, Affinity, Descent Types, Terminology)

Week

Focus

Topics

5.

Socio-Cultural Foundations (Part 2)

Economic Organization (Formalist vs. Substantivist, Production, Distribution, Exchange, Globalization)
Political Organization & Social Control (Band, Tribe, Chiefdom, Kingdom, State; Power, Authority, Legitimacy; Law & Justice)
Religion (Evolutionary, Psychological, Functional Approaches; Animism, Animatism, Totemism, Magic vs. Religion vs. Science)
7. Culture, Language & Communication (Nature, Origin, Verbal/Non-verbal, Social Context)

6.

Anthropological theories

Anthropological theories (Classical Evolutionism, Historical Particularism, Diffusionism, Functionalism, Structural-Functionalism, Structuralism, Culture & Personality, Neo-evolutionism, Cultural Materialism, Symbolic & Interpretive, Cognitive, Postmodernism)

7.

Research in cultural and Biological anthropology.

8. Research Methods (Fieldwork Tradition, Observation, Interview, Questionnaire, Genealogy, Case Study, Participatory Methods, Data Analysis & Presentation)
9.1–9.3 Human Genetics (Pedigree, Twin Study, Cytogenetics, Biochemical Methods, Single-/Multi-factor inheritance, Polymorphism, Hardy-Weinberg)

8.

Biological anthropology (part – 1)

9.4 Chromosomes & Aberrations (Numerical, Structural, Sex Chromosomal, Autosomal, DNA Profiling)
9.5 Race & Racism, 9.6 Genetic Markers (Blood Groups, etc.)

Biological anthropology (part – 2)

9.7 Ecological Anthropology & 9.8 Epidemiological Anthropology (Bio-cultural Adaptations, Physiological Responses, Diseases)
10. Growth & Development (Stages, Ageing, Somatotypes)
11.1–11.3 Reproductive Anthropology & Demography (Fertility, Demographic Theories)
12. Applications (Forensics, Nutrition, etc.)

Week

Focus

Topics

9.

Indian Archaeology

1.1 Evolution of Indian Culture & Civilization (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Harappan Civilization)
Tribal Cultures' Contributions
1.2 Palaeo-Anthropological Evidence (Siwaliks, Narmada Basin: Ramapithecus, Sivapithecus, Narmada Man)
1.3 Ethno-archaeology (Concept, Survivals & Parallels)
2. Demographic Profile of India (Ethnic & Linguistic Elements, Distribution, Factors)

10.

Indian social system

3.1 Traditional Indian Social System (Varnashrama, Purushartha, Karma, Rina, Rebirth)
3.2 Caste System (Varna vs. Caste, Theories of Origin, Dominant Caste, Mobility, Jajmani System)
3.3 Sacred Complex, Nature-Man-Spirit Complex
3.4 Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam & Christianity
4. Emergence & Growth of Anthropology in India (Scholar-administrators, Indian Anthropologists)

11.

Indian Village and Processes

5.1 Indian Village (Social system, Patterns, Agrarian Relations, Globalization)
5.2 Linguistic & Religious Minorities
5.3 Indigenous & Exogenous Processes of Change (Sanskritization, Westernization, Modernization, Little & Great Traditions, Panchayati Raj, Media)

Week

Focus

Topics

12.

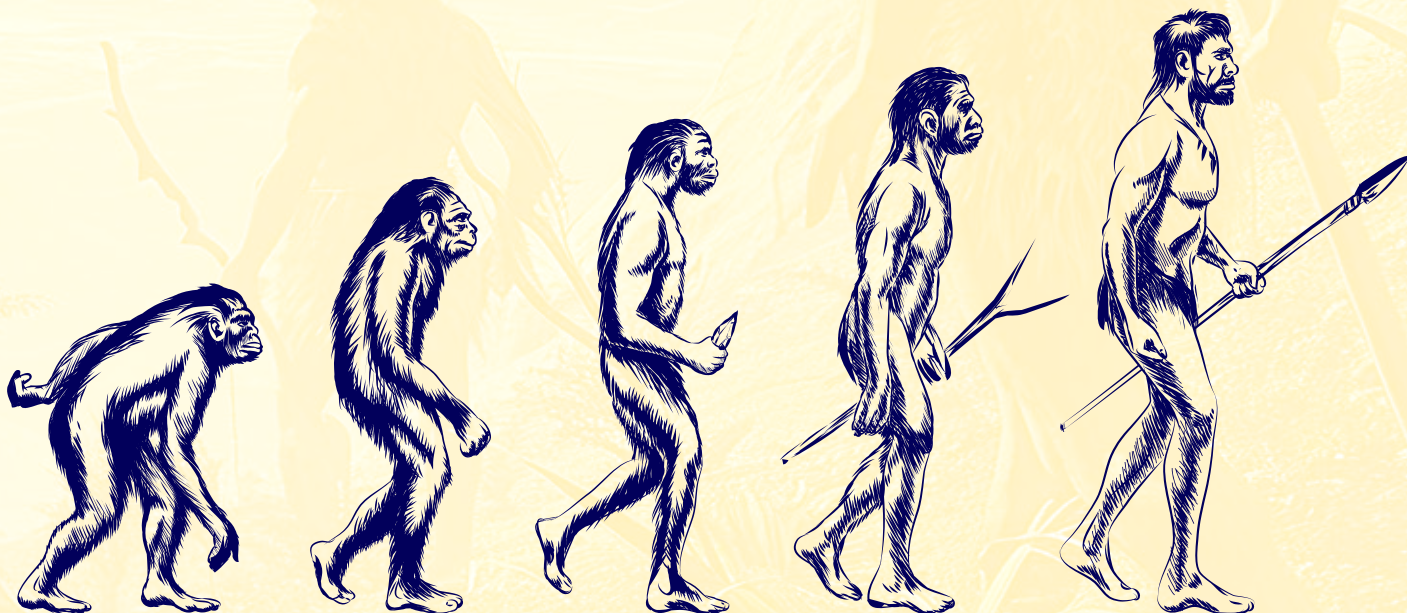
Tribal India – Part – 1

6.1 Tribal Situation (Bio-genetic Variability, Socio-economic Traits, Distribution)
6.2 Tribal Problems (Land Alienation, Poverty, Indebtedness, Health & Education)
6.3 Development Projects (Displacement, Rehabilitation, Forest Policy)
7.1–7.3 Exploitation & Deprivation (SCs, STs, OBCs, Constitutional Safeguards, Regionalism, Ethnic Conflicts)

13.

Tribal India – Part – 2

8.1 Impact of Major Religions on Tribal Societies
8.2 Tribe & Nation State (Comparative Study)
9.1–9.3 Tribal Administration & Development (History, Policies, PTGs, NGOs)
Role of Anthropology (Tribal & Rural Development, Regionalism, Communalism, Ethnic & Political Movements)





- **Teaching Experience: 8 years of teaching experience**
- **Qualification: UGC NET – JRF (Anthropology)**

Akashdeep Singh Sir

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