



ANTHROPOLOGY

OPTIONAL

(2026- 2027)

—PRATIGYA—

 **Live** **CLASSES & TEST SERIES**



10th July 2025



01:00 PM

Why Optional Matter in UPSC CSE

Choosing the right optional subject in UPSC CSE Mains can significantly influence your chances of success. It's a highly strategic decision and should be based on multiple factors such as your background, interest, aptitude, availability of resources, and overlap with GS papers. Below is a detailed evaluation of each of the subjects you mentioned — both English and Hindi medium options — to help you make an informed choice:

Optional Subject

The Hidden Power in UPSC Mains



500 Marks at Stake

Optional contributes **500 out of 1750** marks in the Mains exam. A high score here can **transform your final rank**.

The Real Differentiator

While GS papers level the field, the **optional creates the gap**. Many toppers owe their ranks to an outstanding optional score.



Scoring with Strategy

Optional subjects, with a **well-defined syllabus** and **less competition**, offer a chance to score **much higher** than GS papers — if approached smartly.

Subject Familiarity Pays Off

Choosing an optional aligned with your **interest or academic background** makes preparation smoother and answers stronger.



Overlap = Smart Preparation

Subjects like PSIR, Sociology, and Anthropology offer content that overlaps with **GS, Essay, and Interview**, giving you **multiple benefits** from single preparation.

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Exploring the Merits of Anthropology

EXTENSIVE GS OVERLAP

Significant synergy with multiple GS papers, especially GS I (Society), GS II (Governance), and GS III (Science & Tech, Environment), reducing overall prep load.



CONCISE & TIME-EFFICIENT



Anthropology is considered one of the shortest major optionals, allowing you to complete the syllabus quickly and focus more on revision and other papers.

HIGH SCORING POTENTIAL

Scoring 300+ marks is relatively more achievable compared to many other optionals, with proper strategy and answer writing.



DYNAMIC APPLICATION OF CONCEPTS



The only major optional with a 10%+ success rate (2013–2019) — a strong indicator of its reliability and consistency.

TOPPER'S CHOICE

Anthropology is the only optional to produce 2 AIR-1 rankers in the last 5 years, highlighting its potential to secure top ranks.



A PERFECT BRIDGE BETWEEN HUMANITIES & SCIENCE



With its unique blend of scientific concepts and socio-cultural analysis, Anthropology caters well to both science and humanities backgrounds.

StudyIQ Offerings

► LIVE Classes

The essence of this Program is the Live classes. StudyIQ through our expert faculties will be conducting Live classes every week from Monday to Saturday.

► LIVE Doubts Clearing Sessions

LIVE Doubts Clearing Sessions where students can directly ask questions and clarify their doubts with instructors or subject experts. These sessions are a vital part of our Program .

► Recorded Classes

Recorded Class after every Live class will be Provided . Learn at your own pace – ideal for working professionals or students with busy schedules .

► Hand Written Notes

Before every class, you will be provided with class notes in the form of CRUX. After the classes, we will be providing the lecture / board PPTs and handwritten notes of that class.

► Previous Year Questions

Actual questions that appeared in the Optional Exam in previous years will be Provided This will help in Identifying weak Areas.

► Current Affairs Classes

Understanding current affairs adds context to your knowledge. All Current Events related to Optionals will be added in the course .

► Mains Answer Writting

Mains answer writing will be conducted throughout the program with evaluation.

► One to One Mentorship

During your entire journey, our mentors will track your progress and guide you through your academic journey. Your Mentor will act like a friend, philosopher and guide so that you can have a personalized help during the preparation journey.

► Mains Test Series

A weekly Mains answer writing will be conducted throughout the program.

► Weekly Doubt Clearing Sessions

Weekly Doubts Clearing Sessions where students can directly ask questions and clarify their doubts with instructors or subject experts. These sessions are a vital part of our Program .

Optional Package Comparison

Features	Gold	Platinum
400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months	✓	✓
Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✓	✓
Recorded Lectures & Hand written Notes or Crux	✓	✓
Comprehensive Coverage of Every Topic with PYQ Discussion	✓	✓
Current affairs to keep the aspirants updated	✓	✓
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



Time Table

Week	Focus	Topics / Concepts Covered
1	Anthropological theories	Anthropological theories (Classical Evolutionism, Historical Particularism, Diffusionism, Functionalism, Structural-Functionalism, Structuralism, Culture & Personality, Neo-evolutionism, Cultural Materialism, Symbolic & Interpretive, Cognitive, Postmodernism)
2	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)
3	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.)
4	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.)
5	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)
6	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)
7	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)
8	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)

Time Table

Week	Focus	Topics / Concepts Covered
9	Tribal India – Part – 2	<p>8.1 Impact of Major Religions on Tribal Societies</p> <p>8.2 Tribe & Nation State (Comparative Study)</p> <p>9.1–9.3 Tribal Administration & Development (History, Policies, PTGs, NGOs)</p> <p>Role of Anthropology (Tribal & Rural Development, Regionalism, Communalism, Ethnic & Political Movements)</p>
10	Foundations of Anthropology and Basics of Human evolution.	<p>1.1 Meaning, Scope, and Development of Anthropology</p> <p>1.2 Relationship with Other Disciplines (Social, Behavioural, Life, Medical, Earth Sciences, Humanities)</p> <p>1.3 Main Branches (Social-Cultural, Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic)</p> <p>1.4 Human Evolution (Biological & Cultural factors, Theories of Organic Evolution, Synthetic theory, Key evolutionary terms)</p> <p>1.5 Characteristics of Primates (Taxonomy, Fossil Primates, Comparative Anatomy, Skeletal Changes)</p>
11	Human Evolution	<p>1.6 Phylogenetic Status & Distribution (Australopithecines, Homo erectus, Neanderthal, Rhodesian Man, Homo sapiens variants)</p> <p>1.7 Biological Basis of Life (Cell, DNA, Protein Synthesis, Mutation, Chromosomes)</p>
12	Prehistoric Archaeology	<p>1.8 (a) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology & Dating Methods (Relative vs. Absolute)</p> <p>Prehistoric Cultures (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age)</p>
13	Socio-Cultural Foundations (Part 1)	<p>2.1 Nature of Culture (Concepts, Characteristics, Ethnocentrism, Relativism)</p> <p>2.2 Nature of Society (Institutions, Groups, Stratification)</p> <p>2.3 Marriage (Definition, Endogamy, Exogamy, Types, Functions, Regulations, Payments)</p> <p>2.4 Family (Definition, Types, Impact of Urbanization/Industrialization/Feminist Movements)</p> <p>2.5 Kinship (Consanguinity, Affinity, Descent Types, Terminology)</p>
14	Socio-Cultural Foundations (Part 2)	<p>Economic Organization (Formalist vs. Substantivist, Production, Distribution, Exchange, Globalization)</p> <p>Political Organization & Social Control (Band, Tribe, Chiefdom, Kingdom, State; Power, Authority, Legitimacy; Law & Justice)</p> <p>Religion (Evolutionary, Psychological, Functional Approaches; Animism, Animatism, Totemism, Magic vs. Religion vs. Science)</p> <p>7. Culture, Language & Communication (Nature, Origin, Verbal/Non-verbal, Social Context)</p>

Our Faculty



Akashdeep Singh

Anthropology

With over a decade of experience in mentoring UPSC aspirants, Akashdeep Sir is a distinguished educator known for his conceptual clarity and result-oriented approach.

- 10+ Years of Teaching Excellence
- UGC NET-JRF Qualified, eligible for the post of Assistant Professor
- Consistent Track Record of Selections in UPSC

Notable Student Achievements:

- 2022 Selections: Ranks 68, 153, 458, 473
- 2023 Selections: Ranks 33, 36, 96, 112, 327, 352, 524, 566, 588, 619, 738, 841, 901, 949

Akashdeep Sir combines academic depth with a keen understanding of exam dynamics, making him a trusted name among serious aspirants.

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Our Prices

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Platinum



Director's Desk

Dear UPSC Aspirants,

At StudyIQ IAS, we know that the journey to becoming a civil servant is not just about studying—it's about dreams, struggles, and relentless perseverance. We have walked this path with thousands of aspirants, learning from your challenges, evolving with your needs, and celebrating your victories. Today, we take that commitment one step further with our most comprehensive and inclusive program yet—The FOUNDATION Batch.

This is not just another course; it's a game-changer. Whether you are starting fresh or refining your strategy, FOUNDATION provides everything you need—from live & recorded lectures, handwritten notes, structured test series, daily quizzes, answer writing practice, interview guidance, and one-on-one mentorship—all in a single, well-structured program. We believe financial constraints should never hold back a dream, which is why we offer affordable pricing, a full fee refund for those who clear Prelims, and ₹11,000 rewards for top performers.

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Join the FOUNDATION Batch today and take the first step towards your IAS dream with confidence!

Best Regards,
Director's Desk

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