ANTHROPOLOGY

OPTIONAL

(2027- 2028)

-SEPTEMBER BATCH-

Live CLASSES & TEST SERIES

20th Sep 2026 1:00 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.

1

CONCISE & TIME-EFFICIENT

2

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.

3

DYNAMIC APPLICATION OF CONCEPTS

4

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.

5

A PERFECT BRIDGE BETWEEN HUMANITIES & SCIENCE

6

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

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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 .

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.

Faculty Written Notes

Only board PPTs will be shared, and those will include the faculty-written notes. No crux or separate handwritten notes will be provided.

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	Standard	Elite
400+ hours of live lectures spread over 6 months	✓	✓
Live Doubt Clearing Sessions with Faculty	✓	✓
Recorded Lectures & Class Notes	✓	✓
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

Date	Topics
20 September	**Orientation** Decoding Syllabus
20 September	**Anthropological Theories Paper 1**
30 September	**Archeological Anthropology Paper 1** Basics (a) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology: Dating methods (b) Cultural Evolution—Broad Outlines of Prehistoric cultures **Paper 2** Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric Palaeo—Anthropological Ethno-archaeology in India
15 October	**Indian Anthropology Paper 2** Demographic profile of India The structure and nature of traditional Indian social system Caste system in India Sacred Complex and Nature-Man-Spirit Complex. Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity of Indian society Emergence, growth and development in India Indian Village—Significance of village study in India Linguistic and religious minorities and their social, political and economic status. Indigenous and exogenous processes of socio-cultural change in Indian society
20 November	**Tribal Anthropology Paper 2** Tribal situation in India Problems of the tribal Communities Developmental projects and their impact on tribal displacement Problems of exploitation and deprivation of S.C, S.T. & OBC Social change and contemporary tribal societies The concept of ethnicity Impact of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam etc. Tribe and nation state History of administration of tribal areas, tribal policies, plans & programmes Role of anthropology in tribal and rural development Contributions of anthropology to the understanding of regionalism, communalism etc.

Time Table

Date	Topics
25 December	**Socio-Cultural Anthropology** Meaning, Scope and development of Anthropology. Relationships with other disciplines Main Branches of Anthropology The Nature of Society The Nature of Culture Marriage Family Kinship Economic Organization Political Organization and Social Control Religion Research methods in Anthropology Culture, Language and Communication
15 January 2027	**Physical Anthropology Paper 1** Human Evolution and emergence of Man
30 January 2027	**Physical Anthropology Paper 1** Human Evolution and emergence of Man Characteristics of Primates; Evolutionary Trend and Primate Taxonomy Phylogenetic status, characteristics and geographical distribution The biological basis of Life Human Genetics Mendelian genetics in man-family study Concept of genetic polymorphism and selection Chromosomes and chromosomal aberrations in man, methodology Race and racism Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker Concepts and methods of Ecological Anthropology Epidemiological Anthropology Concept of human growth and development Relevance of menarche, menopause and other bioevents to fertility Demographic theories – biological, social and cultural Biological and socio-ecological factors influencing fecundity, fertility, natality and mortality Applications of Anthropology (P-1)

FROM ANTHROPOLOGY CLASSROOM TO UPSC RANKS

Our learners making their mark in UPSC CSE

AIR 82
POOJA JHA

AIR 88
DEEKSHA PATKA

AIR 327
AAYUSH SRIVASTAVA

AIR 517
BALKUNDE SAVI

Anthropology OPTIONAL
By Mangal Charan Singh

Start your Anthropology preparation with StudyIQ

Our Faculty

Mangal Singh

Anthropology Faculty | UPSC Mentor

- B.Tech, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jaipur
- Professional Experience
- Guiding and mentoring UPSC Civil Services aspirants for the past 10 years.
- Successfully mentored multiple UPSC Civil Services toppers and high-rank achievers.
- Mentored10000+ Students
- **Notable UPSC Mentorship Results**
  - AIR 4 (2021) – Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak
  - AIR 4 (2023) – P. K. Siddharth Ramkumar (Anthropology)
  - AIR 59 (2023) – Benjo P. Jose (Anthropology)
  - AIR 82 (2021) – Pooja Jha (Anthropology)
  - AIR 327 – Ayush Srivastava (Anthropology)
  - AIR 639 (2022) – Shreya Singh
  - AIR 610 (2022) – Abhishek Dawachya
  - AIR 128 (2024) – Nidhi Singh
  - AIR 517 (2024) – Savi Bulkunde (Anthropology)

Our Prices

Price: ~~₹24,999~~

₹15,999

Standard

Price: ~~₹38 ,999~~

₹20,999

Elite

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.

More than just a batch, FOUNDATION is a promise—a promise that no matter where you are in your UPSC journey, you will never feel alone. You will have the best resources, unwavering mentorship, and a community that supports you at every step. This is your time, your moment—to rise, to conquer, and to turn your dream into reality.

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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