Aspirants Hub AI

DAILY ANSWER WRITING (DAWP)

Anthropology: Tapasya

Optional · Paper 1 + Paper 2

Master answer writing for Anthropology the way toppers did: Notes for every day + Daily Answer Writing + Topper copies

ONE-STOP NOTES

No other notes needed. Every unit comes with class notes: past questions answered in exam format, diagrams, thinkers and checked Indian facts.

3 QUESTIONS A DAY

Topper copies + PYQ model answers + a new question

The new question comes with the **best model answer**.

FEEDBACK

Instant topper-copy based AI evaluation

On **every answer**, the same day, on your dashboard.

YOUR PACE

Day by day, with revision days

A **revision day** after every writing day. Finish one and the next opens.

RANKERS FROM ASPIRANTS HUB PROGRAMMES · CSE 2025

AIR 18



Shruthi

AIR 66



Meenal Negi

AIR 104



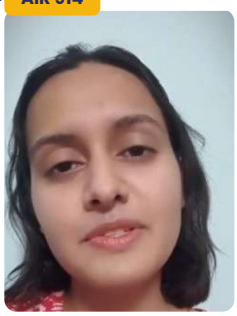
Aryan Kumar Singh

AIR 389



Manoj GS

AIR 914



Ayushi Sijeria

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ONE-STOP NOTES · REAL PAGES

All the notes you need. Read, then write.

You do not need any other notes. Every writing day opens with its own class notes. Every past question of that day's units is answered the way it should look in your copy, with a **diagram**, the **thinkers who score** and **checked Indian facts**. These two pages are from the Day 1 notes.



Aspirants Hub AI — TAPASYA: ANTHROPOLOGY · PAPER 1 · UNIT 1.1

Q2

QUESTION 2 · UNIT 1.1 · PYQ 2022, 20 MARKS

"Anthropology is the systematic, objective and holistic study of humankind in all times and places." Elaborate the argument.

The statement makes **four claims** in one line. Each claim rests on a **method**, and each method has a **limit**. A full answer takes the four claims one by one, proves each with a named method, then shows where the claim falls short.

Four claims, four methods: draw this hub first, then write one block per box.

1. Systematic: three methods with owners

- **Participant observation: Malinowski** lived among the Trobriand Islanders and recorded daily life in the local language (*Argonauts*, 1922).
- **Genealogical method: W.H.R. Rivers** collected kinship data through family trees, first on the **1898 Torres Strait expedition** led by **A.C. Haddon**, and set it out in a **1910** paper. **Eg:** his study *The Todas* **(1906)** of the Nilgiris.
- **Comparative method: Tylor's 1889** paper opened statistical cross-cultural comparison of institutions.

2. Objective: seeing a culture on its own terms

- **Cultural relativism:** judging a culture by its own values, not the observer's (**Herskovits**, *Man and His Works*, **1948**). It guards against **ethnocentrism**.
- **Emic and etic:** the **insider's** meaning (emic) is recorded alongside the **observer's** categories (etic).

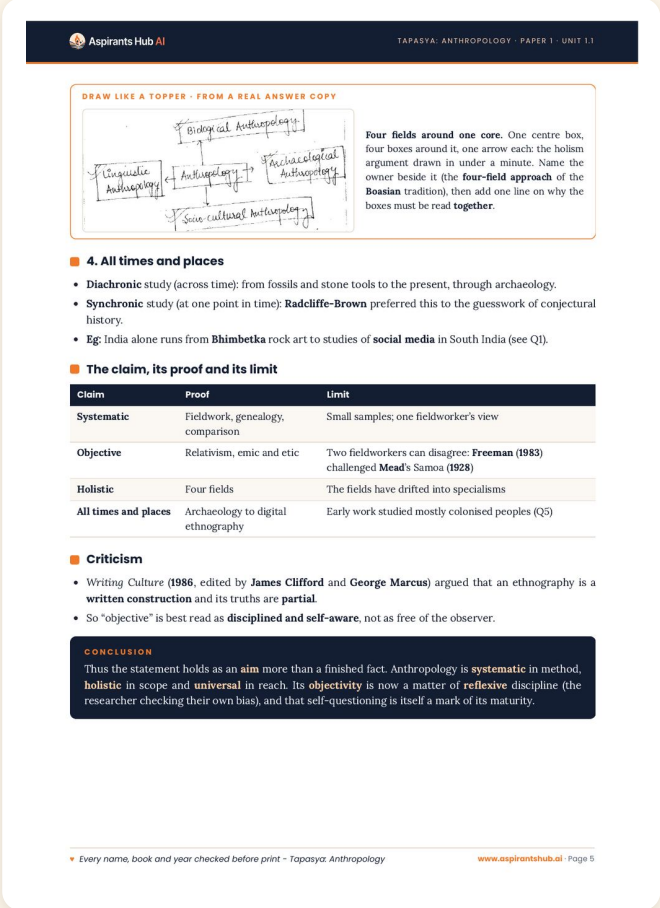
3. Holistic: the four fields read together

Holism refers to studying humans as **integrated biological, cultural, linguistic and historical beings**. **Eg:** adult milk drinking is at once **cultural** (dairying) and **biological** (lactase persistence), so neither field alone explains it (see **Unit 1.2, Q5**).

Built from UPSC PYQs and real topper copies - Tapasya: Anthropology — www.aspirantshub.ai · Page 4

A PYQ IN EXAM FORMAT

The 2022 question on the systematic study of humankind: the claim, its proof, its limit.



Aspirants Hub AI — TAPASYA: ANTHROPOLOGY · PAPER 1 · UNIT 1.1

DRAW LIKE A TOPPER · FROM A REAL ANSWER COPY

Four fields around one core. One centre box, four boxes around it, one arrow each: the holism argument drawn in under a minute. Name the owner beside it (the **four-field approach** of the **Boasian** tradition), then add one line on why the boxes must be read **together**.

4. All times and places

- **Diachronic** study (across time): from fossils and stone tools to the present, through archaeology.
- **Synchronic** study (at one point in time): **Radcliffe-Brown** preferred this to the guesswork of conjectural history.
- **Eg:** India alone runs from **Bhimbetka** rock art to studies of **social media** in South India (see Q1).

The claim, its proof and its limit

Claim	Proof	Limit
Systematic	Fieldwork, genealogy, comparison	Small samples; one fieldworker's view
Objective	Relativism, emic and etic	Two fieldworkers can disagree: **Freeman (1983)** challenged **Mead**'s Samoa **(1928)**
Holistic	Four fields	The fields have drifted into specialisms
All times and places	Archaeology to digital ethnography	Early work studied mostly colonised peoples (Q5)

Criticism

- *Writing Culture* **(1986**, edited by **James Clifford** and **George Marcus)** argued that an ethnography is a **written construction** and its truths are **partial**.
- So "objective" is best read as **disciplined and self-aware**, not as free of the observer.

CONCLUSION

Thus the statement holds as an **aim** more than a finished fact. Anthropology is **systematic** in method, **holistic** in scope and **universal** in reach. Its **objectivity** is now a matter of **reflexive** discipline (the researcher checking their own bias), and that self-questioning is itself a mark of its maturity.

Every name, book and year checked before print - Tapasya: Anthropology — www.aspirantshub.ai · Page 5

DRAW LIKE A TOPPER

A real topper diagram, and what makes it score.

What Anthropology students say

"*Anthropology optional has heavy reliance on PYQs, and these notes hit the Bulls eye.*"

A candidate who has given the UPSC interview · on our PYQ notes

"*phenomenally well made pyq document. The best in the market.*"

A student · after the whole biological section

"*My work has become 10 times easier now.*"

A student · on our Anthropology topper copies

"*way better than the pyq books i've seen in the market*"

A student · on our PYQ model answers

"*Best quality ever.*"

A buyer · after checking the sample, then buying

"*the kind of work u have done is amazing*"

An anthropologist · cleared NET four times

WHY TAPASYA FOR ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology rewards answers with thinkers, diagrams and Indian examples.



Anthropology is a scoring optional, but only for those who write. Most aspirants read the syllabus twice and still write thin answers. There is **no thinker's name, no diagram and no tribe from India** in them.

Tapasya fixes that one unit at a time. You write three answers, see how a topper wrote one of them, and get feedback the same day. **Nothing to plan.**

Shubham Ajmera · Co-founder, Aspirants Hub

01

PYQ · WHAT TO STUDY

A past question with our model answer

Typed, with the **approach** on top, a **diagram** and the thinkers to quote.

02

TOPPER COPY · HOW TO WRITE

A question a topper answered

Write it first. Then open the **real topper copy** and see how it was done.

03

NEW QUESTION · PRACTISE

A fresh question, with the best model answer

It is not a past question, so you learn to handle **something new under time**. It may appear in Mains 2027.

Instant AI evaluation on every answer

The AI is built on topper copies. It shows **what to fix** in content, structure, thinkers and diagrams, the same day. It runs on your Aspirants Hub dashboard.

Then a revision day

Put your evaluation next to the model answer and the topper copy. Note what you missed. Then read the **notes for the next day**.

How one day works

1 **Read** the notes for the day.

2 **Write** the three answers.

3 Get **AI evaluation** the same day.

4 **Revision day:** compare with the model answer and topper copy.

5 The **next day opens**.

50–60 days

AT A COMFORTABLE PACE

The plan has **31 writing days**. Before each writing day, you can take a **revision-cum-reading day**: revise the notes and what you learnt in the last DAWP. At a comfortable pace, you will **finish the whole course in 50 to 60 days**.

REAL PAGES · QUESTION 02 OF A WRITING DAY

The topper copy, exactly as you get it.

This is the topper-copy question from **Day 1, meaning, scope and branches of anthropology**. First you see what to notice. Then you see the topper's own sheets.

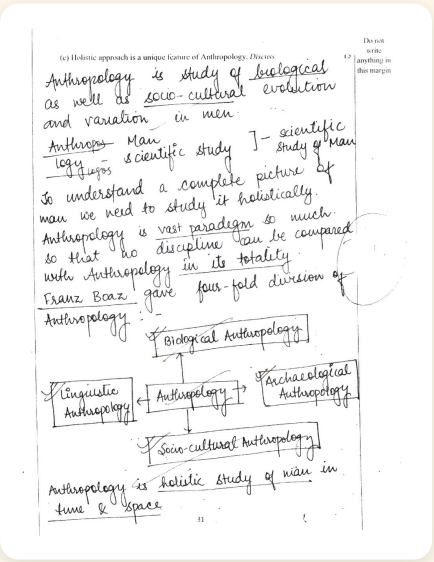
THE TOPPER COPY QUESTION

Holistic approach is a unique feature of Anthropology. Discuss.

PAPER 1 · UNIT 1.1 · 15 MARKS

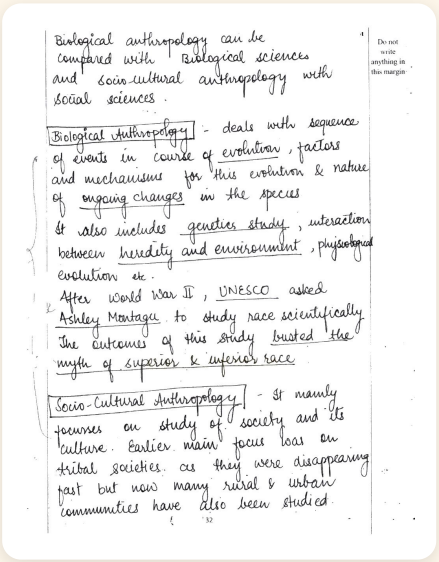
WHAT TO NOTICE IN THIS COPY

1. **Two lines to define.** Anthropology as the study of biological and socio-cultural evolution, then its Greek roots.
2. **A name early.** Franz Boas's four-fold division, drawn as a flowchart on sheet 1.
3. **One boxed heading per branch.** Biological, socio-cultural, linguistic and archaeological, each with what it studies.
4. **A dated example.** After World War II, UNESCO asked Ashley Montagu to study race.
5. **The close applies the idea.** A health study needs its pathological, psychological and cultural sides together.



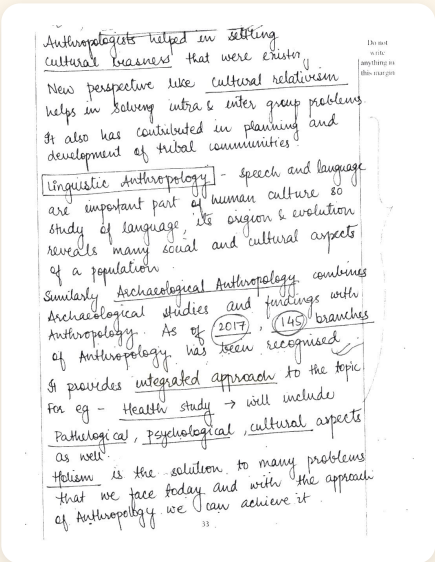
SHEET 1 OF 3

The four fields as a flowchart.



SHEET 2 OF 3

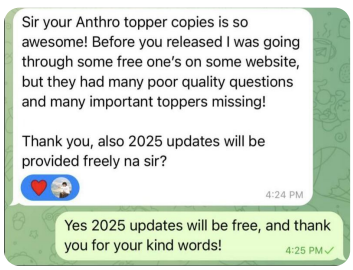
One boxed heading per branch.



SHEET 3 OF 3

The close: one problem, many sides.

Shubham Kumar, AIR 1, CSE 2020 · his answer, as written.



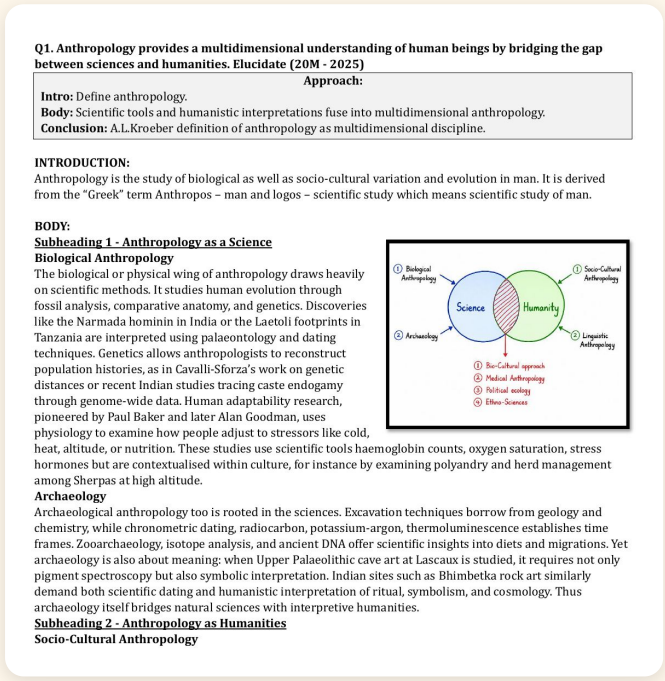
"Sir your Anthro topper copies is so awesome! Before you released I was going through some free one's on some website, but they had many poor quality questions and many important toppers missing!"

AN ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT · on our topper copies, to Shubham on Telegram

REAL PAGES · QUESTIONS 01 AND 03

A model answer, then a question nobody has asked yet.

On the left, our typed model answer to a **2025 PYQ** on how anthropology bridges science and the humanities. On the right, the **new question** from the first writing day, with its model answer and a timeline.



Q1. Anthropology provides a multidimensional understanding of human beings by bridging the gap between sciences and humanities. Elucidate (20M - 2025)

Approach:

Intro: Define anthropology.
Body: Scientific tools and humanistic interpretations fuse into multidimensional anthropology.
Conclusion: A.L.Kroeber definition of anthropology as multidimensional discipline.

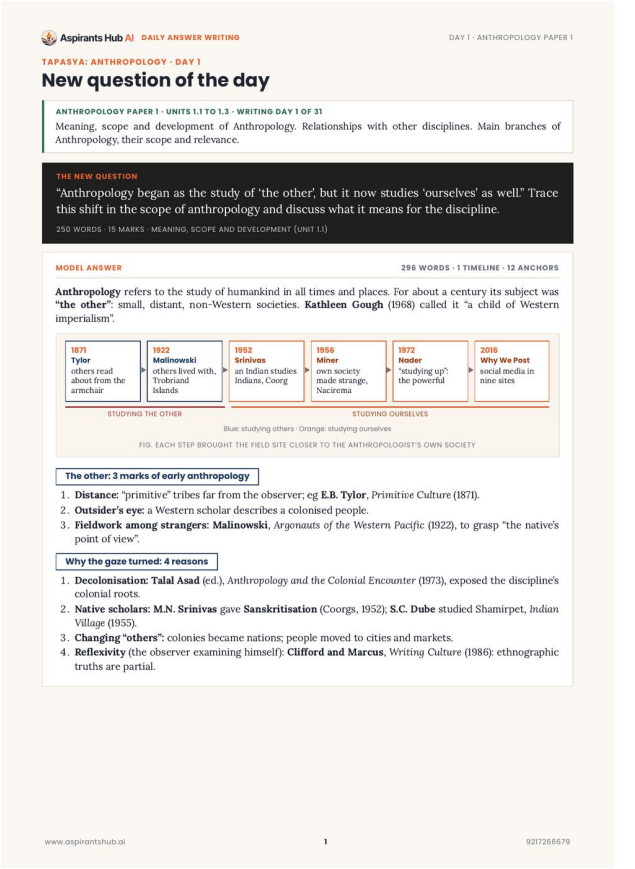
INTRODUCTION:
Anthropology is the study of biological as well as socio-cultural variation and evolution in man. It is derived from the "Greek" term Anthropos – man and logos – scientific study which means scientific study of man.

BODY:
Subheading 1 - Anthropology as a Science
Biological Anthropology
The biological or physical wing of anthropology draws heavily on scientific methods. It studies human evolution through fossil analysis, comparative anatomy, and genetics. Discoveries like the Narmada hominin in India or the Laetoli footprints in Tanzania are interpreted using palaeontology and dating techniques. Genetics allows anthropologists to reconstruct population histories, as in Cavalli-Sforza's work on genetic distances or recent Indian studies tracing caste endogamy through genome-wide data. Human adaptability research, pioneered by Paul Baker and later Alan Goodman, uses physiology to examine how people adjust to stressors like cold, heat, altitude, or nutrition. These studies use scientific tools haemoglobin counts, oxygen saturation, stress hormones but are contextualised within culture, for instance by examining polyandry and herd management among Sherpas at high altitude.

Archaeology
Archaeological anthropology too is rooted in the sciences. Excavation techniques borrow from geology and chemistry, while chronometric dating, radiocarbon, potassium-argon, thermoluminescence establishes time frames. Zooarchaeology, isotope analysis, and ancient DNA offer scientific insights into diets and migrations. Yet archaeology is also about meaning: when Upper Palaeolithic cave art at Lascaux is studied, it requires not only pigment spectroscopy but also symbolic interpretation. Indian sites such as Bhimbetka rock art similarly demand both scientific dating and humanistic interpretation of ritual, symbolism, and cosmology. Thus archaeology itself bridges natural sciences with interpretive humanities.
Subheading 2 - Anthropology as Humanities
Socio-Cultural Anthropology

01 · PYQ, MODEL ANSWER

The approach on top, then intro, body and close, with a diagram.



Aspirants Hub AI DAILY ANSWER WRITING

DAY 1 · ANTHROPOLOGY PAPER I

TAPASYA: ANTHROPOLOGY · DAY 1

New question of the day

ANTHROPOLOGY PAPER 1 · UNITS 1.1 TO 1.3 · WRITING DAY 1 OF 31

Meaning, scope and development of Anthropology. Relationships with other disciplines. Main branches of Anthropology, their scope and relevance.

THE NEW QUESTION

"Anthropology began as the study of 'the other', but it now studies 'ourselves' as well." Trace this shift in the scope of anthropology and discuss what it means for the discipline.

250 WORDS · 15 MARKS · MEANING, SCOPE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNIT 1.1)

MODEL ANSWER — 296 WORDS · 1 TIMELINE · 12 ANCHORS

Anthropology refers to the study of humankind in all times and places. For about a century its subject was **"the other"**: small, distant, non-Western societies. **Kathleen Gough** (1968) called it "a child of Western imperialism".

1871	1922	1952	1956	1972	2016
Tylor others read about from the armchair	**Malinowski** others lived with, Trobriand Islands	**Srinivas** an Indian studies Indians, Coorg	**Miner** own society made strange, Nacirema	**Nader** "studying up": the powerful	**Why We Post** social media in nine sites

STUDYING THE OTHER — STUDYING OURSELVES

Blue: studying others · Orange: studying ourselves

FIG. EACH STEP BROUGHT THE FIELD SITE CLOSER TO THE ANTHROPOLOGIST'S OWN SOCIETY

The other: 3 marks of early anthropology

1. **Distance:** "primitive" tribes far from the observer; eg **E.B. Tylor**, *Primitive Culture* (1871).
2. **Outsider's eye:** a Western scholar describes a colonised people.
3. **Fieldwork among strangers: Malinowski**, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (1922), to grasp "the native's point of view".

Why the gaze turned: 4 reasons

1. **Decolonisation: Talal Asad** (ed.), *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter* (1973), exposed the discipline's colonial roots.
2. **Native scholars: M.N. Srinivas** gave **Sanskritisation** (Coorgs, 1952); **S.C. Dube** studied Shamirpet, *Indian Village* (1955).
3. **Changing "others":** colonies became nations; people moved to cities and markets.
4. **Reflexivity** (the observer examining himself): **Clifford and Marcus**, *Writing Culture* (1986): ethnographic truths are partial.

www.aspirantshub.ai 1 9217266679

03 · NEW QUESTION + MODEL ANSWER

From "the other" to ourselves: a timeline, then gains and limits.



HEAR IT FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGY RANKER

"I want to thank Shubham Ajmera sir for the Anthropology Topper Copies Compilation. Currently I'm preparing for rank improvement, and it is helping me a lot."

Shritesh Bhupendra Patel · UPSC CSE 2024, Rank 746

From his video message on our ANTHRO Compass channel.

THE PLAN · 31 WRITING DAYS

Every unit of both papers, one day at a time.

Each writing day has three questions and its own notes. A **revision day** follows every writing day: check your answers against the model answer and topper copy, then read the next day's notes. The next day opens when you finish the current one.

DAY	PAPER 1 · WHAT YOU WRITE	UNITS
Day 1	Meaning, scope and development of anthropology; its relationship with other disciplines; main branches, their scope and relevance	1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Day 2	Human evolution and the emergence of man; the biological basis of life	1.4, 1.7
Day 3	Characteristics of primates: evolutionary trend, taxonomy, adaptations, behaviour, erect posture	1.5
Day 4	Fossils: phylogenetic status, characteristics and geographical distribution	1.6
Day 5	Principles of prehistoric archaeology; chronology and dating; cultural evolution	1.8
Day 6	The nature of culture; the nature of society	2.1, 2.2
Day 7	Marriage; family	2.3, 2.4
Day 8	Kinship: descent, descent groups, terminology, alliance	2.5
Day 9	Economic organisation; political organisation and social control	3, 4
Day 10	Religion: approaches, forms, magico-religious functionaries	5
Day 11	Anthropological theories I: classical evolutionism, diffusionism, functionalism, structuralism	6
Day 12	Anthropological theories II: culture and personality, neo-evolutionism, cultural materialism, symbolic, cognitive and postmodern theories	6
Day 13	Culture, language and communication; research methods in anthropology	7, 8
Day 14	Human genetics: methods, Mendelian genetics, polymorphism and selection, chromosomal aberrations	9.1 to 9.4
Day 15	Race and racism; genetic markers; ecological and epidemiological anthropology	9.5 to 9.8
Day 16	Human growth and development; demography and fertility	10, 11
Day 17	Applications of anthropology	12
Day 17 · Paper 1 complete		

DAY	PAPER 2 · WHAT YOU WRITE	UNITS
Day 18	Evolution of Indian culture and civilisation	1.1
Day 19	Palaeo-anthropological evidence from India; ethno-archaeology in India	1.2, 1.3
Day 20	Demographic profile of India	2
Day 21	The traditional Indian social system; sacred complex and nature-man-spirit complex; impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity	3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Day 22	Caste system in India	3.2
Day 23	Emergence and growth of anthropology in India	4
Day 24	Indian village; linguistic and religious minorities	5.1, 5.2
Day 25	Indigenous and exogenous processes of socio-cultural change	5.3
Day 26	Tribal situation in India; problems of tribal communities	6.1, 6.2
Day 27	Development projects and tribal displacement; exploitation and deprivation of SCs, STs and OBCs	6.3, 7.1
Day 28	Social change and contemporary tribal societies; the concept of ethnicity	7.2, 7.3
Day 29	Impact of religions on tribal societies; tribe and nation state	8.1, 8.2
Day 30	History of administration of tribal areas; tribal policies and plans	9.1
Day 31	Anthropology in tribal and rural development; regionalism, communalism and ethnic movements	9.2, 9.3
Day 31 · Both papers complete		

Aspirants Hub AI

ENROLMENT
TAPASYA · ANTHROPOLOGY

TWO PAPERS. ONE HABIT.

Start Day 1 the day you join.

- **Entire DAWP + Best Quality Model Answers + Best Notes**, for Paper 1 and Paper 2
- **Every syllabus unit** in **31 writing days**, each followed by a revision day
- **Three questions** each day: PYQ with a typed model answer, topper copy, new question with the best model answer
- **Instant AI evaluation** on every answer, built on topper copies
- **Class notes for every writing day**, open with the day
- Runs on your **Aspirants Hub dashboard**

PAPER 1 + PAPER 2 · LAUNCH PRICE

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Her own handwritten notes, the same ones behind her 306, as PDFs.

Tests set by Priya with model answers, checked by interview-given evaluators, then one-to-one mentorship.

Videos and tests valid **till Mains 2027**.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

Can I take only Paper 1 or only Paper 2?

No. Tapasya: Anthropology comes with **both papers together**.

How long can I use it?

Till Mains 2027. Write at your own pace till then.

Who checks my answers?

Every answer gets **instant AI evaluation** built on topper copies. On the revision day, you also compare it with the model answer and the topper copy.

Do I need separate notes?

No. The **notes for each day** open with that day, with the past questions answered in exam format.