

Dept. Of Anthropology

Study Material

BSc General (CBCS)

Paper - DSC-1 (C-1T)

Q. Write a note on meaning, definition and scope of anthropology.

Meaning:

Anthropology is the study of various elements of humans, including biology and culture, in order to understand human origin and the evolution of various beliefs and social customs.

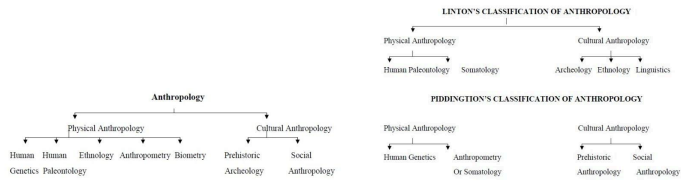
The term anthropology is a combination of two terms 'anthropos' and 'logos', the former meaning human and the latter meaning discourse or science. Thus anthropology is the science or discourse of man. It is the science or discourse of human beings. Aristotle first used the term 'Anthropologist'.

Definitions of Anthropology

1. **The concise oxford dictionary:** study of mankind especially of its societies and customs; study of structure and evolution of man as an animal”
2. **Kroeber:** “Anthropology is the science of groups of men and their behaviour and production”.
3. **Herskovits:** “Anthropology may be defined as the measurement of human beings.”
4. **Jacobs and Stern:** “Anthropology is the scientific study of the physical, social and cultural development and behavior of human beings since their appearance on this earth.”

Scope:

Anthropology has been divided into two main branches: Physical anthropology and cultural anthropology. These two main branches have been again, sub-divided into several other branches.



Physical anthropology is the branch that concentrates on the biology and evolution of humanity.

The branches that study the social and cultural constructions of human groups are variously recognized as belonging to cultural anthropology (or ethnology), social anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and psychological anthropology.

Archaeology , as the method of investigation of prehistoric cultures, has been an integral part of anthropology since it became a self-conscious discipline in the latter half of the 19th century.