

April 2025
B.A./B.Sc.
Fourth Semester
CORE – 8
ANTHROPOLOGY
Course Code: ANC 4.11
(Theories of Culture & Society)

Total Mark: 70

Pass Mark: 28

Time: 3 hours

Answer five questions, taking one from each unit.

UNIT-I

1. Critically analyse how Julian Steward's "culture core" concept helps anthropologists understand the functional relationship between environment, technology, and social structure. 14
2. Compare and contrast unilinear evolution with multilinear evolution. Which better explains cultural development and why? 7+7=14

UNIT-II

3. Enumerate the contributions of the Kulturkreis school. Can the criterion of form and quantity still be applied in modern cultural studies? 10+4=14
4. (a) Write a note on basic postulates of diffusionism. 7
(b) Can indirect diffusion result in cultural misunderstanding or misinterpretation? Elaborate. 7

UNIT-III

5. How do Emile Durkheim's theories of mechanical solidarity and organic solidarity reflect social integration in traditional pre-industrial and modern complex societies, respectively? 14
6. (a) Write a note on relation between social facts and collective consciousness. 7
(b) "Culture is an instrumental reality." Explain. 7

UNIT-IV

7. Analyse the role of cultural determinism in Margaret Mead's theory. Identify strengths and potential weaknesses in her approach. 10+4=14
8. How does the concept of basic personality support the process of enculturation? Citing a suitable example, analyse its role in shaping cultural identity during childhood. 7+7=14

UNIT-V

9. Analyse the different stages of Victor Turner's social drama model. How do these stages reflect broader symbolic and cultural processes in a society? 7+7=14
 10. How does Clifford Geertz's concept of "thick description" deepen our understanding of cultural symbols beyond surface behaviours? 14
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