

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY
Syllabus for Online Entrance Examination (OEE) 2026-2027
for admission in MA/MSc Anthropology

Examination Pattern:

The Online Entrance Exam paper will consist of 2 sections.

1. Section A: General knowledge/aptitude/logic/comprehension: 20 marks
2. Section B: Subject specific questions as per the following syllabus: 80 marks
 - a. 60 questions-MCQ- 1 Marks each -80 Marks
 - b. Negative Marking, for each wrong answer 1/4th marks will be deducted.
3. Equal weightage will be given to Unit 1 and Unit 2.
4. Examination of both the sections will be conducted together.
5. Total duration of the Examination is 2 Hours.

For further details refer to the admissions portal of the Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Syllabus

Section A

Unit 1: Mathematical Reasoning and Aptitude:

- Number series, Letter series
- Elementary statistics
- Time Speed and Distance
- Proportion and Percentage
- Profit and Loss
- Interest and Discounting
- Time and Work, Ratio and proportion

Unit 2: Logical and Analytical Reasoning:

- Arrangement – Seating/ Circular
- Directions, Calendars, Clocks
- Blood Relationship
- Number Series, Coding-Decoding
- Assumption, Syllogisms

Unit 3. General Knowledge and awareness

- Current Affairs- national and international
- General Knowledge

Section B: Subject Specific Syllabus

Unit 1: Social and Cultural Anthropology

General Social and Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology

- Anthropology- holistic, humanistic, interpretive.
- Historical development of the discipline.
- Sub-disciplines within Anthropology.
- Key anthropologists - Edward B. Tylor, Franz Boas, Bronislaw Malinowski, Margaret Mead
- Ethnography, ethnology.

Culture

- Concept of Culture, Culture – learned, shared, patterned.
- Introduction to key concepts: Holistic perspective, Cultural Relativism, Ethnocentrism, 'Etic' and 'Emic', World-view,
- Enculturation, acculturation, assimilation, adaptation,

Family

- Concept, definitions and universality of the institution of family, Family household
- Typology - Conjugal-natal, consanguine-al, nuclear, joint, extended.
- Residence – Ambilocal, patrilocal, matrilocal, avunculocal, neolocal, bilocal
- Functions of family- Social, economic and religious.

Marriage

- Definition, universality; Significance and functions of marriage as a cultural institution;
- Marriage type - monogamy, polygamy – (polyandry, polygyny), hypogamy, hypergamy, endogamy, exogamy
- Preferential, prescriptive systems of marriage
- Levirate, Sororate, cross-cousin marriage, uncle-niece marriage, extended affinal marriage;
- Dowry and Bride Price
- Divorce, widowhood, remarriage.

Kinship

- Concept of Kinship, affine group and kin group;
- Kin –Consanguineal, affinal and bilateral
- Principle and types of Descent – Unilateral, bilateral, siblings,
- clan, patriarchy / matriarchy.

Economic Organization

- Primitive, peasant and modern economy;
- Principles of production, distribution, redistribution, consumption,
- Distribution - Reciprocity and exchange; gift, trade, barter, currency and market economy;
- Kula Ring and Potlatch;
- Hunting-gathering, foraging, pastoral, agricultural, shifting cultivation

Political Organization

- Types of political organizations - egalitarian, non-egalitarian, decentralized and centralized;
- band, tribe, chiefdom, state;
- law, and social control;
- Informal means and formal means of social control
- Sanctions – positive, negative,

Religious Organization

- Definition, sacred and profane

- deity, rites and rituals;
- Religious belief
- Atheism, monotheism, polytheism
- Forms of religion - Animism, animatism, naturism, totemic;
- Magic - Black and white, contagious, defensive, destructive, imitative, sympathetic;
- Magico-religious functionaries: sorcerer, witchcraft
- Functions of magic and religion;
- Religious change: Sanskritization, assimilation

Concept of Tribe

- Concept and definition of tribes.
- Their classification; geographical, linguistic, racial, economic, art and their religion.
- Constitution and Scheduled tribes, acts/amendments

Indian Anthropology

India: race, language and culture

- Races of India (Risley's classification)
- Language families and dialects in India
- Indus Valley Civilization

Vedic and later Vedic period

- Vedic and Brahminic supremacy, The heterodox challenge of Jainism, Buddhism, and Charvaka philosophies

Indian ethical system

- Karma, Rin and rebirth
- Four stages of life: Four ashrams
- Purushartha: Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha

Major concepts in Indian Anthropology

- Little tradition and Great tradition;
- Universalization, Parochialisation;
- Sacred Complex, Nature-Man-Spirit complex;
- Dominant caste, Tribe - Caste continuum;
- Sanskritisation, Westernization;
- Village studies.

Social stratification in Indian society

- Caste system: origin, theories of origin of caste, features of caste system Varna model and Jati model, features of caste system, merits and demerits, Caste and class, Jajmani system and Balutedari system, Caste system and associated rules of marriage

Weaker sections in Indian society

- Problems of the SCs and STs in India, Socio-cultural changes in Indian society

Indian society in transition

- Change in rural Indian society, changing form of caste system, effect of urbanization, industrialization, and westernization on Indian society

Social Research Methods

Social Research

- Steps in Research process
- Purpose of research- exploration, description, explanation
- Approaches: Participatory Research; Action Research; Operations Research; Applied research; Evaluative Research
- Cross-sectional, longitudinal, experimental, case study, comparative

- Research design, Hypothesis; null Hypothesis
- Qualitative and Quantitative research; Ethnography, and Survey Research Method

Sampling Techniques and Tools of Data Collection

- Probability Sampling: Simple Random Samples, Systematic Random Samples, Stratified sample, cluster samples
- Non-Probability Sampling: Convenience Sampling, Purposive Sampling and Quota sampling
- Questionnaires and Interview Schedule
- Structured, unstructured interview Schedule
- Open-ended, Close-ended Questions
- Observation - Participant and non-participant.
- Social census - Construction of household-schedule; Variables involved;

Data Analysis

- Graphical presentation of data: line, bar and pie charts, histogram
- Measures of central tendency: mean, median and mode
- Measures of dispersion: standard deviation and variance
- Inductive and deductive reasoning

Unit 2: Biological Anthropology and Archeological Anthropology

Biological Anthropology and Evolution

- Introduction: Aim, Scope, Relationship with other sciences, Different branches and their interrelation
- Applications of Biological Anthropology
- Evolution: Theories of evolution, Lamarckism, Neo- Lamarckism, Darwinism, Neo-Darwinism, Synthetic Theory, Criticisms of various theories
- Evidences of Evolution: Morphological, Embryological, Paleontological, Geological, Histological
- Human Evolution: Basics of Human Evolution, Important fossils and sites, Fossil record
- Distribution, characteristics, classification, position of Human in Animal Kingdom
- Classification of Life, with specific emphasis on Animals, Mammals, Primates, Man's Place among Primates, Basic shared and derived characters of Mammals, Primates and Humans

Human Genetics and Variation

- Human genetics and Molecular genetics: History and Development, Scope and branches, Cell structure, Cell division - Mitosis, Meiosis, Mendel's Laws, Multiple allele, DNA Structure and replication, Protein synthesis, Blood Groups and their inheritance pattern, Hemoglobin, Taster-Non-Tasters, Color Blindness, Importance of human and molecular Genetics in Anthropology
- Human Biological Variation, Race, Racism and Anthropological perspectives on fallacy of race
- Molecular Techniques: Electrophoresis, PCR, DNA sequencing

Osteology and Forensic Anthropology

- Human Skeletal System, Importance of osteology in biological anthropology
- Forensic Applications of Anthropology, Osteological, Serological and DNA based evidences

Growth and Nutrition

- Health and Disease: WHO concept of health, Nutritional assessment, BMI, Nutrition, Nutrients, Malnutrition, Over and Under nutrition, Types, functions and uses of nutrients

Archaeology

- Basic concepts, Evidences: Stone tools, Stone tools types, Pottery, Dwellings and others

- Geological and Archeological Timescales, Ice ages
- Dating methods
- Stone Ages, Iron age, Bronze age
- Indus civilization: Extent, Characteristic, Chronology, Origin and Decline with special reference to Harappa
- Important archaeological fossil sites in the world and in India
- Emergence and development of art in India with special reference to Bhimbetka

Readings/ References

- Introductory books of Anthropology and its allied disciplines such as Sociology, Archaeology and Ancient Indian History, Zoology, Biology etc.
- General reading on Anthropology, Indian Society, Health and Diseases, Human Biology, Archeology etc.
- Introductory books on Social Science Research Methods
- Following is a general list of representative books; you may refer these or any other relevant books.

Bernard, H. R. (2017). *Research Methods in Anthropology* (6th edition). Lanham Boulder New York London: Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc.

Bhattacharya, D. K. (1987). *Pre-Historic Archaeology [Paperback] D K Bhattacharya*. Hindustan Publishing Corporation.

Chakrabarti, D. K. (2009). *INDIA: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY (2ND EDITION) (OIP): Palaeolithic Beginnings to Early History Foundation* (2nd edition). New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Ember, C. R., & Ember, M. R. (2019). *Cultural Anthropology, 15e* (fifteenth edition). Pearson Education.

Gautam, K. (2016). *Human Growth and Nutrition: A Biocultural Synthesis*. Gyan Books.

Hasnain, N. (2021). *Indian Anthropology* (2021st edition). Palaka Prakashan.

Hasnain, N. (2022). *Tribal India* (Revised, Expanded Updated Edition). Palaka Prakashan.

Kumar, S. (2022). *Inderbir Singh's Textbook of Human Osteology With Atlas of Muscle Attachments* (5/E, 2023 edition). JAYPEE BROTHERS MEDICAL PUBLISHERS PVT.LTD.

Lewis, R. (2020). *HUMAN GENETICS, 12TH EDITION* (12th edition). McGraw Hill.

Mayr, E. (2002). *WHAT EVOLUTION IS: FROM THEORY TO FACT*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

McGee, R. J., & Warms, R. L. (2019). *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History* (7th edition). Lanham (Md.): Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc.

Peter N. Peregrine Carol R. Ember, M. R. E. (2020). *Anthropology, 15e* (fifteenth edition). Pearson Education.

Ram, A. (1999). *Society in India: Concepts, Theories and Recent Trends*. Jaipur: Rawat Pubns.

Upadhaya, V. S., & Pandey, G. (2002). *History of Anthropological Thought* (First Edition). Concept Publishing Company.

Sample Multiple Choice question

1. Students who major in anthropology can make a living in which career(s)?
 - A. Teaching
 - B. business/consulting
 - C. government/policy
 - D. all of the given options