Syllabus of the RET Examination in Anthropology

University of Calcutta

**Biological Anthropology**

I. Neo-Darwinism, Neutral theory of molecular evolution.

II. Primate evolution: the primate radiations to the hominids; the early hominids: Australopithecus, intermediate hominids, Pleistocene hominid evolution.

III. Recent theories of human origin

IV. Physical environment – the potential stressors, the nutritional stress, infections, diseases, modernization and human biological responses.

V. Extension of Mendelian analysis, twin method of study, family method of study

VI. DNA and RNA, protein structure, haemoglobin, protein synthesis

VII. Linkage and chromosome mapping, sex linkage

VIII. Mutations: chromosomal, genomic, and genic

IX Polymorphism in Serological (ABO, RhD and HLA), Red cell enzyme (Hemoglobin), Serum Protein (Haptoglobins), molecular (brief outline: VNTRs and STRs, SNPs), Immunological (brief outline of different Immunoglobins in terms of polymorphism).

X Basic principles of human growth: definition and concept, growth, maturation and development, Prenatal growth and development. Methods of growth study: cross sectional, longitudinal, mixed longitudinal, linked longitudinal - merits and demerits; growth curves - Factors affecting postnatal growth


XII Anthropological Demography- fertility, mortality, migration, consanguinity and inbreeding, marital distance, selection intensity, Darwinian fitness

XIII Population genetics: Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, polymorphism, genetic drift, genetic load, driving forces of evolution

**Social Cultural Anthropology**

I. Kinship, Marriage, Family, Tribe, Community, Demography and Population, Social Stratification, Village, Social Movement, Technology, Material Culture, Cultural Syncretism


IV. Positivism and Logical positivism, Rationalism and Empiricism, Realism and Nominalism, Idealism, Dialectics, Pragmatism, Hermeneutics, Phenomenology and brief introduction to other philosophical thoughts (e.g. Neo-Platonism, Skepticism, Dualism, Utilitarianism, Essentialism and Constructivism, Reductionism, anti-foundationalism, etc.).

V. Conflict theory, Liberal feminism, Analytical Feminism, Radical Feminism, Socialist Feminism, Critical theory

VI. Post-Positivism, Post-structuralism, Postmodernism, Post-colonialism.

**Palaeoanthropology-Prehistoric Archaeology**

I. Theoretical development of archaeological thought in global perspective and its position in Anthropology; relation with other discipline like History, palaeoanthropology, etc.

II. Development of prehistoric culture in old world

III. Classification of the nomenclature- Archaeology, prehistory, palaeoanthropology, archaeological Anthropology. Ideas on Ethno archaeology, Experimental archaeology, environmental Archaeology, settlement archaeology, Archaeobotany, zoo Archaeology, Salvage Archaeology, Action Archaeology, Primate ethology, Underwater Archaeology, Geoarchaeology.

IV. Methods and techniques in Archaeology, justification of Geo-Archaeology as a method. Field Survey; study of Toposheet and geological maps

V. Methods of Archaeological exploration; pre exploration activities, Intensive and extensive exploration, general idea about survey methods, mapping of archaeological sites

VI. Excavation: Pre excavation activities, actual method of digging and its application in different types of sites, recording and analysis of excavated materials in terms of time and space, interpretation and publication of report.
VII. Concept of chronology in Archaeology: Datable materials, basic principles, advantages and disadvantages, application and recent developments of different dating methods in Archaeology.

VIII. Geoarchaeology: Basic principles of Stratigraphy, Historical geology, Ideas and relevance about the lithological, floral and faunal evidences of Stratigraphic section.

IX. Palaeoenvironment: Study of glacial, Periglacial, tropical geomorphology and geological evidences with special reference to Neogene and Quaternary environment.

Research Methodology

I. Types of Research, Methodology, Methods, Research Design, Data, Writing of research report, etc.

II. Methods, Design & Analysis: Scientific techniques for collecting and analyzing data including research paradigms, measurement, design, etc. The understanding of empirical techniques, Emphasis on theory and application of survey research, measurement, scaling, questionnaire construction, validity and reliability, data reduction and analysis.

III. Basic statistical methods: sampling techniques, descriptive and inferential statistics (bivariate and multivariate), probability theory, distribution (binomial, normal)