Syllabus RET Examination in Anthropology

University of Calcutta

Biological Anthropology

I. Neo-Darwinism, Neutral theory of molecular evolution.
II. Primate evolution and hominid evolution
III. The primate radiations to the hominids; the early hominids: Australopithecus, intermediate hominids, Pleistocene hominid evolution.
IV. Systematics, taxonomy and classification; species concept, Mayr's definition of species, Isolating mechanism between interspecific crosses, speciation.
V. Phylogeny and evolution of man. Recent theories of human origin
VI. Physical environment – the potential stressors, the nutritional stress, infections, diseases, modernization and human biological responses.
VII. Extension of Mendelian analysis, twin method of study, family method of study
VIII. DNA and RNA, protein structure, heamoglobin - structure and function,
IX. Linkage and chromosome mapping, sex linkage
X. Mutations: chromosomal, genomic, and genic, gene enzymes
XI. Polymorphism in serological, molecular and immunological markers: genetic variation in human population with special reference to ABO, Rh, abnormal haemoglobin, PGM.
XII. 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; The curve of growth - types of growth data - boy's and girl's height curve. Overview of postnatal growth - Scammon's growth curve, construction of growth norms - distance, velocity and centiles.
XIII. Dietary habits, energy need of the body, nutritive and calorific value of food, roles of vitamin and minerals in human nutrition; vitamins and minerals
XIV. The utility of anthropology in studying ethnicity and health, Ethnic factors in health and disease, ethnic differences in the prevalence of common diseases of complex aetiology: coronary heart disease (CHD), non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) and hypertension (HT), reproductive health and ethnic differences in the risk factor of the above disease.

Social Cultural Anthropology

I. Kinship, Marriage, Family, Tribe, Community, Demography and Population, Social Stratification, Village, Social Movement, Technology, Material Culture, Cultural Syncretism
II. Anthropology of Religion, b) Linguistic Anthropology, c) Anthropology of Development, d) Anthropology of Power and Politics e) Economic Anthropology, f) Ecological Anthropology, g) Psychological Anthropology, h) Symbolic Anthropology, i) Medical Anthropology j) Cognitive Anthropology, k) Legal Anthropology and l) Visual Anthropology
III. Enlightenment Evolutionism, Diffusionism, Historical-particularism, Cultural relativism, Functionalism, Structural-functionalism. Culture and personality, Neo-evolutionism, Materialism, Cultural Ecology, Interpretative Approach, Manchester School, Symbolism, Structuralism, Reflexivity.
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.

VII. Principal Aspects and Approaches: a) Anthropology of Religion, b) Linguistic Anthropology, c) Anthropology of Development, d) Anthropology of Power e) Economic Anthropology, f) Ecological Anthropology, g) Psychological Anthropology, h) Symbolic Anthropology, i) Medical Anthropology j) Cognitive Anthropology, k) Legal Anthropology

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. 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.

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

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

V. 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.

VI. Concept of chronology in Archaeology: Datable materials, basic principles, advantages and disadvantages, application and recent developments of different dating methods in Archaeology.

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

VIII. 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 Research, 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, including sampling, measurement, scaling, questionnaire construction, validity and reliability, data reduction and analysis.

III. Basic statistical methods and concepts in Anthropology. Topics include: nonparametric statistics, frequency distributions, probability theory, random variables and probability distributions, sample statistics and sampling distributions, estimation, and inference; Methods for descriptive statistics and the theoretical foundations of inference, Statistical techniques and applications of inferential statistics.