

INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PROGRAMME – QUESTIONS FOR ANTHROPOLOGY

CONCEPTUAL QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why did you choose Anthropology as your optional? (**Arvind Saxena Board**)
- 2) What did anthropology teach you? (**RN Chaubey Board, 2022**)
- 3) What is the reason behind radicalization of tribes in central India? How can it be solved? (**TCA Anant board, 2021**)
- 4) What are Nasal Vaccines what is its process?
- 5) What is Anthropometry? (**RN Chaubey Board, 2022**)
- 6) How can anthropological insights help in sports / use in sports? (**RN Chaubey Board, 2021**)
- 7) What is Aryan vs Dravidian debate? What is your opinion? (**M. Sathyavathy board, 2021**)
- 8) What does the Kezhadi excavation reveal about the history of India? (**M. Sathyavathy board, 2024**)
- 9) From where did humans come to India? (**M. Sathyavathy board, 2021**)
- 10) What do you know about “Lucy”? Why is Lucy significant? (**Rajiv Nayan Choubey board, 2024**)
- 11) How will you use your knowledge of anthropology if you were DM / administrator? (**RN Chaubey Board, 2024**)
- 12) What is longitudinal study? What is ethnography? Can it be used to study people over long term? (**Smitha Nagaraj Board, 2024**)
- 13) What issues do tribes residing in forests face? What protections have been accorded by the government for them?
- 14) If cultural relativism is essential for understanding societies, how should an administrator balance it with constitutional values? (**TCA Anant board**)
- 15) Do you think “culture” can ever be objectively measured? If yes, how? If no, why not? (**Arvind Saxena Board**)
- 16) Discuss the relevance of pharmacopeia in modern medicinal practices today? (**M. Sathyavathy**)
- 17) Why were certain tribes branded as criminal tribes? What is their status today?
- 18) Discuss the approaches w.r.t tribal administration in post-independent India.
- 19) What is the method of calculating heart rate amongst joggers?
- 20) What are the origins of caste system?
- 21) Who were the original inhabitants of the Indian sub-continent? Substantiate with scholarly views.
- 22) Discuss the relevance of genomics today.
- 23) How can Anthropology be used in public policy making?
- 24) Humans have evolved differently and developed more than other species of the animal kingdom? Is it because of mutation?
- 25) Is cultural relativism relevant today? Argue. (**TCA Anant board**)
- 26) Does the Aryan Invasion theory hold any ground today? What arguments have been perpetrated in this regard? (**M. Sathyavathy board**)
- 27) What were the reasons behind Pathalgarhi movement?
- 28) Was Harappan Civilization unique? Which civilizations were its contemporaries?
- 29) What is the relevance of Forensic Anthropology?
- 30) What has been the impact of Naxalite movement on the Indian tribes?
- 31) Is the socio-economic caste census relevant?
- 32) Anthropologically speaking, highlight the psychology of the people of your state.
- 33) Is Westernization and Modernization same?
- 34) Which unique attributes of tribes do we need to protect?
- 35) Discuss Verrier Elwin's latest book and its contributions?
- 36) What is the process of listing an area as Scheduled Area?
- 37) Have you read the book Sapiens? What in essence does this book capture?
- 38) Which Veda mentions Ayurveda?
- 39) What is culture? Is culture always static?
- 40) Differentiate between tribe and caste from an anthropological lens.
- 41) Do you think globalization is eroding tribal identity in some ways?
- 42) What is the significance of studying human evolution today?
- 43) Are races a biological reality?

- 44) What does the Rakhigarhi DNA study establish?
- 45) What do we know about the older societies after studying the megaliths?
- 46) Who are PVTGs? Why are they classified so?
- 47) Should tribal customary laws be codified?
- 48) How can you help as a district administrator posted in a tribal area?
- 49) If a deeply rooted harmful custom is prevalent in a society, how would you manage it?
- 50) As an administrator, how will you deal with a developmental project which is at loggerheads with tribal livelihood?
- 51) Discuss the effectiveness of PESA.
- 52) What are the health indicators of Indian tribal population?
- 53) What are the alternatives to shifting cultivation that can be a source of livelihood for the tribes?

SITUATION SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

- 1) You are DM of a district with a sensitive international border.
- 2) A tribal community refuses to allow construction of a military radar station on a hill they consider sacred. The Army argues the radar is critical for national security.
 - a) How will you resolve this while respecting cultural rights?
 - b) What anthropological tools will you use to understand their worldview?
- 3) A Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in your district speaks a language that only 300 people know.
 - a) Government schemes rely on digital apps available only in Hindi and English.
 - b) How will you ensure service delivery without accelerating language extinction?
- 4) A tribal community practises a coming-of-age ritual where children spend 48 hours in forest isolation.
- 5) After a recent leopard attack, the community refuses to suspend the practice, saying "Our ancestors watch over the children."
- 6) As DM, what approach will you take?
- 7) How will you negotiate without cultural imposition?
- 8) Two tribal communities with different mytho-historical claims over the same forest patch clash violently.
 - a) Both claim ancestral rights under the Forest Rights Act.
- 9) How will you investigate and mediate, using anthropological insights into lineage, territory, and oral history?
- 10) Labourers find ancient pottery and tools near a construction site. Archaeologists believe the site might be a major cultural discovery.
- 11) Local villagers demand the road must continue as it connects them to a hospital.
- 12) How will you balance development needs with cultural heritage conservation?
- 13) A district receives multiple petitions from castes claiming ST or OBC status.
- 14) A political leader suggests using "genetic similarity testing" to determine eligibility.
- 15) How will you respond?
- 16) How will you explain the anthropological limitations of genetic ancestry in administrative decisions?
- 17) A tribal settlement refuses polio vaccination, saying the village healer's ritual protects children from disease.
- 18) A polio case is reported in a nearby district.
- 19) How will you design a culturally sensitive immunization strategy?
- 20) Whom will you engage as cultural brokers?
- 21) A development project requires relocating a tribal village from a forest area. They refuse, saying the forest is their "mother" and relocation will "break their spirit."
- 22) What steps will you take to evaluate their cosmology, livelihood systems, and the symbolic value of land before proposing alternatives?
- 23) The Ministry proposes installing drones to monitor illegal mining in a forest region.
- 24) The tribal council opposes it, calling it "the sky-spirit watching us."
- 25) How will you negotiate between environmental protection and cultural interpretations of technology?
- 26) A few families convert to a new religion.
- 27) The larger community accuses them of "destroying tradition" and boycotts them socially.
- 28) How will you apply anthropological concepts of identity, acculturation, and social cohesion to defuse tensions?
- 29) You are drafting a climate resilience plan for a major city.
- 30) An expert tells you to integrate indigenous knowledge systems into urban planning.

- 31) Which anthropological methods will you use to identify, validate, and incorporate such knowledge meaningfully?
- 32) An AI-based welfare delivery system is introduced in your district.
- 33) It consistently marks nomadic tribes as “missing” because they lack fixed addresses.
- 34) How will you identify the cultural bias in the system and redesign it with anthropological sensitivity?
- 35) A tribal council excludes women from decision-making, calling it “ancestral rule.”
- 36) But women complain that decisions about forest produce directly affect them.
- 37) How will you facilitate inclusion without imposing external norms?
- 38) During a disease outbreak, migrant workers from different tribal and caste backgrounds do not trust each other.
- 39) Quarantine centres become sites of conflict.
- 40) How will you apply anthropological understanding of inter-group relations to design a conflict-free, culturally sensitive quarantine system?
- 41) In a rapidly digitalizing world, is ethnography losing its relevance? Or will alternate forms of writing ethnography begin? Highlight.
- 42) The concept of “tribes” is a colonial construct. Can the notion of “tribe” still be anthropologically defended in contemporary India? Why or why not?
- 43) Imagine a district where tribals oppose a government hydropower project citing ‘ancestral connections to the land’. How will you reconcile development and cultural continuity?
- 44) Why do well-designed schemes fail in marginalized communities? Analyse using anthropological perspectives.