BANC 102: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)

Course Code: BANC 102
Assignment Code: BANC 102/ASST/TMA/July 2026 and January 2027
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in all the Sections.

Assignment – I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. 2X20= 40

a. Explain the scope and relevance of social and cultural anthropology.
b. Illustrate the steps involved in doing fieldwork.

Assignment – II

Answer the following in about 250 words each. (Write Short Notes) 2X10=20

a. Discuss the culture and personality school of thought.
b. Summarise the political institutions- bands, lineage societies and chiefdoms.

Answer the following questions in about 75 words each. 2X5=10

a. Culture
b. Relationship between anthropology and sociology
c. Interpretative approach
d. Tribes
e. Ruth Benedict

Assignment – III

a. Identify and select a topic that deals with village life. Write the steps for preparing a synopsis emphasising the significance of your study, unit of study, methods, tools and techniques. **20**
b. Write short notes in about 250 words on: **2X5=10**
Rapport Building
Survey method

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a. Explain the scope and relevance of social and cultural anthropology.

Answer

Social and cultural anthropology is the systematic study of human beings as members of societies and cultures. It examines how people organise families, earn a living, practise religion, establish rules, share meanings and respond to change. Although the two terms are often used together, social anthropology traditionally gives greater attention to social relationships and institutions, while cultural anthropology focuses on learned ideas, values, symbols and ways of life. Both are closely connected because social relationships always operate within a cultural setting. The subject studies small villages as well as large cities and aims to understand people's lives from their own points of view.

Scope of social and cultural anthropology

Family, marriage and kinship form an important area of study. Anthropologists examine descent, inheritance, marriage preferences, household organisation, adoption and obligations between relatives. For example, the joint family and the nuclear family are not simply two types of residence: they also influence care, property and decision-making. Practices differ among communities and often change with education, employment and migration.

Economic anthropology studies production, distribution, exchange and consumption. It asks how people use land and labour, share resources, exchange gifts, manage markets and secure livelihoods. Agriculture, pastoralism, fishing, wage work and digital services can all be studied. An anthropologist may explore how a village household combines farming with money sent home by a migrant worker. The aim is to connect economic activity with relationships, values and local history rather than treating income as an isolated figure.

Political anthropology examines authority, leadership, conflict, cooperation and the ways rules are maintained. Its scope includes bands, lineage-based societies, chiefdoms, village councils, states and informal local leaders. It also studies power within families, differences of status and people's responses to policies. Political institutions need not resemble formal government offices;