Forensic Anthropology BANC 113
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Course Code: BANC 113
Assignment Code: BANC 113/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. Answer all the questions in all the three sections.

Assignment –I

Answer any two of the following questions in about 500 words each. 20x2=40

a. Discuss in brief the relationship of forensic anthropology with other disciplines.
b. Briefly discuss surgical artefacts.
c. Define forensic odontology. Explain the role of teeth in disaster victim identification.

Assignment –II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. 10x2=10

a. Ascertaining of ancestry
b. Give an account of sources of DNA?

Answer any two of the following questions in about 150 words each. 5x2=10

a. Tattoo marks and other identification marks.
b. Nails
c. Types of blood stains

Assignment –III

Answer the following questions in about 250 words 10x3=30

a. Describe some of the common somatoscopic observations.
b. Briefly discuss urine in the context of forensic anthropology.
c. Describe the examination of handwriting.

a. Discuss in brief the relationship of forensic anthropology with other disciplines.

Answer

Forensic anthropology applies knowledge of human biology, skeletal anatomy and human variation to questions raised during legal investigations. It is especially useful when a body is decomposed, burnt, skeletonised or fragmented. The anthropologist may establish whether remains are human, estimate a biological profile, examine injuries to bones and help identify a deceased person. This work cannot be done in isolation. It depends on cooperation with several branches of science and with investigating authorities. Each discipline contributes a different kind of evidence, which is combined to reach a reliable conclusion.

Relationship with biological anthropology and osteology

Biological anthropology provides the basic understanding of skeletal growth, differences between individuals, ageing and adaptation in human populations. Osteology, the study of bones, enables the forensic anthropologist to identify individual bones, distinguish human from animal material and study skeletal indicators related to age at death and sex estimation. Measurements of the skull, pelvis and long bones may be used to construct a biological profile. These estimates must be expressed with proper uncertainty because characteristics overlap between people and populations. The scientific study of normal and abnormal human skeletal variation forms the foundation of forensic examination.

Relationship with archaeology and recovery methods

Forensic archaeology supplies methods for locating, exposing, mapping and carefully recovering buried or scattered remains. Excavation by layers, recording the position of objects, screening soil and preserving the association between bones and surrounding material are important. For example, remains recovered from a clandestine grave may be associated with clothing, cartridges or personal belongings. If the site is disturbed before documentation, this valuable context can be lost. Archaeologists and anthropologists therefore cooperate from scene examination through recovery and laboratory analysis. Soil, burial depth and the arrangement of bones may also help explain changes after death.