**BANC-131: ANTHROPOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS**
**(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)**

**Course Code: BANC 131**
**Assignment Code: BANC 132/ASST/TMA/2026-2027**
**Total Marks: 100**

**There are three Assignments. All questions are compulsory.**

## Assignment – I

**Answer the following in about 500 words each.**

1. Define anthropology. Briefly discuss its scope. 20
2. Discuss the history of fieldwork and criticism of Arm chair anthropology. 20

## Assignment – II

**Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.**

3. Discuss the current fields of social anthropology. 10
4. Briefly discuss branches of physical/biological anthropology. 10
5. Describe the development of prehistoric researches. 10

## Assignment – III

**Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.**

6. Types of Research design 5
7. Observation 5
8. Applying anthropology to solve life problems 5
9. Serology 5
10. Excavation 5
11. Emic and Etic approach. 5

**1. Define anthropology. Briefly discuss its scope.** **20**

**Answer**

Anthropology is the systematic study of human beings, their origins, biological development, culture, behaviour and social relationships. The word comes from the Greek words anthropos, meaning human being, and logos, meaning study. Anthropology tries to understand people in different places and periods, from early human ancestors to communities living in modern cities. It studies not only what people do, but also why their ways of life have developed and how they change.

Anthropology has two important qualities. It is holistic because it connects the biological, social, cultural and historical sides of human life. It is also comparative because it studies similarities and differences among human groups without treating one society as the standard for everyone. Fieldwork, observation, interviews, excavation and laboratory analysis are among its important methods. The subject helps us understand human diversity as well as the common needs shared by all people.

Four major areas explain the broad scope of anthropology.

**Social and cultural anthropology** studies society and learned ways of life. Its main concerns include family, marriage, kinship, caste, class, political organisation, economic activities, religion, customs and beliefs. Social anthropologists examine how people create relationships and follow rules in everyday life. For instance, the meaning of marriage may vary among communities, even though every society has some arrangements for family life. This branch also studies cultural change caused by migration, education, media and globalisation. It does not limit itself to villages or so-called traditional societies; offices, hospitals, online groups and urban neighbourhoods can also be studied.

**Biological or physical anthropology** examines human beings as biological organisms. It covers human evolution, primatology, skeletal biology, genetics, human growth, adaptation and biological variation. Fossils help scholars reconstruct the evolutionary history of humans, while studies of bones and teeth provide information about age, health and past populations. Research on adaptation explains how people respond to different environments, diets and disease conditions. Biological anthropology also investigates how social circumstances and biology influence one another. It rejects the idea that cultural abilities or social worth can be ranked through supposedly superior or inferior human races.