BANE 147: Urban Anthropology
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT (TMA)

Course Code: BANE 147
Assignment Code: BANE 147/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. **20X2=40**

a. Discuss urbanisation and urbanism as processes shaping urban life.
b. Explain the changing patterns of family, marriage and kinship in urban areas.

Assignment – II

Answer the following in about 250 words each (Write Short Notes). **10X2=20**

a. Manchester School of Thought
b. Rural to urban migration and adaptation in city life

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

a. Primary and secondary urbanisation
b. Semi-urban and peri-urban areas
c. Urban ecology
d. Cosmopolitan identity
e. Mohalla

Assignment – III

a. Prepare a brief research design to study diversity in any urban neighbourhood. **20**
b. Prepare an interview guide to study rural-to-urban migrants in your city. **5**
c. Prepare an observation checklist for studying the use of public space in an urban locality. **5**

a. Discuss urbanisation and urbanism as processes shaping urban life.

Answer

Urban life is shaped both by the growth of towns and cities and by the ways people learn to live in them. Urbanisation and urbanism are closely connected, but they are not identical. Urbanisation describes the changing size, concentration and organisation of urban settlements, whereas urbanism refers to the social relationships, values and everyday practices associated with city living. An anthropological approach studies both processes through the experiences of different groups rather than treating the city simply as a collection of buildings.

Urbanisation: growth and transformation of settlements

Urbanisation generally involves an increasing proportion of people living in urban areas, the outward expansion of settlements and a shift towards non-agricultural activities. It may occur through natural population growth, migration from villages, the expansion of existing towns and the administrative reclassification of settlements. Industrialisation, trade, transport, higher education and service-sector employment frequently attract people to cities. Public investment in roads, hospitals, schools and markets also changes the economic importance of urban centres.

The process transforms the physical environment. Agricultural land may become residential colonies, factories, transport corridors or shopping areas. Land prices rise, housing becomes differentiated by income, and older localities may become crowded while new suburbs develop. Employment moves beyond farming into manufacturing, commerce, construction, domestic work, transport and digital services. Such changes connect cities to nearby villages, distant regions and, increasingly, global markets.

Urbanisation is not experienced equally. A planned housing colony may receive reliable water and sanitation, while an informal settlement nearby struggles for these services. Migrants often find opportunities for work but may face insecure employment, costly rent or eviction. Urban expansion can also affect wetlands, groundwater and common land. Thus, rising urban population alone does not indicate that all residents have better living conditions.

The relationship between the urban centre and its surrounding countryside also changes. Villages close to a growing city may supply vegetables, milk, workers and building materials, while landowners begin selling fields for housing projects. Some residents continue farming alongside jobs in shops, factories or transport. These partly transformed settlements show why a strict rural-versus-urban division can be misleading. Their residents may depend on the city for wages and education even before the area becomes officially urban.