BANM-161: DIMENSIONS OF PHYSICAL/BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT(TMA)

Course Code: BANM 161
Assignment Code: BANM- 161/ASST/TMA/ July 2026-January 2027
Total Marks: 100

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

Assignment – I

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

a. Define Biological anthropology. Discuss the applications of biological anthropology.
b. Explain any two theories of Organic Evolution.

Assignment – II

2. Answer the following in about 250 words each. (Write Short Notes) 3X10=30

a. Describe racialisation of humans according to François Bernier.
b. Polymorphism at DNA level.
c. Deliberate on the mutation theory of evolution.

3. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each. 6X5=30

a. Inheritance of acquired characters.
b. Primate characteristics.
c. Extinction.
d. Negroid group.
e. Morphological and anatomical features of Gibbon.
f. Race and Racism.

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

a. Define Biological anthropology. Discuss the applications of biological anthropology.

Answer

Biological anthropology, also called physical anthropology, is the branch of anthropology that studies human beings as biological organisms. It examines our origin, evolution, inherited characteristics, physical variation and adaptation to different environments. It also studies living non-human primates and fossil remains because these help us understand the biological history of humans. Unlike a study limited to the body, biological anthropology connects biology with social life, ecology, culture and history. For example, the human body is affected both by inherited genes and by nutrition, work, illness and living conditions. The subject therefore asks how humans became what they are and why people differ in some visible and invisible biological features.

The main areas of the discipline include human evolution and palaeoanthropology, primatology, human genetics, growth and development, human biological variation, and skeletal biology. Its methods range from measuring bones and observing primate behaviour to analysing ancient DNA. These areas have many practical applications.

Applications in the study of human origins

Fossils, stone tools, skeletal remains and genetic evidence help anthropologists reconstruct the evolution of humans. By comparing the skeletons of early hominins and modern humans, researchers can study changes in walking, teeth, brain size and the use of hands. Dating methods and archaeological contexts help place such changes in time. Comparative study of chimpanzees, gibbons and other primates also explains which features humans share with other members of the order Primates and which developed later in our lineage. This knowledge gives an evidence-based account of human ancestry rather than an account based only on appearance.