

Difference Between Sociology and Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of humans and their behaviour at a more individualistic level.

In turn, sociology studies the ways in which groups of humans interact with each other and how their behaviour is influenced by social structures, categories (religion, gender) and institutions

The similarities they share are that they both study human behaviour but the focus is different.

Anthropology studies human behaviour at the micro-level of an individual which an anthropologist will take an example of the larger culture.

Sociology, on the other hand, tends to look at the bigger picture, often studying political movements, and the power relations of different groups with each other.

Both terms are important within the context of the IAS Exam.



This article will further highlight the differences between Anthropology and Sociology

The difference between the Anthropology and Sociology is highlighted in the table below:

Differences between the Anthropology and Sociology	
Anthropology	Sociology
Emphasis on culture and its physical and social characteristics (kinship, language, religion, gender, art, etc.)	Emphasis on society and its origins and development (social classes, institutions and structures, social movements)
Has its historical basis in studying non-Western cultures or	Has its historical basis in studying industrialized Western societies
Micro-level focus - studies how individuals, families, and communities engage with the larger society and social trends	Macro-level focus - studies how the larger society and social trends affect individuals, families, and communities
Incorporates material/physical culture (archaeology, biophysical evidence)	Incorporates economics and statistics to a larger degree
Natural Science	Social Science
Anthropology relies on qualitative data to come to a conclusion	Sociology relies on quantitative data to arrive at a conclusion
Anthropologist make use of a smaller sample size for immersive and localized data collection	Sociologist make use of a broader, larger sample size
It is done to understand different cultures	It is done to solve contemporary social problems
Anthropology became more professionalised following as a	The term 'sociology' was coined by Auguste Comte

social science in the early 20th century

in the 1850s when he published the "*Treatise on Sociology*"