Human Past 4th edition Scarre Test Bank

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The Human Past, Fourth Edition
Chapter 1 Test Bank

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Archaeology can be defined as:
a) the study of the human past from historical records
b) the study of the human past from material remains
c) the study of the geological history of the world
d) the search for ancient treasure, primarily gold
e) all of the above

2. Although it draws on a range of other disciplines (such as chemistry, botany, and geology), archaeology is still considered to be:
a) a hard science
b) a humanity or social science
c) a natural science
d) an artistic discipline
e) purely vocational and not academic

3. Most archaeological work is based on the study of material culture. Material culture is:
a) the way that humans have been influenced by the natural environment
b) the idea that societies pass through different "ages" or levels of complexity
c) now ignored by professional archaeologists
d) found primarily within written records
e) the physical remains of human activities in the past

4. The study of prehistory comes primarily from:
a) Western traditions of scholarship
b) Eastern traditions of scholarship
c) a model developed by the ancient Greeks
d) a global tradition of scholarship
e) a model developed by Charles Darwin

5. In medieval Europe, enquiry about the past was based on:
a) scientific experimentation
b) interpreting certain key ancient texts, such as the Bible
c) the finds from archaeological digging
d) the results of direct observation
e) all of the above

6. The development of the printing press:
a) was accompanied by an increase in literacy
b) occurred in the mid-fifteenth century CE
c) was invented by Johannes Gutenberg
d) allowed books to become cheaper and more readily available
e) all of the above

7. Systematic excavation of archaeological sites began in the late eighteenth century when the concept of stratigraphy began to be understood. Stratigraphy is:
a) another term used to describe Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection
b) the idea that processes that act on the Earth are so very different at different times that we cannot draw meaningful conclusions from superimposed layers of sediment
c) the study of radiocarbon dates
d) another term for tree-ring analysis
e) the successive deposition of superimposed layers of natural and cultural material

8. Another term for the "Old Stone Age" is the:

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a) Holocene
b) Neolithic
c) Anthropocene
d) Paleolithic
e) Golden Age

9. An essential aspect of Charles Darwin's idea of natural selection is that:
a) vastly different species will all eventually coalesce to form one species
b) evolution is essentially random, and no specific traits give an individual within a species an advantage
c) successful individuals within a species are more likely to reproduce and pass advantageous traits onto their offspring
d) offspring rarely display the successful characteristics of their parents
e) none of the above

10. A very influential scheme for classifying human societies was developed by Elman Service in the 1960s. According to Service, societies could be divided into the following categories:
a) moieties, tribes, kin-groups, and states
b) civil states, political states, and social states
c) bands, tribes, chiefdoms, and states
d) the elite, the bourgeoisie, and the workers
e) tribes, alliances, civilizations, and states

11. Radiocarbon dating, a chronometric dating technique that revolutionized archaeology, was invented by:
a) Elman Service
b) Lewis Henry Morgan
c) Lewis Binford
d) Willard Libby
e) Edward Tylor

12. Modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) have been living on the Earth for:
a) 5 or 6 million years
b) 1 or 2 million years
c) 10 million years
d) at least 200,000 years
e) 20,000 years

13. The study of molecular genetics points to the fact that modern humans originated in:
a) the Middle East
b) Africa
c) Europe
d) Asia
e) a lost continent

14. The main challenge faced in the study of ancient DNA is that:
a) so much ancient DNA is preserved that it is hard to tell what remains should be sampled
b) only a few people know the proper techniques for studying ancient DNA
c) the human genome has not been completely mapped
d) archaeologists do not like the idea of incorporating science into their work
e) ancient DNA is preserved only in very rare cases

15. The idea that if a sequence of sediments is unmixed and undisturbed, the oldest layers will be at the bottom, is known as:
a) the Principle of Superposition
b) the Three Age system
c) the Principle of Association
d) processualism
e) cultural geology

16. One approach to the question of "change" in the past is the concept of cultural ecology. Cultural ecology is:

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a) the idea that societal change is completely voluntary
b) the idea that most change in human society has been in response to the environment
c) the idea that humanity and society do not change, but rather stay the same over time no matter what
d) the mechanism through which societies learn such techniques as farming from the observation of other societies
e) the belief that culture changes only when there is a migration or direct outside influence from another society

17. The belief that individuals in the past are knowledgeable actors and thus have been able to effect changes within their society has given rise to the development of:
a) cultural ecology
b) cognitive archaeology
c) agency theory
d) experimental archaeology
e) ethnoarchaeology

18. Contact between cultures allows for the spread of technologies and innovations. This process is known as:
a) origination
b) cognition
c) affectation
d) diffusion
e) agency

19. Another name for processual archaeology is:
a) postmodern archaeology
b) migrationist theory
c) postprocessual archaeology
d) ethnobotany
e) the New Archaeology

20. Proponents of processual archaeology have drawn heavily on parallels between ancient cultures and modern ones. The study of modern traditional societies to inform archaeological data is called:
a) cognitive archaeology
b) agency theory
c) experimental archaeology
d) ethnoarchaeology
e) postmodern archaeology

21. The key concept that underpins the postprocessual approach to archaeology is:
a) the belief that all archaeological conclusions must be objective and completely based on science
b) the reliance on science to come up with clear answers to archaeological questions
c) an assertion of the expertise of archaeologists when it comes to interpreting the past
d) the rejection of the idea that we can ever attain objective knowledge about the past
e) the belief that the natural environment is the reason for most change in human society

22. In postprocessual archaeology, multivocality can be defined as the idea that:
a) archaeological conclusions are the only interpretations of the past that are based on fact
b) limiting the number of groups involved in the study of history reduces confusion when arriving at the truth
c) there are many ways to interpret the past, and there should be no single “official” version of it
d) in the past, multiple groups influenced each other through such processes as emulation and migration
e) archaeologists should have no role in understanding the past

23. What is a way that archaeologists are beginning to live up to their responsibilities as good stewards of the material culture they study?
a) returning cultural relics to host countries from where the relics originated
b) repatriating human remains to descendant groups
c) appreciating the potential of indigenous archaeology
d) all of the above
e) none of the above

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24. An example of symbolic behavior in humans is:
a) the development of fire
b) the development of agriculture to feed large populations
c) the growth of urbanism and the concentration of population
d) the use of images to reflect beliefs
e) the ability to walk upright

25. The study of the development of the human mind as well as religious and symbolic behavior is called:
a) agency theory
b) cognitive archaeology
c) processual archaeology
d) cultural ecology
e) ethnoarchaeology

True or False Questions

1. Archaeology is concerned only with the material remains of the past; questions about the social and symbolic aspects of ancient cultures are the subjects of other disciplines.

2. Archaeology is used exclusively to study the origins of *Homo sapiens*; it does not account for any human behavior since.

3. According to Elman Service's classification of societies, a tribe is the most complex form of society; it is characterized by centralized leadership and consists of people of different rank and wealth.

4. Radiocarbon dating can be used on the very earliest human remains as well as on very recent remains. The results will always be consistent, since the production of carbon-14 in the upper atmosphere has remained stable throughout time.

5. Recent studies of preserved ancient DNA have suggested that humans interbred with Neanderthals.

6. Most archaeologists now believe that migration has caused almost all change in human society and that it is the primary reason why societies change.

7. Most recent archaeological studies draw on both processualism and postprocessualism to form meaningful interpretations of the past.

8. Archaeology is often considered to be a sub-discipline of anthropology.

9. Reliance on material culture—for example clothing, shelter, and tools—is a distinctively human behavior.

10. The study of archaeology has an "upper limit." It is concerned only with the portion of human history that occurred before the invention of writing.

Essay Questions

1. Archaeology and history can be seen as different disciplines with regard to which aspects of the human past are studied and what methods are used to study them. Define both archaeology and history and draw three meaningful distinctions between the two.

2. Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was very influential on early archaeological thought. Indeed, the concept of social evolution became very popular in the nineteenth century. What is social evolution and why are archaeologists today wary of interpreting changes in the human past using this model?

3. It has been said that archaeology takes a "long term" view of human society. Why is this "long term" approach relevant, and even useful, in the modern world?

4. The invention of radiocarbon dating is said to have revolutionized archaeology. Why was the development of this method so important to the study of the ancient past?

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5. Cultural ecology and agency theory may be considered to be contrasting but complementary approaches to understanding the ancient past. Why?

Key Theme Essay Questions:

1. What is meant by archaeology's ability to shed light on short-term events? Provide an example of a short-term event and describe what has been revealed through archaeological work about the people in the past who experienced it.

2. What are five themes that archaeology can address due to its long-term perspective? In what ways are these themes relevant today?

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Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b See: What is Archaeology?, p. 25
2. b See: Methods and Techniques, p. 31
3. e See: What is Archaeology?, p. 26
4. a See: The Responsibilities of Archaeology, p. 41
5. b See: A Brief History of Archaeology: Renaissance Beginnings, p. 28
6. e See: A Brief History of Archaeology: Renaissance Beginnings, p. 28
7. e See: Dating, p. 31
8. d See: Developments in the Nineteenth Century: Understanding Chronology and Evolution, p. 29
9. c See: Developments in the Nineteenth Century: Understanding Chronology and Evolution, pp. 29–30
10. c See: Common Models in Archaeology: Linear and Cyclical Patterns, p. 40
11. d See: Dating: Radiocarbon Dating, p. 31
12. d See: Introduction, p. 25
13. b See: Other Field and Laboratory Methods: Genetics in Archaeology, p. 34
14. e See: Other Field and Laboratory Methods: Genetics in Archaeology, p. 34
15. a See: Dating, p. 31
16. b See: Cultural Ecology and Agency Theory, p. 37
17. c See: Cultural Ecology and Agency Theory, p. 37
18. d See: Common Models in Archaeology, p. 39
19. e See: Archaeological Theory: Processual and Postprocessual Archaeology, p. 35
20. d See: Archaeological Theory: Processual and Postprocessual Archaeology, p. 36
21. d See: Archaeological Theory: Processual and Postprocessual Archaeology, p. 37
22. c See: Archaeological Theory: Processual and Postprocessual Archaeology, p. 37
23. d See: The Responsibilities of Archaeology, p. 41
24. d See: What is Archaeology?, p. 26
25. b See: What is Archaeology?, p. 26

True/False

1. F See: What is Archaeology?, p. 26
2. F See: What is Archaeology?, p. 26
3. F See: Common Models in Archaeology: Linear and Cyclical Patterns, p. 40
4. F See: Dating: Radiocarbon Dating, p. 31
5. T See: Other Field and Laboratory Methods: Genetics in Archaeology, p. 34
6. F See: Common Models in Archaeology: Innovation, Diffusion, Emulation, and Migration, pp. 37, 39–40
7. T See Archaeological Theory: Processual and Postprocessual Archaeology, p. 37
8. T See: What is Archaeology?, p. 25
9. T See: What is Archaeology?, p. 26
10. F See: Prehistory vs. History, p. 26

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