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**SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND THE CULTURAL
PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD**

B.H.I.C.-102

B.A. History (Hons.)- 1st Semester

**Chapter Wise Reference Book
Including Many Solved Sample Papers**

Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

IGNOU.

& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities

By: Harish Arora



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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND THE CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

B.H.I.C.-102

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five of the following questions. Attempt at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Analyze the technological advancements in different phases of Palaeolithic cultures.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 20, 'Lower Palaeolithic Cultures', Page No. 21, 'Middle Palaeolithic Cultures', 'Upper Palaeolithic Cultures', 'Some Upper Palaeolithic Cultures'.

Q. 2. Examine the impact of agriculture on the social structure of early farming communities.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 53, 'Impact of Agriculture on the Social Structure of Early Farming Communities'.

Q. 3. Write a note on architecture and visual arts in the Greek society.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 145, 'Art, Architecture and Sculpture: From the Collective to Individual', Page No. 148, Q. No. 11, Page No. 149, Q. No. 12.

Q. 4. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Egyptian architecture.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 69, 'Settlement and Architecture'.

(b) Mongols of Central Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 99, 'Mongols'.

(c) Dating methods in Archaeology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'Dating Methods in Archaeology'.

(d) Mesolithic cultures.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, 'Mesolithic Cultures'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Discuss the historical processes of domestication of plants and animals in pre-historic times.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 30, 'Introduction', Page No. 31, 'Domestication of Plants', 'Domestication of Animals'.

Q. 6. Explain the emergence and spread of iron and its implications.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 86, 'Emergence of Iron', 'Spread of Iron and Its Implication'.

Q. 7. What were the different components of administration in ancient Egypt? What led to the downfall of the Egyptian civilization?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 70, Q. No. 2 and Page No. 72, Q. No. 7.

Q. 8. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Microlith tools.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, 'Microlith Tools', Page No. 26, Q. No. 9.

(b) Bronze Age society.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 61, 'Bronze Age Society'.

(c) Nomadic Art.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 100, 'Nomadic Art'.

(d) Babylonian Empire.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 109, 'The Babylonian Empire: Rise and Territorial Expansion'.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND THE CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

B.H.I.C.-102

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five of the following questions. Attempt at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Examine the dating methods in archaeology. Why is Carbon-14 the most effective dating method?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'Dating Methods in Archaeology' and Page No. 5, Q. No. 6.

Q. 2. What are the major sites of Mesolithic cultures across the world? Outline the importance of Natufian culture in South-West Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, 'Mesolithic Cultures' and Page No. 27, Q. No. 11.

Q. 3. Briefly discuss the various theories of transition from domestication of plants and animals to agriculture.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 31, 'Transition to Agriculture: Theoretical Approaches'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Hominization

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 12, 'Hominization'.

(b) Huns of Central Asia

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 103, Q. No. 7.

(c) Social Structure of Early Farming Communities

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 53, 'Impact of Agriculture on the Social Structure of Early Farming Communities'.

(d) Legacy of the Shang Culture

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 79, 'Legacy of the Shang'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Describe the political structure that emerged in Classical Greece. Elaborate with the examples of Athens and Sparta.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 132, 'The Transition Period: Archaic Age and Tyranny' and Page No. 137, Q. No. 9.

Q. 6. Discuss the emergence and spread of iron and its implications.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 86, 'Emergence of Iron and Spread of Iron and Its Implications'.

Q. 7. Explain in detail the various administrative institutions of the Sassanid Empire.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 117, 'Administrative Institutions'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Assyrian Empire

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 109, 'The Assyrian Empire'.

(b) Nomadic Art

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 100, 'Nomadic Art'.

(c) Minoan Civilisation

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 129, 'Minoan Civilisation'.

(d) Greek Literature

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 143, 'Literature'.

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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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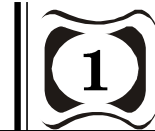


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SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND THE CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

BLOCK-I : EVOLUTION OF HUMANKIND



Prehistory and Sources

INTRODUCTION

All historical researches focus on recovering knowledge about the past. The period of prehistory means the period for which we have no written sources. Before present period relates to the events that started before origin of radiocarbon which is used as the point showing the present in the method of dating scale. Protohistory covers the transitory period between prehistory and history during which civilization has not developed writing. Archaeology tells about the past by collecting and studying the material remains relating to that period. In order to gain knowledge about the period for which no written sources are available, archaeology, collects and analyzes the things that were made by humans in the past and were left behind. In this way, archaeology helps us in understanding about the life of the people belonging to the past period. Anthropology provides us an understanding of the prehistory period by studying cultural patterns, food habits, behavioural patterns and communication methods used by humans, etc. It aims to understand human beings, their origin, developments, customs, beliefs, etc. Its main branches are biological anthropology, prehistoric anthropology, linguistic anthropology and ethnology or cultural anthropology.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

WHAT IS PREHISTORY?

Prehistory period is one for which no written records are available. Human beings have passed through many stages in about a million years. Prehistory started with the origin of the genus Homo which included modern humans and extinct ancestors. Before Present (BP) relates to the period in which events that started before origin of radiocarbon and the BP dating scale started after Radio Carbon dating method were invented in the 1940s. This period is used as the reference point as the *present*. It dates back to between 5-2 million years BP in Africa, about one million years in Europe and Asia. French archeologist Paul Tournal mentioned about a term *période anti-historique* in 1833 which was later called prehistory. In the

beginning, this term was referred as the period during which, humans and animals were contemporaries. Geologists have found the remains of these extinct animals. So, prehistory period dates back to about 2.6 million years. As there are no written records for the period, an understanding about prehistory is developed by studying the artefacts or the material remains available.

Protohistory covers the transitory period between prehistory and history during which culture or civilization has not developed writing. But, in other cultures, there are mentions about this culture. It also means the populations whose writings we have not been so far able to understand.

BRANCHES OF KNOWLEDGE ON PREHISTORY

A number of branches of modern knowledge, (such as, medical science, fine arts, social sciences), etc., have attempted to study the evolution and development of the modern human and these branches have adopted different methods by covering a vast number of sources to know about the human past. Of these, the following two important fields of social sciences need emphasis in order to have a deep understanding about the process of the evolution and cultures of humans.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology studies human activities of the past period by analyzing material culture. It conducts researches about the past on the basis of objects found on the ground. In order to understand the period for which written history is not available, archaeology, analyzes the things made by humans at that time and were left behind. Archaeology can cover all the time periods and all geographic regions when humans were living. It tells about their lives, communities, families, etc. With advancements of the methods being used in archaeology, now, it is possible to know about the lives of people which would have remained unnoticed otherwise, because of non availability of written materials.

SOURCES AND METHODS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Artefacts are the portable material remains or tangible evidences made or used by humans in the

past. Archaeology conducts research about the prehistory with the help of these artefacts. Artefacts may be available in the form of stone tools, bone, etc. which were made millions of years ago, clay pots and stone vessels, textiles, pieces of bones, wooden materials, etc. Features are the non-portable artefacts which provide significant information about the archaeological sites. Features include soil stains, biofacts (ecofacts), etc. which help archaeologists in understanding about that period. Soil stains indicate about a pit, garbage dump, or about a structure etc. that would have existed at the place during the period. The natural environment and climate of an area play an important role in the availability of the material remains at the place. The archaeologists make efforts to get anything available at the site and then reconstruct human behavior from these by applying their scientific skills.

Steps of Archaeological Exploration

1. To identify a particular site for exploration, personal visits are done and a decision is taken about its significance to the purpose.

2. Land reconnaissance (observing the site) to know about its strategic features, the artefacts available and marks of human activities.

3. Test Pitting is conducted by excavators to understand archaeological potential of the site and to decide the spots having maximum artefacts.

4. Full Excavation of the site, cleaning, measuring it, collecting artefacts, etc. In an archaeological deposit, artefacts are found in the context of series of layers. Stratification of the site is dividing it into different layers. In archaeology, section is a view in part of the archaeological sequence which shows it vertically as a cross section and reading a section takes place when an archaeologist identifies different layers of the site. It is an important step to have a proper understanding of the site.

5. In reconstruction and cataloguing, archaeologists take artefacts to lab and record these.

6. Then, collected artefacts are scientifically analysed to know its age, its material contents.

7. After this, the information gathered from digging, is made available to the public by publishing a Report. (<https://prezi.com/1plupeynwwpv/the-seven-stages-of-archaeology>)

So, the most significant step in an archaeological research is the selection of site. Earlier, this was being decided on the basis information obtained from verbal traditions, items found on the land, hints from mythology, etc. Many times, significant sites were noticed incidentally while digging. The Harappan Civilization was first exposed when bricks were sought to be procured from the mound for laying a railway line and on further excavating, knowledge about the existence of the earliest civilization of the Indian subcontinent was brought before the whole world. Archaeologists use scientific methods to collect proofs about the existence of human lives at a site, some of these methods are:

1. Aerial Photography: Under this method, photographs are taken from an airborne platform to capture changes in the level of the earth's surface. This method takes the help of aircrafts, helicopters, drones hot air balloon, etc. But it can be done only in an open area, not the forest land. Photographs help archaeologists in recording the changes in the color of the soil or to know about vegetation.

2. Underwater Prospection or Marine Archaeology: This method conducts studies to know about human interaction with lakes, sea, rivers, etc. It is done by identifying the presence of objects and sites submerged under water using modern equipments

3. Magnetic Survey: Magnetometry techniques are used to study changes of earth's geomagnetic field and identify the areas in which humans had lived in the past. Under this method, grasslands, agriculture fields and open areas are studied and mapping of the geographical changes is carried out. It helps in detecting metal objects, floors of fireplace, ovens, wells, tombs, etc. Under this method, magnetic prospection is conducted by using Cesium magnetometers and fluxgate gradiometers which can help in knowing about the magnetic waves so that an idea can be had about artefact's date.

4. Chemical Analysis of Soil: Here, content of potassium and phosphate in the soil is measured to get indications of the presence of any human activities in the past.

5. Detection of Anomalies in Subsoil: Subsoil layer of the soil lies between ground surface and hard rock below. To know about the anomalies in subsoil, archaeologists use potentiometer to measure its resisting power and then by recording changes in resistivity, etc. conclusions can be made about the possible presence of stone walls, ditches, graves and other archaeological structures.

6. Prospection by Acoustic or Seismic Methods: This method is particularly used by Archaeologists to know about submerged sites. Under this method, the ground is hit and sound and vibration under it are noted by using instruments which can record vibrations by reflection, refraction or resonance after the sound.

These techniques provide indications about the presence of human activities in the past and before finally deciding about conducting excavations at the site, archaeologists conduct a physical inspection thereof. After collecting the artefacts/remains during excavation, its location must be determined and preserved and the layer where it was found must be recorded. Otherwise, no useful archaeological purpose can be served by removing an artifact in isolation from the site. For this purpose, archaeologists prepare complete maps and site plans of its location.

DATING METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Dating is deciding about the date of excavated site or object and it is very significant aspect of archaeological research. Earlier, no written records were available for the period and no accurate dating

techniques were developed, then archaeologists focused on the ordering of archaeological materials into space-time frameworks. But during last some years, many methods have been used in determining the approximate period of artifact. Some such methods are:

Dendrochronology: It is the technique of dating artefacts, events and environmental changes and it analyses the patterns of annual growth rings in tree trunks and the changes in its thickness due to climatic effects. In all species of trees, the effect of climatic changes does not remain the same which limits the dating process. This technique is used frequently because it has the capability of dating wood samples up to eight millennia and the archaeologists can verify accuracy of other methods that are used for dating by this technique.

Radiocarbon Dating: Radiocarbon dating method (carbon-14 dating) is the most commonly used method which determines the age of an object containing organic material by using the properties of radiocarbon. Age of an ancient specimen is determined by measuring its carbon-14 content. Before changing itself into radioactive decay to Nitrogen-14, Carbon-14 continues for an average 8300 years. Till then, it goes into all living things, sea water and air. Carbon dioxide is produced by the combustion of carbon with air. It is presumed that by Carbon dioxide, the fresh radiocarbon goes into all living beings in the same manner and when the plant/animal dies, the use of ^{14}C starts declining by radioactive decay. American chemist, Williard Libby had used this method for the first time for calculating radiocarbon dates. He calculated that it took 5568 years for half the ^{14}C in a sample to decay its half-life. But modern researches say that this period is 5730 years. According to Libby, calculation of the age of the plant/animal can be done after arriving at the decay rate (or half-life of ^{14}C) by measuring the quantity of radiocarbon remaining in it. So, Libby provided a device which can accurately measure. He also found that each atom of ^{14}C decays releasing beta particles and he used a Geiger counter to count the emissions. This method can be used effectively in dating the things having carbon contents, like, wood and charcoal and in determining the dates of other objects found at the same site, which are not having carbon contents. Limitations of this method include faulty collecting techniques, errors in counting, background cosmic radiation, etc. Despite this, the method remains the basic dating method for organic materials of 50,000 to 80,000 years.

Potassium-Argon Dating: Potassium Argon Dating (or K-Ar dating) method says that a radioactive isotope of potassium ($\text{K}40$) present in rocks and volcanic ash in small quantities, decays into gas argon ($\text{Ar}40$) in such a manner that about half of a particular amount of $\text{K}40$ changes into $\text{Ar}40$ in about 1.3 billion years. After melting of the rock, $\text{Ar}40$ gas gets escaped but when the rock cools, this gas ($\text{Ar}40$) remains trapped in the rock. So, by using sensitive instruments

to measure the ratio of $\text{K}40$ to $\text{Ar}40$, we can estimate the time taken by a rock or ash to cool and become solid. The method can be deployed to estimate dates of the materials up to many million years.

Palaeomagnetism: Magnetism occurs whenever electrically charged particles are in motion. Palaeomagnetism method depends on the remaining magnetism on earth and studies record of the Earth's magnetic field preserved in various magnetic minerals over a period of time. On heating clay, its microscopic iron particles gather a residual magnetism parallel to earth's magnetic field and point toward the location around the North Pole. After cooling, iron particles of the clay continue to have that magnetism till the clay is heated again. In this way, by deploying other dating methods of obtaining absolute date of an archaeological feature and measuring direction of magnetism in the clay, archaeologists can determine location of the magnetic north pole at the time the clay was last heated. This process is called virtual geomagnetic pole or VGP. Archaeologists collect a number of ancient VGPs and prepare a composite curve of polar wandering and thereafter, a date can be given to the VGPs of unknown age samples by using this curve.

Thermoluminescence (TL): Clay and soil contain a number of natural isotopes of uranium, potassium, thorium, etc. which irradiate minerals like quartz causing displacement of electrons. Upon heating these minerals, its accumulated energy gets liberated at 320 degrees Celsius or more in the form of light and on cooling; these minerals again accumulate energy because of radioactivity. The method is used for dating objects (like pottery) which are made up of baked clay. On heating broken piece of ceramic material, its extra energy comes out with emission of light. Its intensity depends on the quantity of accumulated energy. On measuring light by laboratory processes, rate of energy accumulation can be known and the time elapsed since baking of pot can be calculated by archaeologists.

WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

Anthropology studies the origin, developments, customs, beliefs, etc. of the human beings. It looks for biological evolution of human beings and their culture. Anthropology helps in studying biological changes and the forms of different hominids (groups of modern humans, chimpanzees, gorillas plus all their immediate ancestors). It helps understanding prehistory period by studying cultural patterns, food habits, behavioural patterns, etc. Archaeology studies the past of humans by its material remains and is a subfield of anthropology because it undertakes study of the entire human culture.

Following research steps are involved in anthropology:

1. It is first decided whether an artefact is a bone or not.
2. An approximate idea about the date of skeleton can be had by looking at the context of deposition.

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3. By analyzing its location, position and condition, anthropologists can get clues about the events leading to the burial of the body.

4. Mammals have a generalized skeletal template and have the same bones at about the same places. But, shape of the bones and its relation with each other are different between animals. The anthropologists prepare a biological profile through the collected bone and its ancestry by looking at its size, shape, and structure and can determine if it is a human bone or not.

5. There are interpretations as to what the bone indicates, its importance and other related features.

BRANCHES OF ANTHROPOLOGY

● **Biological (or Physical) Anthropology:** It studies the non-cultural aspects (genetically inherited biological characteristics) of humans and near-humans. The process of human evolution, genetic inheritance and human adaptations to different environmental conditions are examined. Its sub-divisions are: **Human Biology**, which includes human diversity, patterns of genetic inheritance, non-cultural adaptations and other biological characteristics of *Homo sapiens*, human species.

Primatology, to find out capabilities/behaviour patterns of primates to understand the lives of earliest human ancestors.

Paleoanthropology studies fossil record of early humans and their primate ancestors.

● **Cultural (or Socio-cultural) Anthropology:** Here, the cultural aspects of human societies of the world are examined including social/political organizations, marriage patterns, economic patterns, etc.

● **Linguistic Anthropology:** In this branch, studies of the human communication processes are conducted. It covers physiology of speech, and also the social and cultural influences on speech and on writing, the non-verbal communication, evolution of languages, etc.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. Explain Prehistory in your own words.

Ans. Prehistory (or prehistoric period) is the period for which no written sources are available. The period goes back to the time when there was no writing, therefore, no written documents. Modern human beings have passed through a number of stages in more than a million years, and evolved about 40,000 years ago named *Homo sapiens*. Prehistory started with the origin of the genus *Homo* (includes modern humans and its close extinct ancestors). Before Present (BP) is the period, which specifies events that started before the origin of radiocarbon. The BP dating scale started after the invention of Radio Carbon dating method during 1940s and the same is used as the reference point which shows the present in the method of dating scale.

There are some evidences which suggest that the period dates back to between 5-2 million years BP in Africa, about one million years in Europe and Asia and around 40000 years BP in case of Australia. The period in case of America is even less than this.

Q. 2. What is the difference between Prehistory and Protohistory?

Ans. In this regard, there is another relevant term that needs to be understood is protohistory. It covers the transitory period between prehistory and history during which culture or civilization has not developed writing but some other cultures, which were literate and were at an advanced stage, mentioned about its existence in their writings. Protohistoric term also denotes the populations whose writings have not yet been understood.

Q. 3. What is an artefact?

Ans. Artefacts mean portable material remains or the tangible evidences of past human life which were made or used by humans. In archaeology, research about the prehistory is conducted with the help of these artefacts. Some of the forms in which artefacts may be available, are:

- Tools made up of stones, bone etc. made millions of years ago;
- Clay pots and stone vessels;
- Textiles;
- Pieces of bones;
- Wooden materials.

Q. 4. List the steps of archaeological research.

Ans. In order to know about the human behavior of the period, the archaeologists look for anything that is available at the site and then try to reconstruct such behavior from the same by using their scientific skills by taking the following steps:

Steps of Archaeological Exploration

1. The first step is to identify a particular site for exploration by doing personal visits or other methods and decide about its significance for the purpose.

2. By doing land reconnaissance or by observing the site to know about its strategic features, the clusters of artefacts present at the site and look for any available marks showing any human activities.

3. In order to properly understand the archaeological potential of the site, Test Pitting is conducted by excavators for deciding about the spots where maximum artefacts are available and then decide about conducting complete digging work.

4. After that, there is full excavation of the site, cleaning, measuring it, collecting the available artefacts and recording these. In an archaeological deposit, the artefacts are found in the context of series of layers. Stratigraphy studies layers (strata) and layering (stratification) and interpret these in terms of a general time scale. Stratification of the site is concerned with dividing it into different layers. When the layers or the strata remain undisturbed, superimposition or laying over is done because the bottom layers are older in comparison to the upper layers and the top layers are those which are young. In archaeology, section is a