

MU Department of Anthropology Study Guide for MA Exam Questions

Archaeology

1. Briefly outline human cultural development from the Lower Paleolithic through the Neolithic revolution. Relate the outline in general terms to the oldest archaeological evidence of human culture (e.g., what, where, and when are the earliest artifacts?, when is fire controlled?, when does evidence of religion appear?).
2. Outline a general theory that you find particularly useful for making sense about the general phenomenon of cultural evolution evidenced by the archaeological record.
3. State-level or complex societies arose independently in several regions of the world. Outline the archaeological evidence for the evolution of complex societies in one area of the world. Describe at least three theories that have been posited for the evolution of complex societies.
4. Define bioarchaeology, and indicate why NAGPRA is something that archaeologists working in the US must constantly be concerned about.
5. Define the terms artifact and feature, additive and reductive technologies, and primary and secondary contexts. Provide three examples where archaeologists analyze different kinds of artifacts or features (e.g., monumental tombs, ceramic artifacts, ground stone artifacts) to gain insight into the past. How did considerations of context and technology impact these examples?
6. How is the term "culture" used in archaeology?
7. Agriculture appeared in several different areas of the world. Outline the archaeological evidence for the appearance of agriculture in one area. Describe at least three hypotheses that have been proposed to explain the origins of agriculture, and critically evaluate each.
8. One of the most fundamental means to interpret and make sense of the archaeological record involves ethnographic analogy and middle range research. What are these? Give examples of their applications.
9. What are the methods and approaches for studying food-ways (subsistence) through the archaeological record? Give examples of their applications.

The following sources are suggested basic archaeology readings to help students start to build their answers. Preparation for the exam should include additional readings and discussions with faculty members.

Archaeological Methods and Theories, consult an introductory text such as:

- Kelly, Robert L., and David Hurst Thomas. 2010. *Archaeology*, fifth edition. Wadsworth, Belmont, CA.
- Price, T. Douglas. 2007. *Principles of Archaeology*. McGraw Hill, Boston.
- Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn. 2004. *Archaeology: theories, methods, and practice*, fourth edition. Thames and Hudson, New York.
- Sutton, Mark Q., and Robert M. Yohe II. 2006. *Archaeology: The Science of the Human Past*, second edition. Pearson, Boston.

World Prehistory, consult an introductory text, such as:

- Fagan, Brian M. 2007. *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory*. Pearson, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.
- Fagan, Brian M. 2007. *Ancient Lives: An Introduction to Archaeology and Prehistory*, third edition. Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.
- Price, T. Douglas, and Gary M. Feinman. 2005. *Images of the Past*, fourth edition. McGraw Hill, Boston.
- Feder, Kenneth L. and Michael Alan Park. 2007. *Human Antiquity: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology*, fifth edition. McGraw Hill, Boston.*
- Rice, Patricia A., and Norah Moloney. 2008. *Biological Anthropology and Prehistory: Exploring our Human Ancestry*, second edition. Pearson, Boston.*

*covers human evolution, human biological variation, and cultural evolution.

Biological Anthropology

1. Identify and briefly discuss the four major forces of evolution. Give human examples that show how each of them works in a population.
2. What are nuclear DNA, mtDNA, and aDNA? Pick one of these and discuss in some detail how it is used to trace human ancestry.
3. Discuss both long-term and short-term biological and cultural characteristics that allow humans to adapt to one of the following environments: cold, humid heat, dry heat, or high altitude.
4. What is race? Why do the majority of modern anthropologists reject the notion of biological race? How is human variation more accurately described and interpreted?
5. What are the different types of social organization in primates? Discuss the different social organizations and give a specific example of each. Put your answer into the context of costs, benefits, and determinants of living groups.
6. Briefly describe the general scheme for the evolution of hominins from the earliest australopiths to anatomically modern humans you would present to an introductory anthropology class. Which species would you include and which species would you omit? Justify your choices.
7. Compare and critically discuss the major theories that seek to explain the origin and dispersal of anatomically modern humans.
8. When and how did human language evolve? In your answer, discuss evidence from all four subdisciplines of anthropology.
9. What are the unique characteristics of human life histories? How do human patterns of growth, reproduction, and aging compare with other apes?

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Question 1 (forces of evolution):

Jurmain, Robert, Kilgore, Lynn, Trevathan, Wanda, Ciochon, Russell L. *Introduction to Physical Anthropology* (most recent edition)

Larsen, Clark S. *Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology* (most recent edition)

Question 2 (genetics):

Jurmain

Larsen

O'Rourke, Dennis H, Hayes, M. Geoffrey and Carlyle, Shawn W. (2000) Ancient DNA studies in physical anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29:217-242

(doi:10.1146/annurev.anthro.29.1.217)

Pakendorf, Brigitte and Stoneking, Mark (2005) Mitochondrial DNA and human evolution. *Annual Review of Genomics and Human Genetics* 6:165-183

(doi:10.1146/annurev.genom.6.080604.162249)

Question 3 (adaptation):

Jurmain

Kormondy, Edward J. and Brown, Daniel E. (1998) *Fundamentals of Human Ecology*. New York: Prentice Hall.

Larsen

Moran, Emilio F. (2008) *Human Adaptability: An Introduction to Ecological Anthropology, 3rd edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Question 4 (race):

Graves, Joseph L. (2002) *The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millennium*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Jurmain

Larsen

Mielke, James H., Konigsberg, Lyle W., and Relethford John H. (2005) *Human Biological Variation*. Oxford: University Press.

Question 5 (primate social organization):

Campbell, Christina J. Fuentes, Agustin, MacKinnon, Katherine C., Panger, Melissa, and Bearder, Simon K., eds. (2007) *Primates in Perspective*. Oxford: University Press.

(chapters on primate social organization)

Fleagle, John (1998) *Primate Adaptation and Evolution*. New York: Academic Press.

(chapters on primate social organization)

Jurmain

Larsen

Questions 6 and 7 (human evolution):

Jurmain

Larsen

Question 8 (language):

Fisher, Simon E. and Marcus, Gary F. (2006) The eloquent ape: genes, brains and the evolution of language. *Nature Reviews Genetics* 7: 9-20. (doi:10.1038/nrg1747)

Hauser, Marc D., Chomsky, Noam, and Fitch, W. Tecumseh (2002) The faculty of language: what is it, who has it, and how did it evolve? *Science* 298:1569-1579.

Jurmain

Marler, Peter (1998) Animal communication and human language. In: *The Origin and Diversification of Language*, N Jablonski and LC Aiello, eds. San Francisco: California Academy of Sciences, pp. 1-19.

Mellars, Paul (1998) Neanderthals, modern humans, and the archaeological evidence for language. In: *The Origin and Diversification of Language*, N Jablonski and LC Aiello, eds. San Francisco: California Academy of Sciences, pp. 89-115.

Question 9 (human life history):

Mace, R. 2000. Evolutionary ecology of human life history. *Animal Behaviour* 59: 1-10. doi:10.1006/anbe.1999.1287

Hawkes Kristen and Paine, Richard R., editors. (2006) *The Evolution of Human Life History*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press.

Jurmain

Larsen

Leigh, SR 2001 The evolution of human growth. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 10:223–236.

Cultural Anthropology

- 1) What is culture? What is the relationship between culture and natural selection? How and why do some cultural traits spread (and others go extinct) across time and space?
- 2) Compare and contrast several theoretical approaches to the study of human kinship including the evolutionary and postmodernist perspectives. Be prepared to discuss how these apply to specific ethnographic examples.
- 3) Discuss some of the major methods used in cultural anthropological research. Include some of the ethical issues involved with each.
- 4) Be prepared to discuss several anthropological explanations of religion.
- 5) Explain why human paternal behavior is an interesting evolutionary puzzle. Discuss the different hypotheses anthropologists have proposed for why fatherhood evolved. Evaluate these hypotheses with evidence from ethnographic studies.
- 6) Compare and contrast different human marriage patterns, including their ecological correlates and cross-cultural prevalence.
- 7) Why do humans cooperate? Discuss the important theoretical models for explaining variation in human cooperation and altruism.
- 8) Compare and contrast alliance formation, aggression, and warfare between humans and chimpanzees.
- 9) Define social stratification and discuss its patterning across human societies. Where and why does it occur?

The following sources are suggested basic cultural anthropology readings to help students start to build their answers. Preparation for the exam should include additional readings and discussions with faculty members.

Alexander R (1990) How did humans evolve? Reflections on the Uniquely Unique Species. University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Special Publication 1:1-38.

Wright R (1995) The Moral Animal: Why We Are, the Way We Are: The New Science of Evolutionary Psychology. Vintage Press.

Hill K, Hurtado AM (1996) Ache Life History: The Ecology and Demography of a Foraging People. Aldine de Gruyter.

Cronk L, Chagnon NA, Irons W eds (2000) Adaptation and human behavior: an anthropological perspective. Aldine de Gruyter.

Salmon CA, Shackleford TK (2007). Family Relationships: An Evolutionary Perspective. Oxford University Press.

Chapais B (2008) Primeval Kinship. Harvard University Press.