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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q1(a)

Archaeological Anthropology.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Archaeological Anthropology.

(c) Archaeological Anthropology.

Core demand of the question

- Write a note on Archaeological Anthropology
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Archaeological anthropology reads past culture from tools, bone, and settlement.

Foot and **Sankalia** framed the Indian record.

Dates come from layers and laboratories.

Ethnoarchaeology links living discard to dead sites.

The goal is process, not a museum of objects.

Introduction

Archaeological anthropology studies past human life from material remains. It is anthropology of the dead site, not a treasure hunt for art objects.

Body**Scope**

- It recovers tools, hearths, bones, and settlement plans, then reads them as culture and adaptation.
- **Robert Bruce Foot** at Pallavaram opened the Indian palaeolithic. **H. D. Sankalia** made Deccan excavation a teaching method.
- Time is ordered by stratigraphy, typology, and later by radiocarbon and luminescence.

Link to living people

- Ethnoarchaeology, as **Lewis Binford** urged, watches living foragers to interpret kill sites and discard.
- Indian work at **Inamgaon**, **Burzahom**, and **Hunsgi** joins prehistory to food, house, and craft.
- **The aim is process:** how a camp became a village, not a catalogue of pretty pots.

Flow diagram

Material remains -> Stratigraphy dates

Stratigraphy dates -> Past culture

Past culture -> Ethnoarchaeology

Conclusion

Archaeological anthropology is the material wing of anthropology. It reconstructs behaviour from residue and dates, with Indian sites as full partners of world prehistory.

Facts & figures

Foote

1863 Pallavaram handaxe founded scientific prehistory in India.

Sankalia

Deccan College excavations trained a generation in stratigraphic method.

Binford

New Archaeology used middle-range theory and ethnoarchaeology to read sites as behaviour.

Inamgaon

A Deccan Chalcolithic village used to teach house, burial, and subsistence from dirt.

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