

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

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

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q2(c)

Describe the features of early farming cultures and Neolithic of the Near East

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Neolithic

(iii) Neolithic

Core demand of the question

- Write a note on early farming cultures and the Neolithic of the Near East
- Write about 200 words for 15 marks

Revision summary

Near Eastern Neolithic grows from Natufian sedentary harvest.

PPNA and PPNB villages add plaster houses, ritual skulls, and herds.

Jericho's tower and **Çatalhöyük**'s crowded houses are type sites.

Founder crops and sheep-goat define the package; pottery comes later.

Childe named a revolution; current work stresses a long, mosaic process.

Introduction

The Near Eastern Neolithic is the first durable package of cereals, pulses, sheep, goat, and village life. It is a long process, not a single invention day.

Body

From Natufian to Pre-Pottery

- Late Epipalaeolithic **Natufian** hamlets harvested wild cereals with sickles and stored grain. Sedentism began before full domestication.
- **Pre-Pottery Neolithic A and B** (PPNA/PPNB) in the Levant and upper Tigris-Euphrates show lime-plaster houses, skull curation, and expanding herds.
- **Jericho** (Tell es-Sultan), excavated by **Kathleen Kenyon**, has a PPNA tower and wall. It is a type site of early village defence and ritual, not yet a metal city.

Villages and plants

- **Founder crops** include einkorn, emmer, barley, lentil, pea, and flax. Sheep and goat follow, then cattle and pig in neighbouring zones.
- **Çatalhöyük** on the **Konya plain**, reported by **James Mellaart** and later **Ian Hodder**, is a crowded Neolithic town of roof entry, wall painting, and cattle symbolism.
- Other nodes include **Abu Hureyra**, **Ain Ghazal**, **Jarmo**, and **Ali Kosh**. Irrigation and pottery come in stages; pottery is not the definition of this Neolithic.

Reading the change

- **V. Gordon Childe**'s oasis and urban-revolution stories set the exam language. Later work stresses climatic pulses after the Younger Dryas and social ritual, not only hunger.
- The Near East is a mosaic of farming cultures, not one tribe that invented agriculture and marched.

Flow diagram

Natufian harvest -> PPNA PPNB villages
PPNA PPNB villages -> Jericho tower
PPNA PPNB villages -> Catalhoyuk
PPNA PPNB villages -> Cereals pulses sheep goat

Conclusion

Near Eastern early farming is Natufian sedentism, PPN villages, **founder crops**, and sites such as Jericho and **Çatalhöyük**. It is a regional process that later feeds Europe and beyond.

Facts & figures

Kenyon

Excavated Jericho's Pre-Pottery sequence, tower, and plastered skulls.

Çatalhöyük

Neolithic town in Anatolia with roof access, shrines, and cattle imagery.

Founder crops

Einkorn, emmer, barley, lentil, pea, chickpea, and flax as the classic Near Eastern set.

Childe

Neolithic Revolution framed farming as the first great economic break, still the teaching slogan.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2021/describe-the-features-of-early-farming-cultures-and-neolithic-of-the-near-east/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com