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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.

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

Q1(e)

Thermoluminescence (TL) dating.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology

(a) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology: Relative and Absolute Dating methods.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Zero event

Last heating of pottery or flint, or last sunlight on sediment grains, resets the TL clock.

Dose rate

Annual radiation from the grain and its burial environment; water content changes it.

OSL

Optically stimulated luminescence is a sibling method that uses light rather than heat to empty traps.

Range

Typically centuries to some 10^5 years, bridging ^{14}C limits for older burnt flint.

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