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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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Q5(a)

Chronometric dating

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · 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.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2024/chronometric-dating/>

Willard Libby

Developed radiocarbon dating; carbon-14 dates the death of once-living material, not stone tools directly.

Olduvai tuffs

Volcanic horizons dated by potassium-argon methods helped place East African hominins and industries on an absolute timescale.

OSL event

Optically stimulated luminescence estimates when mineral grains were last exposed to sunlight before burial.

Error term

A chronometric result is an estimate with uncertainty and calibration assumptions, not an exact historical birthday.

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