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Q5(e)**Thermoluminescence dating method.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology

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(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.

Thermoluminescence (TL) Dating

An absolute dating technique measuring light emitted from heated mineral crystals due to accumulated radiation.

Chronological Range

Effective for dating materials from recent centuries up to approximately 500,000 years ago.

Target Minerals

Relies primarily on quartz and feldspar crystals embedded in pottery and burnt stones.

Firing Threshold

Requires temperatures above 400-500 degrees Celsius to completely zero out previous geological thermoluminescence.

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