

This midterm is worth 50 points. The value of each section and question is noted. Please be brief and to the point. This is a closed book exam.

$17 + 8 + 12 + 5 + 5 = 47$

Section 1 - Multiple Choice - 10 Questions (10 points total) Write the most suitable answer on the line provided.

A 1. Seriation is a form of:

- a. Relative dating
- b. Absolute dating
- c. Stratigraphy
- d. Reconnaissance
- e. Survey

C 2. Heinrich Schliemann's excavations of the ancient city of Troy represents this approach to archaeology:

- a. Processual Archaeology
- b. Cognitive Archaeology
- c. Antiquarianism
- d. Post-Processual Archaeology
- e. Monumental Archaeology

B 3. Radiocarbon dating is best used with artifacts:

- a. Between 1 and 100,000 years old
- b. Between 50 and 50,000 years old
- c. Between 1,000 and 1.5 million years old
- d. Less than 500,000 years old
- e. More than 500 years old

D 4. If you are conducting a horizontal excavation across a wide area, you are probably most interested in:

- a. Studying regional climatic shifts.
- b. Tracing prehistoric trade routes.
- c. Understanding technological and social changes' through time.
- d. Understanding the spatial relationships of a settlement at one point in time.
- e. Moving a lot of dirt.

C 5. Geologists and archaeologists use the _____ to infer temporal sequences directly from depositional layers.

- a. Law of Processualism
- b. Law of Association
- c. Law of Superposition
- d. Law of Uniformitarianism
- e. Law of Gravity

D 6. A collection of artifacts and ecofacts from a shared context is called a(n):

- a. Group
- b. Type
- c. Feature
- d. Assemblage
- e. Matrix

_____ 7. Which of the following is not a remote sensing technique?

- a. Magnetometry
- b. Ground Penetrating Radar
- c. LIDAR
- d. Aerial photography
- e. Thermoluminescence

B 8. All of the following are excavation methods or strategies, except:

- a. Test pits
- b. Remote sensing
- c. Box grids
- d. Trenches
- e. Horizontal clearing

D 9. An archaeologist would describe a deer femur found within a trash midden as:

- a. A feature
- b. An antique
- c. An artifact
- d. An ecofact
- e. Lunch

A 10. What is the reference point of known coordinates from which measurements may be taken during an archaeological survey or excavation?

- a. The datum
- b. The matrix
- c. The zero point
- d. The anchor
- e. The transect

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Section 2 - Fill in - 13 Responses (20 points total)

Matching: Write in the letter of the most accurate response to each question on the line. You may use the same answer more than once. (1 point each, 6 points total)

Choose the theoretical paradigm that matches with the assumption:

- A. Culture History B. Post-Processualism C. Processualism

11. AB Material culture is meaningfully constituted.
12. C Behavior is a response to external stimuli.
13. B Identities are fluid and negotiated through lived experience and social engagement.
14. A The chronological ordering of artifacts is the most central goal of archaeology.
15. C The discovery of generalized 'laws' of human behavior is the goal of archaeology.
16. B Archaeologists cannot be completely objective.

Fill-in-the-blank: Write your best answer in the blank space (2 points per blank, 14 points total)

17. Archaeological remains are the result of: cultural and natural Formation Processes.

18. Diffusion is a theory suggesting that shared characteristics amongst distinct cultures must reflect the movement of people, things, and/or ideas between those cultures.

19. A(n) index fossil is an object or attribute that is characteristic of a certain time that enables archaeologists to roughly date a context based on its presence.

20. A lithic scatter would be an example of a single-component site.

21. Name two (2) environmental conditions that lead to exceptional preservation archaeologically:

1. and (aridity) 2. Anaerobic

Section 3 - Short Answer - 2 responses (20 points total)

22) Select **one (1)** of these three questions to answer in the space provided below (8 pts).

Your answer should be 4-6 sentences in length. Circle the question you are answering.

a) Define arbitrary levels (1 pt) and natural/cultural levels (1 pt). Which would be preferable for excavating a tell site or shellmound (3 pts)? Why (3 pts)?

b) Define primary context (1 pt) and secondary context (1 pt). What clues would an archaeologist use to differentiate these two in excavated material (discuss at least two clues) (6 pts)?

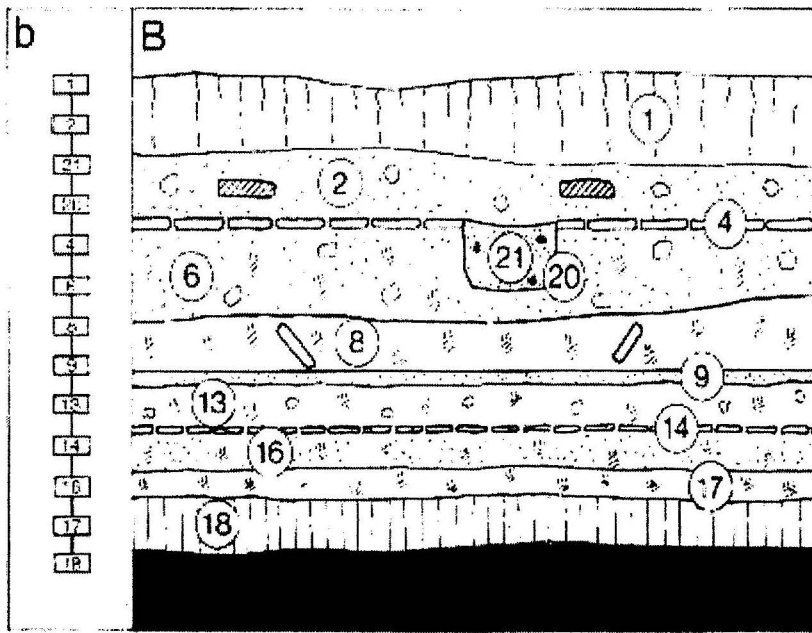
c) Name (1 pt) and define (1 pt) one of the sampling strategies discussed in class. Explain one benefit (3 pts) and one drawback (3 pts) of this sampling strategy.

⇒ c) One of the sampling strategies discussed in class is simple random sampling (SRS), which involves labeling all objects (that are the focus of the study) and randomly selecting a few from the total population. This group is then "studied" and is considered to represent the population as a whole. One benefit is that it eliminates almost all potential bias in the study. Since a given object has the same probability of being chosen (same chance of being chosen for the study), which can prevent a skew in data with a large enough sample. One drawback is that the random sample may not truly represent the whole population that is to be studied since the procedure is truly random, so it is possible an entire group may be left out of the sample. This may result in incomplete or even incorrect information about the sample population.

23) Select **one (1)** of these two questions to answer in the space provided on the next page (12 pts). Your answer should be 5-7 sentences long. Circle the question you are answering.

a) Choose two of the following concepts: middle range theory, experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, ethnographic analogy, and formation processes. Define (1 pt each) and describe (3 pts each) them as they relate and contribute to the goals of processual archaeology.

b) On the following page, you will find a stratigraphic profile and its associated Harris Matrix. Briefly define stratigraphy (2 pts) and Harris Matrices (2 points). What is the relationship between 21, 20, and 4 (4 points)? How do you know (4 points)?



Definition:

Experimental archaeology involves conducting an experiment on a sample (or some object that is ~~found~~) to run tests to better understand how an artifact, surface or feature ended up the way it was found at the site or how it was made before it was discarded. Formation processes involve the way that objects are found in the matrix and how the objects are preserved in the matrix and includes both cultural and natural formation processes.

Description:

Experimental archaeology relates to the goals of processual archaeology because it uses the scientific method to allow archaeologists to draw conclusions and creates data that can be used for further study. Experimental archaeology allows archaeologists to be more objective in their approach through a "trial and error" process and can be generalized to other theories or natural laws. This contributes to the goals of processual archaeology because it allows archaeologists to use scientific data to support or reject hypothesis archaeologists have about culture/behavior of the site, which eliminates a few aspects of guesswork that previous types of archaeology had.

Scientifically understand the methods and processes were involved in the discard of an object. Formation processes can be used to help archaeologists understand the processes of discard. Because it allows archaeologists to use scientific data to create a "lifecycle" which can be used to build up a timeline of the site or create conclusions about the people that used the objects.

Extra Credit (2 pts) You must spell the response correctly to receive full credit.

What is your GSI's last name? Ednalino ✓

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