



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY
Master of Arts Comprehensive Examination in Archaeology

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Date: January 22nd, 2001

Time: 5 hours

Please, answer any TWO of the subjects below:

1

**WRITE A COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY ABOUT
THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF CERAMIC STUDIES.**

- Discuss the value of ceramics in archaeological research.
- Whereas vessels like painted Greek vases have always been appreciated in art-historical fashion, less elaborate fine wares, as well as common domestic and commercial wares can provide a wide range of information about the people who made and used them.

2

ORIGIN AND FORMATION OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STATES

In Antiquity, the Levant witnessed a cyclical pattern of urban growth and collapse accompanied by the rise and fall of political entities. This recurring pattern has been explained by various theories based on textual and recent archaeological evidence.

Taking the cultural collapse at the end of either the Early or the Late Bronze Age as an example, explain the causes of this recurring pattern.

Choose a Bronze or Iron Age kingdom in the Levant and discuss the various phases of its birth, rise and fall. Refer explicitly to both the textual and archaeological evidence on which your reconstruction is based.

3

**HOW DOES THE STUDY OF COINAGE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROMAN ECONOMY?**

- What role did coins play in the economy?
 - How well do the models for coin circulation fit the archaeological and historical evidence?
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