

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

Date: May 1998

Time: 6 hours

Question 1:

Excavation and proper finds management are essential for the study, publication and presentation of the results of archaeological work.

WRITE A COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY USING THE EXPERIENCE OF BEIRUT AS A CASE STUDY and including the following:

1. What are the particular **complexities of urban excavation** ?
2. Briefly discuss the **single context recording system** used in Beirut ?
3. What are the advantages of employing **computerised database programs, digitised plans and electronic illustrations** ?
4. Discuss the **glass finds** from the souks site in Beirut.
5. What does the **study of glass contribute** to our understanding of the history of Beirut?

Question 2:

1. On the basis of your experience as the archaeologist responsible for the Biqaa area at the Directorate General of Antiquities, state the problems the Department is facing in planning and managing the archaeological heritage in the area and suggest solutions. Use specific examples to illustrate your statements.

2. What does the Biqaa valley offer to the visitor in terms of archaeological remains?

What are the main archaeological operations, surveys and excavations that have taken place there?

If you were to set a list of priorities for future archaeological work there, what would they be?