

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

Date: 08 May 2000

Time: 6 hours

PLEASE, ANSWER ANY TWO OF THE QUESTIONS BELOW

Question 1:

The Lebanese Department of Antiquities and the National Museum are together responsible for preserving, managing, and presenting the country's archaeological heritage. Both these institutions are over half a century old. How would you characterize their development from colonial beginnings through recent turmoil and destruction to the present?

WRITE A COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY USING HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AS WELL AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE and including the following

- Can you trace particular elements in today's institutions which have their origin in this area's specific colonial experience?
- Should the war experience have tangible representation in the new National Museum?
- How do the new Museum exhibits compare with those of the prewar period in terms of conceptualisation of Lebanon's past?
- Does the National Museum today respond to the popular demand for 'contextual representation' of the past?
- In your view, does the National Museum represent Lebanon's cultural heritage adequately?

Question 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.

Question 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?