

# FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

## Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Female Figurines were known as
  - (a) Altamira
  - (b) Sahana
  - (c) Venuses
  - (d) Vestonice
2. The earliest fossils from Europe are attributed to
  - (a) Australopithecus
  - (b) Homo Heidelbergensis
  - (c) Homo Habilis
  - (d) Homo erectus
3. Period of Homo erectus, archaicHomo sapiens, Neanderthals, homo sapiens sapiens is
  - (a) 5mya to 1mya
  - (b) 60,000 years ago
  - (c) 1mya to 40,000 years ago
  - (d) 40,000 years ago.
4. Hominids immigrated from Africa to Asia during the period
  - (a) 5.6mya
  - (b) 0.8mya
  - (c) 2.0 – 1.5mya
  - (d) 2.2 – 2.0mya.
5. Anthropologist is a specialist who –
  - (a) Studies the social traits and behavior.
  - (b) Studies human culture and societies as well as evolutionary aspects of human biology.
  - (c) Studies the general policies and ethics adopted by the society.
  - (d) Studies the ancient remains and antique.

## Answer

1. (c)                      2. (b)                      3. (c)                      4. (c)                      5. (b)

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by the term Hominid? Explain.

**Answer:** It is a member of the Superfamily Hominoidea from which hominids evolved ex. apes. Their body is larger; they are without tail, upright posture, bipedal locomotion, and expert hands in making and using tools.

2. What do you mean by the term “glaciations”? How was the period following glaciations suitable for the origins of Homo?

**Answer:** Glaciations in the period of the Ice age. The temperature receded and the larger parts of the earth were covered with ice. Periods of warm, wet, and cold dry climate have been known to alternate from the beginning of time. Grassland areas expanded owing to a sudden change in temperature, the earlier genus *Australopithecus* had got extinction due to the loss of forests. Thus, the species adapted to drier conditions originated among which Homo (i.e. modern-looking humans) was one of the species.

3. Why is Tanzania considered important from the angle of the discovery of the earliest societies?

**Answer:** It was Olduvai Gorge or ravine located in the Serengeti plain of northern Tanzania in Africa where the archaeologists found the maximum amount of information about hominid activity over the last 2 million years. Olduvai is a deep ravine extended more than forty kilometers in length. Animal bones and remains of forty individuals have been found here. There were also found traces of 150 species of extinct animals. Mary and Louie Leakey had identified these fossils and remains of 1.85mya in the early twentieth century. They also found chopping tools and flake tools there.

4. What were the ways of obtaining food among early societies?

**Answer:** As per evidence obtained by archaeologists, there were four ways of obtaining food prevalent among early societies of primates. These were-

1. gathering
2. hunting
3. scavenging and
4. Fishing.

Collection of edible seeds, nuts, berries, fruits, and tubers denote gathering activity. The archaeologists say, “There is very little evidence for gathering activity”. There is controversy about scavenging or foraging for meat and marrow activity adopted by hominids. The majority of opinions establish eating of the dead animals by them. It is equally possible that rodents, eggs, birds, reptiles, and insects may have been eaten by hominids. Hunting activity was adopted after a long period of scavenging activity. It came into existence around 5 lakh years ago. Evidence of hunting activity was collected from Boxgrove in England and Schöningen in Germany.

5. Whether modern humans originated from one region or several regions simultaneously? Explain logically.

**Answer:** There are two divergent views about the origin of modern humans:

1. Regional continuity model (with multiple regions of origin) and
2. Replacement model (with a single origin in Africa).

According to the former view, modern humans evolved at different rates in different regions. This is the reason, variations in the first appearance is found. It has been seen that there are differences in populations of *Homo erectus* and *Homo Heidelberg* biogenesis of the same region. The latter view favors complete replacement everywhere of all older forms of humans with modern looking humans. Genetic and physiological similarity supports this view. Fossils found at Omo in Ethiopia support this view.

### **LONG ANSWER QUESTION**

1. Write a description about the origin of human beings.

**Answer:** The story about the origin of human beings is very long and complicated. Different views in this

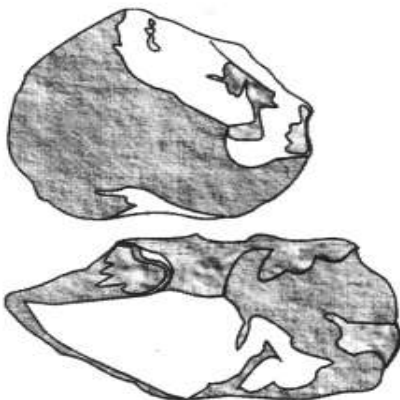
regard have been given, and still the process of discoveries is going on. The chronological order of the number of events has changed due to new discoveries and excavations made so far. There is plenty of scope left for excavations. The early human passed through several stages of journey to become a modern man. The various stages which throw light on the story of progress made by man from the very beginning to the present days are given below.

- **Primates:** The early human came into being in Africa and Asia about 36-24 mya. They constitute a sub-group of a large group of mammals, such as monkeys, apes, and the humans. They had hair on their bodies and different kinds of teeth.
- **Hominoids:** They came into being about 24 mya. They had four legs and used to move on their four paws. The first portion of their bodies and legs were quite flexible but were unable to walk erect. Their body was different from the monkeys because they were comparatively larger and had no tail.
- **Hominids:** They belonged to hominidae family and came into existence about 5.6 mya. Their earliest fossils were excavated at Laotoli and Hader (both in Africa). It is clear evidence that they originated in Africa. Their fossils were also found outside Africa.

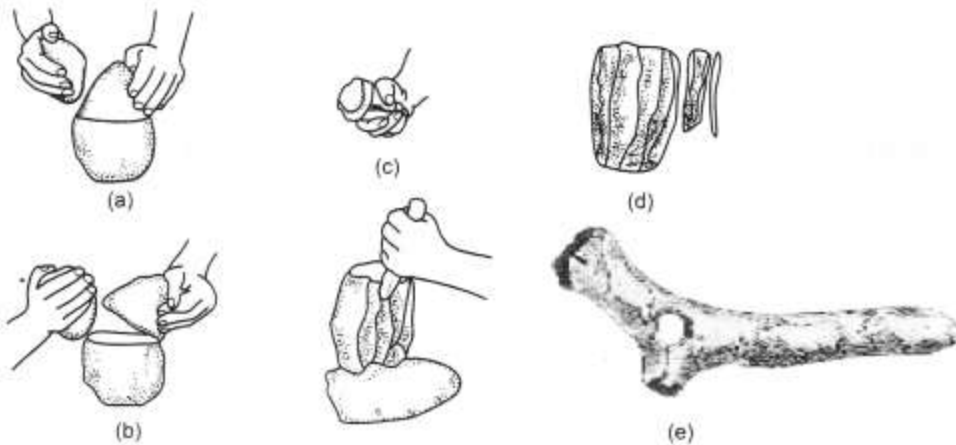
2. What do you know about early man's tools and weapons made by them? Which techniques were used to make these tools?

**Answer:** Early man's tools and weapons were made of stones. Early man used hard stones known as flint, along with other types of stones for making tools and weapons. Flint was the stone that was used for lighting fire. It was also found that these types of stones can be given desired shape. However, the tools that early man used were rough and unpolished. We get the earliest evidence for making and use of these stone tools from Ethiopia and Kenya. The Australopithecus were the first to make and use stone tools. The stone tools were made by using following techniques:

- **Stone on Stone:** In this technique, the pebble from which the tool was to be made was held in one hand and the second stone was used to strike off flakes from the first.
- **Pressure Flaking:** In this technique, the core was placed on a firm surface. The hammer stone was used on a place of bone or stone that was placed on the core to remove flakes that could be shaped into tools.
- **The Punch Blade Technique:** In this technique, the top of a larger pebble is removed by using hammer stone to produce a flat surface. This flat surface, thus so produced, is called striking platform. This is then struck using a hammer and a punch made of bone. It then leads to the production of blades. It also leads to formation of knives.



#### Steps involved in the Punch Blade Technique



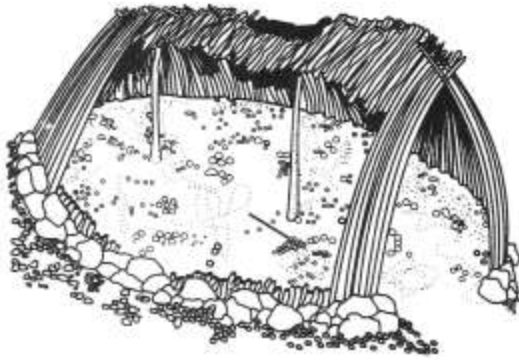
3. “Undoubtedly the modern man-made tremendous progress since coming into being.” Justify the statement. (HOTS)

**Answer:** Modern man had several peculiarities which made him different from his predecessors. Modern man is most intelligent in comparison to forefathers on account of the size of his brain. Modern man-made tremendous progress. He began to construct his huts in addition to the caves wherein he dwelled earlier. He started to lead a settled life and began practicing agriculture. Now, he does not wander here and there in search of his food. He acquired knowledge how to cook food and also learnt how to store food grains and consumed it properly. He began to store food grains for his future use or used it when required during the time of natural calamity. He also used much superior tools, which helped him to safeguard himself from the wild predatory more effectively. The invention of needle helped him to wear stitched clothes. The development in the field of art and language made him more superior. So we can conclude that the modern man made great achievements in comparison to his forefathers.

4. Discuss in detail about the places of residence of early humans.

**Answer:**

- The early humans lived on the branches of the trees. Between 400,000 and 125,000 years ago, the human beings began to live in caves and open air sites.
- We got the earliest evidence of living in caves from Lazaret cave in southern France. It measured 12 x 4 meters and revealed evidence of two hearths, several fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts, eggs of animals and fishes.
- Dwelling in caves proved beneficial for him, as he could now protect himself from the danger of wild animals. Living in caves provided him natural refuge from severe stream and cold.
- The early humans began to live or dwell in huts around 125,000 years ago. It proved a significant step in early human’s journey towards progress.
- We get the most significant evidence of the hut constructed by early humans at Terra Amata in Southern France. It was made up of thatch and its roof was made up of wood. Reconstruction of hut at Terra Amata stone-flakes scattered on the floor.



*Reconstruction of hut at Terra Amata*

5. Who were the first to use tools? How these tools used by early man were categorized?

**Answer:** Australopithecus were the first to use tools. About 35,000 years ago, we came across the evidence of a remarkable improvement in the method of hunting animals. It became clear from the event that a special type of spear was used to hunt animals.

The tools used by early man can be categorized into three types. They are discussed under following heads:

- **Hand-axes:** They were used for pouncing. In the beginning, they were used without a handle, but later on wooden handle was attached to it. It was made possible to use them with much force.
- **Chopper:** They were made of heavy stones worked to a sharp edge in one direction only, and were most probably used for chopping meat.
- **Flake implements:** They were used as knives and scrapers for finer works. For thousands of years of man's early history the only remains that we find are crude stone tools. These tools are often found lying along the terraces of rivers, or in the huts or caves where early man used to live and roam in search of wild animals. These tools made by him served many purposes such as skinning of dead animals, cutting their flesh, etc.

About 35,000 years ago new kinds of tools such as spear throwers, bow and arrow came into being.



Hand-axe



Chopper



Cleaver



Arrow-head



Budge



Scraper



Spear throwers