# Early Humans and Beginning of Civilisation

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 37 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

## Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. The only human species living today is:
   **(a)** Homo habilis **(b)** Homo neanderthalensis
   **(c)** Homo erectus **(d)** Homo sapiens

2. Dholavira is known for:
   **(a)** water reservoirs
   **(b)** a Sumerian city
   **(c)** the Step Pyramid
   **(d)** one of the oldest-dated stone-tool sites in India

3. The Mesopotamian civilisation grew along:
   **(a)** the Ganga **(b)** the Sindhu and Sarasvati
   **(c)** the Tigris and Euphrates **(d)** the Amazon

4. What is a hominin?
   **(a)** modern humans and their early human-like ancestors
   **(b)** a check dam across a stream
   **(c)** copper mixed with tin
   **(d)** a script whose signs stand for words

5. Sargon is remembered for:
   **(a)** a Babylonian law code **(b)** formalising the Brahmi script
   **(c)** Akkadian king who traded with Meluhha **(d)** deciphering Egyptian writing

6. Akkad rose over Sumer in about 2334 BCE; the Shang dynasty began in about 1600 BCE. About how many years apart were these? (In BCE, bigger numbers are earlier.)
   **(a)** 734 years **(b)** 744 years **(c)** 834 years **(d)** 3,934 years

7. Which stage came right after the Palaeolithic?
   **(a)** Iron Age **(b)** Chalcolithic **(c)** Mesolithic **(d)** Neolithic

8. Harappan weights went 1, 2, 4, 8, … What is the total of the first 10 weights?
   **(a)** 1,023 **(b)** 1,024 **(c)** 512 **(d)** 2,046

## Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. Name the stages of early human history in order.

**10.** What is each site known for? (a) Olduvai Gorge (b) Lothal

**11.** Along which rivers did each civilisation grow? (a) Chinese (b) Egyptian

**12.** Explain each term: (a) mastaba (b) hominin

**13.** Which came first, and by about how many years? (a) the Mature Harappan phase began (about 2600 BCE) (b) cuneiform writing began (about 3200 BCE)

**14.** Mesopotamians counted in sixties. How many minutes are in 3 hours, and how many degrees are in 10 full circles?

**15.** The Egyptian year had 12 months of 30 days plus 5 extra days. (a) How many days are in 5 such years? (b) How many days are in the first 11 months?

**16.** Why is each remembered? (a) Ashoka (b) Pierre Bouchard

## Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

**17.** How did early humans spread out of Africa?

**18.** Match each with its feature: (a) Kalibangan (b) Ur (c) Mehrgarh. Choose from: a ploughed field; a Sumerian city; the earliest farming village.

**19.** (a) Put these in order, earliest first: the Zhou dynasty began (about 1046 BCE); the Shang dynasty began (about 1600 BCE); Hammurabi rose to power (about 1792 BCE). (b) About how many years separate the first and the last? (c) Why do BCE dates count down?

**20.** Compare the Chinese and Mesopotamian civilisations: where did each grow, and name one achievement of each.

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# Answer key

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| Q | Answer | Working |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **(d) Homo sapiens** | — |
| 2 | **(a) water reservoirs** | — |
| 3 | **(c) the Tigris and Euphrates** | — |
| 4 | **(a) modern humans and their early human-like ancestors** | — |
| 5 | **(c) Akkadian king who traded with Meluhha** | — |
| 6 | **(a) 734 years** | 2334 − 1600 = 734 |
| 7 | **(c) Mesolithic** | Palaeolithic → Mesolithic → Neolithic → Chalcolithic → Bronze Age → Iron Age |
| 8 | **(a) 1,023** | 1 + 2 + 4 + … = 1,023 |
| 9 | **Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age.** | — |
| 10 | **(a) fossils of Homo habilis (b) a dockyard** | — |
| 11 | **(a) the Huang He (b) the Nile** | — |
| 12 | **(a) a structure over a pharaoh's tomb (b) modern humans and their early human-like ancestors** | — |
| 13 | **Cuneiform writing began, by about 600 years** | 3200 − 2600 |
| 14 | **180 minutes; 3,600 degrees** | 60 × 3; 360 × 10 |
| 15 | **(a) 1,825 days (b) 330 days** | 365 × 5; 30 × 11 |
| 16 | **(a) formalising the Brahmi script (b) finding the Rosetta Stone** | — |
| 17 | **Homo erectus left first, about 2 million years ago; early Homo sapiens left later, about 125,000 years ago, and spread across the world, including Australia and the Americas.** | — |
| 18 | **(a) a ploughed field (b) a Sumerian city (c) the earliest farming village** | — |
| 19 | **(a) Hammurabi rose to power; the Shang dynasty began; the Zhou dynasty began (b) about 746 years (c) BCE years count backwards from year 1, so bigger numbers are earlier.** | — |

| Q | Answer | Working |
|---|---|---|
| 20 | **Chinese: along the Huang He; Mesopotamian: along the Tigris and Euphrates. Achievements from the chapter (e.g. planned towns, cuneiform, pyramids, silk weaving).** | — |