Advanced Archaeological Principles

Archaeology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which law of stratigraphy states that in an undisturbed sequence of layers, the oldest strata will be at the bottom?

A) Law of Superposition
B) Law of Association
C) Law of Uniformitarianism
D) Law of Cross-cutting Relationships

2. What is the primary physical process involved in thermoluminescence dating?

A) Decay of Carbon-14 isotopes
B) Accumulation of trapped electrons due to background radiation
C) Measurement of annual growth rings in wood
D) Analysis of oxygen isotope ratios in ice cores

3. Which term describes the non-artifactual organic and environmental remains, such as bones or pollen, found at an archaeological site?

A) Feature
B) Ecofact
C) Matrix
D) Provenience

4. What is the 'taphonomy' of an archaeological site primarily concerned with?

A) The mapping of absolute coordinates
B) The cultural meaning of burial rituals
C) The processes affecting remains from death to discovery
D) The chemical composition of ceramic glazes

5. Which archaeological technique uses high-frequency radar pulses to map subsurface features without excavation?

A) LiDAR
B) Ground Penetrating Radar
C) Magnetometry
D) Electrical Resistivity

6. In dendrochronology, what is the 'master sequence' used for?

A) Identifying the chemical source of metal alloys
B) Calibrating radiocarbon dates
C) Cross-dating wood samples from different contexts
D) Measuring the weathering rate of stone monuments

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7. What does the 'Law of Association' dictate in archaeological interpretation?

A) The chronological order of sequential strata

B) That artifacts found in the same stratigraphic layer were deposited at roughly the same time

C) The distance between the excavation site and the nearest water source

D) The biological relationship between human skeletal remains found together

8. Which form of remote sensing is most effective at revealing archaeological sites hidden beneath dense forest canopies?

A) Satellite multispectral imaging

B) LiDAR

C) Aerial photography in visible light

D) Thermal infrared scanning

9. What is the primary function of a 'Munsell Soil Color Chart' in an excavation?

A) Identifying the mineral content of stone tools

B) Standardizing the description of soil profiles

C) Measuring the pH levels of a site

D) Calculating the depth of the water table

10. In ceramic analysis, what does the term 'temper' refer to?

A) The firing temperature of the kiln

B) The artistic style of the painted decoration

C) Materials added to clay to prevent shrinkage and cracking

D) The chemical residue inside a vessel

11. What is the main limitation of radiocarbon dating?

A) It only works on inorganic materials like metal

B) It is limited to organic materials younger than approximately 50,000 years

C) It cannot be used on samples from the Northern Hemisphere

D) It requires a complete skeletal record to be accurate

12. What does a 'site feature' differ from an 'artifact' in an archaeological context?

A) Features are movable objects, while artifacts are stationary

B) Features are non-portable elements such as pits or walls, whereas artifacts are portable objects

C) Features are naturally occurring, while artifacts are strictly human-made

D) There is no difference; the terms are synonymous

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