SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2008

Subject ARCHAEOLOGY

Title of Paper AR2032 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PREHISTORY FROM THE MESOLITHIC TO THE BRONZE AGE

Time Allowed TWO HOURS

Instructions to candidates

Candidates should answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B. Illustrate your answers with case studies where appropriate.

SECTION A

1. Describe the treatment and deposition of red deer, or parts of these animals, at several Mesolithic sites in Britain and Scandinavia. What does this tell us about Mesolithic society?

2. How did settlement patterns change in southern Britain during the middle Bronze Age?

3. In what ways have Palaeolithic archaeologists explained lithic assemblage variability in the Middle Palaeolithic? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the various explanatory models?

4. Compare and contrast the origins and characteristics of agriculture in the tropics (Melanesia and southeast Asia) with the origins and characteristics of agriculture in southwest Asia and Europe.

SECTION B

5. How do the Neolithic longhouse sites found in southern Britain differ from LBK longhouse sites? Discuss whether people are physically staying put at these locations from year to year, or whether some degree of mobility can still be argued for these people’s lives.

6. The early Bronze Age of Britain is characterised by the appearance of single inhumations under round barrows. Using examples, critically discuss what these burials can tell us about the people who lived in and around the landscapes where barrows were built.
7. Discuss changes in hominin settlement AND landscape use across the Lower-Middle Palaeolithic transition in Europe, and their possible significance for developments in hominin cognitive capacities.

8. What criteria have archaeologists used to identify different modes or degrees of group mobility in prehistory? Give examples of these using case studies.