



**FOCUS:** Recognizing correct and incorrect answer choices for purpose, method, and opinion questions.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Then mark the statements about the passage True or False by clicking on your choice.

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### Archaeology and Patterns of Time and Space



## Reading &gt; Lesson 4: Purpose/Method/Opinion Questions &gt; Exercise 4.1

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Then mark the statements about the passage True or False by clicking on your choice.

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Organizing data into meaningful temporal and spatial patterns is vital to archaeology because the field's major strength is its access to tremendous quantities of time and space. Although many anthropologists study the evolution and change in culture, they are restricted to short-term study if they deal exclusively with **ethnographic** evidence. And even if they include oral history or historical documents, anthropologists cannot go back in time more than a century or two. Archaeology, on the other hand, can address the entire complex history of humanity.

Archaeologists also deal with worlds of "space." Many anthropologists study entire societies for years on end, but none can realistically employ the tools of ethnography to study an entire region, such as the American Southwest, to say nothing of continents or hemispheres. So "what" archaeology loses in detail it makes up for by recording "what" the ethnologist cannot: patterns of human behavior as they were manifested over vast reaches of space, far beyond the confines of a single community.

The goal of archaeology is to reconstruct and explain the past. "what" did people do, and why did they do it? But to reach this goal, we must first gain a firm grasp on artifact patterning in time and space. You must know the "when" and the "where" in broader terms before contemplating the "how" the "who" the "what", and especially the *why*. Defining a spatial and temporal framework requires that archaeologists date the physical remains, classify archaeological objects into useful categories, and explore their distribution across time and space.



## Reading &gt; Lesson 4: Purpose/Method/Opinion Questions &gt; Exercise 4.1

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- 1 In paragraph 1, the author supports the main idea by explaining why temporal and spatial patterns are necessary to the study of archaeology.

- ☐ True  
☐ False

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- 2 In paragraph 2, the author compares anthropology to archaeology to illustrate the geographical breadth of archaeological studies.

- ☐ True  
☐ False

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- 3 The author believes that the American Southwest is too large for archaeologists to study realistically.

- ☐ True  
☐ False

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- 4 The author restates the goal of archaeology by posing the question: "What did people do, and why did they do it?"

☐ True  
☐ False

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- 5 In the author's opinion, archaeology is superior to other disciplines because archaeologists use a vast amount of data.

☐ True  
☐ False

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