

# Archaeology - Sample Admissions Assessment

The Archaeology Admissions Assessment requires you to analyse and reflect on one or more images and to answer four related questions.

You have **60 minutes** to complete the assessment; an additional 30 minutes is provided to allow you to download the assessment paper and upload your completed response. If you have been granted extra time to complete the assessment, then please refer to the timing provided to you by the College assessing your application.

Answers should be typed, and the use of word-processing apps is permitted.

The assessment does not presume that you have encountered this material before; it is simply a self-contained exercise in analysis, and the ability to deploy arguments effectively, and write clearly – all skills which archaeologists will need to use continuously throughout their undergraduate studies. You may use additional resources, but you should remember that time spent looking for them will mean less time for planning and writing your answer. Aim to write about 200 words for each answer.

In your answers, we will be looking for evidence that you have:

- the ability to think analytically
- the ability to produce a coherent argument
- the ability to select and use evidence appropriately
- the ability to address the question directly and clearly
- precision, clarity and facility of writing under time pressure

Not all answers will demonstrate these qualities equally but the best answers will show signs of all, or nearly all, of them.

It is essential that you include your name and UCAS Personal ID number at the top of any document uploaded and please save your answer as a PDF with the file name:  
UCAS number\_College\_Surname\_First Name

The answer you provide must be your own. Papers may be checked using anti-plagiarism software, and you should not discuss your answers or the paper with anyone else.

If you experience any difficulty during the assessment, either technical or personal, you should report this as soon as possible via [assessment@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:assessment@admin.cam.ac.uk) for taking into proper consideration.

**A painting of Neanderthals from 1920**



*Le Moustier Neanderthals* (Charles R. Knight, 1920) (Public domain)

1. Describe what you can see of the lives of Neanderthals in the picture.
2. What archaeological evidence could be used to support this reconstruction?
3. What aspects of the representation would be invisible in the archaeological remains?
4. This picture was painted in 1920. Why might we view Neanderthals differently today than in 1920?