BHIC 102: SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course code: BHIC-102
Assignment Code: BHIC-102/ASST/TMA/2026-2027
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment – I

Answer the following questions in about 500 words each.

1)	Describe the sources and methods of archaeological research.	20
2)	Analyze the various theories of evolution.	20

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3)	Examine the impact of agriculture on the social structure of early forming community.	10
4)	Discuss the emergence and spread of iron and implication.	10
5)	Write a note on early Greek civilization.	10

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6)	The various components of administration in ancient Egypt.	6
7)	Ecological Hypothesis.	6
8)	Legacy of the Shang culture.	6
9)	The Sasanid empire.	6
10)	Nomadic Art.	6

1) Describe the sources and methods of archaeological research. 20

Answer

Archaeology studies the human past through material remains. Its special importance lies in recovering information about societies that left no written records, as well as testing and supplementing historical texts. Archaeologists study objects in relation to their location, age and associations; a pot or tool becomes much more informative when its archaeological context is known. The sources and methods of archaeology therefore work together.

Main archaeological sources

Artifacts and tools. Artifacts are objects made or modified by people. Stone handaxes, blades, copper implements, pottery, beads, ornaments and weapons reveal technology, skills, exchange and everyday life. Changes in pottery shapes or tool-making techniques can help establish a relative sequence of occupation. The presence of imported materials, such as obsidian from distant sources, may suggest trade or movement, although its precise route requires further investigation.

Buildings and settlements. Houses, storage pits, hearths, fortifications, temples, roads and drainage structures reveal patterns of settlement, craft activity and political organisation. Their size, construction and position may indicate different functions or access to resources. A cluster of houses does not automatically establish a rigid class hierarchy; the interpretation must be supported by other finds.

Ecofacts and environmental remains. Seeds, charcoal, pollen, wood, animal bones, shells and soil samples help reconstruct diet, cultivation, animal husbandry, local vegetation and climatic conditions. Flotation can recover small charred seeds that are otherwise easily overlooked. Animal bones may reveal species, age at slaughter and patterns of food consumption, whereas plant remains can distinguish cultivated crops from wild resources when properly analysed.

Human remains and burials. Skeletons provide evidence about age, disease, injuries, nutrition and sometimes mobility. Burial goods, grave orientation and cemetery arrangement may illuminate beliefs and social distinctions. Such evidence must be interpreted carefully because funeral practices do not simply reproduce the whole social order. Ancient DNA and isotope analysis can answer