

# 3

## Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues





PROSE

—A.R. Williams



*Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues* is written by A.R. Williams. The chapter gives us a deep insight regarding the last heir of the great Pharaoh Dynasty. The chapter deals with all the possible mysteries regarding the life and death of the youngest ruler of ancient Egypt, Tutankhamun, also known as King Tut. His tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter, a famous archaeologist.

### Topic Notes

-  Characters in Brief
-  Chapter in Detail
-  Significant Morals
-  Dictionary





## Characters in Brief

**Tutankhaten**– (widely known as King Tut) – He was just a teenager when he became a ruler. He later changed his name to Tutankhamun; reigned for about nine years, and died unexpectedly. The speculation about his death gave rise to exploration to find the truth. His mummy became the first one to be examined using a CT scan.

**Howard Carter**– He is the British archaeologist who discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922. This discovery was sensational, as it was successful after years of futile searching. He was not able to separate the body from the other belongings buried along with the King's body. He justified his action of chiseling away the consolidated material from the body to raise the king's remains.

**Amenhotep III**– (King Tut's grandfather) – He was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for almost four decades.

**Amenhotep IV**– (Successor of Amenhotep III) – He promoted the worship of Aten and changed his name to Akhenaten. He also moved the religious capital to the new city of Akhetaten. He attacked Amun, a major God and smashed his images and closed his temples.

**Zahi Hawass**– Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. He was one of the members of the team of researchers, and very particular about getting the details right. It is also known that he was extremely focused on his project as he exclaimed that he was not able to sleep, thinking of the seriousness of the extraction, and reconstruction.



## Chapter in Detail

### The Unexpected Death of King Tut

King Tut was a teen at the time of his demise. He was the last descendant of a wealthy family that had long dominated Egypt and its kingdom. Over time, he was buried and forgotten over the years. The modern world has pondered the events surrounding his sad demise ever since the discovery of his grave in 1922. His body has undergone a CT scan to determine the cause of his tragic demise after over 80 years.

### The Mummy of King Tut

The most famous mummy in the world was removed from its burial tomb on January 5, 2005, at six o'clock in the evening. An unusual wind was blowing and the stars were obscured by dark clouds. The medical mysteries surrounding the premature demise of this young king, who passed away more than 3300 years ago, were being investigated via a CT scan. In the Valley of the Kings, an old cemetery, his grave is buried 26 feet deep. Visitors came to the grave from all around the world to pay their respects. They looked at his gilded face as well as the murals on the burial chamber's walls. Some people questioned whether the pharaoh's curse, which causes bad luck to descend upon those who disturb him, really existed.

**Example 1.** Explain the statement, "King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned – in death, as in life...". [NCERT]

**Ans.** King Tut's mummy was the first mummy to be X-rayed by an anatomy professor in 1968, and, later, in 2005, the first to be scanned through Computed Tomography (CT). The CT scan images produced life-like pictures of the king revealing his grey head, neck vertebrae, his hand, several images of his rib cage, and a

transection of his skull. Thus, in death as well as in life, he moved ahead of his people.



### Character's Mood

↪ *Curious; thoughtful*

### Example 2. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has speculated about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility. Now, leaving his tomb for the first time in almost 80 years, Tut has undergone a CT scan that offers new clues about his life and death — and provides precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of the boyish pharaoh.*

- (A) Why was a CT Scan performed on Tut's mummy?
- To know about his life and death.
  - To know about his age at the time of his death.
  - To know about his internal structure.
  - Both (a) and (b)
- (B) Why was king Tut laden with gold adornments?
- He can take the fortune in his afterlife.
  - People were superstitious in nature.
  - He was the pharaoh of Egypt.
  - As a sign of respect.

- (C) Why was King Tut's demise considered a shocking one?
- (a) He died at a young age.
  - (b) No one could rule Egypt after him.
  - (c) He was possibly murdered.
  - (d) He restored the old ways.

(D) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.  
In the above extract, the word 'pharaoh' means .....

(E) What was the cemetery of Tut called?

**Ans. (A)** (d) Both (a) and (b)

**Explanation:** King Tut was one of the first mummies to undergo a CT scan. It was done to know the answer of the two most important question-how did he die? and how old was he at the time of his death? Hence, (d) is correct.

(B) (a) He can take the fortune in his afterlife.

**Explanation:** One can form an opinion that the Egyptians in King Tut's time had a belief that they could take their fortune with them in their afterlife. Hence, (a) is correct.

(C) (a) He died at a young age.

**Explanation:** King Tut's demise was shocking because he died at a very young age. No one knew the reason behind his death. The entire world speculated that King Tut was murdered. Hence, (a) is correct.

(D) Emperors of Egypt were known as Pharaoh.

(E) The Egyptian cemetery of king Tut was known as the "Valley of the Kings". It was also known as the "Place of Truth" as it was believed that the Pharaohs' spirits would rest in the tombs and be judged by the gods in the afterlife.

## Howard Carter and his Findings

After years of fruitless searching, British archaeologist Howard Carter found King Tut's tomb in 1922. It still has the richest contents.

There were gold objects that were sensational back then and are still in the news today. King Tut was buried with items that would be useful to him in the afterlife, such as board games, a bronze razor, linen clothing and cases of food and wine. The Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt's Secretary General, Zahi Hawass, revealed that the mummy's poor condition was due to what Howard had done to it. King Tut's body was discovered by Howard in three nested coffins. He discovered a shroud in the first casket that was adorned with garlands made of

wild celery, lotus petals, willow and olive leaves, and cornflowers, which indicated that the burial had taken place in March or April. He had a problem when he got to the third coffin. The ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut King Tut's mummy was taken for a CT scan on 5 January, 2005 to find out whether murder or natural causes killed him 3,000 years ago to the bottom of the solid gold coffin.

**Example 3.** Why was Tut's body buried along with glided treasures? [NCERT]

**Ans.** In King Tut's time, the royals were very rich and they believed that they could take their fortune with them in their afterlife. Hence, king Tut was buried with all his expensive belongings. Their eternal brilliance was meant to guarantee resurrection.



### Character's Mood

↳ Troubled

## Howard Carter had to Chisel Out King Tut's Mummy

Carter tried to loosen the resins by keeping the mummy outside in blazing sunshine that heated it to 149 degrees Fahrenheit but no change took place. He reported that the mummy had to be cut with a chisel from beneath the limbs and trunk to free the King's remains. The royals in Tut's time believed that after death, they could take their fortune along with them. Hence, King Tut was buried with all his expensive belongings like precious collars, inlaid necklaces, bracelets, rings, amulets, sandals, sheaths for fingers and toes and a mask. To separate the mummy from the ornaments, Carter's men removed the mummy's head and cut off nearly every major joint. After finishing, they reassembled the remains on a layer of sand in a wooden box with padding to conceal the damage. Carter believed that if he hadn't cut the mummy, thieves would have removed the gold from the tomb and would have looted it.



### Character's Mood

↳ Discovering, explanatory

**Example 4.** Why has King Tut's body been subjected to repeated scrutiny? [NCERT]

**Ans.** King Tut was the last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries. He was buried with gold and riches. There was a wide speculation about the cause of his untimely death with murder being the most extreme possibility. Therefore, King Tut's body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny.

**Example 5. Why Carter had to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king's remains?**

[NCERT]

**Ans.** Carter found that the ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut's body to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. No force could move the body away and keeping the body in the blazing sunlight also did not help. So, he had to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king's remains.

### King Tut's Mummy X-rayed

Over the past two decades, archaeology has evolved, shifting its emphasis from treasures to the interesting details of life and death. It now employs more advanced tools. An anatomy expert X-rayed King Tut's mummy in 1968, more than 40 years after Howard Carter's discovery, and found that his front ribs and breast bone were gone. Even by royal standards, King Tut's demise was a significant occasion. His funeral marked the end of a royal dynasty because he was the last king of his line. The details of his death and its consequences are still unclear, though.

### King Tut and his Ancestors

King Tut's father or grandfather, Amenhotep III, was a powerful ruler in ancient Egypt, who ruled for almost four decades. His son, Amenhotep IV, succeeded him and began the strangest period in the history of Egypt. He promoted the worship of Aten, the sun disk, and changed his name to Akhenaten. He also moved the religious capital from Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, now known as Amarna. He further shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major god, by breaking his images and closing his temples.

The demise of the family that had reigned for centuries must have been dreadful for the empire, according to Ray Johnson, the director of the University of Chicago's research centre in Luxor. After Akhenaten's demise, a mysterious king named Smenkhkare ruled for a brief time before disappearing without a trace. The young kid immediately adopted the name Tutankhamun, which means "living image of Amun." He oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He ruled for nine years and died unexpectedly.

**Example 6. Why did the boy king change his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun? [NCERT]**

**Ans.** The boy king changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun which means 'living images of Amun'. Amun was a major god in ancient Egypt. He destroyed the ancient religious order of the Egyptians. Tut's changing of his name represents his efforts in the restoration of the old ways that were once destroyed.

**Example 7. Why did Ray Johnson describe Akhenaten as 'wacky'?**

[NCERT, Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** King Amenhotep IV changed his name to Akhenaten which means 'servant of the Aten'. He moved the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, now known as Amarna. He further shocked the country by attacking a major god, Amun. He smashed his images and closed his temples. All these deeds of Akhenaten led Ray Johnson to describe him as 'wacky'.

### King Tut's Mummy and its CT Scan

King Tut was one of the mummies in Egypt. The total number of mummies in Egypt was unknown. The Egyptian Mummy Project had recorded almost 600 so far and is still counting. King Tut's mummy was the first one to be CT scanned with a portable CT machine donated by the National Geographic Society.

### The Night of the Scan

Workers climbed the ramp and the flight of stairs during the night of the scan to free the body from the tomb. They raised it using a hydraulic lift into the scanner trailer. The sand had entered a cooler fan, thus at first the scanner was not operating properly. Finally, the substitute fans performed wonderfully, and the procedure was completed. Then, the technicians returned the body to the pallbearers who carried Tut's mummy back to the tomb.

On a computer screen in the trailer, a technician displayed astounding photographs of Tut. He displayed a transection of the skull, his grey head, a hand, several pictures of the rib cage, and the neck vertebrae. Zahi Hawass felt relieved that nothing went wrong. The wind had stopped by the time the technicians left the trailer, and the winter air lay cold and motionless. Just above the king's tomb, they saw the orion constellation that the ancient Egyptians knew as the soul of Osiris, the god of the afterlife watching over the boy king.

**Example 8. What were the results of the CT scan?**

[NCERT, Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** The CT machine scanned Tut's mummy from head to toe, and created 1,700 digital X-ray images in cross section. Tut's head was scanned in 0.62 millimetre slices so that its complicated structure could be studied. A grey head appeared on the screen. Neck vertebrae was also seen clearly. Other images revealed a hand, several views of the rib cage and a transection of the skull. The CT scan revealed that there was nothing natural in his death.



## Significant Morals

- (1) History teaches us harsh lessons while also providing us with opportunities to develop.
- (2) One of the messages in the story is the importance of preserving historical artefacts and cultural heritage for future generations. It teaches the responsibility to protect our history.
- (3) Greed driven by desire for fame and wealth can exploit historical discoveries and artefacts. The treasures must be protected.
- (4) The story teaches us that collaboration and curiosity are vital in the pursuit of truth.



## Dictionary

word	meaning	synonym	antonym
<i>Saga</i>	long story of a series of happenings	epic	a short story
<i>Antiquities</i>	very old objects	relic	new
<i>Resurrection</i>	rebirth	revival	extinction
<i>Heir</i>	A legal successor	Inheritor	Predecessor
<i>Pharaoh</i>	Egyptian king	Emperor	Slave
<i>Cemetery</i>	Place where dead bodies are kept	Graveyard	Creation
Murals	Paintings on the walls	Art	
Artefacts	Objects of art made by hands	Heirloom	Nothingness
Shroud	Cover of the dead body	Burial clothes	Exposed
Adornments	Items used for decorations	Ornaments	Spot
Dynasty	Family line	Lineage	downfall

## OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[ 1 mark ]

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the cemetery of Tut called?

- (a) The Valley of the Kings
- (b) The Resting Place of Tut
- (c) A Race Valley
- (d) The Valley of Peace

**Ans.** (a) *The Valley of the Kings*

**Explanation:** The cemetery of King Tut is called the Valley of the Kings. It is the resting place of King Tutankhamun of Egypt and consists of four chambers, an entrance, a corridor, and a staircase. Hence, (a) is correct.

2. What facts were revealed when the mummy was X-rayed in 1968?

- (a) His several possessions were missing.
- (b) His breast-bone and front ribs were missing.
- (c) His skull was missing.
- (d) His feet bone was missing.

**Ans.** (b) *His breast - bone and front ribs were missing.*

**Explanation:** In 1968, more than 40 years after Carter's discovery, an anatomy professor X-rayed King Tut's mummy and revealed a startling fact: beneath the resin that caked his chest, his breast-bone and front ribs are missing. Hence, (b) is correct.

3. A medical examination of the body of a dead person in order to find out how a person died is known as:

- (a) MRI
- (b) CT scan
- (c) Post-mortem
- (d) ECG

**Ans.** (c) *Post-mortem*

**Explanation:** A post mortem examination is a medical examination carried out on the body after death. It is also called an autopsy. On the other hand, the MRI scan is done to investigate conditions that affect soft tissues. A CT scan is used to diagnose a disease or an injury, and

an ECG is often done to diagnose conditions affecting the heart. Hence, (c) is correct.

4. What did Carter and his men do after cutting down the body?

- (a) They sent it for CT-scan.
- (b) They examined them carefully.
- (c) They placed it on a layer of sand in a wooden box.
- (d) They checked the mummy.

**Ans.** (c) They placed it on a layer of sand in a wooden box.

**Explanation:** Carter's men removed the mummy's head and cut off every joint to separate Tut from his adornments. Then, they reassembled the remains on a layer of sand in a wooden box and filled it with padding to hide the damage caused by chiselling. Hence, (c) is correct.

5. Tut's adornments consisted of:

- (a) precious collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets.
- (b) knife, sword, arrow and bow.
- (c) bible, photographs and writing equipments.
- (d) egyptian gold coins.

**Ans.** (a) precious collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets.

**Explanation:** For his journey to the great beyond, King Tut was lavished with glittering goods like: precious collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths for his fingers and toes, and the now iconic inner coffin and mask — all of pure gold. Hence, (a) is correct.

6. What was in the first coffin?

- (a) Garlands of olives, lotus petals, and cornflowers.
- (b) Flowers and coins.
- (c) Gold, wealth, bronze razor, games, clothes, cases of food and wine.
- (d) It was empty. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** (a) Garlands of olives, lotus petals, and cornflowers.

**Explanation:** When Howard Carter opened the first coffin, he found a shroud adorned with garlands of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals, and cornflowers. Hence, (a) is correct.

7. How has archaeology changed through the decades?

- (a) Focuses more on a treasure.
- (b) Focuses more on physical findings.
- (c) Focuses on time factors more.

(d) Focuses more on the mysteries of death.

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** (d) Focuses more on the mysteries of death.

**Explanation:** It is clear from the story that Archaeology has changed substantially in the intervening decades, focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and intriguing mysteries of death. It also uses more sophisticated tools, including medical technology. Hence, (d) is correct.

8. Who is Osiris?

- (a) God of nature
- (b) God of afterlife
- (c) God of seasons
- (d) God of universe

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** (b) God of afterlife

**Explanation:** By the time the workmen left the trailer, the wind had stopped and the winter air was like death itself. Just above the tomb the Orion constellation that the ancient Egyptians knew as the soul of Osiris, the god of afterlife shone in the night sky, watching over the boy king. Hence, (b) is correct.

## Extract Based Questions

9. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*They remain the richest royal collection ever found, and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery, and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.*

(A) The line, "They remain the richest royal collection ever found" can be best classified as:

- (a) a fact
- (b) an opinion
- (c) a theme
- (d) a plot point

(B) Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:

Statement (I): The stunning findings in the Valley of the King attracted a lot of tourists.

Statement (II): Tourists have damaged much of the Tomb where King Tut was laid.

- (a) Statement (I) is true but Statement (II) is false.
- (b) Statement (I) is false but statement (II) is true.
- (c) Both Statements (I) and (II) cannot be inferred.

(d) Both Statement (I) and (II) can be inferred.

(C) How can one assert that Tut's burial took place in March or April?

Ans. (A) (a) a fact

**Explanation:** The line can be classified as a fact. It is not an opinion because it doesn't express any feeling, attitude or a belief. Hence, (a) is correct.

(B) (a) Statement (I) is true, but Statement (II) is false

**Explanation:** As mentioned in the story, tourists from around the world descended into the rock - cut tomb of King Tut to pay their respects. However, it is nowhere written that the tourists have caused damage to the tomb. Hence, (a) is correct.

(C) Tut's burial took place in March or April. This can be said because of the presence of garlands of willows and olive leaves, lotus petals, wild celery and cornflowers in the first nested coffin.

**10. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

*When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble. The ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. "No amount of legitimate force could move them," Carter wrote later. "What was to be done?" The sun can beat down like a hammer this far south in Egypt, and Carter tried to use it to loosen the resins. For several hours, he set the mummy outside in blazing sunshine that heated it to 149 degrees Fahrenheit. Nothing budged.*

(A) What kind of trouble was faced by Carter?

(a) Tut's mummy was missing.

(b) Huge rush was there beside the body of Tut.

(c) Tut's body had stuck to the bottom of the coffin.

(d) He was applying force in the wrong direction.

(B) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

The synonym of the word 'Budged' is .....

(C) Howard Carter worked for several hours to melt the resins.

What opinion can be formed about Carter after reading this line?

Ans. (A) (c) Tut's body had stuck to the bottom of the coffin.

**Explanation:** Three nested coffins were found by Carter. In the first, he found a shroud adorned with garlands of olive leaves and flowers, but when he reached the mummy, he got into a trouble. He found that the ritual resins had become quite stiff. It cemented Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. Hence, (c) is correct.

(C) shift

**Explanation:** Budged means to move or to cause something to move. So, the synonym is 'shift'.

(C) One can form an opinion that Howard displayed optimism as he had high hopes for the future. He was also dedicated as he had discovered King Tut's tomb after years of continuous searching.

## SHORT ANSWER Type Questions (SA)

[ 2 marks ]

Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words:

**11. Discuss the reaction of the tourists in the burial chamber of King Tut. [Diksha]**

Ans. Tourists from around the world came to see the narrowed rock - cut tomb of King Tut. They intently looked at the murals and peered at Tut's gilded face. Some visitors read the guide books while some stood silently thinking about the Pharaoh's curse and the misfortune.

**12. What was the condition of the contents of King Tut's mummy?**

Ans. For more than 80 years after the discovery of Tut's tomb in 1922, shockingly, all its contents

were intact. They are still the most valuable royal collection ever found and have now become a part of the pharaoh's legend.

**13. Why didn't Howard Carter leave King Tut's body in the tomb?**

Ans. Howard could not leave Tut's body in his tomb because he was afraid that thieves might get enticed to break in and steal the priceless adornments buried in King Tut's tomb.

**14. What is the weather like at the beginning and end of the story? What does it convey?**

Ans. In the beginning, a fast and unnatural wind blows as King Tut is taken from his grave.

Towards the end of the story, the weather was serene and peaceful. This is to convey the readers that when the archaeologists went to get the body of King Tut, ghostly devils appeared to afflict the humans.

**15. How did Carter's men remove the gold from the mummy?** [Delhi Gov. SQP 2022]

**Ans.** Carter's men cut off almost all of the mummy's major joints and separated the mummy's skull in order to remove Tut's gold decorations. Next, they reassembled the remain on a layer of sand with soft padding to hide the damage.

**16. Why is 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 important in Tutankhamun's saga?**

**Ans.** On 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2005, Tutankhamun's mummy was removed from the tomb and taken to a CT scanner to examine the lingering mysteries of Tutankhamun, who died 3,300 years ago.

**17. How did the visitors pay their respects to King Tut?**

**Ans.** The visitors looked at the murals on the walls of the burial chamber and gazed at Tut's gilded face on his mummy-shaped outer coffin lid. Some visitors read from the guidebooks in a whisper, and some stood silently pondering the king's untimely death.

**18. What do you know about Osiris?** [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** Osiris is the god of fertility, agriculture, the afterlife, the dead, life and vegetation in ancient Egyptian religion.

**19. What were the adornments on Tut's body?**

**Ans.** King Tut was lavished with glittering goods, precious collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths for his fingers and toes and the now iconic inner coffin and mask. All of these were made of pure gold.

**20. When was King Tut buried?** [Mod. Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** When Howard Carter began investigating the three nested coffins, he found a shroud adorned with garlands of garland of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals and comflowers in the first coffin. It was a faded evidence that the burial took place in March

or April because these plants are available in Egypt during this time of the year.

**21. What attempts were made by Carter's men to free Tut from his adornments?**

**Ans.** To separate Tut from his adornments, Carter's men removed the mummy's head and severed nearly every joint. Once they had finished, they reassembled the remains on a layer of sand in a wooden box filling it with soft pads that hid the damage caused by cutting the body.

**22. What startling fact was revealed about Tut in 1968?** [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** In 1968, an anatomy professor X-rayed Tut's mummy. He revealed an astonishing fact that beneath the resins that layered his chest, his breast bone and front ribs were missing.

**23. How has archaeology changed substantially in the following decades?**

**Ans.** Archaeology has changed in the following decades as it focuses less on treasure and more on the exciting details of life and intriguing mysteries of death. It also uses more sophisticated tools, including medical technology.

**24. Why did the scanner stop working? How was it set right?**

**Ans.** The million dollar scanner had stopped working because of sand in a cooler fan. To solve this problem, two men ran to a nearby office and returned with a pair of white plastic fans. Eventually, the substitute fans worked well for the scanner to work properly.

**25. Who was Zahi Hawass? Why was he distressed?**

**Ans.** Zahi Hawass was the Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. He was worried because King Tut's mummy was already in poor condition, and he was scared of causing more damage to it when the first - ever CT scan of the mummy was scheduled.

**26. What did Amenhotep IV do when he became pharaoh?** [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** Amenhotep made his people worship the sun god, Aten. He smashed all the images of Amun, and closed his temples. He even changed his religious capital from Thebes to the new city of Akhenaten.



# LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[ 5 marks ]

Answer the following questions in about 120 - 150 words:

**27. Give a brief account of the exploration of Tut from 1922 to 2005.**

**Ans.** King Tutankhamun was the last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt for centuries. His death marked the end of a dynasty. The royals in his era were extremely rich and thought they could take their riches with them. Hence, Tut was buried with gold adornments. His tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, more than 3,000 years after his death. The royal collection and artefacts fascinated Carter. In 1968, more than 40 years after Carter's discovery, an anatomy professor, X-rayed the mummy. He revealed an astonishing fact that Tut's breast-bone and the front ribs were missing. On 5th January, 2005, a CT scan was done to obtain data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of King Tut. It was hoped that it would reveal new clues about his life and death. Thus, Tut's mummy has been the centre of attraction throughout the previous decades.

**28. What information is known about King Tut's dynasty? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]**

**Ans.** Amenhotep III was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for almost four decades at the height of the eighteenth dynasty's golden age. He was succeeded by his son, Amenhotep IV, who promoted the worship of the Aten, the sun disc. He changed his name to Akhenaten, or 'Servant of Aten'. He moved the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, now known as Amarna. He also attacked Amun, a major God, smashed his images, and closed his temples. Ray Johnson, The director of the University of Chicago's research centre in Luxor, called him 'wacky'. After Akhenaten's death a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare ruled briefly and left without any sign. Then, a very young Tutankhaten, took over the throne. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, meaning 'living image of Amun'. He restored the old ways. He ruled for about nine years and died mysteriously. The mystery of his death is still not resolved.

**29. Build an imaginary conversation between Howard Carter and Zahi Hawass as they meet years after Carter's discovery of King Tut's body.**

**Ans.** Howard Carter: Zahi, I'm overjoyed to see you! I can't believe it's been years since Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered.

Zahi Hawass: Your discovery gave attention to Tut's antique riches.

Carter: But, there's still so much we don't know about Tut and the cause of his unexpected death.

Zahi: I agree with you.

Carter: Have you come across anything that may shed more light on his death?

Zahi: Yes! Recent digs and cutting - edge technology will help us determine whether murder or natural causes killed Tut 3,000 years ago.

Carter: Hmm... What is your plan?

Zahi: I've assembled a team of experts in radiology and anatomy who will soon begin studying the secrets buried in Tut's grave. For this, a scanner will be taken in a trailer to the sandy area near Tut's tomb. The CT machine will scan the mummy from head to toe. We are expecting remarkable results that will solve the mystery.

Carter: This is great news! I can't wait to hear from you soon!

**30. The story 'Discovering Tut' allows us a peep into the past or history. Comment.**

**Ans.** The chapter offers the reader a glimpse into the past. It provides insights into the discovery of the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun. The narrative takes us back to the early 20th century, when Carter and his men discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922 after years of futile searching. Through Carter's examination of the three nested coffins, the readers are able to picture the grandeur of ancient Egyptian society.

The story also gives insight about the beliefs of people during that time. During King Tut's era, the royals were fabulously wealthy. They thought that they could take their riches with them for their afterlife. Thus, King Tut was lavished with glittering goods like precious collars, rings, amulets, etc.

The story further highlights the widespread superstition during that era. The superstition of the pharaoh's curse - death misfortune falling upon those who disturbed him had prevailed about Tutankhamun.

**31. Why did King Tut's mummy have to undergo a CT scan? How was it executed?**

**Ans.** There was great controversy regarding the manner of King Tut's death and his age at the time of his death. In 1968, more than 40 years after Carter's discovery, an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy. He revealed the astonishing fact that Tut's breastbone and the front ribs were missing. On January 5, 2005, a CT scan was done to obtain data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of King Tut. It was hoped that it would reveal new clues about his life and death. The CT scan displayed the mummy from head to toe, creating 1,700 digital X-ray images in cross-section.

On the night of the scan, workmen carried King Tut's body from the tomb in his box. Like pallbearers, they climbed a ramp and a flight of stairs into the churning sand outside. Then they entered the trailer housing the scanner via a hydraulic lift and the procedure began.

**32. A.R. William says, 'Tut is in death, as in life moving regally ahead of his countrymen.' Explain the statement. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]**

**Ans.** The young king, Tutankhamun, ruled for about nine years. Although he died mysteriously in his teens, he introduced certain changes during his brief rule. They were significant as they marked the restoration of the old ways of worshipping Amun. The mystery of his death, as well as his age at the time of his death, kept everyone's curiosity alive. After his death, his dead body has been the centre of scientific examination. King Tut's mummy was the first to undergo a CT scan which would perform a diagnostic imaging in order to arrive at the cause of his death. Thus, this assertion is true, as no other Pharaoh of Egypt has captured public attention as greatly as the boyish king Tutankhamun.

**33. Elaborate upon the theme of Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues.**

**Ans.** The theme of the story revolves around the materialistic mindset of human beings. For instance, during King Tut's era in ancient Egypt, the royals believed that they could take their riches with them in their afterlife. After King Tut's death, his body was buried along with his treasures. His body was laid on a bed of gold and lavished with precious necklaces, collars, bracelets, rings, etc. The entire coffin was made of gold.

Another central theme is the exploration of the human desire for discovery and the lengths

people can go to uncover hidden knowledge. Howard Carter is depicted as a determined and driven archaeologist who spends years searching for Tutankhamun's tomb. His relentless pursuit of this knowledge reflects the human thirst for understanding the past, uncovering secrets, and making significant historical discoveries.

**34. How has the perspective of archaeologists changed over time?**

[Mod. Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** Archaeology has changed substantially over the years. It now focuses less on treasure and more on the interesting details of life and the mysteries of death. It has also started using more sophisticated tools, including medical technology. In 1968, more than 40 years after Carter's discovery, a professor of anatomy X-rayed the mummy and disclosed an astonishing fact that beneath the resins where lay King Tut's chest, his breast-bone and front ribs were missing. Today, diagnostic imaging can be done with Computed Tomography, or CT, in which hundreds of X-rays in cross-section are put together like slices of bread to create a three-dimensional virtual body. It can even answer questions such as how a person died and what was his age at the time of his death.

**35. What was the atmosphere before and after the CT scan of King Tut's mummy?**

**Ans.** A strange and unnatural wind was blowing as King Tut's body was taken from his resting place called 'Valley of the Kings', an ancient Egyptian cemetery. Dark clouds were also moving quickly across the desert all day long, and later, they covered the stars. These winds also made the people wonder if the curse of the pharaoh, which leads to the descent of misfortune upon the person who disturbs him, was true. When the CT scan of Tut's mummy was over and the king was taken back to his tomb, the strong winds that were previously blowing so fast suddenly stopped. The winter air was like death itself. Just above the tomb, the Orion constellation shone in the night sky, watching over the boy king.

**36. What do we know about the materialistic attitude of a man after reading the story?**

**Ans.** In the story, the materialistic mindset of a man is explored through the character of Howard Carter, the renowned archaeologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. Materialistic attitude attaches no importance

to beliefs, religious sentiments and social rites and rituals. The story depicts Carter's relentless pursuit of finding treasure and his fascination with the riches of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs. Carter's materialistic attitude is seen in his unwavering dedication on uncovering the riches and artefacts within Tutankhamun's tomb. When Carter finally succeeded in discovering Tut's tomb, he found the richest royal collection—all made of solid gold in the tomb. Even the coffin was made of gold. In order to remove Tut from his coffin, Carter had to cut the body from its joints. So, man doesn't allow even the dead to sleep in peace.

**37. In Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues, what does "saga" mean?**

**Ans.** The term "saga" originally refers to the 12th and 13th century Icelandic prose narratives. The word first appeared in English during the 18th century. By the middle of the 19th century we were using saga in a lighter sense to refer to modern stories involving heroic deeds that resembled to the Icelandic tales. Today, the term can also refer to a long story that is either written or spoken.

**38. Who are the main characters in the story?**

**Ans.** King Tut or Tutankhaten: Very little is known about King Tut because he died very young, 3,300 years ago, under mysterious circumstances. No one knows what happened to him—whether he was murdered, or he died due to some other reasons. He is considered to be the last heir of his family line that had ruled Egypt for centuries and died unexpectedly. After the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world wondered about the cause of his untimely death.

Howard Carter: Howard Carter was a British archaeologist. He was searching for King Tut's tomb. He discovered it in 1922 after years of futile searching. He faced difficulty separating the mummy from the other belongings. His search caused great damage to the king's preserved body.

Amenhotep III: King Tut's grandfather, Amenhotep III, was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for almost four decades.

Amenhotep IV: He promoted the worship of Aten and changed his name to Akhenaten. He shocked the country by smashing the images of Amun, a major god and closing his temples.

**39. Imagine yourself as Howard Carter. You are fortunate to find King Tut's tomb intact. Write a diary entry in about 120 – 150 words describing what you saw in the burial chamber.**

**Ans.** November 7, 1922

7:00 p.m.

Dear Diary,

We began working early this morning. I set to work, removing the soil that had accumulated on the path of the grave. After years of hard work, I have finally found the tomb of King Tut! After an initial inspection, the tomb appeared to be fully intact. The burial chamber was small, rock-cut and 26 feet underground. There were murals on the walls, and the outer coffin lid depicted Tut's gilded face. There were three nested coffins. In the first coffin, I found a shroud adorned with garlands of willow and olive leaves. The innermost casket held King Tut's mummy, wearing gold collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets, sheaths for his fingers and toes of pure gold, and an exquisitely painted mask. It was quite a sight. I also found articles of everyday use like board games, a bronze razor and cases of food and wine. The year 1922 has become significant in archaeology and will be remembered forever.

**40. "The mummy is in a very bad condition because of what Carter did in the 1920s." What did Carter do and why?**

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

**Ans.** Howard Carter was a British archaeologist who, in 1922, discovered Tut's tomb. He searched its contents in haste. The tomb, which had stunning artefacts in gold, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery.

After months of carefully recording the treasures in the pharaoh's coffin, Carter began investigating the three nested coffins. When he finally reached the mummy, he found that the ritual resins had hardened, to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. Carter set the mummy outside in blazing sun shine that heated it to 149 degrees Fahrenheit, but didn't yield any positive result.

Hence, Carter's men removed the mummy's head and severed nearly every major joint to separate Tut from his gold adornments.

**41. Knowledge of the present is incomplete without the knowledge of the past. Comment with reference to the chapter - Discovering Tut : the Saga Continues.**

[Diksha]

**Ans.** The horizons of knowledge have increased in the modern world. Within a few seconds, we become aware of incidents happening thousands of kilometres away. Still, our knowledge of the world is incomplete without the knowledge about past lives. In order to understand the reality of something, it is important to begin from the past. This helps a person to have a clear perspective without

any confusion or doubts. To lay the foundation for our present and future, we must learn from the past mistakes and make improvements. We must be aware of the circumstances in which our ancestors lived and how they tackled difficult situations. This will not only help us to gain knowledge about their way of living but would also inspire the present and the upcoming generation.

