

Summary: What Have We Learnt?

I would like you to discuss what we have covered in Households in the Ancient World over the past three weeks, focusing not just on the individual case studies and theoretical approaches but also thinking reflexively about what you have learned about the complex social and ideological interactions between the individuals, households and the community.

1. How would you define the household as a concept? How does this differ from or merge with a) the house; b) the family?
2. To what extent is the household an economic unit?
3. What are the key activities of a household and how might we identify these archaeologically? Can we gender these activities? What activities are archaeologically invisible?
4. Do you agree with Tringham that the occupants of prehistoric households are no more than faceless blobs?
5. How useful is Bourdieu's theory of practice for interpreting households? Which aspects of his theory do you find most useful?
6. You have completed a lot of reading: which articles stand out to you (individually):
 - a. for being particularly useful, provocative or challenging?
 - b. for being overly simplistic, unthinking, simply repetitive of unchallenged ideas?

Make a robust case for each!