

Mummification Study Guide

Stage I

Egyptians have to preserve the body for spirits to recognize it

- When a person dies, spirits are released from the body
- KA = person's spiritual double formed at birth
- BA = person's soul becomes the body of a bird that flies to visit loved ones
- AKH = spirit goes to underworld for judgment

Stage II

The body is cleaned inside and out

- Embalming (preserving body) is on the West bank of the Nile
- Process takes 60 - 70 days
- Body placed on slanted table
- Brain (considered useless) pulled out through nostrils
- Heart is only organ saved because believed to be the center of intelligence and emotion
- Mouth cleaned and filled with sweet smelling oiled linens

Stage III

The body is emptied to begin drying

- Cut open abdomen
- Organs removed and put into 4 separate canopic jars called the Four Sons of Horus
- Lids of jars have heads of gods to protect organs
 - Human head = liver
 - Ape head = lungs
 - Jackal head = stomach
 - Hawk head = intestines
- Empty body stuffed with straw/sand/rags
- Body tilted to allow fluids to drip towards feet
- Body buried in heaps of natron (salt) to draw fluids out
- After 40 days, natron removed, body washed, re-stuffed, sealed with gold and wax

Stage IV

The dried body is wrapped as a mummy for the funeral

- Body is rubbed with wine, oils, milk
- Eyebrows painted on
- Body is wrapped in linen
 - 150 yards of linen
 - About 100 amulets (jewelry that provides protection)
 - Heart scarab = rebirth
 - Pillar = strength
 - Eye of Horus = restored health
- Mummy mask of person's face is put into place
- Mummy put into coffin
- Coffin painted to look like the person inside so that spirits will know where to return
- Funeral procession goes to Western Desert
- Followed by family, priests, professional mourners
- Professional mourners were paid to wail, rip their clothes, tear their hair to show grief and keep evil away

Stage V

The mummified body brought to tomb

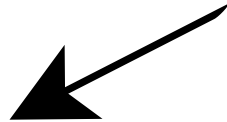
- Coffin placed in a boat-shaped sled pulled by oxen
- Women mourners represent goddesses Isis and Nephthys
- Small statues called shabtis buried with mummy to help work in the Field of Reeds
- Spells/hymns/prayers from Book of the Dead are spoken to help body on the trip to the Underworld
- Opening of the Mouth ceremony performed at tomb. Coffin is stood upright by priest wearing mask of Anubis
- Water is scattered on coffin and incense burned
- Mouth on coffin is touched with ox's leg to allow the mouth to speak



Stage VI

The body becomes a spirit which must be judged in the Underworld to determine Afterlife

- Coffin placed in stone sarcophagus
- Akh leaves body to travel through gates to the Underworld
- Guarded by terrifying beasts (serpents, vultures, hippos) that stop unworthy Akhs
- Worthy Akhs reach the Hall of Judgment and judged if fit to live forever in Kingdom of Osiris (Field of Reeds)
- Anubis (mummification god) is in charge of the judgment
- Thoth (god of wisdom) takes notes on process
- Heart is weighed on a balance scale against the "Feather of Truth"
- 42 gods question the heart about the life it lived
- Ma'at (goddess of truth) determines if the heart is heavy with sin
- If the heart is lighter than the Feather of Truth, the Akh goes to Osiris' throne room and then to the Field of Reeds
- If the heart is heavy, it is gobbled up by Ammit (the Devourer of the Dead) who sits by the scales



Study for the test

1. Highlight at least 3 ideas from each stage that you think you can remember. The more the better.
2. Try and understand how those ideas connect with the summarizing statement
3. Practice writing out the ideas and summary statements with the study guide
4. Practice writing out the ideas and summary statements without the study guide
5. Repeat step 4 until you can write out the test effortlessly
6. Get a great grade for working so hard. Provide a wonderful Afterlife for Elmo.