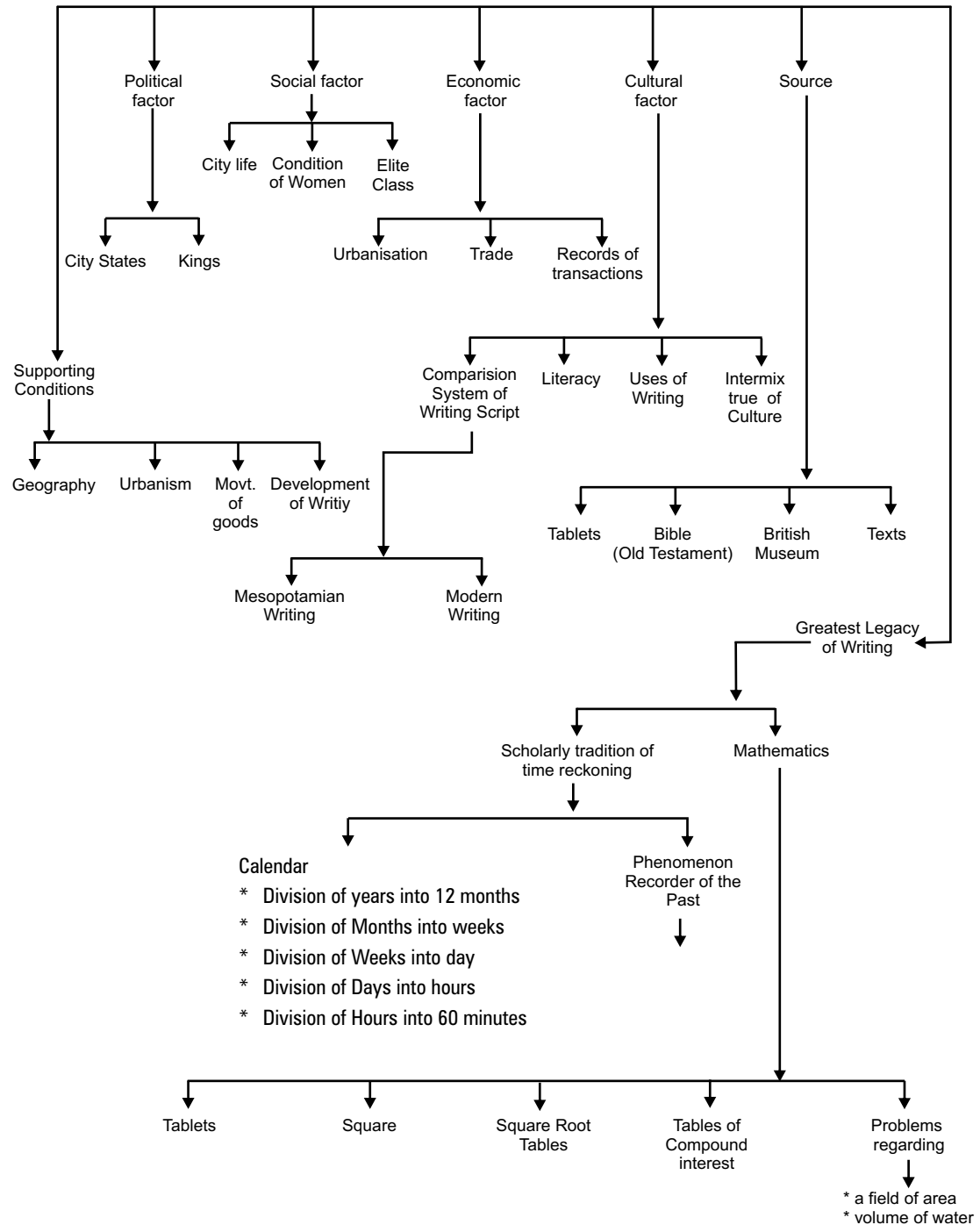
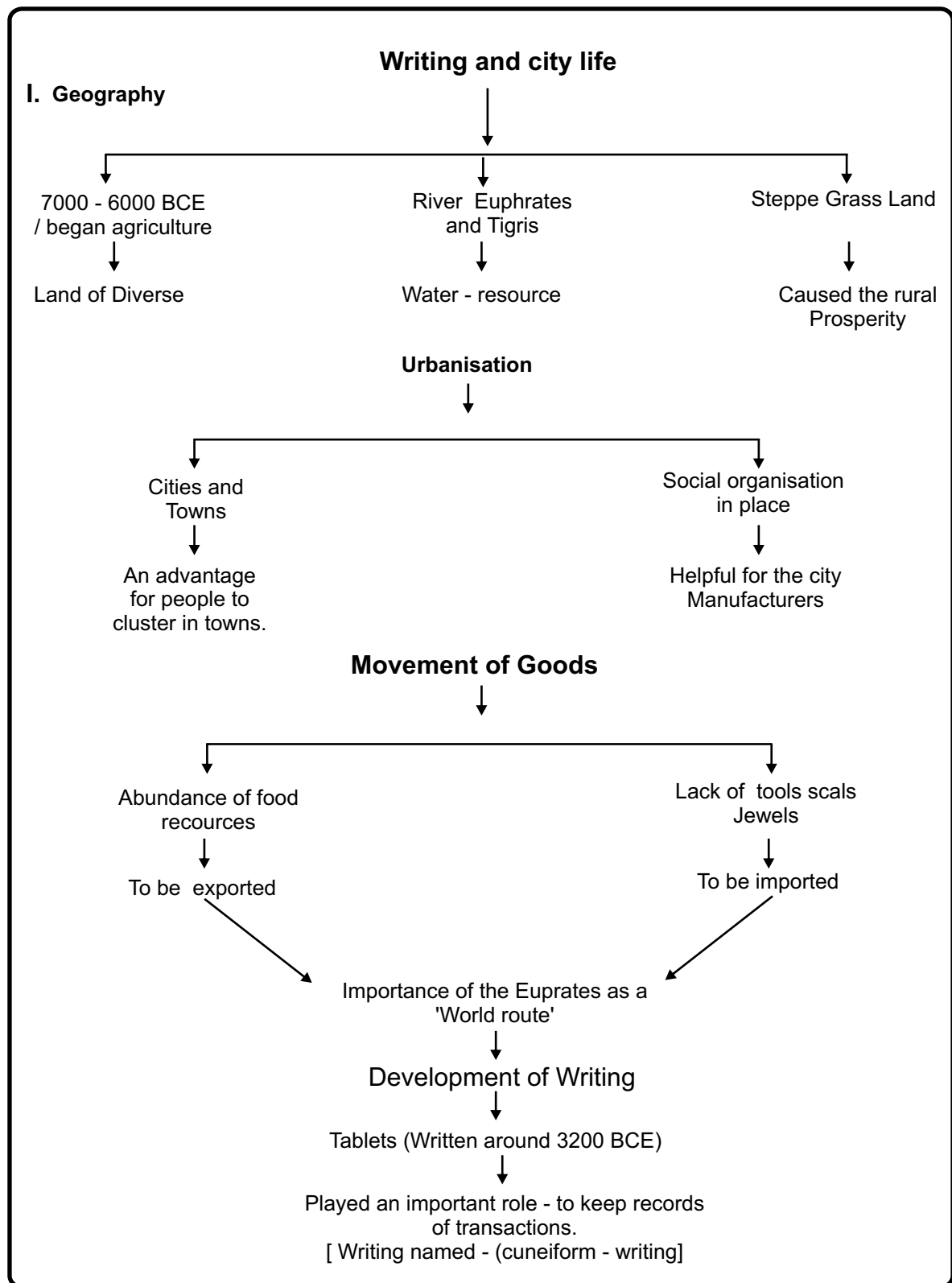


## Theme - 2

### Writing and city life (Ancient Mesopotamia)





II.

## Comparison

Mesopotamian Writing :  
As the world phenomenon  
Recorder of the Past

Modern - Writing  
Greatest - Legacy of Writing  
\* Calendar  
\* Mathematics

III.

## Political Factor

(5000 BCE - Settlements began in Mesopotamia)

### Religions Factor

Gods

Temples

City States

Kings (in the imperial cities)

1. Assurbanipal  
2. Hammurabi  
3. Zimrilin

3. Mari  
2. Babylone  
1. Assyria

IV.

## Social Factor

Life in the  
City -

- A ruling elite had emerged
- Red a major share of wealth
- Followed nuclear family system & Patriarchal system
- Condition of Women
- System of Marriages

Ur - was a town, one of the  
earliest cities.  
\* Compared with Mohenjodaro

V.

## Economic Factors

### Urbanism

- \* Cities and Towns were the places for economic development
- \* Places for city manufacturers

### Trade

- \* Traded - Textiles and agricultural product for
- \* Wood, Copper, tin Silver, gold, s... and various stones from - turkey and Iron
- \* Canals and natural channels were in fact routes for good transports.
- \* Euphrates became as a world route

### Record of Transaction

- \* Writing began in Mesopotamia in 3200 BCE .
- \* Writing became as a records of transactions
- \* 2600 BCE the letters became cuneiform and language was Sumerian

VI.

## Cultural Factors

### System of Writing

- \* Writing was skilled craft
- \* Visual form of system of sounds of a particular language

### Literacy

- \* Writing reflected the mode of speaking
- \* King and very few could read
- \* Official letter from a king could be read

### Uses of Writing

- \* Connections between city life trade and writing is brought out.
- \* It has brought out in a long Sumerian epic poem about Enmerkar (king)
- \* Kingship was able to organise trade and writing.

### Inter Mixture culture

- \* Mesopotamian society and culture were open to different people and cultures.
- \* Thus the vitality of the civilisation was of course - an intermixture culture

\* Cuneiform Script

Meaning

Uses

## Sources

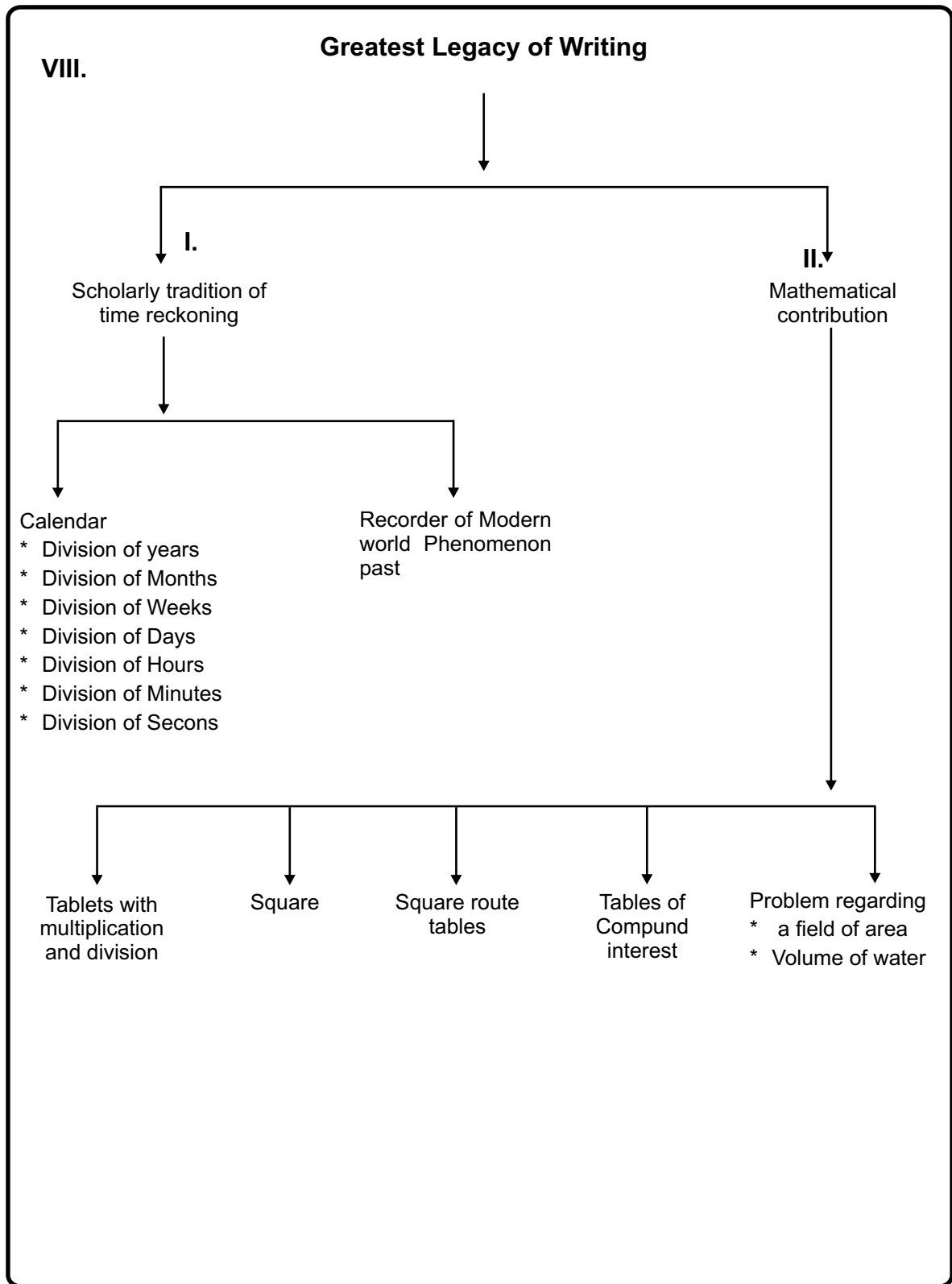
VII.

Tables  
(Written around 3200 BCE)

Bible  
(old Testament)

British  
Museum

Texts



- ix) Time line - refer to the text book Page No. 48
- x) Key Words  
Mesopotamia, Cuneiform, Syllable, Steles, Nuclear Family.

### **Model Questions [ 2 marks Questions]**

1. Write the meaning of Mesopotamia and its importance in world history.
2. Why did the writing begin with its visible sign. & in Mesopotamia ?
3. Write the two major necessities for urbanisation,
4. Name the four major cities of Mesopotamia.
5. Mention the two major Mesopotamian legacy .

#### **5 Marks Qs.**

1. 'Iraq is a land of diverse environments' Illustrate.
2. Mention the significance of Urbanism in Mesopotamia.
3. Compare the one of the earliest cities 'Ur' with Indian - town Mohenjodaro.
4. Mention the importance of the palace at Mari of king Zimrilim (1810 - 1760 BCE)
5. Why would the early temple have been much like a house ?

#### **10 Marks Qs.**

1. 'After 2000 BCE the royal capital of Mari flourished' Justify'
2. Discuss the greatest legacy of Mesopotamia to the world in scholarly tradition of time reckoning and mathematics.

### **Passage - based questions :**

1. The Warka Head - refer to the text book Page - 32
  2. The Palace at Mari of King Zimrilim (1810 - 1760 BCE) refer to the text book - page - 43
1. a) When was Warka Head sculpted and with what material ? [2]
  - b) Write any three special features of this sculpture. [8]
  - c) Do you think that city life is possible without use of metals ? [1]
  - d) 'The division of labour is a mark of urban life' Comment.
  2. a) When was the royal city capital of Mari flourished ? [1]
  - b) Why was 'the royal capital of Mari too much famous in its time? [3]
  - c) How were the large, open courtyards so beautifully paved ? [2]
  - d) Mention the plan of the palace maintained by the King Zimrilim. [2]

Map Work :

1. Locate on the given outline map of world the following : [5]
  - a) Ur
  - b) Uruk
  - c) Babylon
  - d) Persian Gulf
2. Locate on the given outline map of the world the following places :
  - a) Nineveh
  - b) Assur
  - c) Mari
  - d) Baghdad
  - e) Babylon

### Model Questions with answer

1. Write the meaning of Mesopotamia and its importance in world history.

Ans.

- \* Meaning - Land between two rivers Euphrates Tigris
- \* City life began in Mesopotamia.
- \* That is now part of the Republic of Iraq.
- \* Mesopotamia civilisation is known for its prosperity, city life, voluminous and rich literature, Mathematics and astronomy.
- \* Its Writing system and literature spread to the eastern Mediterranean, northern Syria and Turkey after 2000 BCE.

### 5 Marks Question :

Q 'Iraq is a land of diverse environments' Illustrate.

- \* North east lies - green undulating plains, gradually rising to tree covered mountain ranges with clean streams and wild flowers, with enough rainfall to grow crops.
- \* In North - There is a stretch of upland called a steppe - where animals' herding offers people a better livelihood than agriculture.
- \* In the east - tributaries of the Tigris provide routes of communication into mountains of Iran.
- \* The South is a desert - the place where the first cities and writing emerged. [ five relevant points must]

### 10 Marks Question

1. Discuss the greatest legacy of Mesopotamia to the world in scholarly tradition of time reckoning and mathematics.
  - \* Tradition of time

- \* Division of years
- \* Division of Months
- \* Division of Weeks
- \* Division of Days
- \* Division of Hours
- \* Division of Minutes
- \* Division of Seconds
- 2. Recorder of Modern world Phenomenon past
  - Writing use of writing, system of writing
  - Writing and cities and trade.
- II. Mathematics :
  - \* Tablets with multiplication and division
  - \* Square
  - \* Square - routes tables
  - \* Table of compound interest
  - \* Problems regarding
    - a field of area
    - Volume of water

[ 10 relevant points to be given ]

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