

Fastrack« Revision

- The Harappan Civilisation or Indus valley civilisation is mainly found in the North-Western regions of South Asia, extending from North-East Afghanistan to Pakistan and North-West India.
- The cities are noted for their urban planning, baked brick houses, well developed drainage system, water supply systems and exclusive craft production.
- The Indus valley civilisation is also called the Harappan culture. Archaeologists use the term "culture" for a group of objects, distinctive in style, that are usually found together within a specific geographical area and period of time. In the case of the Harappan culture, these distinctive objects include seals, beads, weights, stone blades and even baked bricks. These objects were found from areas as far apart as Afghanistan, Jammu, Baluchistan (Pakistan) and Gujarat.

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The Harappan Civilisation is sometimes called the Mature Harappan Culture.

► Subsistence Strategies in Harappan Civilisation

Mature Harappan culture developed in some of the areas occupied by the Early Harappan cultures. These cultures also shared certain common elements including subsistence strategies.

► Agriculture

- The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish. Archaeologists have been able to reconstruct dietary practices from finds of charred grains and seeds. These are studied by archaeobotanists, who are specialists in ancient plant remains.
- Grains found at Harappan sites include wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame. Millets are found from sites in Gujarat. Finds of rice are relatively rare.

► Agricultural Technologies

- Representations on seals and terracotta sculpture indicate that the bull was known and archaeologists extrapolate from this that oxen were used for ploughing. Moreover, terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana).



A terracotta bull

- Archaeologists have also found evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan (Rajasthan), associated with Early Harappan levels. The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together.
- Most Harappan sites are located in semi-arid lands, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture. Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan, but not in Punjab or Sind.



Reservoir at Dholavira: Note the masonry work.

- It is also likely that water drawn from wells was used for irrigation. Besides, water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) may have been used to store water for agriculture.

► Pastoralism And Hunting

- Animal bones found at Harappan sites include those of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig.
- Archaeologists indicate that these animals were domesticated. Bones of wild species such as boar, deer and gharial are also found. We do not know whether the Harappans hunted these animals themselves or obtained meat from other hunting communities. Bones of fish and fowl are also found.

► Mohenjodaro: A Planned Urban Centre

- Mohenjodaro was built in the 26th century BC. It was one of the largest cities of the ancient Indus valley civilisation.
- Mohenjodaro was the most advanced city of its time built with planning. The city was divided into two parts: citadel and the lower town.

- The Citadel owes its height to the fact that buildings were constructed on mud brick platforms. It was walled, which meant that it was physically separated from the Lower Town.

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Harappan Civilisation cities were uniform in planning and construction.

► The Citadel

- At sites such as Dholavira and Lothal (Gujarat), the entire settlement was fortified, and sections within the town were also separated by walls. The Citadel within Lothal was not walled off, but was built at a height.
- It is on the Citadel that we find evidence of structures that were probably used for special public purposes. These include the warehouse – a massive structure of which the lower brick portions remain, while the upper portions, probably of wood, decayed long ago – and the Great Bath.
- The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides. There were two flights of steps on the north and south leading into the tank, which was made watertight by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of gypsum.
- There were rooms on three sides, in one of which was a large well. Water from the tank flowed into a huge drain. Across a lane to the north lay a smaller building with eight bathrooms, four on each side of a corridor, with drains from each bathroom connecting to a drain that ran along the corridor.
- The uniqueness of the structure, as well as the context in which it was found (the Citadel, with several distinctive buildings), has led scholars to suggest that it was meant for some kind of a special ritual bath.

► The Lower Town

- The Lower Town was also walled. Several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations. It has been calculated that if one labourer moved roughly a cubic metre of earth daily, just to put the foundations in place it would have required four million person-days, in other words, mobilising labour on a very large scale.
- Other signs of planning include bricks which, whether sun-dried or baked, were of a standardised ratio, where the length and breadth were four times and twice the height respectively. Such bricks were used at all Harappan settlements.

► Drainage System

- One of the most distinctive features of Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system.
- Roads and streets were laid out along an approximate "grid" pattern, intersecting at right angles. It seems that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses built along them. If domestic waste water had to flow into the street drains, every house needed to have at least one wall along a street.



A drain in Mohenjodaro Notice the huge opening of the drain

► Domestic Architecture

- The Lower Town at Mohenjodaro provides examples of residential buildings. Many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides. The courtyard was probably the centre of activities such as cooking and weaving, particularly during hot and dry weather.
- Every house had its own bathroom paved with bricks, with drains connected through the wall to the street drains.
- Some houses have remains of staircases to reach a second storey or the roof. Many houses had wells, often in a room that could be reached from the outside and perhaps used by passers-by. Scholars have estimated that the total number of wells in Mohenjodaro was about 700.

► Tracking Social Differences

► Burials:

- At burials in Harappan sites the dead were generally laid in pits. Sometimes, there were differences in the way the burial pit was made – in some instances, the hollowed-out space were lined with bricks.
- Some graves contain pottery and ornaments, perhaps indicating a belief that these could be used in the afterlife. Jewellery has been found in burials of both men and women.
- But on the whole, it appears that the Harappans did not believe in burying precious things with the dead.

► Luxuries:

- Another strategy to identify social differences is to study artefacts, which archaeologists broadly classify as utilitarian and luxuries. The first category includes objects of daily use made fairly easily, out of ordinary materials such as stone or clay. These include querns, pottery, needles, flesh-rubbers (body scrubbers), etc.
- Little pots of faience (a material made of ground sand of silica mixed with colour and a gum and then fired) were probably considered precious because they were difficult to make.
- Rare objects made of valuable materials are generally concentrated in large settlements like Mohenjodaro and Harappan and are rarely found in the smaller settlements.
- For example, miniature pots of faience, perhaps used as perfume bottles, are found mostly in Mohenjodaro and Harappa, and there are none from small settlements like Kalibangan. Gold too was rare, and as at present, probably precious – all the gold jewellery found at Harappan sites was recovered from hoards.

► Art and Crafts Production

- Chanhudaro is a tiny settlement as compared to Mohenjodaro (125 hectares), almost exclusively devoted to craft production, including bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making.
- The variety of materials used to make beads is remarkable: stones like carnelian (of a beautiful red colour), jasper, crystal, quartz and steatite; metals like copper, bronze and gold; and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay.
- Techniques for making beads differed according to the material. Steatite, a very soft stone, was easily worked. Some beads were moulded out of a paste made with steatite powder. This permitted making a variety of shapes, unlike the geometrical forms made out of harder stones.

► Centres for Procuring Materials

- As is obvious, a variety of materials was used for craft production. While some such as clay were locally available, many such as stone, timber and metal had to be procured from outside the alluvial plain. Terracotta toy models of bullock carts suggest that this was one important means of transporting goods and people across land routes. Riverine routes along the Indus and its tributaries, as well as coastal routes were also probably used.
- The Harappans procured materials for craft production in various ways. For instance, they established settlements such as Nageshwar and Balakot in areas where shell was available.
- Other such sites were Shortughai, in far-off Afghanistan, near the best source of lapis lazuli, a blue stone that was apparently very highly valued, and Lothal which was near sources of carnelian (from Bharuch in Gujarat), steatite (from south Rajasthan and north Gujarat) and metal (from Rajasthan).

► Evidences Of Harappan Contacts With Distant Lands

- Chemical analyses have shown that both the Omani copper and Harappan artefacts have traces of nickel, suggesting a common origin.
- A distinctive type of vessel, a large Harappan jar coated with a thick layer of black clay has been found at Omani sites. Such thick coatings prevent the percolation of liquids.
- Mesopotamian texts datable to the third millennium BCE refer to copper coming from a region called Magan, perhaps a name for Oman, and interestingly enough copper found at Mesopotamian sites also contains traces of nickel.
- Mesopotamian texts mention contact with regions named Dilmun (probably the island of Bahrain), Magan and Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region. They mention the products from Meluhha: Carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold, and varieties of wood.

► Seals, Script, Weights of Harappan Civilisation

► Seals And Sealings:

- Seal and sealings were used to facilitate long-distance communication. Imagine a bag of goods being sent from one place to another. Its mouth was tied with rope and on the knot was affixed some wet clay on which one or more seals were pressed, leaving an impression.
- If the bag reached with its sealing intact, it meant that it had not been tampered with. The sealing also conveyed the identity of the sender.

► Script:

- Harappan seals usually have a line of writing, probably containing the name and title of the owner. Scholars have also suggested that the motif (generally an animal) conveyed a meaning to those who could not read.
- Most inscriptions are short, the longest containing about 26 signs. Although the script remains undeciphered to date, it was evidently not alphabetical (where each sign stands for a vowel or a consonant) as it has just too many signs – somewhere between 375 and 400.

► Weights:

- Exchanges were regulated by a precise system of weights, usually made of a stone called chert and generally cubical, with no markings.
- Lower denominations of weights were binary (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc. up to 12,800), while the higher denominations followed the decimal system.
- The smaller weights were probably used for weighing jewellery and beads. Metal scale-pans have also been found.

► Ancient Authority

- There are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in Harappan society.
- The extraordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts as evident in pottery, seals, weights and bricks: Notably, bricks, though obviously not produced in any single centre, were of a uniform ratio throughout the region, from Jammu to Gujarat. We have also seen that settlements were strategically set up in specific locations for various reasons.
- Labour was mobilised for making bricks and for the construction of massive walls and platforms.

► Palaces and Kings

- A large building found at Mohenjodaro was labelled as a palace by archaeologists but no spectacular finds were associated with it. A stone statue was labelled and continues to be known as the "priest-king". This is because archaeologists were familiar with Mesopotamian history and its "priest-kings" and have found parallels in the Indus region.
- Some archaeologists are of the opinion that Harappan society had no rulers, and that everybody enjoyed equal status. Others feel there was no single ruler but several some believed that Mohenjodaro had a separate ruler, Harappa another, and so forth.



A priest-king

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Some archaeologists stated that harappan society had no ruler, and everybody enjoyed equal status.

► End of the Harappan Civilisation

- There is evidence that by c. 1800 BCE most of the Mature Harappan sites in regions such as Cholistan had been abandoned. Simultaneously, there was an expansion of population into new settlements in Gujarat, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.
- After 1900 BCE there appears to have been a transformation of material culture, marked by the disappearance of the distinctive artefacts of the civilisation – weights, seals, special beads.
- House construction techniques deteriorated and large public structures were no longer produced. Overall, artefacts and settlements indicate a rural way of life in what was called "Late Harappan" or "successor cultures".

► Reasons for End of The Civilisation

- Several explanations have been put forward. These range from climatic change, deforestation, excessive floods, the shifting and/or drying up of rivers, to overuse of the landscape. Some of these "causes" may hold for certain settlements, but they do not explain the collapse of the entire civilisation.
- It appears that a strong unifying element, perhaps the Harappan state, came to an end. This is evidenced by the disappearance of seals, the script, distinctive beads and pottery, the shift from a standardised weight system to the use of local weights: and the decline and abandonment of cities.

► Discovering the Harappan Civilisation

The discovering of Harappan Civilisation through archaeologists were as follows:

► Alexander Cunningham

- Cunningham, the first Director-General of the ASI, began archaeological excavations in the mid-nineteenth century, archaeologists preferred to use the written word (texts and inscriptions) as a guide to investigations. In fact, Cunningham's main interest was in the archaeology of the Early Historic (c. sixth century BCE-fourth century CE) and later periods.
- He used the accounts left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who had visited the subcontinent between the fourth and seventh centuries CE to locate early settlements.
- Cunningham also collected, documented and translated inscriptions found during his surveys. When he excavated sites he tended to recover artefacts that he thought had cultural value.
- A Harappan seal was given to Cunningham by an Englishman. He noted the object, but unsuccessfully tried to place it within the time-frame with which he was familiar. This was because he, like many others, thought that Indian history began with the first cities in the Ganga valley.

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Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhal Das Banerji were the two archaeologists who contributed extensively in the discoveries of the Indus valley civilisation

► Rakhal Das Banerji

- Rakhal Das Banerji found similar seals at Mohenjodaro, leading to the conjecture that these sites were part of a single archaeological culture.

► Daya Ram Sahni

- Seals were discovered at Harappa by archaeologists such as Daya Ram Sahni in the early decades of the twentieth century, in layers that were definitely much older than Early Historic levels.

► John Marshall

- John Marshall, Director-General of the ASI, announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world. As S.N. Roy noted in *The story of Indian Archaeology*, "Marshall left India three thousand years older than he had found her." This was because similar, till-then-unidentified seals were found at excavations at Mesopotamian sites. It was then that the world knew not only of a new civilisation, but also of one contemporaneous with Mesopotamia.

► R.E.M. Wheeler

- It was R.E.M. Wheeler, after he took over as Director-General of the ASI in 1944, who rectified this problem.
- Wheeler recognised that it was necessary to follow the stratigraphy of the mound rather than dig mechanically along uniform horizontal lines. Moreover, as an ex-army brigadier, he brought with him a military precision to the practice of archaeology.

► Problems of Piecing Together the Past

- It is not the Harappan script that helps in understanding the ancient civilisation. Rather, it is material evidence that allows archaeologists to better reconstruct Harappan life. This material could be pottery, tools, ornaments, household objects etc.
- Organic materials such as cloth, leather, wood and reeds generally decompose, especially in tropical regions. What survive are stone, burnt clay (or terracotta), metal, etc.

► Classifying Objects that have Survived

- Archaeologists then classify their finds. One simple principle of classifications in terms of materials, such as stone, clay metal, bone, ivory, etc. The second, and more complicated, is in terms of function: archaeologists have to decide whether, for instance, an artefact is a tool or an ornament, or both, or something meant for ritual use.
- Sometimes, archaeologists have to take recourse to indirect evidence. For instance, though there are traces of cotton at some Harappan site, to find out about clothing we have to depend on indirect evidence including depictions in sculpture.

► Problems of Interpretation

- The problems of archaeological interpretation are perhaps most evident in attempts to reconstruct religious practices.
- Archaeologists thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar may have had a religious significance. These included terracotta figurines of women, heavily jewelled, some with elaborate head-dresses. These were regarded as mother goddesses.
- Rare stone statuary of men in an almost standardised posture, seated with one hand on the knee – such as the “priest-king” – was also similarly classified.
- Attempts have also been made to reconstruct religious beliefs and practices by examining seals.
- Plant motifs, are thought to indicate nature worship. Some animals – such as the one-horned animal, often called the “unicorn” – depicted on seals seem to be mythical, composite creatures.
- Seals, a figure shown seated cross-legged in a “yogic” posture, sometimes surrounded by animals, has been regarded as a depiction of “proto-Shiva”.

- Reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on the assumption the later traditions provide parallels with earlier ones. This is because archaeologists often move from the known to the unknown, that is, from the present to the past. While this is plausible in the case of stone querns and pots, it becomes more speculative when we extend it to “religious” symbols.



Was this a mother goddess?



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. The Indus valley civilisation flourished around:
- 2500 - 1800 BC
 - 2600 - 1900 BC
 - 2700 - 2000 BC
 - 2400 - 2100 BC
- Q 2. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan Culture and choose the correct option.
- The most unique feature was the development of urban centres.
 - The settlements were divided into two sections i.e. the citadel and the lower town.
 - Drainage system was ordinary and unplanned.
 - Roads were not laid out along a grid pattern.
- Codes: (CBSE SQP 2023-24)
- Only (i) is correct.
 - Only (i) and (ii) are correct.
 - Only (ii) and (iii) are correct.
 - Only (iii) and (iv) are correct.
- Q 3. Which of the following Harappan sites is located in Gujarat?
- Lothal
 - Dholavira
 - Banawali
 - Both a. and b.
- Q 4. Where was a public bath and a warehouse found in the Indus Valley during excavation?
- Mohenjodaro
 - Rangpur
 - Kalibangan
 - Harappa
- Q 5. Chanhudaro was a tiny settlement almost exclusively devoted to craft production, which included making.

- Beads
 - Seals
 - Weights
 - All of these
- Q 6. Which of the following was a part of Harappan people's diet?
- Millet
 - Animal products
 - Mango seeds
 - Both a. and b.
- Q 7. What is unique about Nageshwar and Balakot sites of the Harappan culture?
- They are both near the coast
 - Now they are in Afghanistan
 - Both were specialised centres for making metal tools
 - All of the above
- Q 8. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?
- Banawali : Gujarat
 - Kalibangan : Haryana
 - Shortughal : Afghanistan
 - Cholistan : Pakistan
- Q 9. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?
- Shells – South India
 - Carnelian – Lothal
 - Gold – Oman
 - Lapis lazuli – Nageshwar and Balakot
- Q 10. By what approximate time had most of the mature Harappan sites in regions such as Cholistan been abandoned?
- 2600 BC
 - 2000 BC
 - 1800 BC
 - None of these

- Q 11. Who is known as the father of Archaeology?**
 a. John Marshall
 b. Rakhal Das Banerji
 c. Alexander Cunningham
 d. Daya Ram Sahni
- Q 12. Which group of scholars among the following reconstructed the dietary practices of Harappa from the remains of charred grains and seeds found in the Harappan sites?**
 a. Archaeo-zoologists
 b. Archaeo-Ethnographers
 c. Geo-Archaeologists
 d. Archaeo-Botanists
- Q 13. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan Civilisation.**
 (i) The Harappans ate plants and animal products.
 (ii) Evidence of a ploughed field was found at Banawali.
 (iii) Chanhudaro is a small town which was famous for crafts productions.
 (iv) Bones of deer and gharial are also found.
 Which of the above statements are correct?
 a. (i) and (ii) b. (ii) and (iii)
 c. (i), (iii) and (iv) d. (i) and (iii)
- Q 14. Which of the following statement(s) related to the drainage system of Harappan Civilisation are true?**
 a. Drains were built of bricks with the help of lime and gypsum
 b. The one defect of drainage system was that in some places drains run very near to wells
 c. Both a. and b.
 d. None of the above
- Q 15. Which of the following is true about Harappan religion?**
 a. Nature worship was in vogue
 b. Female deities were not dominant
 c. No cult or mother goddess was found
 d. Temple structures were unearthed
- Q 16. Which one of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?**
 a. Citadel – Separated from the lower town
 b. House drains – Directly connected to street drains
 c. Lower town – Some buildings were built on platforms
 d. Great Bath – Located in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor
- Q 17. Why is the Harappan script called enigmatic? Choose the correct reason from the followings options.** (CBSE 2020)
 a. It resembles the Hieroglyphic script of Egypt
 b. It had too many symbols, between 600 and 1000 in number
 c. It was written from left to right
 d. Its writing remains undeciphered to date
- Q 18. How was inter-country communication done during Harappan Civilisation?**
 a. Water ways b. Road ways
 c. Railways d. All of these
- Q 19. Arrange the following events in correct chronological sequence from the earliest to the latest:**
 (i) R.E.M Wheeler recognised that it was necessary to follow the stratigraphy of the mound.
 (ii) Daya Ram Sahni discovered seals at Harappa,
 (iii) Harappan artefacts reached Alexander Cunningham but he failed to understand their significance.
 (iv) Rakhal Das Banerji found seals at Mohenjodaro.
 Codes:
 a. (iv), (iii), (ii), (i) b. (iv), (ii), (i), (iii)
 c. (iii), (iv), (ii), (i) d. (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)
- Q 20. Arrange the location of the following sites of the Harappan Civilisation in correct sequence from east to west.**
 (i) Banawali (ii) Dholavira
 (iii) Kalibangan (iv) Mohenjodaro
 Codes:
 a. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) b. (i), (iii), (ii), (iv)
 c. (ii), (i), (iii), (iv) d. (iv), (i), (ii), (iii)
- Q 21. Identify the structure: Large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides with two flights of steps:**
 a. Emperor's Palace b. The Great Bath
 c. Monastery d. Residential Building
- Q 22. Who among the following was the author of book 'The story of Indian Archaeology'?**
 (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)
 a. R.E.M Wheeler b. John Marshall
 c. S.N. Roy d. Rakhal Das Banerji
- Q 23. Who among the following was the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?**
 (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)
 a. Alexander Cunningham b. Harold Hargreaves
 c. Daya Ram Sahni d. John Marshall
- Q 24. Which one among the following religious practices was seemed to be unfamiliar and unusual with the Harappan culture?**
 a. Mother Goddess b. Worship of Lord Vishnu
 c. Yogic posture seal d. Sanskritic Yajnas
- Q 25. Which of the following is the oldest stupa in India and was commissioned by the Mauryan king Ashoka?**
 (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)
 a. Shanti Stupa
 b. Amaravati Stupa
 c. Sanchi Stupa
 d. Nagarjuna Konda Stupa
- Q 26. Which of the following city of the Harappan Civilisation was exclusively devoted to craft production of Shell objects?** (CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)
 a. Kot Diji b. Kalibangan
 c. Manda d. Chanhudaro

Q 27. In the domestic architecture of Harappan there were no windows in the walls along the ground level. Identify the possible cause mentioned by the archaeologists from the following options.

- It was a custom
- To maintain privacy
- No concern of ventilation
- Part of unplanned process

Q 28. Consider the following statement(s):

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1)

- The Harappan Civilisation was the development of urban centres.
 - The most distinctive features of Harappan cities were the carefully planned drainage system.
 - Harappan roads and streets were laid out along an approximate 'grid' pattern.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct about Harappan Civilisation?

- Only I
- Only II
- I and II
- I, II and III

Q 29. Which of the following artefacts of the Harappan civilisation was mainly used for long distance communication?

(CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- Shells
- Stone
- Seals
- Steatite

Q 30. Which one of the following mature Harappan sites is located in present day Gujarat?

(CBSE 2021 Term-1)

- Rakhi Garhi
- Dholavira
- Kot Diji
- Amri

Q 31. Identify the craft centers related to the Harappan civilisation with the help of the given information.

- Both are near the coast.
- They were specialised for making shell objects.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- Chanhudaro and Mohenjodaro
- Nageshwar and Balakot
- Harappan and Lothal
- Bharuch and Dholavira



Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 32-36): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Q 32. Assertion (A): The Harappan cities carried on a considerable trade in stone, metals, shells etc in the Indian sub-continent.

Reason (R): Mohenjodaro was a small town which was famous for craft production.

Q 33. Assertion (A): Streets with drains were laid out first and then houses built along them.

Reason (R): Harappan cities had a carefully planned drainage system.

Q 34. Assertion (A): The Harappan culture is named after the first site where this culture was discovered.

Reason (R): Alexander Cunningham announced the discovery of this culture to the world in 1924.

Q 35. Assertion: Archaeologists and historians find Harappan script enigmatic.

Reason: The Harappan script remained undeciphered till date.

(CBSE SQP 2022-23)

Q 36. Assertion (A): Early archaeologists thought that certain objects may have had a religious significance.

Reason (R): Attempts have been made to reconstruct religious beliefs and practices by examining seals, some of which seems to depict ritual scenes.



Fill in the Blank Type Questions

Q 37. The Indus Valley Civilisation is also called

- Harappan culture
- Ashoka city
- Enigmatic
- None of these

Q 38. Terracotta models of the plough are found in and at

- Banawali, Rajasthan
- Dholavira, Gujarat
- Banawali, Cholistan
- None of these

Q 39. Kalibangan is located in

- Rajasthan
- Gujarat
- Cholistan
- Surat

Q 40. Some graves at Harappan sites contained, perhaps indicating a belief that these could be used in the afterlife.

- soil
- precious jewellery
- metal
- silver

Q 41. The first Director General of Archaeological Survey of India was

- R. E. M. Wheeler
- John Marshal
- Daya Ram Sahni
- Alexander Cunningham

Q 42. The Indians who were involved in the excavations of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were and

- R.E.M. Wheeler, Daya Ram Sahni
- Rakhal Das Banerji, John Marshal
- Daya Ram Sahni, Rakhal Das Banerji
- R.E.M. Wheeler, Rakhal Das Banerji



Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

Q 43. Most of the Harappan sites are located in flood prone areas of Sindh, where there was no need of irrigation.

Q 44. R.E.M. Wheeler, was the first professional archaeologist to work in India and brought his experience of working in Greece and Crete to the field.

Q 45. Although Mohenjodaro was the first Harappan site to be discovered, it was badly destroyed by the brick robbers.

Q 46. Harappan seals is the most distinctive artefact of the Indus Valley Civilisation and was mostly made up of Gold.

- Q 47. The upper town at Mohenjodaro provide examples of residential buildings. Many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides.
- Q 48. R.E.M. Wheeler was the first professional archaeologists appointed as the Director General of ASI.
- Q 49. Lothal was one of the largest cities of the ancient Indus Valley civilisation and most advanced city of its time built with planning.



Match the Following Type Questions

Q 50. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Shortughai	1. Copper
B. Khetri	2. Carnellan
C. Nageshwar	3. Lapis Lazuli
D. Lothal	4. Shell

Codes:

- | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
| a. 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | b. 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| c. 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | d. 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Q 51. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Sir Alexander Cunningham	1. Brought military precision to the field of Archaeology
B. Daya Ram Sahni	2. First Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India.
C. R.E.M Wheeler	3. Excavated Harappa
D. John Marshall	4. First professional archaeologist to work in India.

Codes:

- | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
| a. 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | b. 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| c. 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | d. 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |

Answers

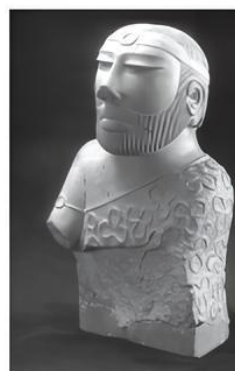
1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (d)
 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (c)
 11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (a) 15. (a)
 16. (d) 17. (d) 18. (a) 19. (d) 20. (b)
 21. (b) 22. (c) 23. (a) 24. (d) 25. (c)
 26. (d) 27. (b) 28. (b) 29. (c) 30. (b)
 31. (b) 32. (c) 33. (b) 34. (c) 35. (a)
 36. (a) 37. (a) 38. (c) 39. (a) 40. (b)
 41. (d) 42. (c)

43. Most Harappan sites are located in Semi-arid areas of Sindh, where Irrigation was probably required for agriculture.
44. John Marshall was the first professional archaeologist to work in India and brought his experience of working in Greece and Crete to the field.
45. Although Harappan was the first Harappan site to be discovered, it was badly destroyed by the brick robbers.
46. Harappan seals is the most distinctive artefact of the Indus Valley Civilisation, it was mostly made up of steatite.
47. The lower town at Mohenjodaro provides examples of residential buildings. Many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides.
48. John Marshall was the first professional archaeologists appointed as the Director General of ASI.
49. Mohenjodaro was one of the largest cities of the ancient Indus Valley civilisation and most advanced city of its time built with planning.
50. (b) 51. (a)



Picture Based Type Questions

- Q 1. Study this figure of "Priest King" carefully and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct options.



- (i) Which of the following can be inferred about the ornaments in the Harappan Civilisation from the statue of Priest King?
- Ornaments such as necklace were wore by both men and women
 - The craftsmen of Harappan Civilisation were well versed in the art of sculpture making
 - The ornaments wore by the Harappans were well designed and made from different metals
 - All of the above
- (ii) Who was the ruling authority in the Harappan Civilisation?
- Priest King
 - Traders and Merchants
 - Every city had their own ruling authority
 - Can't be concluded because of insufficient evidences

(iii) This statue was given the title of 'Priest King' because:

- at the time of its excavation, archaeologists were familiar with Mesopotamian history and its 'Priest King'. So they borrowed this idea
- It was inscribed in the numerous seals found in Harappan sites that Priest were the ruler of this civilisation
- the design, unique ornamental decoration and aesthetic appeal of this statue was responsible for naming it as Priest King
- All of the above

(iv) This statue of 'Priest King' was made from:

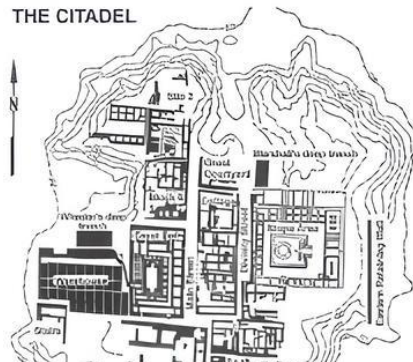
- stone
- gold
- copper
- carnelian

Answers

- (d) All of the above
- (d) Can't be concluded because of insufficient evidence.
- (a) at the time of its excavation, archaeologists were familiar with Mesopotamian history and its 'Priest King'. So they borrowed this idea.
- (a) stone.

Q 2. Carefully examine the map of the Citadel area of Mohenjodaro and answer any three the questions that follow.

THE CITADEL



(i) Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Citadel was smaller but higher part of Mohenjodaro.

Reason (R): It is on the citadel that we find evidence of structures that were probably used for special public purpose.

- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (A) is false, but (R) is true.

(ii) Consider the following statements.

(A) The Great Bath was a large round tank.

(B) There were two flight of stairs on the North and the South of the tank.

- Only (A) is correct.
- Only (B) is correct.
- Both (A) and (B) are correct.
- Neither (A) nor (B) is correct.

(iii) Identify the two most important buildings located in the citadel area of Mohenjodaro.

- Great Bath and Great Temple
- Great Bath and the Warehouse
- Reservoir and the Palace Complex
- Ploughed field and the Fire altars

(iv) According to the assumption of most of the historians the purpose of the Great Bath must have been:

- washing clothes
- bathing space for women
- ritual bathing
- leisure bathing just like Roman baths

Answers

- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Only (B) is correct.
- (b) Great Bath and the Warehouse
- (c) ritual bathing.



Source Based Type Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The Indus valley civilisation is also called the Harappan culture. Archaeologists use the term 'culture' for a group of objects, distinctive in style, that are usually found together within a specific geographical area and period of time. In the case of the Harappan culture, these distinctive objects include seals, beads, weights, stone blades and even baked bricks. These objects were found from areas as far apart as Afghanistan, Jammu, Baluchistan (Pakistan) and Gujarat. Named after Harappa, the first site where this unique culture was discovered, the civilisation is dated between 2600 and 1900 BCE. There were earlier and later cultures, often called Early Harappan and Late Harappan, in the same area. The Harappan Civilisation is sometimes called the Mature Harappan culture to distinguish it from these cultures.

Q 1. What do you think according to this passage, is the meaning of culture?

- Uniqueness in design of artefacts
- Presence of distinctive objects
- Confinement in particular territory and time
- All of the above

Q 2. The Harappan Civilisation is sometimes called the mature Harappan culture to:

- signify the development of architecture and town planning
- point out the cultural core of this civilisation which was prevalent in Punjab and Sindh region
- distinguish it from early and late Harappan phase
- None of the above

Q 3. What was the distinctive characteristic of Harappan Civilisation?

- a. Presence of baked bricks
- b. Unified weight and measure for the whole civilisation
- c. Unique literary achievements
- d. Both a. and b.

Q 4. Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): The Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as Harappan Civilisation.

Reason (R): Harappa was the first Indus Valley site to be excavated.

Codes:

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Answers

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (a)

Source 2

Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follows:

Processing of food required grinding equipment as well as vessels for mixing, blending and cooking. These were made of stone, metal and terracotta. This is an excerpt from one of the earliest reports on excavations at Mohenjodaro, the best-known Harappan site:

Saddle querns are found in considerable numbers and they seem to have been the only means in use for grinding cereals. As a rule, they were roughly made of hard, gritty, igneous rock or sandstone and mostly show signs of hard usage. As their bases are usually convex, they must have been set in the earth or in mud to prevent their rocking. Two main types have been found: those on which another smaller stone was pushed or rolled to and fro, and others with which a second stone was used as a pounder, eventually making a large cavity in the other stone.

Querns of the former type were probably used solely for grain; the second type possibly only for pounding herbs and spices for making curries. In fact, stones of this latter type are dubbed "curry stones" by our workmen and our cook asked for the loan of one from the museum for use in the kitchen.

From Ernest Mackay, Further Excavations at Mohenjodaro, 1937.

Q 1. Write characteristics of saddle querns.

Ans. They were made of hard, gritty igneous rocks or sandstone.

Q 2. What are two kinds of saddle?

Ans. Two kinds of saddle are as follows:

- (i) These saddles were used to grind grain and cereals and were also called grinding saddles.

- (ii) In another type of saddle a second stone was used as a pounder. These saddles were used to grind herbs and spices.

Q 3. Which type of querns have been found in Mohenjodaro? Describe the surface of grinding equipment.

Ans. Saddle querns have been found in Mohenjodaro. The surface of grinding equipment was rough. It was made of hard rock or sandstone.

COMMON ERROR

Sometimes students write the answer in the form of a paragraph instead of stating the exact point for the answer.



TIP

Students should pay attention to every information while reading the paragraph/passage.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Define the term culture from archaeologists point of view.

Ans. Archaeologists use the term 'culture' for a group of objects distinctive in style that are found within a specific geographical area and period of time.

Q 2. What do the studies done by the archaeologists reveal about the Harappans?

Ans. These studies show that the animal bones of sheep, goat, buffalo and pig were found at Harappan sites. These animals were domesticated. Bones of wild species such as deer, boar and gharial and bones of fish and fowl were also found.

Q 3. Give an example of residential building which expresses that people of Mohenjodaro were concerned about their privacy.

Ans. The people of Mohenjodaro were concerned about their privacy because the main entrance of houses was made in such a way that it did not give a direct view of the interior or the courtyard and there were no windows in the walls along the ground level.

Q 4. What indicates the use of bull and oxen for ploughing by Mature Harappan culture?

Ans. Pictures of bull of seals and Terracotta sculptures indicate probable use of bull and oxen for ploughing.

Q 5. What were the crafts of the people of Mohenjodaro?

Ans. Bead-making, shell-cutting, metal work, seal making, weight-making, etc were the crafts of the people of Mohenjodaro.

Q 6. Give a brief description of the Mohurs (Seals) of the Harappan or the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Ans. The Harappan seals were very important. These seals were made of steatite stone. They contain animals motif. Signs of undeciphered script have also been found on these seals. These seals were used to facilitate the contact of distant places.

Q 7. Of which materials the artefacts of Harappan Civilisation were made?

Ans. The artefacts of Harappan culture was made of a stone called steatite. The Harappan seal is the most distinctive artefact of the Harappan Civilisation.

Q 8. How are the burials found from the sites of Harappan culture different from the pyramids of Egypt?

Ans. The pyramids of Egypt were royal burials, while the burials of Harappan culture were concerned with the common people. Harappans did not bury precious things with the dead, but the Egyptians did so.

Q 9. Mention any four items found in the graves of the Harappans.

Ans. Pottery, ornaments, jewellery, shell rings, priest stone, beads and copper mirror have been found in the graves.

Q 10. Name two utilitarian objects found at Harappan sites.

Ans. Querns, pottery, needles, flesh-rubbers. (any two).

Q 11. What was the importance of falence used in Harappan Civilisation?

Ans. The pots made of falence were considered costly or luxurious objects of Indus Valley Civilisation. Falence was a material made of ground sand or silica mixed with colour and a gum and then fired. The pots were costly because they were difficult to make.

Q 12. What were the hoards of Indus Valley Civilisation?

Ans. These were the objects used by Indus Valley Civilisation. They were kept carefully by people inside containers such as pots. Such hoards can be of jewellery or metal objects saved by metal workers.

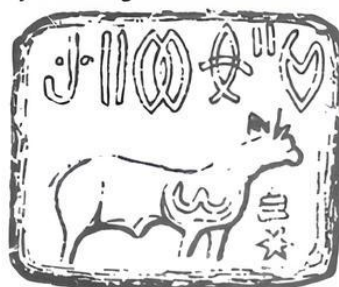
Q 13. What were the mounds?

Ans. When people continue to live in the same place, their constant use and refuse of the landscape results in the build up of occasional debris called a mound.

Q 14. How do archaeologists try to reconstruct the Harappan history?

Ans. Archaeologists try to reconstruct the Harappan history with material evidences of tools, pottery, ornaments, house hold etc.

Q 2. Identify the image shown below:



Ans. Cunningham's sketch of the first known seal from Harappa.



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. List the items of food available to people in Harappan cities. Identify the groups who would have provided these.

Ans. The items of food available to people in Harappan cities and the groups who would have provided these are as follows:

Food available to people	Group who provided these food items
Food item from plants	Food gathers
Flesh and Fish	Hunter groups
Grains like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and millets.	Agricultural groups.

Q 2. How do archaeologists trace socio-economic differences in Harappan society? What are the differences that they notice?

OR

Describe any three features of the burial sites in Harappa? (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. Archaeologists generally use the following strategies to find out the social and economic differences among the people in the Harappan society.

(i) **Burials:**

(a) At burials in Harappan sites the dead were generally laid in pits. There were differences in the way the burial pit was made. In some cases, the hollowed-out spaces were lined with bricks. But not sure, whether these variations were an indication of social differences or not.

(b) Some graves contain pottery and ornaments indicating that these could be used in the after life.

(c) Jewellery has been found in burials of both men and women. In some cases dead were buried with copper mirrors. But it appears that the Harappan did not believe in burying precious things with dead.



Identify the Image Type Questions

Q 1. Identify the image shown below:



Ans. Terracotta figurine.

(ii) **Artefacts:** Another strategy to identify social differences is to study artefacts, which are broadly classified as luxuries and utilitarian.

(a) **Utilitarian:** It includes objects of daily use made fairly easily out of ordinary materials such as, stone or clay. e.g.: pottery, needles etc.

(b) **Luxuries:** It includes objects which are rare or made from costly, non-local materials or with complicated technologies.

Examples: Little pots of faience were probably considered precious because they were difficult to make.

Q 3. Describe any three features of the Harappan Drainage system? (CBSE SQP 2022-23)

OR

Would you agree that the drainage system in Harappan cities indicates town planning? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

Explain briefly the distinctive features of Harappan drainage system.

OR

Describe briefly the drainage system of Harappan cities.

OR

Mention two features of drainage system of the Harappan cities. (CBSE 2015)

OR

One of the most distinctive features of the Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system? Elaborate. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Yes, I agree that the drainage system in Harappan cities indicates town planning. This can be justified through the following points:

- (i) At the plan of the Lower Town it was noticed that roads and streets were laid out along an approximate "grid", pattern, intersecting at right angles.
- (ii) Every house needed to have at least one wall along a street so that domestic waste water can flow into the street drains. It seems that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses built along them.
- (iii) Every house was connected to the street drains. The main channels were made of bricks set in mortar and were covered with loose bricks that could be removed for cleaning. In some cases, limestone was used for the covers.
- (iv) House drains first emptied into a sump or cesspit into which solid matter settled while waste water flowed out into the street drains.

(v) Therefore, we can say that Harappan cities had a carefully planned drainage system.

Q 4. List the materials used to make beads in the Harappan Civilisation. Describe the process by which any one kind of bead was made.

Ans. A large variety of materials were used for making beads.

They include:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| (i) Carnelian | (ii) Shell | (iii) Jasper |
| (iv) Faience | (v) Bronze | (vi) Terracotta |
| (vii) Gold | (viii) Burnt clay. | |

Process of Making Beads: The process of making beads differed according to the materials used. Beads had a variety of shapes, but not geometric shapes as ones made from stones.

The process used for making beads was as follows:

- (i) Cutting steatite and filling the cuts with red paste. Beads of steatite were easily made, because it was a very soft stone.
- (ii) The red colour of carnelian was obtained by firing the yellowish raw material and beads at various stages.
- (iii) Grinding, polishing and drilling completed the process. Special kinds of tools were used in drilling the beads.

Q 5. Describe the contribution of John Marshall, Director General of the ASI of Indian archaeology.

(CBSE 2019)

OR

Who was John Marshall? How did he mark a change in Indian Archaeology? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. John Marshall was a famous archaeologist who was the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1924 when site of Harappa was excavated.

Change in Indian Archaeology marked by John Marshall:

- (i) He marked a change in Indian archaeology by announcing the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- (ii) He left India three thousand years older than he had found her.
- (iii) He was the first professional archaeologist to work in India.
- (iv) He brought his experience of working in Greece and Crete to the field.
- (v) He was interested in spectacular finds.
- (vi) He was equally keen to look for patterns of everyday life.

Q 6. Who was R.E.M. Wheeler? Mention any one of his contribution in the field of archaeology? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. **R.E.M. Wheeler:** He was an archaeologist who was the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1944.

Contributions:

- (i) He rectified the excavations done by John Marshall, so as to follow stratigraphy of the mound to excavate.
- (ii) He classified objects according to the layer of soil where it was found.
- (iii) He brought military precision to the practice of archaeology. Driven by a sense of adventure, he relentlessly excavated Harappa in spite of the hot and humid weather.
- (iv) He also tried to correlate archaeological findings of the Harappan Civilisation with the Rig Veda.

Q 7. Who was Cunningham? Mention any one source he collected to understand the Harappan culture.

(CBSE 2016)

OR

Who was Cunningham? Mention any one account used by him to locate the early settlements of Harappan Civilisation.

Ans. Cunningham: He was the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India who began archaeological excavations in the mid-nineteenth century.

One source he collected: (Any one)

- (i) Harappan seal.
- (ii) Terracotta objects.
- (iii) Harappan inscriptions.
- (iv) Harappan artefacts.
- (v) Chinese Buddhist pilgrim's accounts.

Q 8. Write any three views on the decline of the Harappan Civilisation.

Ans. Three views on the decline of the Harappan Civilisation are:

- (i) The decline was due to natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, droughts and epidemics.
- (ii) Another view suggests that Aryans were responsible for the decline of the Harappan Civilisation.
- (iii) The change of the course of river Indus transformed it into a tract of sand and affected the soil's fertility. Harappan Civilisation declined because of increasing aridity in the area and drying up of the river Ghaggar.

Q 9. Write any three characteristics of the bricks used in Harappan settlements.

Ans. Three characteristics of the bricks used in the Harappan settlements are:

- (i) Sun-dried or baked bricks were used.
- (ii) Bricks were also baked in the kilns.
- (iii) Bricks had standard ratio. Their length was four times than height and breadth was twice bigger than the height.

Q 10. Why do archaeologists and historians find Harappan script enigmatic? Explain the reasons.

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. Archaeologists and historians found Harappan script enigmatic because of the following reasons:

- (i) Harappan seals usually have a line of writing, probably containing the name and title of the owner, motif conveyed a meaning to those who could not read.
- (ii) The script remains undeciphered to date, it was evidently not alphabetical as it has too many signs – somewhere between 375 and 400. The script was written from right to left.
- (iii) Seals show a wider spacing on the right and cramping on the left, as if the engraver began working from the right and then ran out of space.
- (iv) Most inscriptions were short but the longest one contains about 26 signs.

Q 11. How were Harappan seals and sealings used to facilitate long distance communication? What did the sealings convey?

Ans. Harappan Seals and Sealings were used to facilitate long distance communication:

- (i) A bag of goods being sent from one place to another. Its mouth was tied with rope and on the knot was affixed some wet clay on which one or more seals were pressed, leaving an impression.
- (ii) If the bag reached with its sealing intact, it meant that it had not been tampered with. The sealing also conveyed the identity of the sender.

COMMON ERROR

The students mention incorrect names of Western Asian countries.

TIP

The students should mention specific objects that were traded during the Harappan Civilisation with different regions in West Asia, corroborated with account found in Mesopotamian texts.

Q 12. What do you understand by layers of Indus Valley Civilisation?

- Ans.**
- (i) The city was found in layers which indicates that it was rebuilt many times mostly due to the flooding of the Indus river.
 - (ii) Occupations are detected by traces of ancient materials found in layers which differ from one another in colour, texture and the artefacts that are found in them.
 - (iii) Abandonment or desertions called as 'Sterile layers' can be identified by the absence of such traces. The lowest layers are the oldest and the highest are the most recent.

- (iv) Artefacts found in layers can be assigned to specific cultural periods and can thus provide the cultural sequence for a site.

Q 13. 'There are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in the Harappan Society'. In light of this statement, explain whether there may have been rulers to rule over the Harappan society. (CBSE 2018)

Ans. Historians suggest that there are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in the Harappan Society.

- (i) The extraordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts as evident in pottery, seals, weights and bricks.
- (ii) The settlements were strategically set up in specific locations for various reasons.
- (iii) Labour was mobilised for making bricks and for the construction of massive walls and platform.
- (iv) Some archaeologists are of the opinion that Harappan society had no rulers, and everybody enjoyed equal status. According to some archaeologists there was no single ruler but several, that Mohenjodaro had a separate ruler, and Harappa another.
- (v) Some argue that there was a single state which is evident from the similarity of artefacts, the planned settlement. The standardised ratio of bricks size and establishments of settlement near sources of raw materials.

Q 14. How have historians provided new insight into the subsistence strategies of the Harappan culture?

Ans. According to historians, mature Harappan culture developed in some of the areas occupied by the Early Harappan cultures. These cultures also shared certain common elements including subsistence strategies which were:

- (i) The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish, wheat, maize, rice and another eatables.
- (ii) Cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig were domesticated by the Harappans for their sustenance.
- (iii) Archaeological evidence suggested that oxen were used for ploughing and two different crops were grown together.

Q 15. Describe about the town planning of Harappa? (CBSE 2023)

OR

Mention any three features of Harappan cities.

Ans. The three features of Harappan cities were:

- (i) They were well planned. The cities were divided into two sections. The two sections were one smaller and higher, i.e., the citadel and other much larger but lower, i.e., the lower town.
- (ii) One of the most distinctive features of Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage systems. The roads and streets were laid out along an approximate 'grid' pattern, intersecting at right angles.

- (iii) At burials in Harappan areas, the dead were generally laid in pits. Some graves contained pottery and ornaments which indicated the belief that these materials could be used in the after life.



Q 16. Describe the opinions of the archaeologists over the central authority of the Harappan Civilisation. (CBSE 2015)

OR

'The archaeological records provide no immediate answer to the Harappan central authority.' Analyse different views given on the same.

Ans. Opinions of the archaeologists over the central authority of the Harappan Civilisation are as follows:

- (i) Some archaeologists stated that Harappan Society had no rulers, and everybody enjoyed equal status.
- (ii) Other feel there was no single ruler but many rulers. Mohenjodaro had a separate ruler, Harappa another and so forth.
- (iii) Some scholars also argued that there was a single state given the similarity in artefacts, the evidence for planned settlements, the standardisation ratio of brick size and the establishments near source of raw material.
- (iv) The last theory seems the most plausible, as it is unlikely that entire communities could have collectively made and implemented such complex decisions in the different parts of Indus Valley.

Q 17. Describe the agricultural practices and means of irrigation used by the Harappans. (CBSE 2018)

Ans. Agricultural practices and means of irrigation used by the Harappans are as follows:

- (i) The Harappans ate a wide range of plant products. Archaeologists have been reconstructing dietary practices from findings of charred grains, seeds and bones.
- (ii) Food grains found at Harappan sites include wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame, millets and rice.
- (iii) Bones of wild species such as boar, deer and 'gharial' were also found.
- (iv) The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together.
- (v) Water was drawn from wells and water reservoirs was used for irrigation. (Any three)

Q 18. Mention any two methods adopted by the Harappans for increasing the agricultural production.

Ans. Methods adopted by the Harappans for increasing the agricultural production:

- (i) Animals such as oxen used for ploughing the field.

- (ii) Water from canals and wells was used for irrigation.
- (iii) Wooden plough was used for tilling fields.

COMMON ERROR

Many students confuse subsistence strategies with survival from wars with other tribes and start answering about town planning etc.



TIP

The subsistence strategies not only cover crop grown but also relate with agricultural activities like irrigation, field plan etc.

Q 19. 'Over the decades, new issues have assumed importance in the archaeology of Harappan'. Give two evidences to justify the statements. (CBSE 2019)

Ans. Over the decades, new issues have assumed importance in Harappan archaeology:

- (i) Some archaeologists are keen to obtain a cultural sequence.
- (ii) Few of them try to understand the logic behind the location of specific sites.
- (iii) There has also been growing international interest in Harappan archaeology. Specialists from the subcontinent and abroad now work together on sites, using modern techniques to excavate and analyse every scrap of evidence found.

Q 20. With the help of example that the Harappans had established their contacts with Western Asia for purchase/exchange of artefacts. (CBSE 2019)

Ans. Harappans had contacts with West Asia:

- (i) Harappans got their copper from Oman.
- (ii) Chemical analyses shows that Omani copper and Harappan artefacts have traces of nickel, suggesting a common origin. There are other traces of contact as well.
- (iii) A distinctive type of vessel, a large Harappan jar coated with a thick layer of black clay has been found at Omani sites.
- (iv) Mesopotamian texts tell us about copper coming from Magan.
- (v) Communication with Oman and other West Asian countries was by sea route.

Q 21. 'Many reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on assumptions and archaeological interpretation'. Substantiate the statement. (CBSE 2019)

Ans. Many reconstruction of Harappan religion are made on the assumptions and archaeological interpretations. This can be justified by the following assumptions.

- (i) Archaeologists thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar may have had a religious significance. These included terracotta figurines of women, heavily jewelled, some with elaborate head dresses. These were regarded as mother goddesses.

- (ii) Rare stone statuary of men in an almost standardised posture, seated with one hand on the knee – such as the "priest-king" was also similarly classified.
- (iii) Many reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on the assumption that later traditions provide parallels with earlier ones.
- (iv) Mythical creatures like unicorn, figure seated cross legged in yogic posture of Proto-Shiva were all examples of Hindu religion.

Q 22. Describe the basis on which archaeologists identified the centres of craft production in the Harappan culture. (CBSE 2018)

Ans. The basis on which archaeologists identify the centres of craft production:

- (i) Raw materials such as stone nodules, whole shells, copper ore.
- (ii) Tools
- (iii) Unfinished objects.
- (iv) **Rejected and Waste Material:** Water is one of the best indicators of craft work. For instance, if shell or stone is cut to make objects, then pieces of these materials will be discarded as waste at the place of production.
- (v) **Finished Products:** Sometimes, larger waste pieces were used up to make smaller objects which suggest that apart from small specialised centres, craft production was also undertaken in large cities such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

Q 23. Explain the three exclusive features of craft production in Chanhudaro. (CBSE 2015)

Ans. Chanhudaro was a tiny settlement as compared to Mohenjodaro. The features of craft production in Chanhudaro are:

- (i) The main craft production included bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making.
- (ii) The materials used to make beads is remarkable: stones like carnelian, jasper, crystal, and steatite; metals like copper, bronze and gold; and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay.
- (iii) Some beads were made of two or more stones. These were cemented together and some were made of stones with beautiful gold caps. The shapes were numerous – disc shaped, cylindrical, spherical, barrel-shaped, segmented.
- (iv) Some beads were moulded out of a paste made with steatite powder. This permitted making a variety of shapes, unlike the geometrical forms made out of harder stones.

Q 24. Explain the changes that were observed after 1900 BCE in Harappan Civilisation. What could have brought these changes?

Ans. Changes observed after 1900 BCE in Harappan Civilisation were:

- (i) There exist a transformation of material culture.

marked by the disappearance of the distinctive artefacts of the civilisation – weights, seals, special beads. Writing, long – distance trade, and craft specialisation also disappeared.

- (ii) House construction techniques deteriorated and large public structures were no longer produced.

Reasons:

- (i) Climate change, deforestation, excessive floods, the shifting and/or drying up of rivers, to overuse of the landscape.
- (ii) Some of these "cause" may hold for certain settlements, but they do not explain the collapse of the entire civilisation.
- (iii) It appears that a strong unifying element, perhaps the Harappan state, came to an end. This is evidenced by the disappearance of seals, the script, pottery etc.

COMMON ERROR

Some students are not aware of the facts that separate Mature Harappan Era from Late Harappan Era. The students only mentioned the reasons for decline of the civilisation.



TIP

The questions asked in two parts – changes and reasons for the changes. The answer must also be in the same pattern.

Q 25. Explain how different methods of irrigation were developed for agriculture in the Harappan site.

(CBSE 2017)

Ans. Different methods of Irrigation were:

- (i) Most Harappan sites are located in semi-arid lands, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture.
- (ii) Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan sites of Shortughai in Afghanistan.
- (iii) Wells were also used for the irrigation.
- (iv) Water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) used to store water for agriculture.

Q 26. Describe the contributions of the various archaeologists from 1875 to 1950 in discovering the Harappan Civilisation.

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. Here are some of the significant contributions made by archaeologists from 1875 till 1950:

- (i) **Alexander Cunningham (1814-1893):** Alexander Cunningham, the founder of the 'Archaeological Survey of India', is credited with discovering several ancient sites in the Indian Subcontinent. In 1875, Cunningham excavated the ancient city of Harappa in present-day Pakistan, which was the first site of the Harappan civilisation to be discovered.

- (ii) **John Marshall (1876-1958):** In the 1920s and 1930s, he led excavations at several Harappan sites, including Mohenjodaro, which is one of the largest and most well-preserved cities of the Harappan civilisation.

- (iii) **R.D. Banerji (1885-1951):** He was a prominent archaeologist who worked closely with Marshall during the excavation of Harappan sites. He is credited with discovering the ancient city of Kalibangan in present day Rajasthan which was one of the easternmost sites of the Harappan civilisation.

Q 27. Describe the distinctive features of domestic architecture of Mohenjodaro. (CBSE 2017)

Ans. The features of Mohenjodaro were as follows:

(i) Citadel:

- (a) It was smaller but higher than the lower town. It was walled and was physically separated from the Lower Town.
- (b) The Buildings were constructed with brick platforms. Some structures had been found that were probably used for special public purposes. These include the warehouse and the Great Bath.
- (c) The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor. On all four sides. The Great Bath was made watertight by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of gypsum. According to scholars it was meant for some kind of a special ritual bath.

- (ii) Drainage System:** One of the distinctive features of Mohenjodaro was the carefully planned drainage system. At the Lower Town, the roads and streets were laid out along an approximate "grid" pattern, intersecting at right angles.

- Domestic waste water flows into the street drains, every house needed to have at least one wall along a street. It seems that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses build along them.

(iii) The Lower Town:

- (a) The Lower Town was also walled. Several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations.
- (b) All building activity within the city was restricted to a fixed area.
- (c) These building had been built by mobilising labour on a very large scale.

(iv) Usage of Standard Bricks:

- (a) The quality of sun dried bricks or baked bricks also prove the concept of planning. All the bricks were of a standard ratio.

- (b) The length and width was four times and twice the height of the bricks. Such bricks were used at all Harappan settlements.

Q 28. Describe any three features of the Great Bath used in the Harappan Civilisation? (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides. The main features of Great Bath are :

- (i) There were two sets of steps one in the north and the other in the south that goes to the tank.
- (ii) Once the water in the tank is used then it drains.
- (iii) The uniqueness of the structure has led scholars to suggest that it was meant for a special ritual bath.

Q 29. List the raw materials required for craft production in the Harappan Civilisation and discuss how these might have been obtained.

OR

Describe briefly how the centres of craft production are identified.

Ans. In order to identify the centres of craft production, archaeologists usually look for the raw materials, like stone modules, shells, copper ore, unfinished objects and waste materials.

They obtained different materials from different cities which were as follows:

- (i) Shell from Nageshwar, Balakot
- (ii) Blue stone (Lapis Lazuli) from (Shortughal, Afghanistan).
- (iii) Copper from khetri (Rajasthan).
- (iv) Steatite from South Rajasthan and North Gujarat.
- (v) Gold from South India.
- (vi) Carnelian (a glossy stone) from Bharuch in Gujarat.

Q 30. Describe any three sources to know about the Harappan Civilisation? (CBSE 2023)

OR

Discuss how archaeologists reconstruct the past.

Ans. Archaeologists used following evidences to reconstruct the past:

(i) Material Evidence:

- (a) Archaeologists were not only dependent on Harappan script, it was material evidence too. The material evidence could be pottery, tools, ornaments etc. Organic materials such as cloth, leather, wood and reeds generally decompose, especially in tropical areas.
- (b) Archaeologists classify their finds in terms of material such as stone, clay, metal, bone,

ivory etc. and in terms of functions to decide whether, for instance, an artefact is a tool or an ornament, or both, or something meant for ritual use.

(ii) Religious Practices:

- (a) Archaeologist faced problems in attempts to reconstruct religious practices. Archaeologists thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar may have had a religious significance. These included terracotta figurines of women, heavily jewelled, some with elaborate head-dresses.
- (b) Rare stone statuary of men in an almost standardised posture, seated with one hand on the knee – such as the “priest king” was also similarly classified.

(iii) Structures:

- (a) Structures like the Great Bath and fire altars have been assigned ritual significance. Plant motifs thought to indicate nature worship. Animals such as one-horned animal called the ‘unicorn’ depicted on seals seems to be mythical.
- (b) A figure seated cross legged in “yogic” posture surrounded by animals has been regarded as a depiction of “Proto-Shiva”.

Q 31. Discuss the functions that may have been performed by rulers in Harappan society.

Ans. The functions that may have been performed by rulers in Harappan society were as follows:

- (i) Complex Decisions:** There are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in Harappan society. For instance, the extraordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts as evident in pottery, seals, weights and bricks shows the complex decisions. The settlements were strategically set up in specific locations for many reasons.
- (ii) Cleanliness:** It was the responsibility of the ruler. For this purpose Road lanes and drains were also constructed.
- (iii) Plans and Layout:** Plans and Layout of the city were prepared under the guidance of the rulers. Big buildings, palaces, forts tanks and granaries were constructed.
- (iv) Economy:** The ruler was responsible for the welfare of the economy. Farmers were encouraged to increase production. They promoted different handicraft by motivating the craftsmen. The ruler used to issue common acceptable coins or seals, weights and measurements. The ruler also promoted internal and external trade.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What are the aspects of Harappan economy that have been reconstructed from archaeological evidence?

Ans. The aspects of Harappan economy that have been reconstructed from the archaeological evidence are:

(i) Agriculture:

- It has been found that the agriculture was one of the most important source of food.
- The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish. Evidences, such as charred grains have been found in the Harappan Civilisation. The seeds like wheat, barley, and sesame were cultivated in Harappa.
- It has been assumed that oxen were used for ploughing the land. Moreover, terracotta models of plough also have been found at the sites in Cholistan and at Banawali.
- Irrigation was also known to Harappans. Traces of canals have been found at Shortughai in Afghanistan and water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) to store water for agriculture.

(ii) Animal Domestication:

- Bones of animals such as sheep, goat, cow, oxen, buffalo and pig were found at Harappan sites which indicate that these animals were domesticated.
- But it was not sure whether the Harappans hunted these animals themselves or obtained meat from other hunting communities.

(iii) Trade:

- The Harappans had long distance communication which is evident from the finds of seals and sealings of Harappans in the distant sites of Mesopotamia.
- Harappans exchanged the contents of the distinctive type of vessels for Omani copper.

(iv) Procurement of Crafts:

- Prevalence of artefacts such as pottery sculptures, bead making seal and sealings were also done in Harappan cities.
- Besides these, weaving, building construction, jewellery making were also done there.

Q 2. 'Early Harappan archaeologists thought that certain objects which seem unusual and unfamiliar may have had a religious significance'. Substantiate.

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. Archaeological Interpretation to reconstruct religious practices of Harappan Civilisation was not easy.

The important facts to reconstruct the religious beliefs of the Harappan periods as follows:

- Archaeologists thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar may have had a religious significance.

These included terracotta figurines of women, heavily jewelled, with elaborate head-dresses. These were regarded as mother goddesses.

- Rare stone statuary of men in an almost standardised posture, seated with one hand on the knee – such as the "priest king" was also similarly classified. Structures like Great Bath and fire altars have been assigned ritual significance.
- Seals were examined to reconstruct religious beliefs and practices. Some of which seem to depict ritual scenes. Plant motifs are thought to indicate nature worship. Animals such as one horned animal often called the "unicorn" depicted on seals seem to be mythical composite creatures.
- Figure seated cross legged in a 'yogic posture' sometimes surrounded by animals has been regarded as a depiction of 'Proto – Shiva', that is an early form of one of the major deities of Hinduism.
- Many reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on the assumption that later traditions provide parallels with earlier ones. This is because archaeologists often move from the known to the unknown. Thus, reconstructing religious practices was not easy for the archaeologists.

Q 3. What are the evidences found by the archaeologists which shows that the Harappans had contacts with distant lands: Does it show that the contacts proved to have good trade relations with each other?

Ans. The evidences found by the archaeologists which shows that the Harappans had contacts with distant lands are:

- Chemical Analysis:** Archaeological finds suggest that copper was probably brought from Oman. Chemical Analysis have shown that both the Omani copper and Harappan artefacts have traces of nickel, suggesting common origin.

(ii) Distinctive Type of Vessel (Harappan Jars):

- A distinctive type of vessel, a large Harappan jar coated with a thick layer of black clay has been found at Omani Sites. This type of jars prevent the percolation of liquids.
- It is possible that the Harappans exchanged the contents of these vessels for Omani Copper.

(iii) Mesopotamian Texts:

- Mesopotamian texts of third millennium BC referred the copper came from a region called 'Magan', perhaps a name for Oman.

(b) Mesopotamian texts also mentioned contact with regions named Dilmun, Magan and Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region. Meluhha was a land of seafarers. They mention the products from Meluhha: carnelian, lapis lazuli, varieties of wood, copper, gold.

(iv) Seals, Weights and Beads:

(a) Archaeologist finds suggest of long distance contacts which include Harappan seals, weights and beads. Harappan seals, weights and beads have been found from a number of Mesopotamian sites.

(b) Certain seals shows that there was a sharing of Ideas as well. This is a cylinder seal of the type. Commonly made and used in Mesopotamia, but the design, with a humped bull, appears to be derived from the Indus region.

(c) Depictions of ships and boats on seals indicates the trade relations between different countries. Local 'Dilmun' weights followed the Harappan standards.

All these evidences show that Harappan Civilisation had good trade relations with other countries.

Q 4. What factors in your opinion are responsible for the collapse of a mature Harappan Civilisation by 1800 BC?

Ans. There is strong evidence that by 1800 BC, most of the mature Harappan sites in regions like Cholistan had been abandoned. Simultaneously, there was a growth of settlements in Gujarat, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh.

At that time, distinctive artefacts of civilisation like weights, seals, special beads, writing, long distance trade and craft specialisation disappeared. House construction techniques deteriorated and large public structures were not produced.

There are many reasons that are being put forward by scholars regarding the decline of the Harappan civilisation. These reasons are:

(i) **Climatic changes:** deforestation, excessive floods, the shifting and/or drying up of rivers, to overuse of the landscape. Although some of these "causes" may hold for certain settlements, but do not explain the collapse of the entire civilisation.

(ii) **Invasion of Aryans:** It is believed by some scholars that invasion of Aryans lead to the decline of Harappan Civilisation however this hypothesis has been refused. As the skeletons found did not belong to the same period according to George Dales.

(iii) **End of an Unifying Element:** It is believed that a strong unifying element perhaps came to an end because we see disappearance of seals, scripts, weight etc.

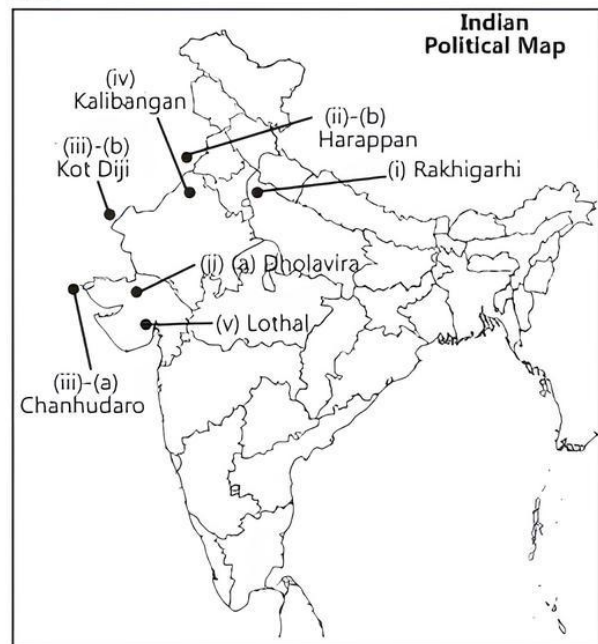


Map Based Questions ↘

Q 1. On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbols.

- (i) Rakhigarhi (CBSE 2018)
- (ii) Name of two mature Harappan sites.
- (iii) (a) Chanhudaro
(b) Kot Diji
- (iv) Kalibangan
- (v) Lothal

Ans.



Q 2. On the political outline map of India, three places have been marked as A, B and C, which are related to matured Harappan sites. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.

(CBSE 2019)

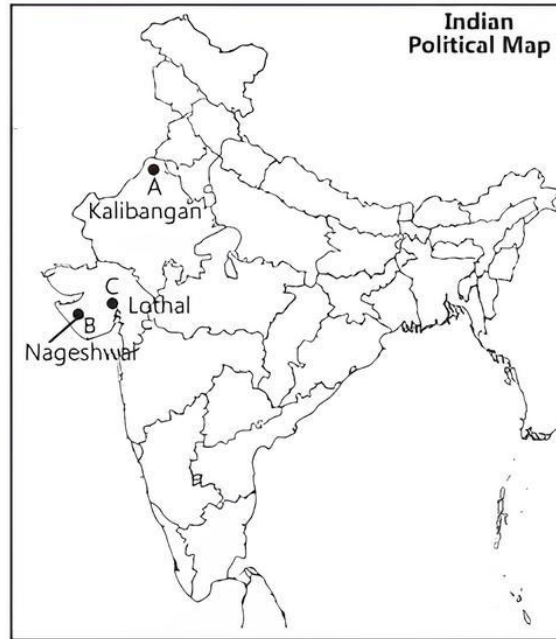
OR

On the given political map of India locate and label the following with appropriate symbols:

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

- Kalibangan
- Harappan site

Ans.



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Which of the following was a part of Harappan People's diet?
- a. Millets
 - b. Animal products
 - c. Mango seeds
 - d. Both a. and b.
- Q 2. The bones of which of these animals have been found at Harappan sites?
- a. Lion
 - b. Pig
 - c. Deer
 - d. Both b. and c.

Assertion-Reason Type Question

- Q 3. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Bones of cattle have been found at Harappan sites.

Reason (R): The practice of domesticating animals existed during Harappan Civilisation.

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and R is the correct explanation of (A).
- b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Fill in the Blank Type Question

- Q 4. The Indus Valley Civilisation is also called
- a. Harappan Culture
 - b. Ashoka city
 - c. Enigmatic
 - d. None of these

Identify the Image Type Question

- Q 5. Identify the following image:



Correct and Rewrite Type Question

- Q 6. Lothal was one of the largest cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation and most advanced city of its time built with planning.

Source Based Question

- Q 7. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Deadman Lane is a narrow valley, varying from

3 to 6 feet in width ... At the point where the lane turns Westward, part of a skull and the bones of the thorax and upper arm of an adult were discovered, all in very friable condition, at a depth of 4 ft 2 in. The body lay on its back diagonally across the lane. Fifteen inches to the west were a few fragments of a tiny skull. It is to these remains that the lane owes its name.

From John Marshall, Mohenjodaro and the Indus Civilisation, 1931.

Sixteen skeletons of people with the ornaments that they were wearing when they died were found from the same part of Mohenjodaro in 1925.

Much later, in 1947, R.E.M. Wheeler, then Director-General of the ASI, tried to correlate this archaeological evidence with that of the Rigveda, the earliest known text in the subcontinent. He wrote: The Rigveda mentions pur, meaning rampart, fort or stronghold.

Indra, the Aryan war-god is called puramdara, the fort-destroyer.

Where are – or were – these citadels?

It has in the past been supposed that they were mythical The recent excavation of Harappan may be thought to have changed the picture. Here we have a highly evolved civilisation of essentially non- Aryan type, now known to have employed massive fortifications What destroyed this firmly settled civilisation? Climatic, economic or political deterioration may have weakened it, but its ultimate extinction is more likely to have been completed by deliberate and large-scale destruction. It may be no more chance that at a late period of Mohenjodaro men, women, and children, appear to have been massacred there. On circumstantial evidence, Indra stands accused.

From R.E.M Wheeler, "Harappan 1946", Ancient India, 1947.

In the 1960s, the evidence of a massacre in

Mohenjodaro was questioned by an archaeologist named George Dales. He demonstrated that the skeletons found at the site did not belong to the same period.

Whereas a couple of them definitely seem to indicate a slaughter, ... the bulk of the bones were found in contexts suggesting burials of the sloppiest and most irreverent nature. There is no destruction level covering the latest period of the city, no sign of extensive burning, no bodies of warriors clad in armour and surrounded by the weapons of war. The citadel, the only fortified part of the city, yielded no evidence of a final defence.

From G.F. Dales, "The Mythical Massacre at Mohenjodaro", Expedition, 1964.

As you can see, a careful re-examination of the data can sometimes lead to a reversal of earlier interpretations.

- (i) According to R.E.M. Wheeler, what were the reasons for the destruction of Harappan culture?
- (ii) Why is the lane called Deadman Lane? How did John Marshall tend to excavate?
- (iii) Why are earlier interpretations sometimes reversed?

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 8. What indicated the use bull and oxen for ploughing by Mature Harappan Culture?
- Q 9. What is the other name of the Indus Valley Civilisation?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 10. Explain the strategies used by the archaeologists to understand socio-economic differences among the Harappans.
- Q 11. Describe some of the distinctive features of Mohenjodaro.

Long Answer Type Question

- Q 12. Who was John Marshall? How did he mark a change in the Indian Archaeology?