

Bricks, Beads and Bones

(The Harappan Civilisation)

The Harappan Civilisation

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 systems, water supply systems and exclusive craft production.

Harappa was a city in the Indus Valley Civilisation that flourished around 2600 to 1900 BC in the Western part of South Asia. Accordingly, the Indus Valley Civilisation is also called the Harappan culture. Archaeologists use the term 'culture' for distinctive objects which are different in style and found within a specific geographical area and period of time. Thus, objects belonging to the Harappan culture such as seals, beads, weights and stone blades were found from Afghanistan, Jammu, Baluchistan and Gujarat.

The Harappan Civilisation is sometimes called the Mature Harappan culture to distinguish it from the earlier and mature culture i.e. Early Harappan and late Harappan cultures, respectively.

CHAPTER CHECKLIST

- The Harappan Civilisation
- Subsistence Strategies in Harappan Civilisation
- Mohenjodaro : A Planned Urban Centre of Harappan Civilisation
- Art and Crafts Production
- Social and Economic Differences in Harappan Civilisation
- End of the Harappan Civilisation
- Ancient Authority of Harappan Society



The Harappan Civilisation is one of the ancient civilisations of the world and it is contemporary with the civilisation of Mesopotamia.

Subsistence Strategies in Harappan Civilisation

There were many subsistence strategies (means of livelihood) in Harappan civilisation, out of which agriculture and pastoralism were most significant. These are discussed below:

Agriculture

The Harappans ate plants and animal products (fish, fowl). Grains like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and millets are found from sites in Gujarat (Lothal). Rice is rarely found.

Evidence from various sites shows that Harappans grew grains like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame. Millets are also found from sites in Gujarat. There is rare evidence of Rice. Harappans also ate wide range of animal products.

Agricultural Technologies

Representation on seals and terracotta sculpture indicate that the bull was known and oxen were used for ploughing the field. Terracotta models of the plough are found in Cholistan and Banawali (Haryana).



A Terracotta Bull

Evidence of a ploughed field was found at Kalibangan (Rajasthan). This ploughed field had two sets of furrows at right angles which suggests that here two different crops were grown together. There are evidence of copper tools, stone blades tools, however archaeologist are not sure what kind of tools were used for agriculture.



Copper Tools

Most Harappan sites are located in semi-arid lands. Irrigation was required for agriculture. Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan. It is also likely that water drawn from wells was used for irrigation. Water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) many have been used to store water for agriculture.



Reservoir at Dholavira

Pastoralism and Hunting

Animal bones that of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig were found at Harappan sites which indicate that these animals were domesticated. Bones of deer and gharial are also found, but it is not clear 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 of Harappan Civilisation

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 (smaller but higher settlement) and the lower town (larger but lower settlement).

The Citadel

The citadel was walled which meant that it was separated from the lower town. The buildings were constructed on mud brick platforms. There were variations in Harappan settlements.

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.

There are structures in citadel that were probably used for special public purposes. These included the warehouse and the Great Bath.

The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridors on all four sides. There were two flights of steps on the North and the South to reach the tank.

The Great Bath was made watertight by setting bricks on their edges and using the plaster of gypsum. On three sides of it there were rooms, in one of which was a large well. Water from the tank flowed into a huge drain.

In the North side there was a smaller building having eight bathrooms, four on each side of its corridor. From each bathroom, drains were coming out and these were connected to a drain that ran along the corridor. Seeing the uniqueness of the structure, scholars suggest that it was meant for a kind of special ritual bath.

The Lower Town

The lower town was organised on a grid system which served as foundations. It was also walled. Archaeologists believe that it was probably the city where most of the people lived and worked. Bricks used for settlements were sun-dried or baked. They were of standardised

Drainage System

One of the most distinctive features of Mohenjodaro was the carefully planned drainage system. The streets and roads were laid out in grid pattern, intersecting at right angles.

According to archaeologists, it was believed that streets with drains were built first and then the houses were built along them. If domestic waste water had to flow into the street drains, then every house was needed to have at least one wall along a street.

Limestone was used for the covers. House drains first emptied into a sump or cesspit into which solid matter settled while waste water flowed out into the street drains. Long drainage channels were provided at intervals with sumps. At Lothal, houses were built of mud bricks and drains were made of burnt bricks.

Domestic Architecture

Most of the residential buildings were centered on a courtyard with rooms on all sides. The courtyard was probably the centre of activities such as cooking and weaving. There were no windows in the walls along the ground level. The main entrance does not give a direct view of the interior or the courtyard.

Every house had its own bathroom with drains connected through the walls 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 outside and used by passers-by. Total number of wells in Mohenjodaro was about 700.

Check Point 01

1. When was Indus valley Civilisation discovered?
2. A large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides was known as
3. The city of Mohenjodaro was divided into parts.
4. The lower town in Mohenjodaro was organised on a system which served as foundations.

Art and Crafts Production

Chanhudaro is a small town which was famous for craft production. This city was exclusively busy in craft production like bead-making, shell-cutting, metal

The materials used in making all these crafts were carnelian (beautiful red colour), jasper, crystal, quartz, copper, bronze, gold, shell, faience and terracotta.

The beads were made of different shapes and forms like disc-shaped, cylindrical, spherical, barrel-shaped and segmented. Special drills were found at Chanhudaro, Lothal and Dholavira.

The cities like Balakot and Nageshwar were specialised centres for making shell objects like bangles, a large long handled spoon with a cup-shaped bowl (ladle) and inlay.



A Tool and Beads

Centres for Procuring Materials

Materials for some craft production were locally available and some materials were transported from outside the alluvial plain. Terracotta toy models of bullock carts are found. This suggests that bullock cart was one of the important means of transport at that time. Riverine routes were also probably used.

For procuring raw materials, expeditions were sent to other areas.

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

Material	Cities
Shell	Nageshwar, Balakot
Blue stone (Lapis Lazuli)	Shornuhai (Afghanistan)

Material	Cities
Metal	Rajasthan
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan). Archaeologists named the Khetri area as Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture
Gold	South India



A Terracotta Cart

Evidences of Harappan Contacts with Distant Lands

Evidences from Harappan sites suggest that Harappans had contact with distant lands. These evidences were:

- Traces of nickel have been found after chemical analyses of both the Omani copper and Harappan artefacts.
- A large Harappan jar coated with a thick layer of black clay has been found at Omani sites. It is possible that the Harappans exchanged the contents of these vessels for Omani copper. Some data shows that Mesopotamia transported the copper from Magan, Oman.
- Mesopotamian sites also contain traces of nickel.
- Mesopotamia texts mention contact with regions named Dilmun (island of Bahrain), Magan and Meluhha.
- Evidences of depiction of ship and boats on seals.



Seals, Script and Weights of Harappan Civilisation

Seals and Sealings

Seals and sealings were used to facilitate long distance communication. Before sending the product to another place, it was tied with rope and on the knot, some wet clay was affixed. This was done so that one or more seals were pressed on it, leaving an impression. If the product reached with its seal intact, it means it had reached safely. The seal also conveyed the identity of the sender.

The Harappan seal is the most distinctive artefact (an object or ornament or tool of ancient time) of Harappan civilisation. The seal is made of a stone called steatite (the mineral talc in consolidated form). The seals also contain animal motifs (shapes) and signs from a script.



A Harappan Seal

A cylinder seal found in Mesopotamia has humped bull motif which can be derived from the Indus region. The round Persian Gulf seal found in Bahrain sometimes carries Harappan motifs.



A Cylinder Seal

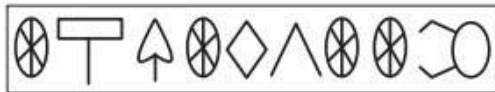
Script

Harappan seals usually have a line of writing and probably contain the name and title of the owner.

Harappan script was very difficult to understand.

Scholars have suggested that the motif (generally an animal) conveyed a meaning to those people who could not read.

Most inscriptions were short and the longest contained about 26 signs. The script was written from right to left. Writing has been found on seals, copper tools, rims of jars, bone rods, copper and terracotta tablets and jewellery bone rods and an ancient signboard. The script was not alphabetical and had many signs, somewhere between 375 and 400. The Harappan scripts remain undeciphered to date.



Letters on an Ancient Signboard

Weights

In Harappan civilisation, exchanges were regulated by a precise system of weights, usually made of a cubical stone called chert. The lower denominations of weights were binary i.e., 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc. upto 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. Local 'Dilmun' weights followed the Harappan standard.

Check Point 02

1. Which cities were specialised centres for making shell objects?
2. From where did we get Terracotta model of plough?
3. Which Harappan site is located in Afghanistan?
4. The Harappan script was written from to

Social and Economic Differences in Harappan Civilisation

Archaeologists use certain strategies to find out social or economic differences amongst people living within a particular culture. By studying burials and artefacts they found the social differences in Harappan Civilisation.

Burials

At burials in Harappan sites, the dead were generally laid in pits. Sometimes, differences were found in the way the burial pit was made. Some graves of Harappan Civilisation contain pottery (pots or objects made of fired clay) and ornaments. This indicates that Harappan people had a belief that these items could be used in the afterlife.

Jewellery has been found in burials of both men and women. Their ornaments consisted of three shell rings, a semi-precious stone (jasper) and hundreds of micro beads. Precious things were not found with the dead, so it seems that they did not believe in burying precious things with the dead. In one such example, dead were buried with copper mirrors.

Artefacts

It is another strategy to identify social differences. These can be classified as utilitarian (designed to be useful rather than attractive) and luxuries.

- **Utilitarian** It includes objects of daily use that were made of stone or clay like a stone-hand mill for grinding corn (querns), pottery, needles and body scrubbers (flesh-rubbers), etc. These were easily found in the settlements.
- **Luxuries** The objects were luxuries if they were rare or made costly or with complicated technologies. Little pots of faience were precious. Faience was made of ground sand or silica mixed with colour and gum and then fired. The precious things were mostly found in big cities like Mohenjodaro and Harappa. Gold jewelleryes were found in Harappan city. It was recovered from hoards (objects kept carefully by people often inside containers such as pots). Miniature pots of faience, perhaps used as perfume bottles are mostly found in Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

End of the Harappan Civilisation

In 1800 BC, most of the Harappan sites in regions such as Cholistan had become uninhabited and gradually there was an expansion of population into new settlements in Gujarat, Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh.

After, 1900 BC, there was a marked change in material culture with the disappearance of the artefacts of the civilisation like weights, seals and special beads.

had disappeared. House construction techniques deteriorated. These artefacts and settlements indicate a rural way of life which is called late Harappan or successor cultures.

Reasons for End of the Harappan Civilisation

Several explanations have been put forward about the reason for the end of the civilisation. These range from climate change, deforestation, excessive floods, shifting or drying up of rivers and overuse of land. These causes were responsible for the end of certain settlements but not for the end of the entire civilisation.

The end of the Harappan Civilisation was evidenced by the disappearance of seals, scripts, 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 discoveries of Harappan Civilisation through archaeologists were as follows :

Alexander Cunningham

- He was the first Director- General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). He was often called the father of Indian archaeology.
- He began archaeological excavations in the mid-nineteenth century.
- He used the accounts left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims. These pilgrims had visited the Indian subcontinent between the 4th and 7th centuries CE to locate early settlements.
- He also collected, documented and translated inscriptions found during his excavations.
- When he received a Harappan seal found by an Englishman, he unsuccessfully tried to place it in the time frame between the 4th and 7th centuries CE, which caused confusion in his mind. Thus he missed the significance of Harappa.

Daya Ram Sahni

- In the early decades of the 20th century, seals were discovered at Harappa by Daya Ram Sahni.

Rakhal Das Banerji

- He also found similar seals at Mohenjodaro, leading to conjecture that these sites were part of a single

John Marshall

- He was the Director General of ASI. On the basis of discoveries of Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhal Das Banerji, in 1924 he announced to the world the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley.
- He tended to excavate along regular horizontal units, measured uniformly throughout the mound, ignoring the stratigraphy of the site.

REM Wheeler

- He was the Director General of the ASI in 1944.
- He recognised that it was necessary to follow the stratigraphy of the mound rather than dig mechanically along uniform horizontal lines.
- He rectified the previous problems faced by the archaeologists.

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 seeds generally decompose, especially in tropical regions and only stone, burnt clay, metal etc has survived.

Classifying Finds have Survived

One simple principle of classification is in terms of material such as stones, clay, metal, bone ivory etc. The second is in terms of functions. 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 example, though there are traces of cotton at some Harappan sites, but there is dependence on indirect evidence including depictions in sculpture to find out about clothing.

Problems of Interpretation

Reconstructing religious practices was also a problematic issue for archaeologists. Every archaeologist thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar had religious significance.

These include

- Terracotta figurines of women, heavily jewelled with headdresses. These are regarded as mother goddesses.
- Stone statuary (art of making statues) of man in a standardised posture, seated with one hand on the knee such as priest-king was also regarded religious.
- Structures like Great Bath and fire altars found at Kalibangan and Lothal also have had ritual significance.
- Plant motifs are thought to indicate nature worship.
- A One-horned animal called the unicorn depicted on seals seem to be mythical.
- A figure shown seated cross-legged in a yogic posture and surrounded by animals has been regarded as proto-Shiva.
- Conical stone objects have been classified as *lingas*.
- The earliest religious text, i.e. the Rigveda (1500-1000 BCE) mentioned a god named Rudra, which was later used for Lord Shiva in later Puranic literature.



A Proto-Shiva Seal

Ancient Authority of Harappan Society

Complex decisions were taken and implemented in Harappan Society. There was no centre of authority or person in power in Harappan society. The extraordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts is evident in pottery, seals, weights and bricks, suggesting some forms of authority and governance.

Palaces and Kings

A large building found at Mohenjodaro was labelled as a palace by archaeologists but no magnificent findings marked it as a palace. A stone statue was labelled and continues to be known as **Priest-King**, as the archaeologists were familiar with Mesopotamian history and its priest-kings.



A Priest-King

According to some archaeologists, Harappan society had no rulers and everybody enjoyed equal status. Some others suggest that there were separate rulers for different cities like Mohenjodaro and Harappa. The planned settlements, the standardised ratio of brick size and the establishment of settlements represents that the Harappan Civilisation had a single authority.

Check Point 03

1. Precious things were only found in like Mohenjodaro and Harappa.
2. Fire altars were found at
3. A figure seated close legged in a yogic posture and surrounded by animals has been regarded as
4. Conical stone objects have been classified as
5. Name any one evidence found to indicate that the Harappan Civilisation had a single central authority.

Timeline 1

Major Periods in Early Indian Archaeology

2 million BP (BEFORE PRESENT)	Lower Palaeolithic
80,000	Middle Palaeolithic
35,000	Upper Palaeolithic

6,000	Chalcolithic (first use of copper)
2600 BCE	Harappan civilisation
1000 BCE	Early iron, megalithic burials
600 BCE-400 CE	Early Historic

Timeline 2

Major Developments in Harappan Archaeology

Nineteenth Century

- 1875 Report of Alexander Cunningham on Harappan seal.

Twentieth Century

- 1921 MS Vats begins excavations at Harappa.
1925 Excavations begin at Mohenjodaro.
1946 REM Wheeler excavates at Harappa.
1955 SR Rao begins excavations at Lothal.
1960 BB Lal and BK Thapar begin excavations at Kalibangan.
1974 MR Mughal begins explorations in Bahawalpur.
1980 A team of German and Italian archaeologists begins surface explorations at Mohenjodaro.
1986 American team begins excavations at Harappa.
1990 RS Bisht begins excavations at Dholavira.

TERMS TO KNOW (FROM NCERT)

- Culture (pg. no. 1) It is a term used for a group of objects, distinct in style, found specifically within a geographical area and period of time.
- Steatite (pg. no. 1) It is a type of stone which is like talc or soapstone.
- Archaeo Botanists (pg. no. 2) Specialists in ancient plant remains.
- Hoards (pg. no. 10) These are metal objects and jewellery kept by people inside containers.
- Seal (pg. no. 14) It generally contained animal motifs and signs from a script to identify its user.
- The Great Bath (pg. no. 18) It is the best known building in Mohenjodaro for bathing.
- Stratigraphy (pg. no. 20) It is the study of historical layers.
- Mound (pg. no. 20) Reuse of the landscape results in the build up of occupational debris.
- Motif (pg. no. 23) A symbol used by the Harappans on seals to mark some sort of trademark.
- Proto-Shiva (pg. no. 23) A seal that shows a figure seated in a yogic posture which is an early form of one of the

NCERT FOLDER

Answer in 100-150 words.

- 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	Groups who provide these food items
Food items from plants	Food gatherers
Flesh and Fish	Hunter groups
Grains like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and millets.	Agricultural groups

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

or Explain the strategies used by the archaeologists to understand socio-economic differences among the Harappans. **Delhi 2015**

Ans Archaeologists have tried to find out socio-economic differences among the Harappans through two types of evidences. These were:

Evidence of Burials These have been significant evidence to establish social differences within Harappan society. 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. However, whether these variations were an indication of social differences or not, it is not yet established. Pottery, ornaments and jewellery have been found in some burials of both men and women. But the Harappans did not believe in burying precious things with the dead.

Evidence of Artefacts Two types of artefacts have been found, i.e. 'luxuries' and 'Utilitarian'. Luxuries artefacts were made from costly and rare, non-local material with complicated technology, e.g. little faience pots.

Utilitarian objects included objects of daily use made of stone or clay, e.g. querns, pottery, needles, flesh-rubbers (body scrubbers) etc. As far as distribution of such artefacts is concerned, we find that rare objects made of valuable materials were generally concentrated in large settlements like

- 3 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. **Delhi 2008**

or Describe briefly the drainage system of Harappan cities. **Delhi 2012**

or Mention two features of drainage system of the Harappan cities. **All India 2015**

or 'One of the most distinctive features of the Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system.' Elaborate. **All India 2016**

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

- At the plan of the Lower Town, roads and streets were laid out along an approximate 'grid' pattern, intersecting at right angles.
- Every house had one wall alongside the street having its drain connected to the street drain to remove domestic waste water. It seems that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses built along them.
- Every house was connected to the street drains. The main channels were made of bricks set in mortar (plaster) and were covered with loose bricks that could be removed for cleaning. Sometimes limestone was used for the covers.
- In Harappa, house drains first emptied into a sump or cesspit into which solid matter settled while waste water flowed out into the street drains.
- Drainage systems were also found in smaller settlements and were not unique to the larger cities. For instance, at Lothal while houses were built of mud bricks, drains were made of burnt bricks.

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

- 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 Material used for making beads in Harappan Civilisation had an expertise in making beads. A large variety of materials were used for making beads.

It included:

The shapes of beads were of different types i.e. disc-shaped, cylindrical, spherical, barrel-shaped and segmented. They were also decorated.

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:

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

- 5 Look at the figure below and describe what you see? How is the body placed? What are the objects placed near it? Are there any artefacts on the body? Do these indicate the sex of the skeleton?



- Ans** The figure shows the body buried in the North-South direction in a pit. At burial in Harappan sites the dead were generally laid in pits. Pottery, ornaments, jewellery were placed near the dead bodies. It suggests that they had a belief, these could be used in the afterlife. In this figure, we can see some utensils are lying near the dead body. These utensils are a jug, pitcher, some plates, etc.

- 6 Write a short essay (about 500 words) on the following.

- 6 Describe some of the distinctive features of Mohenjodaro.
or Describe the distinctive features of domestic architecture of Mohenjodaro. All India 2017

Ans The most unique feature of the Harappan Civilisation was the development of urban centres. Mohenjodaro is the most well-known sites of Harappan Civilisation.

The features of Mohenjodaro were as follows :

Citadel It was smaller but higher than the lower town. It was walled and was physically separated from the Lower Town. Here, the buildings were constructed with mud brick platforms. Here, we find some structures that were probably used for special public purposes. These included the warehouse and the Great Bath. The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridors on all four sides.

The Great Bath was made watertight by setting bricks on their edges and using the plaster of gypsum. On three sides of it there were rooms, in one of which was a large well. Water from the tank flowed into a huge drain.

The Lower Town The lower town was also walled. Several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations. All building activity within the city was restricted to a fixed area on the platforms. It had been built meticulously by mobilising labour on a very large scale.

Drainage System Mohenjodaro had a carefully planned drainage system. The roads and the 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. Every house had its own bathroom paved with bricks, with drains connected through a wall to the street drain.

Usage of Standard Bricks The quality of sun-dried bricks or baked bricks also prove the concept of planning. All the bricks were of a standard ratio. The length and width was four times and twice the height of the bricks respectively. Such bricks were used in all the settlements of the Harappan Civilisation.

- 7 List the raw materials required for craft production in the Harappan civilisation and

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

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

- Shell from Nageshwar, Dalakot
- Blue stone (Lapis Lazuli) from (Shortughai, Afghanistan)
- Carnelian (a glossy stone) from Bharuch in Gujarat
- Steatite from South Rajasthan and North Gujarat
- Metal from Rajasthan
- Copper from Khetri (Rajasthan). Archaeologists named the Khetri area as Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture.
- Gold from South India

8 Discuss how archaeologists reconstruct the past.

Ans To reconstruct Harappan life, archaeologists were not only dependent on Harappan script, it was material evidence too. The material evidence could be pottery, tools, ornaments etc. But organic materials such as cloth, leather and wood generally decompose.

Archaeologists classified the finds in terms of materials and by function.

The materials were stone, clay, metal, bone, ivory etc. But functions were more difficult to determine. For instance, sometimes it was difficult to decide whether the artefact was a tool or an ornament.

To reconstruct religious practices was also a problematic issue for archaeologists. Most archaeologists thought that certain objects which seemed unusual or unfamiliar have had a religious significance. These include terracotta figurines of women which were heavily jewelled with head-dresses. These are regarded as mother goddesses.

Structures like the Great Bath and fire altars have had ritual significance. Plant motifs are thought to indicate nature worship.

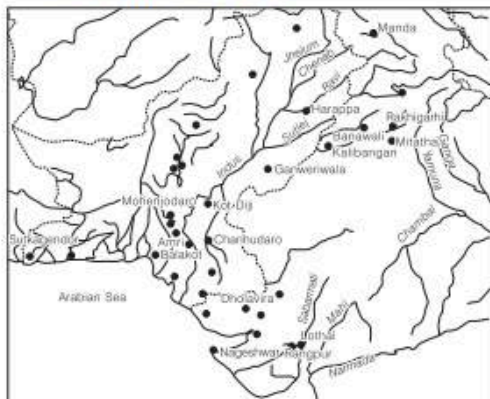
A one-horned animal called the unicorn, depicted on seals seem to be mythical. *Linga*

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

Ans Some archaeologists have given their opinions about the functions that may have been performed by rulers in Harappan society. These were as follows:

- Evidences show that complex decisions were taken and implemented in Harappan society. Extraordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts as evident in pottery, seals, weights and bricks show the complex decisions.
- Plans and layouts of the city were prepared under the guidance and supervision of the rulers. Big buildings, palaces, forts, tanks, wells, canals and granaries were constructed.
- Cleanliness was the responsibility of the ruler. Road lanes and drains were also constructed.
- The rulers also looked after the welfare of the economy. They used to inspire the farmers to increase agricultural production. They also motivated the craftsmen to promote different handicrafts. External and internal trade were both promoted by the ruler. The ruler used to issue common acceptable coins or seals, weights and measurements.

10 On Map 1, use a pencil to circle sites where evidence of agriculture has been recovered. Mark an against sites where there is evidence of craft production and R against sites where raw materials were found.



Ans Evidence of agriculture has been recovered at Harappa, Banawali, Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan and Dholavira. Evidence of craft production has been

CHAPTER PRACTICE

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice Questions

1 The Indus valley civilisation flourished around

- (a) 2500 - 1800 BC (b) 2600 - 1900 BC
(c) 2700 - 2000 BC (d) 2000 - 2100 BC

Ans (b) 2600 - 1900 BC

2 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Banawali-Gujarat
(b) Harappa-Baluchistan (Pakistan)
(c) Kalibangan-Gujarat
(d) Lothal-Gujarat

Ans (d) Lothal-Gujarat

3 Which of the following Harappan sites is located in Gujarat?

- (a) Lothal (b) Dholavira
(c) Banawali (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans (d) Both (a) and (b)

4 Where was a public bath and a warehouse found in the Indus Valley during excavation?

- (a) Mohenjodaro (b) Rangpur
(c) Kalibangan (d) Ropar

Ans (a) Mohenjodaro

5 Chanhudaro was a tiny settlement almost exclusively devoted to craft production, which included making .

- (a) Beads (b) Seals
(c) Weights (d) All of these

Ans (d) All of these

6 What is unique about Nageshwar and Balakot sites of the Harappan culture?

- (a) They are both near the coast.
(b) Now they are in Pakistan.
(c) Both were specialised centres for making metal tools.
(d) All of the above

Ans (a) They are both near the coast.

7 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Banawali : Rajasthan
(b) Kalibangan : Harvna

8 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Shells -South India
(b) Carnelian - Lothal
(c) Gold - Afghanistan
(d) Lapis lazuli - Nageshwar and Balakot

Ans (b) Carnelian - Lothal

9 By what approximate time had most of the mature Harappan sites in regions such as Cholistan been abandoned?

- (a) 2600 BC (b) 1900 BC
(c) 1800 BC (d) None of these

Ans (c) 1800 BC

10 Who is known as the father of Archaeology?

- (a) John Marshall
(b) REM Wheeler
(c) Alexander Cunningham
(d) Daya Ram Sahni

Ans (c) Alexander Cunningham

11 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? Delhi 2020

- (a) Archeo-Zoologists (b) Archeo-Ethnographers
(c) Geo-Archeologists (d) Archeo-Botanists

Ans (d) Archeo-Botanists

12 Which one of the following mature Harappan sites is located in Rajasthan ? CBSE Term I 2021

- (a) Banawali (b) Kalibangan
(c) Rakhigarhi (d) Dholavira

Ans (b) Kalibangan

13 In which of the following fields are archaeo-botanists specialised ?

- (a) The study of old rocks
(b) The study of dead animal and plant remains
(c) The study of ancient plant remains
(d) The study of sea animals

Ans (c) The study of ancient plant remains

14 Which among the following was the first site discovered in the Indus Valley Civilisation?

CBSE Term I 2021

15 Who among the following is often known as the 'Father of Indian Archaeology'?

- (a) Daya Ram Sahni **CBSE Term I 2021**
(b) Alexander Cunningham
(c) Rakhal Das Banerji
(d) R.E.M. Wheeler

Ans (b) Alexander Cunningham

16 Which one of the following is not the limitation of inscripational evidence in the study of archaeology ?

- (a) Letters are very faintly engraved
(b) Inscriptions might be damaged
(c) Many inscriptions have not been deciphered
(d) All inscriptions were in Sanskrit language

Ans (d) All inscriptions were in Sanskrit language

17 Which one of the following regions was called as 'Magan' during Harappan period?

- (a) Meluhha **CBSE Term I 2021**
(b) Bahrain
(c) Oman (d) Dilmun

Ans (c) Oman

18 Which one of the following sites was known for making shell objects in the Harappan civilisation?

- (a) Amri (b) Nageshwar
(c) Kalibanga (d) Manda

Ans (b) Nageshwar

19 Who among the following wrote "It seems to me a suicidal and indefensible policy to allow the country to be looted of original works of ancient art" ?

- (a) Walter Elliot (b) John Marshall
(c) H.H. Cole (d) James Fergusson

Ans (c) H.H. Cole

20 Who among the following Director Generals of A.S.I. was an ex-army Brigadier?

- (a) James Burgess **CBSE Term I 2021**
(b) John Marshall
(c) R.E.M. Wheeler (d) Daya Ram Sahni

Ans (c) R.E.M. Wheeler

21 Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan Culture and choose the correct option

- (i) The most unique feature was the development of urban centres.

(iii) Drainage system was ordinary and unplanned.

(iv) Roads were not laid out along a grid pattern.

Options

- (a) Only (i) is correct
(b) Only (i) and (ii) are correct
(c) Only (ii) and (iii) are correct
(d) Only (iii) and (iv) are correct

Ans (b) Only (i) and (ii) are correct

22 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 production.
(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) All of these

Ans (c) (i), (iii) and (iv)

23 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

Ans (a) Drains were built of bricks with the help of lime and gypsum.

24 Which of the following is true about Harappan religion?

- (a) Nature worship was in vogue.
(b) Female deities were not dominant.
(c) No cult of mother goddess was found.
(d) Temple structures were unearthed.

Ans (a) Nature worship was in vogue.

25 Which one of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?

- (a) Citadel - Built on higher ground
(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

26 Why is the Harappan script called enigmatic? Choose the correct reason from the following options. **Delhi 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.

Ans (d) Its writing remains undeciphered to date.

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

- (a) It was a custom. **CBSE SQP Term I 2021**
- (b) To maintain privacy
- (c) No concern of ventilation.
- (d) Part of unplanned process

Ans (b) To maintain privacy

28 Arrange the following events in correct chronological sequence from the earliest to the latest:

- (i) R.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) Rakhaldas Banerji found seals at Mohenjodaro.

Codes

- (a) (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)
- (b) (ii), (iv), (i), (iii)
- (c) (iii), (iv), (ii), (i)
- (d) (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)

Ans (d) (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)

29 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)

Ans (b) (i), (iii), (ii), (iv)

30 Identify the name of the person from the information given below.

- (ii) His main interest was in the archaeology of the early Historic and later periods.
- (iii) He collected documented and translated inscriptions found during his surveys.
- (iv) He tended to recover artefacts that he thought had cultural value.

Ans Alexander Cunningham

31 Identify the part of the settlement from the following information given below.

- (i) It was smaller but higher part of the settlement.
- (ii) It was walled.
- (iii) It was used for special public purposes.
- (iv) It included warehouse and Great Bath.

Ans Citadel

Fill in the blanks

32 The Indus Valley Civilisation is also called _____.

Ans Harappan culture

33 Terracotta models of the plough are found in _____ and at _____.

Ans Banawali, Cholistan

34 Kalibangan is located in _____.

Ans Rajasthan

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

Ans precious jewellery

36 The first Director General of Archaeological Survey of India was _____.

Ans Alexander Cunningham

37 The Indians who were involved in the excavations of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were _____ and _____.

Ans Daya Ram Sahni, Rakhaldas Banerji

38 Strategy used by Harappans for procuring raw materials may have been to send expeditions to areas such as the _____ region of Rajasthan (for copper) and South India (for gold). **CBSE SQP Term I 2021**

Select the appropriate option.

- (a) Khetri
- (b) Alvar
- (c) Vagad
- (d) Marwar

Assertion-Reason

- 39 Assertion (A)** The Harappan cities carried on a considerable trade in stone, metals, shells etc in the Indian sub-continent.
Reason (R) Each of the cities used to provide all the necessary raw materials for the commodities produced there.

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

Ans (c) A is true, but R is false

- 40 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.

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

Ans (c) A is true, but R is false

- 41 Assertion (A)** The Harappan ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish.

Reason (R) Animal bones found at Harappan sites include those of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig.

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

Ans (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

- 42 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.

Codes

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

Ans (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

Correct and Rewrite

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

Ans Most Harappan sites are located in Semi-arid areas of Sindh, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture.

- 44** The upper town at Mohenjodaro provides examples of residential buildings. Many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides.

Ans The lower town at Mohenjodaro provides examples of residential buildings. Many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides.

- 45** REM Wheeler, was the first professional archaeologist to work in India and brought his experience of working in Greece and Crete to the field.

Ans John Marshall was the first professional archaeologist to work in India and brought his experience of working in Greece and Crete to the field.

- 46** Although Mohenjodaro was the first Harappan site to be discovered, it was badly destroyed by the brick robbers.

Ans Although Harappa was the first Harappan site to be discovered, it was badly destroyed by the brick robbers.

- 47** Harappan seals is the most distinctive artefact of the Indus Valley Civilisation, it was mostly made up of Gold.

Ans Harappan seals is the most distinctive artefact of the Indus Valley Civilisation, it was mostly made up of steatite.

Match the Following

48

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

Codes

A B C D A B C D

List I	List II
A. Sir Alexander Cunningham	1. Brought military precision to the field of Archaeology.
B. Dayram Shahni	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

Ans. (a)

List I	List II
A. S.N. Roy	1. First professional archaeologist to work in India
B. John Marshall	2. Used the accounts left by Chinese pilgrims
C. Cunningham	3. Author of 'The Story of Indian Archaeology'
D. G.F. Dales	4. Author of 'The Mythical Massacre at Mohenjodaro'

Codes

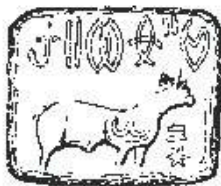
CBSE Term I 2021

	A	B	C	D		A	B	C	D
(a)	3	1	2	4	(b)	1	3	4	2
(c)	2	4	1	3	(d)	4	2	3	1

Ans. (a)

Picture Based Questions

51 Identify the image shown below



Ans. Cunningham's sketch of the first known seal

52 Identify the image shown below



Ans. Terracotta figurine

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 Define the term culture from archaeologists points 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.

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.

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.

4 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

5 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.

6 Of which material 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 What was the importance of faience used in Harappan civilisation?

Ans The pots made of faience were considered costly or luxurious objects of Indus Valley Civilisation. Faience 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.

10 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.

11 What were the mounds?

Ans When people continue to live in the same place, their constant use and reuse of the landscape

© SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 Who was John Marshall? How did he mark a change in Indian archaeology? Delhi 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.

He marked a change in Indian archaeology by announcing the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Thus, he brought forth 3000-year-old discoveries of civilisations. He was the first professional archaeologist to work in India.

He brought his experience of working in Greece and Crete to the field. More importantly, though like Cunningham he too was interested in spectacular finds, he was equally keen to look for patterns of everyday life.

2 Who was REM Wheeler? Mention any one of his contributions in the field of archaeology? Delhi 2016

Ans REM Wheeler was an archaeologist who was the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1944.

His contributions in the field of archaeology were that he rectified the excavations done by John Marshall, so as to follow stratigraphy of the mound of excavate. He classified objects according to the layer of soil where it was found. He brought military precision to the practice of archaeology. Driven by a sense of adventure, he relentlessly excavated Harappa inspite of the hot and humid weather. He also tried to correlate archaeological findings of the Harappan Civilisation with the Rig Veda.

3 Who was Cunningham? Mention any one account used by him to locate the early settlements of Harappan Civilisation. Delhi 2013

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

To date the early settlements of Harappan Civilisation, he mostly used the accounts left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who had visited the subcontinent between the fourth and seventh centuries CE. He also collected, documented and published information from his visits to

4 Write any three views on the decline of the Harappan Civilisation.

Ans The three views about the decline of the Harappan Civilisation are:

- (i) The decline was due to natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, droughts or 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.

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

Ans Following were the three characteristics of the bricks used in the Harappan settlements :

- (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.

6 Why do archaeologists and historians find Harappan script enigmatic? Explain the reasons. Delhi 2016

Ans Archaeologists and historians found Harappan script enigmatic. The reasons behind it were:

- (i) Harappan seals usually had a line of writing, containing the name and title of the owner, sometimes the motif conveyed a meaning to those who could not read.
- (ii) The script was non-alphabetical, it had many signs, somewhere between 375 and 400. It was written from right to left.
- (iii) Most inscriptions were short, the longest contained about 26 signs but sometimes it contained wider space, sometimes shorter, it had no consistency. Till today, the script remains undeciphered.

7 How were Harappan seals and sealings used to facilitate long distance communication? What did the sealings convey? All India 2013

Ans Harappan seals and sealings were used to facilitate long distance communication. The mouth of the bag of goods was tied up with rope and on the knot was affixed some wet clay

then it had been reached safely and it also conveyed the true identity of the sender of the goods.

8 What do you understand by layers of Indus Valley Civilisation?

Ans The city was found in layers which indicate that it was rebuilt many times mostly due to the flooding of the Indus river.

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.

Abandonment or desertions called as 'Sterile layers' can be identified by the absence of such traces. Generally, the lowest layers are the oldest and the highest are the most recent.

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

9 Mention any three features of Harappan cities. All India 2011

Ans The three features of Harappan cities were:

- (i) They were well planned. The cities were divided into two sections which are 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 system. If we look at the plan of the lower town, 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 ornament which indicated the belief that these materials could be used in the afterlife.

10 Explain the three exclusive features of craft production in Chanhudaro. All India 2015

Ans Chanhudaro was a tiny settlement as compared to Mohenjodaro. This area was exclusively devoted to craft production. Its features are:

- (i) The main craft productions included bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making.
- (ii) Here variety of materials were used to make beads. Stones like carnelian, jasper,

- (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 of different types.

11 Describe the opinions of the archaeologists over the central authority of the Harappan Civilisation. **All India 2015**

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

Ans Opinion of some of the archaeologists about the central authority of Harappan Civilisation are as follows:

- Some archaeologists have the opinion that Harappan society had no rulers and that everybody enjoyed equal status.
- Other scholars have the opinion that there was no single ruler but several. Mohenjodaro had a separate ruler and Harappans had another. In the same way, other regions had different rulers.
- Some scholars also argued that there was a single state given the similarity in artefacts, the evidence for planned settlements, the standardised ratio of brick size and the establishments near source of raw material.

12 How have historians provided new insight into the subsistence strategies of the Harappan culture? **Delhi 2015**

Ans According to historians, mature Harappan culture shared certain common elements including subsistence strategies which were :

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

13 "Over the decades, new issues have assumed importance in the archaeology of Harappa." Give two evidences to justify the statement. **Delhi 2019**

Two evidences to justify the statement are :

- (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.

There has also been growing international interest in Harappan archaeology. They are using modern scientific techniques including surface explorations to recover traces of clay, stone metal and plant and animal remains.

14 "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. **All India 2018**

Ans Historians suggest that there are indications of complex decisions being taken and implemented in Harappan society. The extraordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts is found in pottery, seals, weights and bricks. The settlements were strategically set up in specific locations for various reasons. Labour was mobilised for making bricks and also for the construction of massive walls, platform etc to develop the urban civilisation. According to some archaeologists, there were no rulers in Harappan society. Some suggests that Mohenjodaro and Harappa has different rulers. Some argue that there was a single state which is evident from the similarity of artefacts, the planned settlement, the standardised ratio of brick size and the establishments of settlements near sources of raw material.

15 "Many reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on assumptions and archaeological interpretation." Substantiate the statement. **All India 2019**

Ans Many reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on the assumption and archaeological interpretations. This statement can be justified by the following assumptions made to reconstruct Harappan religion.

- 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.

Civilisation, like the great bath and fire altars found at Kalibangan and Lothal also were taken as significant for ritual practices.

- Mythical creatures like unicorn, figure seated cross-legged in yogic posture of proto-Shiva were all examples of Hindu religion.

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



- (i) The statue of Priest King was made from
 (a) stone (b) gold
 (c) copper (d) carnelian
- (ii) This statue was given the title of 'Priest King' because
 (a) at the time of its excavation, archaeologists were familiar with Mesopotamian history and its 'Priest King'. So they borrowed this idea.
 (b) it was inscribed in the numerous seals found in Harappan sites that Priest were the ruler of this civilisation.
 (c) the design, unique ornamental decoration and aesthetic appeal of this statue was responsible for naming it as Priest King.
 (d) All of the above
- (iii) Which of the following can be inferred about the ornaments in the Harappan civilisation from the statue of Priest King?
 (a) Ornaments such as necklace was worn by the both men and women.
 (b) The craftsmen of Harappa civilisation were well versed in the art of sculpture making.
 (c) The ornaments worn by the Harappans were well designed and made from different metals.
 (d) All of the above
- (iv) Who was the ruling authority in the Harappa civilisation?
 (a) Priest King
 (b) Traders and Merchants

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

- 17** Study this Cunningham's sketch of the first-known seal from Harappa and answer any three of the following questions by choosing the correct options.



- (i) Who was Alexander Cunningham?
 (a) The first Governor-General of the East India Company in India.
 (b) A famous British antiquarian who travelled extensively in India.
 (c) The first Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India.
 (d) A British Civil Engineer who was posted in Sindh province in late 1900s.
- (ii) What was/were distinctive feature(s) of the Harappan seal?
 (a) They were made from stone called steatite.
 (b) They contain animal motifs and signs from Harappan script.
 (c) They were used to facilitate long distance trade with Mesopotamia and Sumeria.
 (d) All of the above
- (iii) Harappan seals were highly useful for the historical reconstruction as
 (a) they give information about flora and fauna present during Harappan age.
 (b) the foreign contact of Harappan people was deciphered using the Harappan seals.
 (c) they contain information about land grants provided by the Kings of Harappan civilisation.
 (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iv) Which of the following animal(s) were depicted in the Harappan seal?
 (a) Humped bull, unicorn, deer, elephant, tiger and buffalo.

Ans (i) (c) The first Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India.

(ii) (d) All of the above

(iii) (d) Both (a) and (b)

(iv) (c) Both (a) and (b)

18 Study this passage and answer any three of the following questions.

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 includes 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.

(i) Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) The Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as Harappa 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

(ii) What was the distinctive characteristic of Harappa civilisation?

(a) Presence of baked bricks.

(b) Unified weight and measure for the whole civilisation

(c) Unique literary achievements.

(iv) Both (a) and (b)

(iii) The Harappan civilisation is sometimes called the mature Harappan culture to

(a) signify the development of architecture and town planning.

(b) point out the cultural core of this civilisation which was prevalent in Punjab and Sindh region.

(iv) What do you think according to this passage, is the meaning of culture?

(a) Uniqueness in design of artefacts.

(b) Presence of distinctive objects.

(c) Confinement in particular territory and time.

(d) All of the above

Ans (i) (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

(ii) (d) Both (a) and (b)

(iii) (c) distinguish it from early and late Harappan phase.

(iv) (d) All of the above

19 In Harappan civilisation; the prevalence of agriculture is indicated by finds of grain, it is more difficult to reconstruct actual agricultural practices. Were seeds broadcast (scattered) on ploughed lands?

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). 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.

(a) Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A) People of Harappa civilisation was accustomed with the art of farming.

Reason (R) Terracotta models of the plough have been found from two Harappan sites in Harayana.

(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

(ii) Which of the following evidence(s) supports the prevalence of agriculture in the Harappa civilisation?

(a) Presence of bull as attested by their representation in terracotta sculpture and seal.

(b) Evidence of a ploughed field at Cholistan.

(c) Terracotta model of plough excavated

- (iii) According to the study conducted by archaeo-botanists, which of the following crop(s) was/were cultivated by the people of the Harappa civilisation?
- Barely, lentil, chickpea and sesame
 - Millets, cotton, rice and wheat.
 - Tea, chili, rice and wheat
 - Both (a) and (b)
- (iv) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding agriculture practised in the Harappa civilisation?
- Water drawn from wells was used for irrigation.
 - Saddle querns which were found in considerable number was used for grinding cereals.
 - A reservoir constructed for water harvesting had been excavated from Kalibangan.
 - Both (a) and (b)

Ans (i) (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

(ii) (d) Both (a) and (c)

(iii) (d) Both (a) and (c)

(iv) (d) Both (a) and (b)

- 20** Carefully examine the map of the Citadel area of Mohenjodaro and answer any three the questions that follow.



- (i) 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 alters.
- (ii) According to the assumption of most of the historians the purpose of the Great Bath must have been:
- washing clothes.

- (iii) 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 true

Codes

- 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 A is true
- (iv) Consider the following statements.
- The Great Bath was a large round tank.
 - There were two flight of stairs on the North and the South of the tank.

Choose the correct option

(i) Only (a) is correct

(ii) Only (b) is correct

(iii) Both (a) and (b) are correct

(iv) Neither (a) nor (b) is correct

Ans (i) (b) Great Bath and the Warehouse

(ii) (c) ritual bathing.

(iii) (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

(iv) (b) Only (b) is correct

© LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 1** How did architectural features of Mohenjodaro indicate planning? Support the statement with examples.

Ans Refer to text on pg. no. 5 under the Mohenjodaro : A Planned City of Harappan Civilisation heading.

- 2** What are the aspects of Harappan economy that have been reconstructed from archaeological evidence? All India 2013

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

Agriculture From the evidences, it has been found that the agriculture was one of the most important source of food.

Evidences such as charred grains have been found in the Harappan civilisation. The seeds like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame were cultivated in the Harappa whereas millets were found in Gujarat. The evidence of rice cultivation was not there.

it has been assumed that the oxen were used for ploughing the land. Moreover, terracotta models of plough also have been found at the sites in Cholistan and at Banawali. The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other. Irrigation was also known to the Harappans. Traces of canals and wells also have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan. Besides these finds, several water reservoirs also have been traced which may have been used for the irrigation of agriculture.

Animal Domestication From the finds of bones of animals such as sheep, goat, cow, oxen, buffalo, etc, it has been assumed that the domestication of animals was also done there.

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

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.

Certain metals such as bronze, copper and gold in Harappa which was procured in different sites were traded with the other distant civilisations developed in Oman. Archaeologists think that there were communication between Oman, Bahrain or Mesopotamia with the Harappan Civilisation.

- 3** Describe the contribution of John Marshall, Director General of the ASI to Indian archaeology. All India 2009

Ans John Marshall was the Director General of the ASI. In 1924, on the basis of discoveries of seals by Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhil Das Banerji, he announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world. Similar seals were also found in the excavation of archaeological sites of Mesopotamia. In this way, not only new civilisation came to limelight but we also came to know that this civilisation was contemporary to Mesopotamia.

Sir John Marshall's as the Director General of ASI was actually a term of major change in Indian archaeology. He was the first professional archaeologist who worked in India. He brought with himself his experience of Greece and Crete. Like Cunningham, he was also interested in spectacular

John Marshall tended to excavate along regular horizontal units, measured uniformly throughout the mound. He ignored the stratigraphy of the site and this was the biggest drawback in his excavation process. It means all the artefacts, found from the same unit, were grouped together, even if they were found at different stratigraphic layers. As a result, valuable information found about the civilisation was lost forever.

- 4** What are the evidences found by the archaeologists which show 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 archaeologists found many evidences which show that the Harappans had contacts with distant lands. The important evidences are:

- Archaeological finds suggest that copper was probably brought from Oman, on the South-Eastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Moreover, chemical analysis proved traces of nickel both in Omani copper and Harappan artefacts. This suggests a common origin of both. A large Harappan jar coated with a thick layer of black clay was found at Omani sites. It is possible that the Harappans exchanged the contents of these vessels for Omani copper.
- Mesopotamian texts of third millennium BC referred that copper came from a region called Magan. Historians thought that probably it was another name of Oman. Mesopotamian texts also mentioned contact with regions named Dilmun (probably the island of Bahrain), Magan and Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region. Meluhha was a land of seafarers. Many products of Meluhha were mentioned. These were carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold and varieties of wood.
- Other archaeological finds suggest of long distance contacts which include Harappan seals, weights, dice and beads. All these evidences suggest that Harappan civilisation was connected with Oman, Bahrain or Mesopotamia by sea.

- A cylinder seal found in Mesopotamia has humped bull motif which can be derived from the Indus region. The round 'Persian Gulf' seal found in Bahrain sometimes carries Harappan motifs. Local 'Dilmun' weights followed the Harappan standard.

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

5 Mention any two changes that were observed after 1900 BC in Harappan civilisation. What could have brought these changes? Explain. **Delhi 2016**

Ans After 1900 BC, very few Harappan sites continued and significant changes appeared in the civilisation.

These were:

- In this period, distinctive artefacts like weights, seals, special beads, writing, long-distance trade and craft specialisation disappeared.
- House construction technique deteriorated and large public structures were no longer produced. Late Harappan civilisation indicates a rural way of life.

The reasons for these changes were:

- These changes were probably the result of climate change, deforestation and excessive flooding.
- The shifting or drying up of rivers and overuse of the landscape might also be the cause. There was also decline and abandonment of cities due to these reasons.

6 'Early Harappan archaeologists thought that certain objects which seem unusual and unfamiliar may have had a religious significance'. Substantiate. **All India 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 period are 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

- Rare stone statuary of man seated with one hand on the knee was regarded as 'priest king'. Other structures found in Harappan Civilisation, like the Great Bath and fire altars found at Kalibangan and Lothal also were taken as significant for ritual practices.
- Attempts were made to reconstruct religious beliefs and practices by examining different seals.
- Mythical creatures like unicorn, figure seated with cross-legged in yogic posture, sometimes surrounded by animals, regarded as 'proto-Shiva' were all examples of Hindu religion. Conical stone objects were classified as 'lingas'.

Many reconstructions of Harappan religion are made on the assumption that later traditions provide similarity with earlier ones. It follows from the rule that archaeologists try to know the facts by following the process of 'known to the unknown.' Thus, reconstructing religious practices was not easy for the archaeologists.

7 What factors in your opinion are responsible for the collapse of a mature Harappan Civilisation by 1800 BC? **All India 2009**

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 technique deteriorated and large public structures were not produced.

A variety of explanations were given by scholars to explain the decline of mature Harappan Civilisation. These reasons are:

- Climatic change
 - Deforestation
 - Excessive floods
 - Shifting and drying up of rivers
 - Overuse of the landscape
- Some of these reasons may be holding true for certain settlements, but they do not

The civilisation might be destroyed by invaders which was proved by the bulk of bones found. It indicated a slaughter. But the skeletons found did not belong to the same period according to George Dales.

Thus, it was not concluded in favour of a dramatic collapse, rather it was believed that the end of Harappan culture was a gradual process.

C SOURCE BASED QUESTIONS

- 1 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.

- Which type of querns have been found in Mohenjodaro? Describe the surface of grinding equipment.
- Write any two characteristics of saddle querns.
- What are two kinds of saddle?

Ans (i) Saddle querns have been found in Mohenjodaro.

The surface of grinding equipment was rough. It was made of hard rock or sandstone.

- Two characteristics of saddle querns are as follows:
 - They found in considerable numbers.
 - They were made of hard, gritty igneous rocks or sandstone.
- Two kinds of saddle are as follows:
 - These saddles were used to grind grain and cereals and were also called grinding saddles.
 - In another type of saddle a second stone was used as a pounder. These saddles were used to grind herbs and spices.

- 2 About the drains, Mackay noted: "It is certainly the most complete ancient system as yet discovered." 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.

House drains first emptied into a sump or cesspit into which solid matter settled while waste water flowed out into the street drains. Very long drainage channels were provided at intervals with sumps for cleaning.

It is a wonder of archaeology that "little heaps of material, mostly sand, have frequently been found lying alongside drainage channels, which shows ... that the debris was not always carted away when the drain was cleared."

From Ernest Mackay, Early Indus Civilisation, 1948.

Drainage systems were not unique to the larger cities, but were found in smaller settlements as well. At Lothal for example, while houses were built of mud bricks, drains were made of burnt bricks.

- The drainage of which places have been described? Give feature about Lothal mentioned in the text.
- Write the drawback in this sanitation system.
- Except the drainage system, write two characteristics/features of the house.

- Ans** (i) The drainage of Indus Valley Civilisation has been described here.
In Lothal, while houses were built of mud bricks, drains were made of burnt bricks.
- (ii) The drawback of sanitation system was that little heaps of material, mostly sand, have frequently been found lying alongside drainage channels. It showed that debris was not always removed when the drain was cleared.
- (iii) Two characteristics/features of the house are as follows:
- Each house had a courtyard, a bathroom and a well.
 - The floor of the house mostly made of bricks.

- 3** Deadman Lane is a narrow alley, 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, REM Wheeler, then Director-General of the ASI, tried to correlate this archaeological evidence with that of the Rigveda, the earliest known text in the sub-continent. 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 Harappa 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

to have been completed by deliberate and large-scale destruction. It may be no mere 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 REM WHEELER, "Harappa 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 Gf 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.

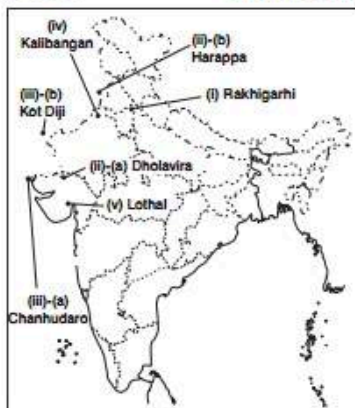
- Why is the lane called deadman Lane? How did John Marshall tend to excavate?
- Why are earlier interpretations sometimes reversed?
- According to REM Wheeler, what were the reasons for the destruction of Harappan culture?

- Ans** (i) It is called deadman lane because in the narrow street a part of the skull, the bones of the thorax and upper arm of an adult were discovered. John Marshall tended to excavate along regular horizontal units, measured uniformly throughout the mound, ignoring the stratigraphy of the site.
- (ii) It is because many new facts came into the limelight observed by new scholars, archaeologists, who discovered new sites of the same phase related to this civilisation.
- (iii) According to Wheeler, Harappan social and economic culture changed due to climatic changes. This might have brought

MAP BASED QUESTIONS

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

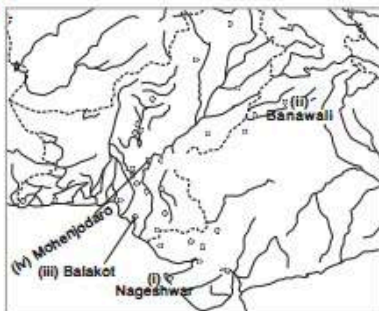
- (i) Rakhigarhi Delhi 2016
 (ii) Name of two mature Harappan sites.
 (iii) (a) Chanhudaro
 (b) Kot Diji
 (iv) Kalibangan
 (v) Lothal All India 2014, 2010



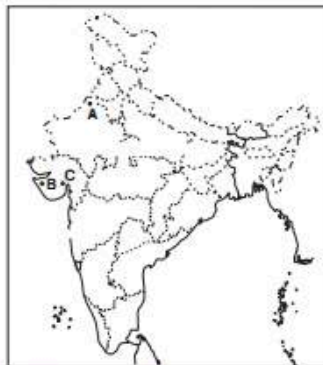
2 Point out the following on the given map.

- (i) Nageshwar
 (ii) Banawali
 (iii) Balakot
 (iv) Mohenjodaro

Ans



3 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. Delhi 2019



Ans (a) Kalibangan (b) Nageshwar (c) Lothal

SELF ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

- Who was the first person to follow stratigraphy of the mound?
(a) REM Wheeler (b) John Marshall (c) Daya Ram Sahni (d) None of these
- The Harappan Civilisation is one of the ancient civilisation which is contemporary with the civilisation of
- Correct the following statement. In Harappa and Mohenjodaro, the entire settlement was fortified and sections within the town was also separated by the walls.
- Match the Following.

List I	List II
A. Dholavira	1. Sindh
B. Harappa	2. Gujarat
C. Mohenjodaro	3. Punjab
D. Kalibangan	4. Rajasthan

Codes

- (a) A B C D (b) A B C D (c) A B C D (d) A B C D
(a) 1 3 2 4 (b) 2 3 1 4 (c) 3 1 2 4 (d) 4 1 2 3

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- What is the difference between citadel and lower town?
- What do you mean by sterile layers?
- How does archaeologists suggest social differences in Harappan society?
- Give two features of Harappan society.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- Why is Indus Valley Civilisation called the Harappan culture?
- What is the evidence used by archaeologists to reconstruct dietary practices of the Harappans?
- Mention any two changes that were observed after 1900 BC in Harappan Civilisation.
- Should stone artefacts be considered as utilitarian objects or as luxuries? Why?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- "It is certainly the most complete ancient system as yet discovered," said Mackay. Describe.
- Studying burials is a strategy used by archaeologist. What are the other strategies? Discuss.
- Miniature pots of faience, perhaps used as perfume bottles, are found mostly in Mohenjodaro and