

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What was 'Citadel'?

Ans. Citadel is the west part of Harappan city. It is smaller but higher.

Q.2. What was 'lower town'?

Ans. The part of the city to the east was larger and lower called the 'lower town'.

Q.3. Who were Scribes?

Ans. People who knew how to write, who helped prepare the seals and perhaps wrote on other materials that have survived.

Q.4. What were 'seals'?

Ans. The Harappan made seals out of mud or clay. These were generally rectangular and usually had an animal carved on it.

Q.5. Who were called 'specialists'?

Ans. A specialist was a person who was skilled to do only one kind of work like cutting stone or polishing beads or carving seals.

Q.6. What does 'raw material' mean?

Ans. Raw materials are substances that are either found naturally or produced by farmers or herders. These are then processed to produce finished goods.

Q.7. With which tool earth was dug to grow crops?

Ans. A new tool 'plough' was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and planting seeds.

Q.8. What does 'irrigation' mean?

Ans. If there is not enough rainfall, water is stored and supplied to the fields when the plants are growing.

Q.9. When did earliest cities emerge in India?

Ans. The earliest cities of the Indian subcontinent emerged around 4,700 years in the region drained by Indus and its tributaries in the North-West.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How was Harappa discovered?

Ans.

- i. In 1856, when British were building the Lahore to Multan railways, they stumbled upon a mound of finely baked bricks near the site of Harappa in the present day Pakistan.
- ii. However, it was not until 1924 that John Marshall, the then Director General of Archaeological Survey of India, announced the existence of a great civilization called the Indus Valley Civilization.
- iii. Since Harappa was the first city to be discovered it was also called Harappan Civilization.

Q.2. Why seals seem to be puzzling items in Indus Valley?

Ans.

- i. Of the various articles discovered in the Indus Valley, about 200 seals are the most puzzling.
- ii. They were little pieces of soft stones, ivory and clay.
- iii. They were generally rectangular in shape.
- iv. On these are engraved figures of animals and birds.
- v. Seals were perhaps used by different guilds or merchants or traders.

Q.3. What kind of jewellery was worn by Harappan men and women?

Ans.

- i. Both men and women seem to be fond of ornaments.
- ii. Necklaces, armlets, finger rings and bangles were worn both by men and women.
- iii. Ornaments were of great variety and design.
- iv. The ornaments were made of different metals such as gold, silver, copper and bronze.

Q.4. What do you know about agriculture and food habits of Harappa?

Ans.

- i. The Harappan culture used common food articles.
- ii. They took simple food.
- iii. They ate variety of food grains like wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame.
- iv. Besides, vegetables, fruits and cloves, milk were also included in their food.

Long Answer Question

Q.1. Describe the trade under Indus Valley Civilization.

Ans.

- i. Trading thrived in Harappa.
- ii. It suggests that long-distance trade existed.
- iii. Goods coming from outside perhaps included copper from Rajasthan, gold from Karnataka and precious stones from Iran and Afghanistan.
- iv. Seals of Mesopotamia have been found in Indus region while seals of Indus Valley have been found in Mesopotamia.

Q.2. Describe the architectural features of Indus Valley Civilisation.

Ans. Harappan cities were well-planned. This is proved by the excavations at Mohenjodaro and Harappa. The architecture consisted of the following features:

- i. **Dwelling Houses:** Residential houses of Mohenjodaro were of different sizes varying from a small house of two rooms to a palatial building. All houses were built of bricks which were usually well burnt and of good quality.
- ii. **The Great Bath at Mohenjodaro:** Perhaps the most imposing construction of the Indus Valley was the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro. It consisted of a large open quadrangle in the centre with verandahs, galleries and rooms on all the sides.
- iii. **The Citadels:** The Harappan settlements had small citadels. The settlement had a small but higher western part and the lower eastern section. It was in citadels that structures were built for special public purposes.
- iv. **Assembly Hall:** A big hall had been unearthed at Mohenjodaro which had been named as 'Collegiate Building'. It had 20 massive pillars made of kiln-burnt bricks arranged in rows of five each.
- v. **Great Granary at Harappa:** The most remarkable and the largest building excavated at Harappa was the Great Granary. In all, there were six such granaries and may have been used as government storehouses.
- vi. **Drainage System:** One of the most striking features of the town was the well-planned drainage system. The drains were made of mortar, lime and gypsum. They were covered with big bricks and stones which could be lifted easily to clean the drains. Smaller drains from houses on both sides of the streets came and joined a brick-laid main channel. For sewage from the houses, pits were provided at either side of the street. It showed skill in town planning and sanitation.

Q.3. How did Harappan or Indus Valley civilisation decline?

Ans. We are sure about the causes of decline of this civilisation but scholars are sure of the following reasons:

- i. Probably the rivers dried up.

- ii. There could be deforestation as fuel was required for baking bricks and for smelting copper ore.
- iii. Grazing by large herds of cattle, sheep and goats may have destroyed the green belt.
- iv. It could be frequent floods troubling people.
- v. Or it could be invasion of Aryans who must have posted then towards South India.

Q.4. What do you know about Great Bath of Mohenjodaro?

Ans.

- i. It's a special tank, archaeologist called it Great Bath.
- ii. This was lined with bricks, coated with plaster and made water-tight with a layer of natural tar.
- iii. There were steps leading down to it from two sides, while there were rooms on all sides.
- iv. Water was probably brought in from a well and drained out after use.
- v. Perhaps important people took a dip in this tank on special occasions.

Q.5. Describe the drains laid in the cities of Harappan.

Ans.

- i. Many of the cities had covered drains.
- ii. Very carefully these were laid out in straight lines.
- iii. Each drain had a gentle slope so that the water could flow through it.
- iv. Very often drains in houses were connected to those on streets and smaller drains led into bigger ones.

Q.6. On an outline map of India, mark major Harappan sites.

Ans. The earliest cities in the subcontinent.



Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. What do you know about the city of Dholavira?

Ans.

- i. The city of Dholavira was located on Khadir Beyt in Rann of Kutchh, where there was fresh water and fertile soil.
- ii. Dholavira was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded with massive store walls with entrance through getaways.
- iii. There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies could be held.
- iv. There were large letters of Harappan script that were carved out of white stone and perhaps inlaid in wood.
- v. This was unique as generally Harappan writing has been found in small objects such as scale.

Q.2. Where is Lothal city located? What all we could find there?

Ans.

- i. The city of Lothal stood beside a tributary of Sabarmati, in Gujarat.
- ii. It was situated near areas where raw materials such as semi-precious stones were easily available.
- iii. This was an important centre for making objects out of stone, shell and metal.
- iv. There was also a storehouse in the city.
- v. Many seals and sealings were found in this storehouse.