

Ques. Ch. 1 (Harappan Civilization)

1. Mention any two sources to reconstruct the Harappan Civilization?

Ans- The two sources to reconstruct the Harappan Civilization are -

- Harappa and Mohenjo-daro each had its own citadel which was probably occupied by members of the ruling class. The citadel points to an elaborate planning which justifies that Harappan Civilization was an urban civilization.
- A dockyard, surrounded by a massive brick wall, was discovered at Lothal in Gujarat. The dockyard suggests that they practiced navigation on the coast of the Arabian Sea.

2. Why did the Indus Valley Civilization come to be known as Harappan Civilization?

Ans- The Indus Valley Civilization came to be known as Harappan Civilization because Harappa was the first site to be excavated in 1921 by Dr Dayaram Sahani.

3. Mention any two important centres of the Indus Valley Civilization?

Ans- Two important centres of Indus Valley Civilization -

- * A pillar hall with long corridors and few bethes was probably

The two important centres of Indus Valley Civilization -

- i) Lothal in Gujarat
- ii) Kalibangan in the northern Rajasthan.

5. Mention the main evidence to suggest that the Indus Valley people paid great importance to sanitation and health?

6. What are the two evidences which reveal the skill of the Indus people in Town-Planning?

Ans- The elaborate drainage system was there in the city. A brick lined drainage channel flowed alongside every street. The house drains were connected to underground main drains, which opened into large brick culverts on the outskirts of the city. The drains were provided with manholes. This provision of such a systematic drainage system shows that the people paid great attention to sanitation and health.

4. What are the two evidences which reveal the skill of the Indus people in Town-Planning?

Ans- The two evidences which reveal the skill of the Indus people in Town-Planning are -

i) The streets

ii) The drainage system

5. What are the two different types of building that were unearthed at the various Indus sites?

Ans- The two different types of building that were unearthed were -

i) Dwelling houses

ii) The Granaries

7. Mention the evidences which suggest that the Harappan people had trade relations with other countries?

Ans- The elaborate social structure of living confirmed by the presence of granaries, numerous seals, uniform scripts and regulated weights and measures in a wide area indicate the existence of a highly developed system of trade. This is a evidence that the harappans trade not only with other parts of India but also with many countries of asia.

8. Describe the famous sculpture in metal which was found among the ruins of the city of Mohenjo-daro?

Ans- The most outstanding work in metal is the bronze figure of a dancing girl with her right hand on her hip in a dancing posture. She is shown, wearing necklaces and her left arm is covered with bangles, made of ivory of bone. Her hair is neatly fast fashioned in the form of a bun and her head is tilted slightly backward.

9. Give one evidence to show that the Harappan people excelled in the art of sculpture in the following: a) in metal b) stone c) in terracotta

Ans- Evidence of Harappan people's excellent artistry regarding the mentioned heads are as follows:

- a) The figure of the dancing girl carved out of bronze metal
- b) The two stone-status, one that of a nobleman or a priest and the other that of a Male Torso in red stone stand as sufficient evidence of skill of the Harappan people's sculpture in stone.
- c) The terracotta figurine of the mother-goddess and other terracotta figures of a bull, dogs, sheep, birds, men and women.

10) What evidence has been found to suggest that the Harappan people?

Ans- The seals discovered at Harappan and Mohenjo-daro are engraved with some sort of pictorial writing. Similar inscriptions have been found engraved on copper tablet with figures of men and animals.

11) Mention three different kinds of seals discovered at the various sites of the Harappan Valley civilization?

Ans- Three different kinds of seals discovered are-

- 1) The animal seals
- 2) The unicorn seals
- 3) The Shiva pasupati seal.

12) Mention any two probable causes for the decline and disappearance of the Harappan civilization?

Ans- Flood or earthquakes might have caused the great destruction of these advanced city civilizations.

13) Mention any two features to suggest that the Harappan people enjoyed a higher standard of civic amenities than those of Mesopotamia?

Ans- Harappan people enjoyed a higher standard of civic amenities than those of Mesopotamia. The Great bath of Mohenjo-daro and also its many houses with their own water supply, bathrooms and excellent drainage system, all go to say that the masses enjoyed a degree of comfort and luxury unknown in other part of the civilized world.

Structured Question -

- 1 Harappan Civilization was a highly developed urban civilization. Discuss the significant features of this Civilization.

Ans -

Civilization implies settlements in definite territories, the building of cities, the evolution of ordered methods of government, the development of trade and commerce and a capacity for progress which is unrestricted.

a) The town planning - The ruins of the various sites, reveal that the Harappan people were primarily urban and their cities were designed skillfully. The streets divided the entire city into square or rectangular blocks, each of which was further divided by a number of lanes. The main streets were wide and straight and intersected each other at right angles. Fire burnt bricks were used for paving streets.

b) The drainage system - The city was equipped with elaborate drainage system. A brick lined drainage channel flowed alongside the streets. The house drains were provided manholes.

- 2 The Harappan Civilization reveals the architectural skills of the people. Substantiate this statement by a brief mention of the following - a) Great bath b) The Assembly hall, the Citadel and other public buildings

Ans -

The architectural skill of the harappan people is revealed as under -

P.T.O.

a) The Great Great bath - The Great bath consisted of an open quadrangle with verandahs on its four sides, and at the back of three of the verandahs various galleries and rooms. There was a large swimming enclosure in the centre of the quadrangle measuring 12x7 metres, its depth was 2.5 metres. At either end, there was a raised platform with a flight of steps leading down to the pool. The pool was filled with water taken from a well, situated nearby. After periodic cleaning of the pool, the water was discharged into a huge drain connected to the main drain on the street. The walls of the pool were made watertight using specially-made bricks.

b) The Assembly Hall, the Citadel and other Public buildings - There were spacious buildings which must have been used as palaces or assembly halls. A pillared-hall with long corridors and low benches was perhaps used as Assembly hall or was the place where the rulers carried out ceremonial and administrative duties. The Citadel was probably occupied by members of ruling class. Of other public buildings, something resembling a market place and the group of cottages, "marshaled like a military cantonment" deserve attention.

3. What do you know about the trade and commercial activities of the Harappan people?

Ans - The Harappan people had commercial tie-ups with southern and eastern India, Kashmir and with other countries of Asia. They imported various precious stones and other articles. They also carried on trade with Egypt and Crete. Trade was carried on both land and sea-routes. The representation of a mastless ship on a seal suggests the popularity of the sea-routes.

6. The seals may be considered as the most valuable finds of the Harappan Civilization. Concentrate the picture given below and answer the following questions:

- What does this Seal depict?
- How important are the seals as sources of information about the Harappan Culture?

Ans- a) The seal depicts the three faced deity seated in a yogic posture with a horned head-dress and surrounded by animals.

b) Importance of seals -

i) From the figures on the seals we come to know about the physical features, dress, ornaments and hair styles of people and we also learn about the animals they used.

ii) They throw light on the religious faith and beliefs of people

iii) They gave us an idea about their ~~about~~ commercial activities

iv) They reveal the remarkable skill of artists.

v) They show the scripts prevalent in those days.