

Chapter 2: First Cities of India

EXERCISE [PAGE 19]

Exercise | Q Q.1 (1) | Page 19

Choose the correct alternative and write the complete sentence.

In the early phase of agriculture, making _____ pots and farming were the jobs of women.

1. copper
2. bronze
3. **earthen**
4. stone

SOLUTION

In the early phase of agriculture, making **earthen** pots and farming were the jobs of women.

Exercise | Q Q.1 (2) | Page 19

Choose the correct alternative and write the complete sentence.

Lothal is known for its ancient _____.

1. agriculture
2. **dock**
3. textiles
4. tools

SOLUTION

Lothal is known for its ancient **dock**.

Exercise | Q Q.1 (3) | Page 19

Choose the correct alternative and write the complete sentence.

A general impression prevailed that the Harappan seals had some connection with the _____ civilisation.

1. Chinese
2. Greek
3. **Mesopotamian**
4. Egyptian

SOLUTION

A general impression prevailed that the Harappan seals had some connection with the **Mesopotamian** civilisation.

Exercise | Q Q.1 (4) | Page 19

Choose the correct alternative and write the complete sentence.

The bodies (mummies) of dead royalties in Egypt were wrapped in _____ coloured cloth.

1. white
2. black
3. red
4. **blue**

SOLUTION

The bodies (mummies) of dead royalties in Egypt were wrapped in **blue** coloured cloth.

Exercise | Q Q.2 (A) | Page 19

Choose the correct reason and complete the sentence.

The major reason for the decline of the Mesopotamian civilisation was -

1. foreign invasion
2. **deteriorating environment**
3. loss in trade
4. migration

SOLUTION

The major reason for the decline of the Mesopotamian civilisation was **deteriorating environment**.

Exercise | Q Q.2 (B) | Page 19

Find the incorrect pair from Set B and write the correct ones.

Set 'A'	Set 'B'
(1) Dilmun	Bahrain
(2) Makan	Oman-Iran-Baluchistan Coastal region
(3) Shortugai	Mesopotamia
(4) Meluhha	Region of Harappan civilisation

SOLUTION

Set 'A'	Set 'B'
(3) Shortugai	Badakshan province of Afghanistan

Exercise | Q Q.3 (1) | Page 19

Explain the statement with reasons.

The remains found at cities like Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan, Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, etc. are the evidence of the past glory of Harappan civilisation.

SOLUTION

1. A well-developed and rich civilisation flourished in the Indian subcontinent in the period from 3500-3000 B.C.E.
2. This period is characterised by systematic town planning, with houses of baked brick, granaries, excellent drainage systems, public baths, and impressive public movements.
3. Good administrative control over the distribution of water and other resources.
4. Remains also prove a good social organisation, a proper social hierarchy based on the position of power.
5. Flourishing internal and distant trade, mass production of goods and craft specialisation developed writing system of script on Harappan seals give evidence of the past glory of the civilisation.

Exercise | Q Q.3 (2) | Page 19

Explain the statement with reasons.

Lapis lazuli had a very important place in the Harappan trade.

SOLUTION

1. A network of small towns, big and small villages, and campsites of semi-nomadic people functioned to cater to the needs of major urban centres of the Harappan civilisation.
2. The Harappan settlement of 'Shortugai' in the Badakshan province of Afghanistan, is rich with mines of lapis lazuli, a semi-precious stone in Mesopotamia.
3. The Mesopotamian epics describe Goddess Inanna's palace, the walls of which were embedded with this stone, lapis lazuli.
4. This stone was a very important commodity in the Harappan trade with Mesopotamia.

Exercise | Q Q.3 (3) | Page 19

Explain the statement with reasons.

Harappan civilisation declined.

SOLUTION

1. Sir Mortimer Wheeler in his study has concluded that Harappan civilisation was destroyed by Indra, who destroyed the fortified cities.
2. Vedic Aryans destroyed the Harappan cities under the leadership of Indra.
3. The civilisation also declined due to the cumulative effects of factors such as a decline in trade, climatic changes, and weakening of the economy.

Exercise | Q Q.4 (1) | Page 19

State your opinion.

The Harappan cities and villages in the vicinity were interdependent.

SOLUTION

1. The interrelationship between Harappan cities and villages was dependent on the mechanism of making available food grains and raw materials.
2. A network of small towns, big and small villages and camp sites of semi-nomadic people, functioned to cater to the needs of major urban centres of Harappan civilisation.
3. The city people were dependent on natural sources and villages in their vicinity, to meet the needs of urban lifestyle and urban administration.

Exercise | Q Q.4 (2) | Page 19

State your opinion.

The Harappan cities seem to have a well-organised administrative system.

SOLUTION

1. The Harappan cities had a well organised administrative system to manage industrial production, import-export, the interrelationship between cities managing trading operations and villages around them.
2. The town planning, standardisation of bricks, weights, seals, shapes, and ornamentation of various objects, confirm the presence of an efficient administrative system.
3. Cities like Harappa and Mohenjodaro were perhaps regional capitals.
4. Lothal and Kalibangan were important religious centres,
5. However, the nature of Harappan polity, whether it was a single state or a federation of small states, is not yet known.

Exercise | Q Q.5 | Page 19

Answer the following question with the help of given points.

Write about the characteristics of Harappan cities with the help of given points.

- a. Town planning
- b. Social organisation
- c. Administration
- d. Economy

SOLUTION

(a) Town planning :

1. The town planning of Harappan cities was very systematic.
2. Houses were of baked bricks, which included bathrooms, toilets, wells.
3. Granaries existed, with impressive public monuments.
4. The excellent drainage system, public baths, and independent fortification walls are highlights.
5. The grid pattern was used, where streets crossed each other in right angles, and the resulted blocks were used for building houses.
6. The English bond masonry method was used with two headers and two stretchers to build a wall, which was especially useful for earthquake-prone areas.

(b) Social organisation:

1. Social hierarchy was based on the position of power.
2. Classes of skilled artisans and individuals were based on craft specialisation.
3. Belief systems existed, with evidence of burials indicating rituals after death.
4. Artifacts and architecture also indicate belief systems.

(c) Administration:

1. Administrative control existed over the distribution of water and other resources.
2. The size of bricks indicates the use of standardisation and ratio.
3. Weights set the style of shapes and painted designs of pottery, majestic, and non-residential buildings for public administrative offices are also seen.

(d) Economy :

1. Harappan civilisation practised mass production of goods for trade purposes.
2. The concentration of factories and residences of artisans in a particular area of the city indicates the purpose of convenience of production, flourishing internal and distant trade, and administrative control over trade transactions.
3. Well-shaped, beautiful earthen pots, statues, metal objects of gold, silver, copper, and bronze were made.
4. Various types of beads were prepared, indicating a sound economy.