

IAS Prelims Exam: Ancient History

NCERT Questions: THE HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION Set II

Old edition of NCERT Books are still high in demand in terms of UPSC IAS Exam Preparation because it has extensive coverage of the topics and is very useful for to cater the needs of UPSC IAS Exam syllabus. The IAS aspirants find it difficult to get an old edition NCERT book from market due to its unavailability in the market.

Here, we are providing Multiple Choice Questions of Ancient Indian History which have been framed from the old edition of NCERT book.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Great Bath located at the site of Mohenjodaro of Harappan Civilisation:

I.The Great Bath is finely built brick structure measures 12 m by 7m, and is nearly 3m deep from the surrounding pavement.

II.The floor of the bath was constructed of sawn bricks set on edge in gypsum mortar, with a layer of bitumen sandwiched between the inner and outer brick layers.

III. Water was evidently supplied by a large well in an adjacent room, and an outlet from one corner of the bath led to a high corbelled drain disgorging on the west side of the mound.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a.Only I
- b.I and II
- c.I and III
- d.All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

The floor of the bath was constructed of sawn bricks set on edge in gypsum mortar, with a layer of bitumen sandwiched between the inner and outer brick layers. Water was evidently supplied by a large well in an adjacent room, and an outlet from one corner of the bath led to a high corbelled drain

disgorging on the west side of the mound. Surrounding the bath were porticos and sets of rooms, while a stairway led to an upper storey. It has been generally agreed that this bath was linked with some sort of ritual bathing which has been very common in Indian life right from the ancient times till today.

2.Consider the following statements regarding the granaries found at the various sites of Indus Valley Civilisation:

I.Granaries are immediately located to the west of the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro is a group of 27 blocks of brickwork crisscrossed by narrow lanes.

II.Somewhat similar structures have also been found at Harappa, Kalibangan and Lothal.

III.These structures have been identified as granaries which were used for storing water.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

a.Only I

b.I and II

c.I and III

d.All of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

Immediately to the west of the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro is a group of 27 blocks of brickwork crisscrossed by narrow lanes. Overall it measures 50 m east-west and 27 m north-south. Somewhat similar structures have been found at Harappa, Kalibangan and Lothal. These structures have been identified as granaries which were used for storing grains.

3.Consider the following statements regarding the dockyard found at the site of Lothal:

I.The inlet channel of dockyard was connected to a river.

II.Most scholars have identified structure measuring 223 m. in length, 35 m in width and 8 m. in depth, provided with an inlet channel as a dockyard where ships and boats came for loading and unloading of goods.

III. A large number of seals have been found in a warehouse close to the dockyard, which proved that Lothal was a major trading centre of the Harappan civilization.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

An important structure is the dockyard found at Lothal. It is a large structure measuring 223 m. in length, 35 m in width and 8 m. in depth, provided with an inlet channel (12.30m wide) in the eastern wall and a spillway. The inlet channel was connected to a river. By its side is a 240 m. long and 21.6 m wide wharf. Most scholars have identified this structure as a dockyard where ships and boats came for loading and unloading of goods. In view of the fact that a large number of seals have been found in a warehouse close to the dockyard, scholars think that Lothal was a major trading centre of the Harappan civilization.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the planning of streets of Harappan towns:

- I. The towns were well planned and the streets cut each other on the sixty degree angles.
- II. The narrowest lane was one unit in width; the other streets were twice, thrice and so on in width.
- III. The civic sense of people in this civilization was such that during the hey-day of the civilization, no encroachment on the streets was to be seen.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III

d.All of the above

Answer: c

Explanation: Well laid-out streets and side lanes equipped with drains are the most outstanding features of the Harappan civilization. The towns were well planned and the streets cut each other on the right angles. Even the widths of these streets were in a set ratio. If the narrowest lane was one unit in width, the other streets were twice, thrice and so on in width. Further, the civic sense of people in this civilization was such that during the hey-day of the civilization, no encroachment on the streets was to be seen. According to scholars, such town planning was not seen even in the nineteenth century London and Paris.

5.Consider the following statements regarding the drainage system of Indus Valley towns:

I.The drainage system of the Indus Valley Civilisation indicates that people had a no civic sense of sanitation and care for health and hygiene.

II.Small drains made of burnt bricks were connected with bathing platforms and latrines of private houses joined the medium sized drains in the side streets.

III.The smaller drains ran into larger sewers in the main streets which were covered with bricks or dressed stone blocks.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

a.Only I

b.I and II

c.II and III

d.All of the above

Answer: c

Explanation: Even smaller towns and villages had impressive drainage systems. This indicates that people had a great civic sense of sanitation and care for health and hygiene. Small drains made of burnt bricks were connected with bathing platforms and latrines of private houses joined the medium

sized drains in the side streets. These drains ran into larger sewers in the main streets which were covered with bricks or dressed stone blocks. Corbelled-arch drains have also been found. One of them is almost 6 ft. deep which functioned as main drain taking all the waste water out of the town. At regular intervals along the main sewage drains were rectangular sump pits for collecting waste and these were regularly cleaned.

6.The Harappan Civilisation is referred as a:

- a.Bronze Age civilisation
- b.Silver Age civilisation
- c.Golden Age civilisation
- d.Stone Age civilisation

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Harappan civilization is referred to as a bronze age civilization, mostly unalloyed copper was used for manufacturing artefacts, and only rarely tin was alloyed in copper to make bronze.

7.Consider the following statements regarding the tools and vessels used by Harappan people:

- I.The Harappan tools included flat -axes, chisels, arrowhead, spearheads, knives, saws, razors, and fish-hooks.
- II.Apart from tools people also made copper and bronze vessels.
- III.Harappan people made small plates and weights of lead, and gold and silver jewellery of considerable sophistication.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a.Only I
- b.I and II
- c.II and III

d.All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

Tools and weapons were simple in form. They included flat -axes, chisels, arrowhead, spearheads, knives, saws, razors, and fish-hooks. People also made copper and bronze vessels. They made small plates and weights of lead, and gold and silver jewellery of considerable sophistication.

8.Consider the following statements regarding mature Harappan pottery:

I.Mature Harappan pottery represents a blend of the ceramic tradition of the pre-Harappan culture of both West of the Indus region as well as of the Saraswati area.

II.The pottery technology was quite advanced and most of the pots were wheel-made.

III.Pots were beautifully painted in black on the bright red surface with geometric designs, plants, animals, and a few paintings seem to depict scenes from stories.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

a.Only I

b.I and II

c.II and III

d.All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

Mature Harappan pottery represents a blend of the ceramic tradition of the pre-Harappan culture of both West of the Indus region as well as of the Saraswati river area. The pottery technology was quite advanced. Most of the pots were wheel-made. Big storage jars were also produced. Pots were beautifully painted in black on the bright red surface with geometric designs, plants, animals, and a few paintings seem to depict scenes from stories.

9.Which of the following materials was used in the Harappan seals?

- a. Gold
- b. Steatite
- c. Silver
- d. Wood

Answer: b

Explanation:

More than 2500 seals have been found. These are made of steatite. They mostly depict a single animal-unicorn bull, elephant, rhinoceros etc.-but some also depict trees, semi-human and human figurines, in some cases participating in a ceremony.

10.Consider the following statements regarding the activities of trade and commerce done by the Harappan people:

I.Agricultural produce, industrial raw material, like copper ores, stone, semi precious shells, etc. were traded.

II.Besides the raw material, finished products of metals (pots and pans, weapon, etc.), precious and semi precious stones (beads, pendants, amulets etc.) ornaments of gold and silver were also traded to various areas.

III.Copper may have been procured from Khetri mines of Rajasthan, chert blades from Rohri hills of Sindh, carnelian beads from Gujarat and Sindh, lead from south India, lapis-lazuli from Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a.Only I
- b.I and II
- c.II and III
- d.All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

Agricultural produce, industrial raw material, like copper ores, stone, semi precious shells, etc. were traded. Besides the raw material, finished products of metals (pots and pans, weapon, etc.), precious and semi precious stones (beads, pendants, amulets etc.) ornaments of gold and silver were also traded to various areas. Copper may have been procured from Khetri mines of Rajasthan, chert blades from Rohri hills of Sindh, carnelian beads from Gujarat and Sindh, lead from south India, lapis-lazuli from Kashmir and Afghanistan, turquoise and jade from central Asia or Iran, amethyst from Maharashtra, and agate, chalcedony, and carnelian from Saurashtra.