

IAS Prelims Exam: Ancient History

NCERT Questions: The Harappan Civilisation Set II

Questions asked from Ancient Indian History section in IAS Prelims Exam are quite easy but the candidates need to memorise well before appearing in the exam. The candidates should have balanced preparation of overall three sections of the History and its chronology is one of the most important parts of the subject history which enable candidates to memorise well every important aspects of history.

Following Multiple Choice Questions of Ancient Indian History would help students in understanding the nature of questions asked in IAS Prelims Exam.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding artefact found at the sites of Indus Valley Civilisation:

- I. For processing food, the grinding equipments as well as for mixing, blending and cooking, the equipments were made of stone, metal and terracotta.
- II. Saddle querns were found in Mohenjodaro, the best known site of Harappan Civilisation.
- III. Saddle querns were roughly made of hard, gritty, igneous rock or sandstone and mostly show signs of hard usage.

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: Saddle querns have been found in considerable numbers from the site of Mohenjodaro and it seems that such objects have been the only means in use for grinding cereals. Saddle querns were roughly made of hard, gritty, igneous rock or sandstone and mostly show signs of hard usage.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the planned urban centre of Mohenjodaro, the best known site of Harappan Civilisation:

I. In Mohenjodaro, the settlement is divided into two sections, one smaller but higher and the other much larger but lower, archaeologists designate these as the Citadel and the Lower Town respectively.

II. The Citadel owes its height to the fact that buildings were constructed on hilly region.

III. In Lower Town several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations.

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: C

Explanation: The Citadel owes its height to the fact that buildings were constructed on mud brick platforms. In Lower Town several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations. It has been calculated that if one labourer moved roughly a cubic metre of earth daily, just to put the foundations in place it would have required four million person-days, in other words, mobilising labour on a very large scale.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the plight of Harappa?

I. Harappa was the first site to be discovered which was badly destroyed by brick robbers.

II. As early as 1875, Alexander Cunningham, the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), often called the father of Indian archaeology.

III. Alexander Cunningham noted that the amount of brick taken from the ancient site was enough to lay bricks for “about 100 miles” of the railway line between Delhi and Karachi.

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: As early as 1875, Alexander Cunningham, the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), often called the father of Indian archaeology. Alexander Cunningham noted that the amount of brick taken from the ancient site was enough to lay bricks for

“about 100 miles” of the railway line between Lahore and Multan. Due to this, structures at the site of Harappa were damaged. In contrast, Mohenjodaro was far better preserved.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the drainage system of Harappa:

- I. Harappan cities were randomly planned there were no specific pattern of drainage system.
- II. It is true that Harappan cities had carefully planned drainage system as the roads and streets in Lower Town were laid out along an “approximate” grid pattern, intersecting at right angle.
- III. If you look at the plan, it seems that streets with drains were laid out first and then houses built along them.

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: The carefully drainage system of Harappan cities made it unique site among other sites of Indus Valley Civilisation. Harappan cities had carefully planned drainage system as the roads and streets in Lower Town were laid out along an “approximate” grid pattern, intersecting at right angle.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Citadels of Harappan period:

- I. The most Harappan settlements have a small high western part and a larger lower eastern section, there are variations.
- II. At sites such as Dholavira and Lothal (Gujarat), the entire settlement was fortified, and sections within the town were also separated by walls.
- III. The Citadel within Lothal was not walled off, but was built at a height.

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: In Mohenjodaro, the settlement is divided into two sections, one smaller but higher and the other much larger but lower, archaeologists designate these as the Citadel and the Lower Town respectively. Citadel was walled, which meant that it was physically separated from the Lower Town.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding domestic architecture of the towns at Mohenjodaro:

- I. The Lower Town at Mohenjodaro provides examples of residential buildings and many were centred on a courtyard, with rooms on all sides.
- II. The courtyard was probably the centre of activities such as cooking and weaving, particularly during hot and dry weather.
- III. There are no windows in the walls along the ground level. Besides, the main entrance does not give a direct view of the interior or the courtyard.

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: Every house had its own bathroom paved with bricks, with drains connected through the wall 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 the outside and perhaps used by passers-by. Scholars have estimated that the total number of wells in Mohenjodaro was about 700.

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Great Bath at the site of Mohenjodaro:

- I. The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides.
- II. There were two flights of steps on the north and south leading into the tank, which was made watertight by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of gypsum.
- III. There were rooms on three sides, in one of which was a large well.

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: It is on the Citadel that we find evidence of structures that were probably used for special public purposes. These include the warehouse— a massive structure of which the lower brick portions remain, while the upper portions, probably of wood, decayed long ago – and the Great Bath.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the uniqueness of Great Bath at the site of Mohenjodaro:

- I. Water from the tank i.e. the Great Bath flowed into a huge drain.
- II. Across a lane to the north lay a smaller building with eight bathrooms, four on each side of a corridor, with drains from each bathroom connecting to a drain that ran along the corridor.
- III. The uniqueness of the structure, as well as the context in which it was found (the Citadel, with several distinctive buildings), has led scholars to suggest that it was meant for some kind of a special ritual bath.

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: The Great Bath was a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides. There were two flights of steps on the north and south leading into the tank, which was made watertight by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of gypsum. There were rooms on three sides, in one of which was a large well.

Q9. Where is the site of Mohenjodaro located?

- A. Punjab, Pakistan
- B. Sindh, Pakistan
- C. Gujarat, India
- D. Rajasthan, India

Answer. B

Explanation: The site of Mohenjodaro is located in the Sindh province of Pakistan on the bank of Indus River. This region is semi arid and flooded region of the province known for its riverine trade with the sites of the subcontinents.

Q10. From which of the following site the seal of Virgin-Goddess has been recovered?

- A. Harappa
- B. Mohenjodaro
- C. Chanhudaro
- D. Lothal

Answer: A

Explanation: Apart from the seal of virgin-Goddess, women's quarters, Stone symbols of lingam (male sex-organs) and Yoni (female sex-organs), clay figure of Mother Goddess, painted pottery also has been recovered from the Harappan site of the Indus Civilisation.