

# IAS Prelims Exam: Ancient History

## NCERT: The Harappan Civilisation

Questions asked from Medieval 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 Indus Valley Civilisation:**

- I. The Harappan Seals considered as the most unique artefacts of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- II. The Harappan seals often contain motifs of animal and scripts were made of stone called steatite.
- III. The various objects of this period have been recovered from areas as far apart as Egypt, Gaya, Ayodhya and Maharashtra.

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:** The Indus valley civilisation is also called the Harappan culture. Archaeologists use the term “culture” for a group of objects, distinctive in style, that are usually found together within a specific geographical area and period of time. In the case of the Harappan culture, these distinctive objects include seals, beads, weights, stone blades and even baked bricks. These objects were found from areas as far apart as Afghanistan, Jammu, Baluchistan (Pakistan) and Gujarat.

### **Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan Civilisation:**

- I. Harappa was the first site from where the Harappan unique culture was discovered.

II.The Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as the Harappan Civilisation which was named after the discovery the unique Harappan site.

III.Sometimes the Harappan Civilisation is also known as the Mature Harappan Culture to distinguish the Early Harappan and Late Harappan cultures.

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 Indus Valley or Harappan Civilisation is dated between c. 2600 and 1900 BCE. The Harappan Culture categorised as the Early Harappan Culture and Later Harappan Culture. Sometimes the Harappan Civilisation is also known as the Mature Harappan Culture to distinguish the Early Harappan and Late Harappan cultures.

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan Culture:**

I.There were several archaeological cultures in the region prior to the Mature Harappan.

II.The early cultures were associated with distinctive pottery, evidence of agriculture and pastoralism, and some crafts.

III.In early cultures the settlements were generally small, and there were virtually no large buildings.

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:** After analysing the cultures of early archaeological sites with the Harappan site, it appears that there was a break between the Early Harappan and Harappan Civilisation which is evident from the findings of large-scale burning sites and the abandonment of certain settlements.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the subsistence strategies taken by Harappans:**

- I. The Harappans ate a wide range of plant and animal products, including fish.
- II. Grains found at Harappan sites include wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame.
- III. Millets are found from sites in West Bengal while finds of rice are relatively larger than other grains.

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:** Millets are found from sites in Gujarat while finds of rice are relatively rare. Such findings greatly helped Archaeologists to reconstruct the dietary practices and other subsistence strategies of Harappans.

**Q5. Which of the following is incorrect about Harappan site?**

- A. Animal bones found at Harappan sites include those of cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig.
- B. Studies done by archaeo-zoologists or zoo-archaeologists indicate that these animals were domesticated.
- C. Bones of wild species such as boar, deer and gharial are also found. Bones of fish and fowl are also found.
- D. The studies have confirmed that the Harappans hunted animals for themselves and they were not dependent on other hunting communities for meat.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** During various excavations of Harappan sites by the archaeologists, they found the remains of bones which have indicated that some animals had been domesticated by them but about the bones of wild species, the archaeo-zoologists could not confirm that such animals were hunted by themselves or obtained from other hunting communities.

**Q6. Consider the following statements about the agricultural technologies of the Harappan Period?**

I. From the findings of terracotta models of plough, the archaeologists have extrapolated that the oxen were used for ploughing.

II. The evidence of plough fields have been found at Kalibangan (Rajasthan) which is associated with the early Harappan Culture.

III. The discovered fields had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two crops were grown together.

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:** From the findings of grains, it has been sure that the agricultural activities were prevalent during the Harappan period but it was difficult for the archaeologists to reconstruct the actual agriculture practices of the period.

**Q7. Which of the following is incorrect regarding prevalent irrigation practices of the Harappan period?**

- A. Most Harappan sites are located in arid lands, where irrigation was probably not required for agriculture.
- B. Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan, but not in Punjab or Sind.
- C. It is possible that ancient canals silted up long ago and it is also likely that water drawn from wells was used for irrigation.
- D. Water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) may have been used to store water for agriculture.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Most Harappan sites are located in semi-arid lands, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture. The archaeologists have reconstructed various agricultural practices prevalent in Early Harappans and Mature Harappans from the finding of canals, wells and reservoirs in some of the Harappan sites.

**Q8. Along which one of the following rivers, the largest concentration of settlements has been found?**

- A. Saraswati
- B. Indus
- C. Ganga
- D. Yamuna

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The Saraswati river which crosses the states of Punjab and Rajasthan where the appearance of Harappan sites have been found at larger concentration. Now this river is also known as the Ghaggar, banks of this river are quite dry in Thar Desert where the Harappan sites have been found.

**Q9. Who among the following archaeologists has excavated the Lothal site?**

- A. S. R. Rao
- B. Mackay
- C. R. S. Bist
- D. J. P. Joshi

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Dholavira is one of the well-known cities of Harappan Civilisation, discovered by Dr. S. R. Rao on behalf of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1954. He had discovered another port city, Bet Dwarka located at the mouth of Kutch in Gujarat.

**Q10. What was the name given to Indus Civilisation mentioned in one of the Mesopotamian texts, who had relation with the Indus Civilisation?**

- A. Susa
- B. Meluha
- C. Ur
- D. Dilmun

**Ans. B**

**Explanation:** The evidence of distant trade relations has been evident from the finds of seals and sealings of distant lands. One of the Mesopotamian texts which have mention of one of their trading partner as Meluha, a land of tropical commodities which were produced in the Indus Civilisation only.

