

Class VI - Social Science

Exploring Society India and Beyond
The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

CBSE NOTES

The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation - Mastery Worksheet

Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. Define 'civilisation' and discuss how the Harappan Civilisation met these criteria with specific examples.

Hint: Identify characteristics of civilization and match them with examples from Harappan cities.

2. Compare the urban planning of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. What insights do these designs provide about Harappan society?

Hint: Look at city layouts and residential areas to understand social structure.



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

3. Analyse the significance of the Indus Valley rivers in the development of the Harappan Civilisation.

Hint: Consider both agricultural and trade aspects influenced by the geography.

4. Discuss the role of trade in the Harappan Civilisation, referencing specific goods exchanged and their impact.

Hint: Think about how trade connected different cultures and made economic systems interdependent.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

5. Evaluate the Harappan agricultural techniques and their contributions to societal stability and growth. Include examples.

Hint: Relate agricultural practices to population density and urban growth.

6. Discuss how the Harappans maintained social harmony, and contrast this with other ancient civilisations.

Hint: Reflect on archaeological evidence that points to social structures.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

7. Identify and illuminate the potential factors leading to the decline of the Harappan Civilisation. Analyze their interconnectedness.

Hint: Consider environmental, social, and economic factors and how they, together, propelled the decline.

8. Explain the significance of Harappan seals in understanding their economy and trade practices.

Hint: Explore how seals may parallel modern trade practices.



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

9. Create a diagram of the typical structure of a Harappan city, labeling areas like the 'upper town' and 'lower town,' and briefly describe their functions.

Hint: Visualizing helps in understanding spatial relationships in urban planning.

10. Critically assess the cultural contributions of the Harappan Civilisation, referring to art, architecture, and social customs.

Hint: Consider how culture shapes and is shaped by the environment and technology.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

1. Define 'civilisation' and discuss how the Harappan Civilisation met these criteria with specific examples.

Solution: Civilisation is characterized by urbanism, a form of government, crafts, trade, writing, cultural practices, and agriculture. The Harappan Civilisation displayed urban planning with cities like Mohenjo-daro, sophisticated drainage systems, evidence of crafting and trade, and agricultural practices that included cotton cultivation.

2. Compare the urban planning of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. What insights do these designs provide about Harappan society?

Solution: Both cities featured grid layouts with streets oriented to cardinal directions, indicating advanced planning. Harappa had a distinct division between the elite and common areas, suggesting a structured society. Their drainage systems highlight the importance of hygiene and water management.

3. Analyse the significance of the Indus Valley rivers in the development of the Harappan Civilisation.

Solution: Rivers such as the Indus and Sarasvatī provided fertile land, necessary for agriculture, leading to population growth and urbanisation. They facilitated trade and communication, crucial for cultural exchanges.

4. Discuss the role of trade in the Harappan Civilisation, referencing specific goods exchanged and their impact.

Solution: Trade involved commodities like cotton, pottery, and metals, extending to Mesopotamian civilizations. This exchange enriched Harappan culture and economics, fostering innovation and craftsmanship.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

5. Evaluate the Harappan agricultural techniques and their contributions to societal stability and growth. Include examples.

Solution: The Harappans grew crops like cereals and pulses, with evidence of crop storage systems. Innovative irrigation techniques promoted surpluses, stabilizing food supply and allowing urban populations to thrive.

6. Discuss how the Harappans maintained social harmony, and contrast this with other ancient civilisations.

Solution: The Harappans practiced mutual accommodation, as evidenced by the lack of stark class divisions and communal facilities. In contrast, other civilisations often depicted more distinct hierarchies and conflicts.

7. Identify and illuminate the potential factors leading to the decline of the Harappan Civilisation. Analyze their interconnectedness.

Solution: Climatic changes leading to drought, the drying up of the Sarasvatī River, and decreasing agricultural productivity likely caused urban decline. Trade disruption would have further exacerbated these issues.

8. Explain the significance of Harappan seals in understanding their economy and trade practices.

Solution: Seals indicate a structured trade economy, used for marking goods and possibly for administrative purposes. The variety of symbols could suggest a writing system or record-keeping methods.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

9. Create a diagram of the typical structure of a Harappan city, labeling areas like the 'upper town' and 'lower town,' and briefly describe their functions.

Solution: A diagram shows city layout: the 'upper town' housing elites and public buildings, the 'lower town' for commoners. This distinction reveals social organization and priorities in urban settings.

10. Critically assess the cultural contributions of the Harappan Civilisation, referring to art, architecture, and social customs.

Solution: Harappan contributions include intricate beadwork, pottery, and monumental architecture like granaries and houses. Social customs reflected in public baths indicate advanced societal norms surrounding cleanliness.



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