

STD - VI

SOCIAL STUDY

THE FIRST CITIES OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT (HISTORY)

ANSWER THIS QUESTION:-

Q1. Name four important cities of the Indus valley civilization.

Ans. \*Mohenjo Daro

\*Harappa

\*Lothal and

\*Dholavira were the four important cities of Indus valley civilization.

Q2. What tells us that the Harappans grew wheat and barley?

Ans. Grains found in the cracks on the threshing floor show that the Harappans grew wheat and barley. Plough and sickle and different methods of irrigation have been found, this shows that the harappans grew wheat and barley.

Q3. Write about the street plan of a typical Indus City.

Ans. The street plan of a typical Indus City:

\*The Harappan civilization had well planned cities. Excavation at Mohenjo - daro and Harappa show that cities were divided broadly into two parts - the citadel and the lower town.

\*The cities had a raised part called the citadel.

\*Citadel had massive walls and its height provided protection from floods.

\*Important structures like public baths and granaries and the town hall were situated in the citadel.

\*Outside the citadel, was the lower town inhabited by merchants, craftsmen and labourers.

\*The main part of the lower town was divided into rectangular blocks by wide roads cutting each other at right angles.

\*The cities probably had street lamps because remains of lamp posts have been discovered along the roads.

Q4. Mention some important crafts of the Harappans.

Ans. Important crafts of the harappans were -

\*Pot making

\*Toy making

\*Spinning and weaving

\*Metal casting

\*Brick making

\*Seal making

\*Jewellery making.

Q5. Prove with one example that the harappans know the art of weaving.

Ans. The art of Spinning and weaving was known by Harappans as woven cloth has been unearthed at Mohenjodaro. Spindles, the statuette of a shawl clad man and terracotta figurines of women wearing skirts are evidence that the people were skilled in the art of spinning thread and weaving cloth.

Q6. Why do we not understand the inscriptions of the Harappan seals?

Ans. We do not understand the inscriptions on the Harappan seals because they are written in Indus script and no one has been able to decipher the Indus script.

Q7. What do you know about the weights and measures used by the Indus merchants?

Ans. The Indus valley merchants used uniform weights and measures that were multiples of sixteen. Trading thrived and was conducted according to a set of rules.

Q8. Mention one purpose for which the Indus people used large urns.

Ans. The Indus valley people used large urns to bury the dead.

Q9. Write about one of Lothal's main industry.

Ans. Bead making was one of Lothal's main industries.

Q10. What possibly led to the decline of Indus valley civilization?

Ans. Earthquakes, floods or a change in the course of Indus river may have led to the decline of the Indus valley civilization.

Q11. Why was the Indus civilization also called the Harappan civilization?

Ans. The Indus valley civilization is also called the Harappan civilization because Harappa was the main centre of this civilization and the other cities were also built in the same way as Harappa was.

Q12. What do you know about the great bath of Mohenjodaro?

Ans. The great bath of Mohenjodaro shows how good the Indus people were at engineering and planning.

- \*The inner walls were treated to prevent seepage.
- \*Stairs descending into the bath were used for cleaning it.
- \*There were even changing rooms around the bath.
- \* All the bricks used were baked bricks.

Q13. Mention a few things depicted on the Indus seals.

Ans. A few things depicted on the Indus seals are:-

- \*God in yogic posture surrounded by animals.
- \*The seals also bear the three headed figure of male God.
- \*Most of the seals have short inscription and the picture of a bull, buffalo,tiger,goat,rhinoceros or an elephant.
- \*Some seals have a humped bull at the back.

Q14. Mention some important architectural features of Dholavira.

Ans. Some architectural features of Dholavira are:-

- \*The city had three parts :A citadel  
A middle town  
A lower town.
- \*The citadel and the Middletown were enclosed within the high walls provided with gateways.
- \*Stone has been used in construction of buildings.
- \*The lower town was not enclosed within a wall.
- \*The rulers of Dholavira lived in the the citadel, the rich people in the middle town and ordinary people in the lower town.
- \*There was an open space between the citadel and the middletown where public functions might have been held.

Q15. Explain how cities arose, how is City life different from the village life?

Ans. The exchange of goods led to the growth of trade and trade centres. Trade centres where large number of people settled, arose into cities.

City life was more complex as city people had many different activities and had a wide range of needs and occupation.

Village life was simple because people of village had similar needs and similar occupations. Complex division of labour was not there.

Q16. Briefly describe a typical house of the Indus valley civilization.

Ans. A typical house of Indus valley civilization was as follows -

- \*In the lower town, houses were one or two storey high.
- \*They were made of baked bricks and were built along narrow straight lanes.
- \*Every house had two or more rooms with small windows, a bathroom ,kitchen and a courtyard.
- \*Almost every house had a well.
- \*The houses had a very good drainage system and there were separate drains from kitchen and bathroom.

Q16. What suggested that the Indus valley people carried on overseas trades?

Ans. Some of these point suggest that the Indus valley people carried on overseas trade:-

- \*The Indus cities probably had trade link with Mesopotamia, we get this information from the mesopotamian record.
- \*Mesopotamian seals have been found in Indus cities and Indus seals in Mesopotamia.
- \*A seal depicting a sea faring ship suggests that there was overseas trade.

Q17. Write about the religious belief of the Indus valley people.

Ans. The religious beliefs of the Indus valley people ---

- \*The people of Indus valley civilization worshipped nature in the form of animals, birds and trees; for example the humped Bull ,the dove and the peepal tree were held sacred.
- \*A mother goddess was also worshipped.
- \*People also worshipped the mother Earth because it was the symbol of fertility as growing crops was the important occupation.
- \*Three headed male God Pashupati in a yogic posture surrounded by animals was worshipped.
- \*No temple structures have been found among the remains.