

SOLVED ASSIGNMENT FA-2

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: 6TH

CHAPTER: INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Name four important sites of the Indus Valley civilization.

- Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa now in Pakistan, were probably the main cities of this civilization.

Among the other sites unearthed later are Ruar in Punjab, Kalibangan in Rajasthan.

2. Why is the Indus civilization also called the Harappan civilization?

- The Indus Valley Civilization is also named the Harappan civilization after Harappa, the first of its sites to be excavated; also Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were the most important cities of this civilization.

3 What is the historical information can we gather from the sites of the granaries?

- Near the granaries, there were circular brick platforms meant for thrashing grain.

- Grains found in the cracks of these threshing floors show that the Harappan grew wheat and Barley.

4 Give examples to show that Harappan craftsmen were highly skilled.

- Harappan were skilled in pot making, toy making, sculpture making, spinning and weaving, metal casting and seal making.

- These examples show that Harappan were skilled craftsman.

5 What are the evidences that prove the skills of the Harappan in the art of weaving?

- A piece of woman clothes unearthed at Mohenjo Daro, clay spindles and the statuette of a shawl clad man are evidences that the people where skilled in the art of spinning and weaving.

6 How do we know that the Indus people carried on overseas trade?

- There are many reasons to believe that overseas trade existed, some of them are;
- The remains of dockyard have been found at Lothal in Gujarat.
- The seal depicting seagoing ship has also been found.
- Mesopotamian records mention Meluha, a name used for Indus civilization.
- Moreover, Mesopotamian seals also been found in the Indus cities, and Indus seals in Mesopotamia.

7 Explain how historians have concluded that the Harappans believed in life after death.

- Historian found that the Indus people believe in life after death, because during excavations they found that the Harappan people buried their dead, often in huge burial urns, along with food, ornaments and articles used by them in their daily life.

8 What led to the decline of the Indus civilization?

- The exact causes of the decline of Indus Valley civilization are not known.
- It is suggested that the cities might have been destroyed by natural disasters like an earthquake, floods or a change in the course of the Indus.

B. Answer the following questions.

1 Describe the following structures of Mohenjo Daro and discuss their functions.

(a) The citadel. (b) The great bath.

- The citadel.

The cities had raised part called the citadel.

The citadel had massive walls, and its height provided protection against floods. Important structures like public baths, granaries and the town hall were situated in the Citadel.

- The great bath.

The great bath at Mohenjo Daro shows Indus people's engineering and planning. The inner walls were treated to prevent seepage.

Stairs descending to the bath were used for cleaning it.

There were even changing rooms around the bath.

2 Describe the main features of the lower town of an Indus city.

- Outside the citadel was the lower town, the main part of the lower town was divided into rectangular blocks by wide roads cutting each other at right angles. - Here one can see the remains of the brick houses and the drainage system.

- The city is probably had Street lights because the remains of lamp posts have been discovered along the roads.

3 Write about agriculture and trade in Indus civilization.

- The Indus farmers grew wheat, barley, gram, peas, maize and millets.

- They were the 1st to grow cotton in India.

- They used ploughs and sickles, and different methods of irrigation.

- They domesticated many animals.

- Trading thrived and was conducted according to a set of rules.

- The merchants used uniform weights and measures.

Overseas trade also existed during this period.

4 Describe a Harappan Seal. What conclusions can be drawn from the study of seals?

- More than 2000 seals have been excavated from different sites of Harappan civilization.

- This shows that seal making was an important craft.

- Most seals are square or rectangular tablets, usually made of steatite.

- Most of them have short inscriptions and the impressions of a bull, buffalo, Tiger, and other animals. Some seals also show a male God.

Some seals have hump at the back, with a hole in it.

5 Write briefly about the religious beliefs of Indus people.

The Indus people worship nature in the form of animals, birds and trees.

- They also worshipped a male god similar to Shiva of later times, and a mother goddess.

- They believed in life after death.

C. Fill in the blanks.

1-Harappan and Mohenjo Daro

2-cotton

3-copper and bronze

4-Mesopotamia

5-nine

6-Citadel, the lower town

D. Choose the correct option.

1-b, 2-c, 3-b, 4-c, 5-b.

4. The Vedic Civilization.

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1 What is the origin and meaning of the word 'Veda'?

- Veda means knowledge. It is derived from the Sanskrit root 'vid', which means 'to know.'

2 What do you understand by the term 'Vedic literature'?

- The four Vedas- rig, Sama, Yajur, and Atharva and the literary compositions that are based on the Vedas, namely the Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishad, Puranas, and epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, are together called Vedic literature.

3 Which period of Indian history do we call the Vedic age and why?

- The period from 1500 BC to 600 BC is called the Vedic age because the most important source material of this age is Vedic literature. The Vedic period can be divided into early Vedic period and later Vedic period.

4 How did India get the name Bharatavarsha?

- India gets the name Bharatavarsha after a powerful Aryan tribe called Bharata.

5 Which Rivers water at the region called Saptsindhu? With which modern Indian states does the region coincide?

- The Saptsindhu region was watered by seven rivers-the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej and Saraswati.

- Saptsindhu region coincided with Modern Haryana and undivided Punjab.

6 Why is the Early Vedic period also called the Rigvedic period?

- Early Vedic period also called the Rigvedic period because the Rigveda was composed at this time.

Rigveda is very valuable source of information on the early Vedic period.

7 What were the Upanishads? What did they teach?

- The Upanishads were philosophical compositions, stressing on the importance of right belief and knowledge. - They emphasise the need for understanding the true relationship of Aatma (self) with Brahma (The supreme god).

8 What were the two main occupations of the Rigvedic Aryans?

- Growing crops and rearing cattle were the main occupations of the Rigvedic Aryans.

9 How did the discovery of iron help the Vedic people?

- Around 1000 BC, the Vedic people learn to use iron. - The use of Iron produced better weapons and a heavier agricultural implement like iron ploughs.

10 What were the four stages in the social life of the Vedic Aryans?

- The arrangements life was divided into four stages called Ashrams.

- These were Brahmacharya (students life), Garhastha (family life), Vanaprastha (retirement to the forest to meditate) and Sanyasa (complete retirement).

11 Name some popular pastimes of the Vedic people.

- The usual pastimes of the Aryans were chariot racing, hunting, gambling, music and dancing.

Musical instruments such as flute, lutes, Harps, drums and cymbals were used.

12 What is the importance of the Bhagwat Gita?

- Bhagwat Gita contains the essence of Hindu religious philosophy. It laid special emphasis on performing one's duty without caring for the fruits of action.

B. Answer the following questions.

1 Compare the position of the King in the Early Vedic Age and the Later Vedic Age. Also compare the Sabhas and Samitis of the Early Vedic Age with those of Later Vedic Age.

- During Early Vedic Age Aryans lived in tribal groups in a village or grama. - -- The chief of the tribe was called Rajan. He ruled with the help of the Purohita, the senani and tribal assemblies called the Sabha and Samiti. - The king became more powerful during the Later Vedic Age. To establish his authority, he performed sacrifices and rituals. The Sabha and Samiti declined in importance.

2 Describe the caste structure of Early Vedic period, mentioning the social functions of each caste. Discuss how the cast structure changed during the Later Vedic period.

- The four casts, from the highest to the lowest, were Brahman, kshatriya, vaishya and Shudra. - The priests, who looked after religious matters and recited prayers, were brahmanas. - The king and the Warriors, protected the tribe from harm, were kshatriya. vaishya were mainly farmers and craftsmen. - Dasas and those Aryans who disobeyed social rules belonged to the Shudra caste. - During Later Vedic period with increasing emphasis on rituals and sacrifices, the Brahmanas came to occupy a very high position in society. Kshatriya, on many occasions, tried to assert their supremacy over Brahmanas. In due course, however, the Brahmanas and Kshatriyas cooperated in ruling society. Towards the end of the Later Vedic period many Vaishya who were originally farmers shifted their occupation to trade. - Shudras were now engaged in the cultivation of land and also in menial jobs. They were deprived of many of the privileges enjoyed by the upper-class.

3 Describe the main features of religious worship during the Early Vedic period and the Later Vedic period.

- During Early Vedic period nature was worshipped. Indra was the most important God; other gods were Prithvi, Agni, Vayu, Surya and Varun. Simple rituals were performed in open air and there was no idol worship. - During later Vedic period important gods were Prajapati Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the destroyer; complex rituals were performed and sacrifices were offered.

4 Write notes on the system of education and the literary achievements of the Later Vedic period. - During the Later Vedic period, the Aryans composed the Atharva veda, Yajurveda and Samaveda, and their supplementary - Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishad. - Parts of Puranas, and epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, were composed during this period.

5 Write a brief note on the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata are the two great epics written during the Later Vedic period. - Mahabharata included the Bhagwat Gita, which contains the essence of Hindu religious philosophy.

6 Describe the position of women in the Early Vedic period and Later Vedic period. - During Early Vedic period women held a position of respect, and could attend assemblies and offer prayers.

- During Later Vedic period although women's presence was essential in religious ceremonies and some upper caste woman received education, woman came to be regarded as inferior to men and their status in society declined.

C. Fill in the blanks. 1500 BC to 600 BC 1028 hymns and prayers. Grama bali Later Vedic Prajapathi (brahma) Shruti.

D. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1- True

2- False

3- True

4- False

5- False

6- True

7- False