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CLASS XII · HISTORY (027) · THEMES IN INDIAN HISTORY PART I · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

HISTORY · THEME 1

Bricks, Beads and Bones

c. 2600 to 1900 BCE

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only

16 note blocks + site file | 22 keyword cards + link chain | 84 practice questions | Model Answer Booklet

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

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STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

PRACTICE SCORE _____ / _____

1

READ THIS FIRST

Chapter Notes

The whole theme in short-note form: how the Harappans farmed, built, made and traded things, who may have ruled them, how the cities declined, and how archaeologists found and read them. Every picture in the textbook is described in words. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 The Harappan civilisation – name, time and spread

- Also called the **Indus valley civilisation**. It is named **Harappan** after **Harappa**, the first site where this culture was discovered.
- **Mature Harappan** phase: **c. 2600–1900 BCE**. Before it came the **Early Harappan** cultures; after it the **Late Harappan** or successor cultures.
- Spread over present-day Pakistan and north-west India: from **Shortughai** (Afghanistan) and Jammu in the north to Gujarat in the south, and from the Makran coast (Balakot) in the west to western Uttar Pradesh in the east.

Culture (in archaeology): a group of objects of a distinctive style, usually found together in a particular area and period. Harappan culture = **seals, beads, weights, stone blades** and even **baked bricks**.

- **Early Harappan cultures:** distinctive pottery, farming and herding, some crafts; settlements were small, with almost no large buildings. There seems to have been a **break** before the Mature phase – large-scale burning at some sites and the abandonment of others.
- The **Harappan seal** is the most distinctive artefact: made of **steatite**, with animal motifs and signs of a script.

2 Subsistence – what did the Harappans eat?

A wide range of **plant and animal products**, including fish.

- **Grains:** wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame. **Millets** are found at sites in **Gujarat**. Finds of **rice are rare**.
- **Animal bones:** cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig – these animals were domesticated. Bones of **wild** species such as boar, deer and gharial, and of fish and fowl, are also found.
- We do not know whether Harappans **hunted** wild animals themselves or got the meat from **hunting communities**.

Archaeo-botanists study ancient plant remains (charred grains and seeds). **Archaeo-zoologists (zoo-archaeologists)** study animal bones. Together they reconstruct the diet.

3 Agricultural technologies – plough and irrigation

- **Bull:** seals and terracotta sculpture show the bull, so archaeologists conclude that **oxen** were used for ploughing.
- **Plough models:** terracotta models of the plough found at sites in **Cholistan** and at **Banawali** (Haryana).
- **Ploughed field at Kalibangan** (Rajasthan), from **Early Harappan** levels: two sets of furrows at **right angles** to each other – two different crops were grown together.
- Ploughs were probably made of **wood** (which does not survive) and perhaps had a stone or metal tip.
- **Irrigation:** most sites lie in **semi-arid** lands. Traces of **canals at Shortughai** (Afghanistan), but not in Punjab or Sind (old canals may have silted up). Water from **wells** was probably used, and **reservoirs at Dholavira** (Gujarat) may have stored water for farming.
- Tools for **harvesting**: archaeologists are not sure whether stone blades in wooden handles or metal tools were used.

4 Mohenjodaro – a planned urban centre

The best-known site, although Harappa was found first. Its most unique feature is **urban planning**.

- Two sections: a smaller but higher **Citadel** (to the west) and a much larger **Lower Town** (to the east). The Citadel is higher because its buildings stood on **mud-brick platforms**. It was **walled**, which separated it from the Lower Town; the Lower Town was also walled.
- Many buildings in the Lower Town also stood on platforms. If one labourer moved about one cubic metre of earth a day, the foundations alone needed about **four million person-days** – the settlement was planned first and then built.
- **Bricks** (sun-dried or baked) had a **standard ratio**: length = 4 × height, breadth = 2 × height (**4 : 2 : 1**). The same ratio is found at all Harappan sites.
- Roads and streets ran on an approximate **grid pattern**, crossing at **right angles**. Streets with drains were laid out first; houses were built along them.
- **Other plans:** at **Dholavira** and **Lothal** (Gujarat) the whole settlement was fortified, and parts of the town were separated by walls. The Citadel at Lothal was not walled off but built at a height.

5 The drainage system

- Every house was connected to the **street drains**. Main channels were of **bricks set in mortar**, covered with loose bricks (sometimes limestone) that could be **removed for cleaning**.
- House drains first emptied into a **sump or cesspit**: solid waste settled there and waste water flowed on into the street drain.
- Very long channels had **sumps at intervals** for cleaning. Heaps of material, mostly sand, lying beside drains show that the debris was not always carted away.
- An archaeologist who worked at Mohenjodaro, **Ernest Mackay**, called it the most complete ancient drainage system found so far.
- Drains are found in **small settlements** too: at **Lothal**, houses were of mud bricks but drains were of **burnt bricks**.

> **Why it matters:** drains planned before houses, joined from every house and kept clean show a strong civic authority and concern for **public health**.

6 Domestic architecture – the Lower Town

- Many houses were built round a **courtyard** with rooms on all sides – probably the centre of cooking and weaving in hot, dry weather.
- **Privacy:** no windows in the walls along the ground level; the **main entrance** gave no direct view of the inside or the courtyard.
- Every house had its own **bathroom** paved with bricks, with drains through the wall to the street drain.
- Some houses have **staircases** to a second storey or the roof.
- Many houses had **wells**, often in a room that could be reached from outside – perhaps for passers-by. Scholars estimate about **700 wells** in Mohenjodaro.

7 The Citadel – warehouse and Great Bath

Here we find structures probably used for **special public purposes**.

- **Warehouse:** a massive building; only its lower brick part remains – the upper part, probably of wood, decayed long ago.
- **Great Bath:** a large **rectangular tank** in a courtyard surrounded by a **corridor** on all four sides.
- **Two flights of steps**, on the north and south, led into the tank. It was made **watertight** by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of **gypsum**.
- Rooms on three sides; one had a **large well**. Water from the tank flowed into a **huge drain**.
- Across a lane to the north stood a smaller building with **eight bathrooms**, four on each side of a corridor, their drains joining a drain along the corridor.

> **Interpretation:** the structure is unique and stands with other special buildings on the Citadel, so scholars think it was used for a **special ritual bath**.

8 Tracking social differences – burials and luxuries

- **Burials (Harappa):** the dead were generally laid in **pits**. Some pits were lined with **bricks** – a sign of difference.
- Some graves had **pottery and ornaments** – perhaps a belief that these could be used in the afterlife. Jewellery is found with both **men and women**.
- In the mid-1980s a **man's grave** at Harappa had, near the skull, an ornament of three shell rings, a jasper bead and hundreds of micro-beads. **Copper mirrors** were also found in graves.
- Overall, the Harappans did **not** bury many precious things with the dead.

> **Utilitarian objects:** things of daily use – querns, pottery, needles, flesh-rubbers – made of stone or clay, found at all settlements. **Luxuries:** rare objects of costly non-local materials or difficult technology.

- **Faience** pots (perhaps for perfume) were luxuries – found in big sites like **Mohenjodaro and Harappa**, but almost absent in small ones like **Kalibangan**.
- **Gold** was rare and precious: all gold jewellery found so far came from **hoards**.

> **Faience:** ground sand or silica mixed with colour and a gum, then fired. **Hoard:** objects kept carefully, often in a pot, and never recovered by the owner.

9 Craft production – the bead-makers of Chanhudaro

- **Chanhudaro**, a tiny settlement (under 7 hectares), was almost entirely devoted to **crafts**: bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making.
- **Bead materials:** carnelian (red), jasper, crystal, quartz, steatite; copper, bronze, gold; shell, faience and terracotta (burnt clay). Some beads joined two or more stones, some had gold caps.

- **Shapes:** disc, cylinder, sphere, barrel, segmented. Some were **incised** or painted, some had designs **etched** on them.
- **Steatite** is very soft: some beads were **moulded from a paste** of steatite powder, which allowed many shapes.
- **Carnelian:** the red colour came from **firing** the yellowish raw stone. Nodules were **chipped** into rough shapes, **flaked** into the final form, then **ground, polished and drilled**.
- **Specialised drills** have been found at Chanhudaro, Lothal and Dholavira.
- **Nageshwar** and **Balakot**, near the coast, made **shell** objects – bangles, ladles and inlay – which went to other settlements.

How a craft centre is identified: raw material (stone nodules, whole shells, copper ore), tools, **unfinished objects**, rejects and waste. Waste is the best clue – large centres such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa had craft areas too.

10 Getting raw materials inside the subcontinent

- **Settlements near sources:** Nageshwar and Balakot (shell), **Shortughai** in far Afghanistan (near the best source of **lapis lazuli**, a blue stone), **Lothal** near carnelian (from **Bharuch**, Gujarat), steatite (south Rajasthan, north Gujarat) and metal (Rajasthan).
- **Expeditions:** sent to the **Khetri** region of Rajasthan for **copper** and to **south India** for **gold**. They may have set up contact with local communities; Harappan **steatite micro-beads** found there show this.
- **Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture** (Khetri area): its own non-Harappan pottery and an unusual wealth of **copper objects** – it may have supplied copper to the Harappans.

11 Contact with distant lands

- **Oman** (south-eastern Arabia): chemical tests show **traces of nickel** in both Omani copper and Harappan artefacts – a common origin.
- A large Harappan **jar coated with thick black clay** has been found at Omani sites. Such a coating stops liquids leaking, so it may have carried a liquid product, exchanged for Omani copper.
- **Mesopotamian texts** (late 3rd millennium BCE) mention **Dilmun** (probably **Bahrain**), **Magan** (possibly **Oman**) and **Meluhha** (possibly the **Harappan region**).
- Products from Meluhha: **carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold** and kinds of **wood**. A Mesopotamian myth wishes that Meluhha's "haja-bird" (perhaps the **peacock**) be heard in the royal palace, and calls Meluhha a land of **seafarers**.
- **Ships and boats** are shown on seals – contact with Oman, Bahrain and Mesopotamia was probably **by sea**.

12 Seals, script and weights

- **Seals and sealings** made **long-distance communication** safe. A bag of goods was tied with rope; wet clay was put on the knot and a seal pressed on it. If the **sealing** arrived unbroken, the goods had not been tampered with. It also showed the **sender's identity**.
- Seals usually have an **animal motif** and a line of **signs**; the signs probably gave the owner's name and title.
- **Script:** still **undeciphered**. Inscriptions are short – most have about five signs; the longest about **26**. It is **not alphabetic** – it has **375 to 400 signs**. It was written **right to left**: signs are widely spaced on the right and cramped on the left.
- Writing is found on seals, copper tools, rims of jars, copper and terracotta tablets, jewellery, bone rods and even an ancient **signboard** (Dholavira).
- **Weights:** made of a stone called **chert**, usually **cubical**, with **no markings**. Lower weights were **binary** (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 … up to 12,800); higher ones followed the **decimal** system. Small weights were probably for jewellery and beads. **Metal scale-pans** have been found.

13 Ancient authority – palaces and kings?

Evidence that complex decisions were taken and carried out:

- Extraordinary **uniformity** in pottery, seals, weights and bricks. Bricks were made in many places, yet had the **same ratio** from Jammu to Gujarat.
- Settlements set up at chosen places, e.g. near raw materials.
- **Labour mobilised** for bricks, massive walls and platforms.

Who ruled? The evidence is not clear:

- A large building at Mohenjodaro was called a **palace**, but nothing spectacular was found in it.
- A stone statue is still called the **"priest-king"** because archaeologists knew of **priest-kings in Mesopotamia** and looked for parallels.

- **Three views:** (1) no rulers – everyone had equal status; (2) several rulers – Mohenjodaro had one, Harappa another; (3) a **single state** – suggested by uniform artefacts, planned settlements, standard bricks and sites near raw materials. The third seems the **most plausible**, but it cannot be tested until the script is read.

14 The end of the civilisation

- By **c. 1800 BCE** most Mature Harappan sites in regions such as **Cholistan** had been **abandoned**. At the same time, people moved into **new settlements** in **Gujarat, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Late Harappan / successor cultures** (after c. 1900 BCE): a **rural** way of life; distinctive artefacts – **weights, seals, special beads** – disappear; **writing, long-distance trade** and **craft specialisation** decline; houses are built less carefully; no large public buildings.
- **Suggested causes: climate change**, **deforestation**, **excessive floods**, **shifting or drying up of rivers**, **overuse of the landscape**.
- Each cause may explain the decline of **some** sites, but not of the **whole** civilisation.

> **Most convincing view:** a strong **unifying element**, perhaps the **Harappan state**, came to an end – seen in the disappearance of seals, the script, distinctive beads and pottery, the shift from standard weights to **local weights**, and the decline of cities.

15 Discovering the Harappan civilisation

- **Cunningham's confusion: Alexander Cunningham**, the **first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, dug in the mid-19th century. He was interested in the **Early Historic** period (c. 6th century BCE – 4th century CE) and later. He used the accounts of **Chinese Buddhist pilgrims** to locate early cities, and collected and translated inscriptions.
- An Englishman gave him a **Harappan seal**. He tried to fit it into his familiar time-frame and **missed its significance** – Harappa did not fit his framework. By then the site had also been badly damaged by **brick robbers** (bricks were taken for railway lines).
- **A new old civilisation:** early in the 20th century **Daya Ram Sahni** found seals at **Harappa** (1921) in layers much older than Early Historic levels; **Rakhal Das Banerji** found similar seals at **Mohenjodaro** (1922).
- In **1924 John Marshall**, Director-General of the ASI, announced a **new civilisation in the Indus valley** to the world. In S. N. Roy's words, Marshall left India **three thousand years older** than he had found her.
- **Marshall's method:** dug in uniform **horizontal units** across the mound, **ignoring stratigraphy** – objects from different layers were grouped together, so their **context** was lost.
- **R. E. M. Wheeler** (Director-General from **1944**) corrected this: excavation must follow the **stratigraphy** of the mound.
- **After 1947** most major sites lay in Pakistan; Indian archaeologists explored and dug sites such as **Kalibangan, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira**. From the 1980s international teams used new methods – study of soil, stone, metal, plant and animal remains.

16 Problems in piecing together the past

- **Not written records:** the script is unread, so the evidence is **material** – pottery, tools, ornaments, buildings, bones.
- **Classifying finds:** by **material** (stone, clay, metal, bone, ivory) and by **function** (tool, ornament, household object, ritual object). The **context** – a house, a drain, a grave or a kiln – gives clues.
- **Indirect evidence:** e.g. only traces of cloth survive, so clothing is studied from **sculpture**; spindle whorls show spinning.
- **Frames of reference:** archaeologists compare with other places and later times – but this can mislead (the "priest-king").

Religion – the hardest to read:

- Terracotta figurines of heavily **jewelled women** were called **mother goddesses**; rare stone statues of seated men, the **priest-king**.
- Ritual structures: the **Great Bath**; **fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal**.
- Seals with ritual scenes, plant motifs (nature worship?) and the one-horned **"unicorn"**, a mythical, composite animal.
- A seal figure seated cross-legged in a **"yogic" posture**, surrounded by animals, was called **"proto-Shiva"** (Pashupati). But **Rudra** in the **Rigveda** is shown neither as Pashupati nor as a yogi. **Conical stones** were called **lingas**.
- Such readings assume that **later traditions** mirror earlier ones – reasonable for querns and pots, **speculative** for religion.

Site file – the 11 map sites and 1 more

Map, MCQ and long answers come from here

Site	Where	Remember it for
Harappa	Punjab (Pakistan), on the Ravi	first site found (1921, seals); burials; robbed for bricks
Mohenjodaro	Sindh (Pakistan), on the Indus	Citadel + Lower Town, Great Bath, warehouse, drains, ~700 wells
Chanhudaro	Sindh, south of Mohenjodaro	craft centre: beads, shell, metal, seals, weights; drills
Kot Diji	Sindh, east of the Indus	Early Harappan levels below Mature ones
Balakot	Makran coast near Sonmiani Bay (Pakistan)	shell objects – bangles, ladles, inlay
Kalibangan	Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, on the Ghaggar	ploughed field (Early Harappan); fire altars; few faience pots
Banawali	Fatehabad, Haryana	terracotta plough model
Rakhigarhi	Hisar, Haryana	large site dug by Indian archaeologists after 1947
Lothal	Ahmedabad, Gujarat, near the Gulf of Khambhat	near carnelian, steatite, metal; drills; fire altars; burnt-brick drains
Dholavira	Khadir island, Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat	water reservoirs; three-part walled town; signboard; drills
Nageshwar	Gulf of Kachchh coast near Dwarka, Gujarat	shell objects
Shortughai	north-east Afghanistan	near lapis lazuli; canal traces

Raw materials and their sources

Matching MCQs

Material	Where it came from
Carnelian	Bharuch (Gujarat)
Lapis lazuli	Shortughai area (Afghanistan)
Steatite	south Rajasthan, north Gujarat
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan); Oman (Magan)
Gold	south India
Shell	coast – Nageshwar, Balakot

Key terms

1- and 2-mark answers

Mature Harappan – the main phase of the civilisation, c. 2600–1900 BCE

Culture – objects of a distinctive style found together in one area and period

Citadel – the smaller, higher, walled part of a city, built on platforms

Lower Town – the larger residential part of a city, also walled

Stratigraphy – study of the layers of a mound, oldest at the bottom

Archaeo-botanist – specialist in ancient plant remains

Archaeo-zoologist – specialist in ancient animal bones

Faience – ground sand or silica with colour and gum, fired

Hoard – valuables stored by people and never recovered

Sealing – the impression of a seal on wet clay, closing a bag of goods

Steatite – a soft stone used for seals and beads

Carnelian – a red semi-precious stone used for beads

Chert – a hard stone used for Harappan weights

Meluhha – probably the Harappan region in Mesopotamian texts

Utilitarian – objects of daily use, e.g. querns, pots, needles

Late Harappan – rural successor cultures after c. 1900 BCE

Timeline to memorise

Chronology MCQs come from here

Year	Event
c. 2600 BCE	Mature Harappan phase begins
c. 1900 BCE	Mature phase ends; Late Harappan cultures
c. 1800 BCE	Most Cholistan sites abandoned
1875	Cunningham's report on a Harappan seal
1921	Excavation at Harappa (Daya Ram Sahni, M. S. Vats)
1922	R. D. Banerji finds seals at Mohenjodaro
1924	Marshall announces a new civilisation
1925	Excavations begin at Mohenjodaro

Year	Event
1944 / 1946	Wheeler becomes DG of ASI / digs at Harappa
1955	S. R. Rao begins digging at Lothal
1960	B. B. Lal and B. K. Thapar dig at Kalibangan
1974	M. R. Mughal explores Bahawalpur
1980	German–Italian team surveys Mohenjodaro
1986	American team digs at Harappa
1990	R. S. Bisht begins digging at Dholavira

Archaeologists to remember

Matching MCQs and the 8-mark discovery question

Person	Remember for
Alexander Cunningham	first DG of ASI; missed Harappa's age
Daya Ram Sahni	seals at Harappa (1921)
Rakhal Das Banerji	seals at Mohenjodaro (1922)
John Marshall	DG of ASI; announced the civilisation (1924)
Ernest Mackay	praised Mohenjodaro's drains

Person	Remember for
R. E. M. Wheeler	DG from 1944; followed stratigraphy
S. N. Roy	"Marshall left India 3,000 years older"
S. R. Rao	excavated Lothal (1955)
B. B. Lal, B. K. Thapar	excavated Kalibangan (1960)
R. S. Bisht	excavated Dholavira (1990)

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27

- Broad overview: early urban centres
- Story of discovery: the Harappan civilisation
- Excerpt: an archaeological report on a major site
- Discussion: how archaeologists and historians have used it
- Map work: Mature Harappan sites

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

5–10 / 80

History is one 80-mark theory paper. In the **six papers checked** (board 2024–2026 and three sample papers) this theme gave **5 to 10 marks**: 1–2 MCQs, a 3-mark answer or an 8-mark long answer (once a 4-mark source), and **one Harappan site on the map every time**.

MOST ASKED, 2024–2026 BOARD PAPERS AND SAMPLE PAPERS (6 PAPERS CHECKED)

How often	Topic / question type	Marks	Papers
★★★	Map: one Mature Harappan site (Banawali, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi / Lothal, Nageshwar)	1	6 of 6
★★★	Town planning, drains, Mohenjodaro, Great Bath, cleanliness	3 / 4 / 8	5 of 6
★★☆	Discovery – Cunningham, Sahni, Banerji, Marshall, Wheeler; archaeological methods	1 / 8	3 of 6
★★☆	Crafts, raw materials and contact with distant lands	1 / 3	3 of 6
★★☆	Script, seals and the system of weights	1 / 3	3 of 6
★★☆	Food and farming – plough models, archaeo-botanists	1	2 of 6
★☆☆	Decline of the civilisation	8	1 of 6
★☆☆	Political authority – who ruled?	3	1 of 6
★☆☆	Religion – fire altars, proto-Shiva, mother goddess	1	1 of 6

ANSWER-WRITING RULES FOR HISTORY (CBSE SAMPLE PAPER 2026–27)

1 mark
MCQ · write the letter and the answer text

3 marks
Short answer · 60–80 words · 3 clear points with evidence

4 marks
Source-based · 1 + 1 + 2 · answer from the source, then add chapter facts

8 marks
Long answer · 300–350 words · 8 points, opening and closing line

Write in points, underline key words, and name a site, an object, a scholar or a date in every point. Read every “OR” choice before you start, and attempt only one.

MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Writing that the **Citadel** was bigger – it was **smaller but higher**; the Lower Town was larger.
- Giving the brick ratio as 1 : 2 : 4 in the wrong order – length : breadth : height = **4 : 2 : 1**.
- Saying the script was **deciphered** or **alphabetic** – it is undeciphered and has 375–400 signs, written right to left.
- Writing that **Cunningham** discovered the civilisation – he **missed** it. Seals: **Sahni** at Harappa, **Banerji** at Mohenjodaro; **Marshall** announced it in 1924.
- Mixing **Dilmun** (Bahrain), **Magan** (Oman) and **Meluhha** (Harappan region).
- Calling the plough at Kalibangan a model – Kalibangan had a **ploughed field**; the **models** came from **Banawali and Cholistan**.
- Giving only one cause for the decline – write several causes **and** say why the end of a unifying state explains it best.
- 8-mark answers without evidence – name a **site, object or archaeologist** in every point.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. **Day 1:** Read the Chapter Notes twice; learn the key terms and the timeline.
2. **Day 2:** Part 2 Key Words & Links – learn the cards, read the link chain aloud, do the drills.
3. **Next day:** Parts A and B. **Then:** Parts C and D – MUST DO questions first.
4. Part E: mark every map item on a fresh outline map of India.
5. Check every answer against the **Model Answer Booklet**: same points, same keywords, within the word limit.
6. Write every mistake on the My Mistakes page and redo it after 3 days.

2

READ THIS SECOND · THE THREAD THAT JOINS THE CHAPTER

Key Words & Links

Good students lose History marks because they know the words but not how one topic leads to the next. Learn each word's meaning, its example and its link – then use the link words in every answer.

22 keyword cards

Means · Example · Link →

Mature Harappan
C. 2600–1900 BCE

MEANS the main, city-building phase of the civilisation
EXAMPLE Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Dholavira at their height
LINK → came after EARLY HARAPPAN villages and ended in LATE HARAPPAN rural cultures

Culture
ARCHAEOLOGY

MEANS objects of one distinctive style found together in one area and period
EXAMPLE seals, beads, weights, stone blades, baked bricks
LINK → lets us call scattered sites ONE CIVILISATION

Surplus
FARMING

MEANS food produced beyond the farmers' own needs
EXAMPLE wheat, barley and pulses; plough and irrigation
LINK → fed CRAFTSPEOPLE and CITY DWELLERS who did not farm

Plough & furrows
BANAWALI, KALIBANGAN

MEANS tilling the land with an ox-drawn plough
EXAMPLE terracotta models; a field with furrows at right angles
LINK → raised output → SURPLUS → CITIES

Citadel
MOHENJODARO

MEANS the smaller, higher, walled part of the city on platforms
EXAMPLE warehouse and Great Bath
LINK → points to PUBLIC AUTHORITY and special ritual or storage needs

Lower Town
MOHENJODARO

MEANS the larger, walled residential part of the city
EXAMPLE courtyard houses, bathrooms, ~700 wells
LINK → shows PLANNING reached ordinary homes

Standard bricks
4 : 2 : 1

MEANS bricks of one ratio at every Harappan site
EXAMPLE from Jammu to Gujarat
LINK → evidence for common rules – perhaps a SINGLE STATE

Drainage
MOHENJODARO, LOTHAL

MEANS covered brick drains from every house to the street
EXAMPLE removable covers, sumps, cesspits
LINK → proof of TOWN PLANNING and concern for PUBLIC HEALTH

Great Bath
CITADEL

MEANS a watertight tank with steps, well and drain
EXAMPLE gypsum mortar; eight bathrooms nearby
LINK → most likely a RITUAL BATH → religion is debated

Utilitarian vs luxury
SOCIAL DIFFERENCE

MEANS daily objects of local material vs rare costly ones
EXAMPLE querns and pots vs faience pots and gold
LINK → luxuries in big cities show SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES

Hoard
GOLD

MEANS valuables hidden by owners and never recovered
EXAMPLE all Harappan gold jewellery comes from hoards
LINK → gold was RARE → only a few were rich

Craft specialisation
CHANHUDARO

MEANS people working full-time on one craft
EXAMPLE beads, shell, metal, seals, weights
LINK → needed RAW MATERIALS FROM FAR AWAY

Carnelian
BHARUCH

MEANS a red stone; its colour comes from firing
EXAMPLE chipped, flaked, ground, polished, drilled
LINK → drew Lothal close to its SOURCE

Expedition
KHETRI, SOUTH INDIA

MEANS a journey sent out to fetch raw material
EXAMPLE copper from Khetri, gold from south India
LINK → brought contact with local cultures like GANESHWAR-JODHPURA

Meluhha
MESOPOTAMIAN TEXTS

MEANS probably the Harappan region; 'land of seafarers'
EXAMPLE sent carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold, wood
LINK → proves LONG-DISTANCE TRADE with Magan (Oman) and Dilmun (Bahrain)

Seal & sealing
STEATITE

MEANS a carved stamp and its impression on clay on a bag's knot
EXAMPLE unicorn seal with signs
LINK → made LONG-DISTANCE TRADE safe and showed the sender

Undeciphered script
375–400 SIGNS

MEANS a script nobody can read yet
EXAMPLE short texts, right to left, not alphabetic
LINK → so history rests on MATERIAL EVIDENCE and interpretation

Chert weights
BINARY + DECIMAL

MEANS cubical stone weights without marks
EXAMPLE 1, 2, 4 … 12,800; scale-pans
LINK → REGULATED EXCHANGE across the whole area

Priest-king
MOHENJODARO STATUE

MEANS a label for a seated stone figure
EXAMPLE borrowed from Mesopotamian priest-kings
LINK → shows how FRAMES OF REFERENCE can mislead

Late Harappan
AFTER C. 1900 BCE

MEANS rural successor cultures after the cities declined
EXAMPLE no seals, script or standard weights
LINK → the end of a UNIFYING STATE

Stratigraphy
WHEELER

MEANS reading a mound layer by layer, oldest at the bottom
EXAMPLE Marshall ignored it; Wheeler followed it
LINK → gives each find its DATE AND CONTEXT

Frame of reference
INTERPRETATION

MEANS the familiar time or culture against which a find is read
EXAMPLE Cunningham’s Early Historic frame; proto-Shiva
LINK → explains both DISCOVERIES and MISTAKES

The link chain – the whole chapter as one story

Read top to bottom; the orange line is the link

How the Harappans lived

Farm **Plough and irrigation**: wheat, barley, pulses; herds of cattle, sheep, goat

▼ *this produced a surplus*

City **Planned cities**: Citadel + Lower Town, standard bricks, grid streets, drains

▼ *cities needed goods and materials*

Craft **Craft specialisation**: Chanhudaro beads, Nageshwar and Balakot shell

▼ *crafts needed stone, metal and shell*

Supply **Raw materials**: settlements near sources, expeditions to Khetri and south India

▼ *this reached across the sea*

Trade **Distant contacts**: Oman copper, Meluhha in Mesopotamian texts

▼ *trade had to be safe and fair*

Control **Seals, sealings and chert weights** regulate exchange; a possible single state

▼ *when this unity broke*

End **Decline** c. 1900–1800 BCE: cities abandoned, Late Harappan rural cultures

How we know about them

1850s–75 **Cunningham** searches with Buddhist pilgrims' accounts and misses the seal

▼ *a new find changes the frame*

1921–22 **Sahni** (Harappa) and **Banerji** (Mohenjodaro) find seals in deep layers

▼ *the finds are put together*

1924 **Marshall** announces a new civilisation

▼ *but his digging loses context*

1944–46 **Wheeler** follows stratigraphy

▼ *Partition moves the main sites to Pakistan*

1950s–90 **Lothal, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira** dug in India

▼ *new science adds detail*

1980s on **Archaeo-botany, archaeo-zoology**, metal tests (nickel)

▼ *but meaning still needs interpretation*

Today **Religion and rulers** debated: mother goddess, priest-king, proto-Shiva

Cross-chapter links

Words that come back in other chapters

Board answers score higher when you connect chapters. Learn these 10 bridges.

Key word	In this chapter	Comes back in	A link sentence for your answer
Inscriptions / script	the Harappan script is undeciphered	**Theme 2 Kings, Farmers and Towns**: James Prinsep read Brahmi and Kharosthi (1838)	*"Asoka's inscriptions could be read; the Harappan seals still cannot."*
Cities	first urbanisation, c. 2600 BCE	**Theme 2**: second urbanisation – mahajanapadas and cities in the Ganga valley, c. 6th century BCE	*"India's cities rose twice – first on the Indus, then on the Ganga."*
Plough and surplus	ox-drawn plough, two crops	**Theme 2**: iron ploughshare and paddy transplantation raised output	*"Each new farming tool fed bigger towns."*
Crafts and guilds	Chanhudaro's specialised craftspeople	**Theme 2**: guilds (shrenis) of craftspeople and merchants	*"Specialised crafts later organised themselves into guilds."*
Long-distance trade	Meluhha, Magan, Dilmun	**Theme 2**: trade routes, coins and contact with the Roman world	*"Indian goods crossed the sea long before coins."*
Archaeology	Cunningham and the ASI	**Theme 4 Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings**: rediscovery and preservation of the Sanchi stupa	*"Colonial archaeologists found both Harappa and Sanchi."*
Reading religion from objects	proto-Shiva, mother goddess	**Theme 4**: reading Buddhist sculpture and symbols at Sanchi	*"Images can be read – but meanings must be checked."*
Planned capital	Mohenjodaro's planning and water	**Theme 7 An Imperial Capital: Vijayanagara**: fortifications, tanks and canals	*"Water management marks both Harappan and Vijayanagara cities."*
Rediscovery of ruins	Harappa robbed for bricks	**Theme 7**: Colin Mackenzie surveyed Hampi (1800)	*"Ruined cities were rediscovered by colonial surveyors."*
Archaeology and texts	Mesopotamian texts confirm Harappan trade	**Theme 3 Kinship, Caste and Class**: B. B. Lal's dig at Hastinapura and the Mahabharata	*"Archaeology and texts check each other."*

Drill 1 · Explain how X led to Y

2 marks each · 40 words

Use a chain: **cause → what changed → result**. Join the steps with link words:

as a result · this led to · because · therefore · in turn · this made it possible to · on the other hand · however

L1. Explain how **a surplus of food** led to the **growth of cities**. [2]

L2. Explain how **standard bricks and planned drains** led archaeologists to think of a **strong authority**. [2]

L3. Explain how **craft specialisation** led to **expeditions** for raw materials. [2]

L4. Explain how **long-distance trade** led to the use of **seals and sealings**. [2]

L5. Explain how **Cunningham's frame of reference** led him to **miss Harappa**. [2]

L6. Explain how **Marshall's method** led to the **loss of context**. [2]

L7. Explain how the **end of a unifying state** led to the **Late Harappan** way of life. [2]

L8. Explain how an **undeciphered script** leads to **debates about religion**. [2]

Drill 2 · Use all three words in one answer

3 marks each · 60 words

Underline the three words in your answer. Each must be used with its correct meaning.

L9. Write a 60-word answer using: **Citadel · platforms · Great Bath**. [3]

L10. Write a 60-word answer using: **Chanhudaro · carnelian · drills**. [3]

L11. Write a 60-word answer using: **Magan · nickel · Meluhha**. [3]

L12. Write a 60-word answer using: **Sahni · Banerji · Marshall**. [3]

Drill 3 · Fill the missing link

1 mark each

L13. Write the missing step: [1]

Plough and irrigation → ? → Craftspeople and city dwellers are fed

L14. Write the missing step: [1]

Bag of goods tied with rope → ? → Receiver knows goods were not tampered with

L15. Write the missing step: [1]

Cholistan sites abandoned (c. 1800 BCE) → ? → Rural Late Harappan cultures

Drill 4 · Odd one out

1 mark each

L16. Find the odd one out and give the link that joins the other three: **Kalibangan · Lothal · Dholavira · Shortughai** [1]

A

PART A · NCERT PRACTICE

Textbook Check

Every section of the chapter and every NCERT exercise idea, asked in new words. Model answers for all of these are in the Model Answer Booklet.

Overview, food and farming

A1. What does an archaeologist mean by a ‘culture’? Explain why this civilisation is called ‘Harappan’ and name four objects that make up the Harappan culture. [3]

A2. List the food items available to the Harappans. Name the groups of people who would have provided each kind of food. MUST DO [3]

A3. How do archaeologists know that the Harappans used the plough and irrigation? Give three pieces of evidence. [3]

Mohenjodaro – a planned city

A4. “The drainage system shows that Harappan cities were carefully planned.” Do you agree? Give three reasons. MUST DO [3]

A5. Describe three features of the houses in the Lower Town of Mohenjodaro. [3]

A6. Describe the Citadel of Mohenjodaro. Why do scholars believe that the Great Bath was used for a special ritual? MUST DO [8]

Social differences, crafts and raw materials

A7. How do archaeologists trace social and economic differences in Harappan society? Explain three methods. [3] MUST DO

A8. Name the materials used for Harappan beads. Describe how a carnelian bead was made. [3]

A9. Make a list of the raw materials needed for Harappan crafts. Explain the different ways in which the Harappans obtained them. [8] MUST DO

Seals, script, rulers and the end

A10. What were Harappan seals and sealings used for? Explain with the example of a bag of goods. [3]

A11. Give three features of the Harappan script. [3]

A12. Discuss the functions that rulers may have performed in Harappan society. What are the different views of archaeologists about who ruled? [8] MUST DO

A13. Give three features of the Late Harappan or 'successor' cultures. [3]

Discovery and interpretation

A14. Discuss how archaeologists reconstruct the Harappan past. Give examples. [8] MUST DO

A15. Why could Alexander Cunningham not recognise the importance of Harappa? [3]

B

PART B · PAPER 027 STYLE

Objective Practice

The MCQ types of Section A: statements, matching, chronology, picture-based (described in words) and assertion–reason.

ASSERTION–REASON: HOW TO ANSWER

(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Multiple choice, matching and chronology

1 mark each

B1. The Mature Harappan phase is dated to about: [1]

(a) c. 3300–2600 BCE **(b)** c. 1900–1300 BCE **(c)** c. 2600–1900 BCE **(d)** c. 1500–1000 BCE

B2. Read the statements: [1]
I. Finds of rice are common at Harappan sites. II. Millets have been found at sites in Gujarat.
III. Bones of the gharial have been found at Harappan sites. IV. Terracotta plough models were found at Banawali.
Which statements are correct?

(a) I, II and III **(b)** II, III and IV **(c)** I, III and IV **(d)** I, II and IV

B3. The ploughed field at Kalibangan had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other. This suggests that: [1]

(a) canals were used for irrigation **(b)** iron ploughs were in use
(c) two different crops were grown together **(d)** rice was transplanted

B4. Traces of Harappan canals have been found at: [1]

(a) Lothal (b) Shortughai (c) Kalibangan (d) Banawali

B5. Harappan bricks had a standard ratio of length : breadth : height of: [1]

(a) 1 : 2 : 4 (b) 3 : 2 : 1 (c) 2 : 1 : 1 (d) 4 : 2 : 1

B6. The Great Bath was made watertight by setting bricks on edge and using a mortar of: [1]

(a) gypsum (b) lime (c) bitumen (d) mud

B7. Chanhudaro is best described as: [1]

(a) the capital of the Harappan state

(b) a settlement almost entirely devoted to crafts

(c) a port for trade with Oman

(d) a fortified citadel town

B8. Which two settlements were specialised centres for making shell objects? [1]

(a) Harappa and Mohenjodaro (b) Kalibangan and Banawali

(c) Nageshwar and Balakot (d) Rakhigarhi and Dholavira

B9. Match the material with its source: [1]

(a) Carnelian (b) Copper (c) Lapis lazuli (d) Gold

(i) South India (ii) Khetri, Rajasthan (iii) Shortughai area, Afghanistan (iv) Bharuch, Gujarat

(a) a-iv, b-ii, c-iii, d-i (b) a-ii, b-iv, c-i, d-iii

(c) a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i (d) a-iii, b-ii, c-iv, d-i

B10. In Mesopotamian texts, ‘Meluhha’ most probably refers to: [1]

(a) Bahrain (b) Oman

(c) the Harappan region (d) Afghanistan

B11. Read the statements about Harappan weights: [1]

I. They were usually made of chert. II. They were cubical with no markings.

III. Lower denominations followed the decimal system. IV. Metal scale-pans have been found.

Which statements are correct?

(a) I, II and III (b) I, III and IV (c) II, III and IV (d) I, II and IV

B12. The Harappan script was written: [1]

(a) from left to right (b) from top to bottom

(c) in alternate directions (d) from right to left

B13. The ‘priest-king’ statue of Mohenjodaro got its name because: [1]

(a) an inscription on it gives the title

(b) it was found in the Great Bath

(c) it holds a sceptre and a crown

(d) archaeologists knew of priest-kings in Mesopotamia

B14. By about 1800 BCE most Mature Harappan sites were abandoned in: [1]

(a) Gujarat (b) western Uttar Pradesh

(c) Haryana (d) Cholistan

B15. Match the archaeologists with their work: [1]

(a) Daya Ram Sahni (b) Rakhal Das Banerji (c) John Marshall (d) R. E. M. Wheeler

(i) followed the stratigraphy of the mound (ii) found seals at Harappa (iii) announced a new civilisation in 1924 (iv) found seals at Mohenjodaro

(a) a-iv, b-ii, c-iii, d-i **(b)** a-ii, b-iv, c-iii, d-i

(c) a-ii, b-iv, c-i, d-iii **(d)** a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i

B16. Arrange in chronological order: [1]

I. Wheeler digs at Harappa II. S. R. Rao begins digging at Lothal III. Marshall announces a new civilisation IV. R. S. Bisht begins digging at Dholavira

(a) I, III, II, IV **(b)** III, II, I, IV **(c)** III, I, II, IV **(d)** II, III, I, IV

B17. *Picture described:* a small square object of soft stone shows a one-horned animal standing before a stand-like object, with a line of signs above it. It is most likely: [1]

(a) a Harappan seal **(b)** a weight **(c)** a terracotta toy **(d)** a bead

B18. A seal shows a figure seated cross-legged in a ‘yogic’ posture, surrounded by animals. Scholars have called it: [1]

(a) mother goddess **(b)** priest-king **(c)** proto-Shiva **(d)** Meluhha

B19. Faience is: [1]

(a) ground sand or silica mixed with colour and gum, then fired

(b) a precious stone found in Oman

(c) an alloy of copper and tin

(d) sun-dried clay

B20. Which Harappan site in Gujarat had water reservoirs that may have stored water for farming? [1]

(a) Lothal **(b)** Nageshwar **(c)** Dholavira **(d)** Balakot

B21. Who among the following studies charred grains and seeds to find out what the Harappans ate? [1]

(a) Archaeo-zoologist **(b)** Archaeo-botanist

(c) Epigraphist **(d)** Numismatist

Assertion–Reason

1 mark each

B22. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Archaeologists think the Harappans obtained copper from Oman.

Reason (R): Chemical analysis shows traces of nickel in both Omani copper and Harappan artefacts.

B23. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): The Harappan script is not alphabetic.

Reason (R): It was written from right to left.

B24. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal are thought to have had ritual significance.

Reason (R): Rice cultivation was widespread at Kalibangan.

B25. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Valuable information about context was lost in Marshall’s excavations.

Reason (R): He dug in uniform horizontal units and ignored the stratigraphy of the mound.

B26. ASSERTION–REASON [1]

Assertion (A): Gold jewellery was used by every Harappan household.

Reason (R): All gold jewellery found so far has come from hoards.

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN

Board Pattern Practice

Written-answer questions grouped by topic. ★★★ = asked in 5 or more of the 6 papers checked · ★★ = 2–4 papers · ★ = 1 paper.

Town planning, drainage and the Great Bath

★★★ 5 of 6 papers · 3, 4 and 8 marks

C1. Describe the features of urban planning at Mohenjodaro. Why is the development of planned cities called the most unique feature of the Harappan civilisation? MUST DO [8]

C2. Compare Harappan town planning with that of a modern planned city. Which Harappan features show how advanced it was? MUST DO [3]

C3. Analyse how the layout of Harappan cities helped to keep them clean and healthy. MUST DO [3]

C4. "Building Mohenjodaro needed a large, organised workforce." Give three pieces of evidence. [3]

Discovery and archaeological methods

★★☆ 3 of 6 papers · 1 and 8 marks

C5. Explain the role of archaeologists in the discovery of the Harappan civilisation, from Cunningham to Wheeler. MUST DO [8]

C6. What was wrong with John Marshall's method of excavation? How did R. E. M. Wheeler correct it? [3]

C7. How do archaeo-botanists and archaeo-zoologists help us reconstruct the Harappan diet? [3]

C8. "Reconstructing Harappan religion is the hardest task for archaeologists." Examine the statement. [8]

Crafts, raw materials and distant contacts

★★☆ 3 of 6 papers · 1 and 3 marks

C9. Prove with evidence that the Harappans had contact with distant lands. MUST DO [3]

C10. How did archaeologists identify Chanhudaro as a craft centre? What clues do they look for? [3]

C11. Describe Harappan craft production – the materials, techniques and centres. What does it tell us about the economy? [8]

Script, seals and weights

★★☆ 3 of 6 papers · 1 and 3 marks

C12. "Exchanges in Harappan society were regulated by a precise system of weights." Analyse the statement with evidence. MUST DO [3]

C13. Examine the problems historians face in deciphering the Harappan script. MUST DO [3]

Political authority

★☆☆ 1 of 6 papers · 3 marks

C14. "The archaeological record does not give a clear answer about who held power in Harappan society." Explain with examples. [3]

Decline of the civilisation

★☆☆ 1 of 6 papers · 8 marks

C15. Examine the causes of the decline of the Harappan civilisation and the evidence for it. MUST DO [8]

C16. Why is the end of a unifying Harappan state considered the most convincing reason for the decline? [3]

Food, farming and luxuries

★★☆ 2 of 6 papers · 1 mark

C17. How do querns and other finds help archaeologists understand how the Harappans processed food? [3]

C18. Why were faience pots and gold treated as luxuries? What does their distribution tell us? [3]

D

PART D · SOURCE-BASED (Q31–Q33 STYLE)

Source-Based Questions

Each source carries 4 marks (1 + 1 + 2), as in Q31–Q33 of the board paper. The sources are written for this booklet in the style of the excerpts in the textbook. Answer from the source and your notes.

D1. Source-Based · A City Under the Streets [4]

An archaeologist who spent many seasons at Mohenjodaro wrote that the most striking thing about the city lay below its streets. Every house, large or small, sent its waste water through the wall into a channel in the street. The channels were built of bricks set in mortar and were covered with loose bricks, and in some places with slabs of limestone, which could be lifted when the drain had to be cleared. The drains of the houses did not open straight into the street channel; they first ran into a pit where the heavier dirt settled. Long channels had pits at regular intervals. Beside many drains the excavators found small heaps of sand, as if the cleaners had scooped the silt out and left it there. The writer felt that no other ancient city found so far had such a complete system.

(i) How were the street drains kept open for cleaning? [1]

(ii) What was the use of the pits into which house drains first emptied? [1]

(iii) What does this drainage system tell us about Harappan town planning? Give two points. [2]

D2. Source-Based · Copper From Across the Sea [4]

Clay tablets from Mesopotamia, written towards the end of the third millennium BCE, speak of ships that came from three lands: Dilmun, Magan and Meluhha. From Meluhha came red and blue stones, copper, gold and fine woods. One old story wishes that the bird of Meluhha, which some think was the peacock, may sing in the king's palace, and it calls the people of Meluhha sailors. Far away on the coast of Oman, archaeologists have dug up a large jar of a kind made only by the Harappans, its inside coated with a thick layer of black clay. Tests on copper from Oman and on Harappan copper objects show the same faint trace of nickel.

(i) Which present-day region is 'Magan' thought to be? [1]

(ii) Why would a jar be coated with thick black clay? [1]

(iii) Give two pieces of evidence from the source that the Harappans traded with distant lands. [2]

D3. Source-Based · A Seal Too Old to Place [4]

In the middle of the nineteenth century the head of the new archaeological survey travelled across north India with the diaries of Chinese pilgrims who had visited Buddhist sites more than a thousand years earlier. He found many of the towns they described. When an Englishman handed him a small stone seal from the mounds at Harappa, he did not know what to make of it, and tried to fit it into the period he knew. By then much of the mound had been carried away as bricks for a railway. Some decades later, seals of the same kind turned up in very deep layers at Harappa and at a site hundreds of kilometres away in Sind, and the story of India's past changed.

(i) Name the head of the archaeological survey referred to in the source. [1]

(ii) Why could he not understand the seal? [1]

(iii) How did the later finds change the story of India's past? Give two points. [2]

PART E · MAP SKILL

E Map Work – Mature Harappan Sites

CBSE lists eleven Mature Harappan sites for the map. One of them is asked in Q34 almost every year. Practise on the political outline map of India used in the board paper; sites now in Pakistan are marked in the area shown beyond the border.

WHAT THE BOARD ASKS

Q34 (5 marks): locate and label 3 places on the outline map – **one is a Harappan site** (2026: Banawali · 2025: Kalibangan · 2024: Banawali · SQP 2026–27: Nageshwar · SQP 2025–26: Rakhigarhi or Lothal · SQP 2024–25: Kalibangan) – and name 2 places marked A and B. Write the name next to the dot.

Locate and label	What to remember
☐ Harappa	first site found; on the Ravi
☐ Mohenjodaro	Citadel, Great Bath, drains
☐ Chanhudaro	craft centre
☐ Kot Diji	Early Harappan levels
☐ Balakot	shell working
☐ Kalibangan	ploughed field; fire altars
☐ Banawali	plough model
☐ Rakhigarhi	large site in Haryana
☐ Lothal	beads; near carnelian
☐ Dholavira	reservoirs; signboard
☐ Nageshwar	shell working

Practice drill – use one fresh outline map of India for each round

Round 1: mark the five Pakistan sites in order from north to south – Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Kot Diji, Chanhudaro, Balakot. **Round 2:** the three sites of Rajasthan and Haryana – Kalibangan, Banawali, Rakhigarhi. **Round 3:** the three Gujarat sites – Dholavira, Nageshwar, Lothal. **Round 4:** all eleven in 6 minutes, from memory, with names written neatly beside each dot.

F

PART F · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

Board PYQ Index

Real questions from recent board papers and CBSE sample papers, by topic. Open the paper and attempt the listed questions.

Frequency	Topic	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★★	**Map: a Mature Harappan site**	1	**2026:** 61/2/3 Q34 (Banawali) · **2025:** 61/1/1 Q34 (Kalibangan)* · **2024:** 61/1/1 Q34 (Banawali) · **SQP 2026–27:** Q34 (Nageshwar) · **SQP 2025–26:** Q34 (Rakhigarhi or Lothal) · **SQP 2024–25:** Q34 (Kalibangan)	Map Work, site file
★★★	**Town planning, drains, Mohenjodaro**	3–8	**2026:** 61/2/3 Q30(a) · **2025:** 61/1/1 Q31 (source on drains)* · **2024:** 61/1/1 Q28(a) · **SQP 2026–27:** Q22(A) · **SQP 2024–25:** Q22(A)	A4–A6, B5–B6, C1–C4, D1, L2, L9
★★☆	**Discovery and archaeological methods**	1–8	**2024:** 61/1/1 Q28(b) · **SQP 2025–26:** Q2 (archaeo-botanists) · **SQP 2024–25:** Q3 (A–R on method), Q5 (match: Sahni, Banerji, Marshall, Wheeler)	A14–A15, B15–B16, B21, B25, C5–C7, D3, L5–L6, L12
★★☆	**Crafts, raw materials, distant contacts**	1–3	**2024:** 61/1/1 Q1 (Shortughai) · **SQP 2026–27:** Q2 (carnelian source) · **SQP 2025–26:** Q22(B)	A8–A9, B7–B10, B22, C9–C11, D2, L3, L10–L11
★★☆	**Script, seals and weights**	1–3	**2025:** 61/1/1 Q1 (script) · **SQP 2026–27:** Q22(B) (weights) · **SQP 2024–25:** Q22(B) (script)	A10–A11, B11–B12, B17, B23, C12–C13, L4
★★☆	**Food and farming**	1	**2025:** 61/1/1 Q2 (plough models) · **SQP 2025–26:** Q2 (charred grains)	A2–A3, B2–B4, B20–B21, C7, C17, L1
★☆☆	**Decline of the civilisation**	8	**2026:** 61/2/3 Q30(b)	A13, B14, C15–C16, L7, L15
★☆☆	**Political authority**	3	**SQP 2025–26:** Q22(A)	A12, B13, C14
★☆☆	**Religion and ritual**	1	**SQP 2025–26:** Q1 (fire altars)	B18, B24, C8, L8
★☆☆	**Overview statements on sites**	1	**SQP 2026–27:** Q1	A1, B1, site file

Papers checked (6): Board 2026 – 61/2/3 · Board 2025 – 61/1/1 · Board 2024 – 61/1/1 (from the marking scheme) · CBSE Sample Papers 2026–27, 2025–26, 2024–25. * Read from a secondary copy of the paper – check against the official paper. Sets of one code family share most questions. Download official papers from cbse.gov.in → Previous Year Question Papers, and sample papers from cbseacademic.nic.in.

PART G · YOUR RECORD

G My Mistakes

Write down each mistake from this chapter, including your school tests and pre-board papers.

Every wrong answer is a free lesson. Write it here, find the point you missed, and redo the question after three days.

Date	Part & Q No.	What went wrong	Correct point or fact	Redone ✓