INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VI	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: History
Chapter: 5 Worksheet No: 8	Topic: The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation	Year :2026-27

A) Answer the following Questions: -

Q 1	What role did the Sarasvati river play in the development of Harappan cities? Ans: • The Sarasvati River provided water and fertile land, which supported agriculture and the growth of settlements**.** • Many Harappan cities and settlements developed along its banks because of these favourable conditions.
Q 2	How did Harappan cities demonstrate advanced urban planning? Ans: • Systematic division into Upper and Lower towns with planned grid-like streets. • Underground covered drainage systems connected to individual household bathrooms. • Structures built for collective use, such as large warehouses for trade storage and public water reservoirs.
Q 3	What was the function of the Great Bath in Mohenjo-daro, and what does it signify? Ans: • It was an elaborate 12 × 7 metres watertight brick basin, likely used for religious rituals or as a private bath for the royal elite. • It signifies extraordinary engineering skills (using natural bitumen waterproofing), advanced bricklaying, and the central role of ritual cleanliness in Harappan society.
Q 4	Why is Dholavira notable among Harappan cities? Ans: • Divided into three distinct zones rather than the standard two. • Built foundations mostly out of stone instead of only bricks. • Features an extraordinary water management system with at least six large rock-cut and stone reservoirs.
Q 5	What evidence suggests that the Harappan civilisation had a structured social hierarchy? Ans: • Harappan cities were typically divided into distinct zones, notably an **'upper town'**—which was fortified and likely inhabited by the local elite (such as rulers, administrators, officials, and priests)—and a **'lower town'**, where common people lived.
Q 6	Explain the purpose and importance of the dockyard found at Lothal. Ans: • A massive brick basin 217 metres in length and 36 metres in width) designed to receive and launch ships and boats. • Proves active maritime trade along coastal routes extending to distant places like the Persian Gulf and Oman.

Q 7	In what ways did the Harappan civilisation influence later Indian cultures? Ans: • Ploughs, pottery traditions, and metalworking techniques continued into later ages. • Ornaments like full-arm bangles, motifs like the Swastika, stories (e.g., the thirsty crow on pottery), and reverence for water and nature persisted in Indian tradition.
Q 8	Describe the agricultural practices of the Harappans and the crops they cultivated. How did agriculture support their urban centres? Ans: • Harappans used wooden ploughs to till fertile river plains and grew wheat, barley, millets, pulses, vegetables, and cotton. • Rural farming villages generated food surpluses that were transported daily to sustain non-farming urban residents, trade crafts, and administrators.
Q 9	Analyse the purpose and significance of Harappan seals in trade and communication. Ans: • The main purpose of the seals was to help traders mark their goods and identify each other during business. • The seals contained animal pictures and written signs to communicate details about the trade. • They were made of steatite, a soft stone that became hard when heated. • Because thousands of seals were found everywhere, they show that the Harappans had a well-organized trade system.
Q 10	Why does the civilization studied in this chapter have several names? Discuss their significance. Ans: • Harappan Civilisation: Named after Harappa, the first city to be discovered. • Indus Civilisation: Named after the Indus River, where the first cities were found. • Indus-Sarasvati Civilization: Named because many sites were later found along the Sarasvati River as well.
Q 11	What do the terms 'fortification' and 'elite' mean in the context of Harappan town planning, and how were they related? Ans: • **Fortification:** A massive wall surrounding a settlement or city, built generally for protective purposes. • **Elite:** The higher layers of society, such as rulers, officials, administrators, and priests. • **Relation:** In Harappan cities, the fortifications surrounded the "upper town," which was the elevated area where the local elite lived.
Q 12	Write a brief report summing up some of the achievements of the Indus-Sarasvati civilisation. Ans: • The Indus-Sarasvati civilisation was one of the oldest and most advanced civilisations in the ancient world. The Harappans made great contributions in many areas: • They built well-planned cities with wide streets, strong brick buildings, and distinct upper and lower towns. • They created covered street drains, private home bathrooms, and massive rock-cut reservoirs to store water. • They used ploughs for farming and were the first in Eurasia to grow and weave cotton.

B) Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

	The Indus, Harappan or Sindhu-Sarasvatī civilisation is one of the oldest of the world. Its inhabitants, the Harappans, created planned cities with efficient water management, diverse crafts and a brisk trade. **Q1.** Why are the Harappan cities considered well-organised? Ans: They were carefully planned with straight streets, separate areas for different activities, and well-built houses. **Q2.** What do Harappan craft objects tell us about their society? Ans: They show that people had specialised skills such as pottery-making, bead-making, metalwork and weaving. **Q3.** Mention two ways in which the Harappans managed water. Ans: They constructed wells and developed covered drains to collect and carry away wastewater. **Q4**. How did the Harappans maintain contacts with other regions? Ans: They exchanged goods with distant places through land and sea routes, using materials such as metals, stones and beads.