

**BOARD-PATTERN PRACTICE PAPER · CBSE CLASS 11**

# Writing and City Life (Mesopotamia)

History · Chapter 1 · Matches current CBSE blueprint · Each question PYQ-sourced where indicated

DATE	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION	MARKING	TARGET
_____	<b>30</b>	<b>60 min</b>	<b>As per board</b>	<b>≥ 24/30</b>

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- All questions are compulsory.
- Section A: 5 one-mark very-short-answer questions. Section B: 4 three-mark short-answer questions. Section C: a source-based question (5 marks) and a long answer (8 marks).
- In History the correct term or name is itself worth marks; write precise, well-structured answers.
- For the source-based question, base your answers on BOTH the passage and your knowledge of the chapter.
- Draw a quick map or labelled sketch wherever it strengthens a long answer.

**Section A — Very Short Answer (1 mark each, 5 Qs)**
**5 MARKS · 8 MIN**

- Q1.** What does the word 'Mesopotamia' mean, and between which two rivers did it lie? [PYQ 2019 CBSE SQP] **[1 mark]**
- Q2.** What was a ziggurat? [PYQ 2022 School Annual] **[1 mark]**
- Q3.** What is the script of Mesopotamia called, and why is it so named? [PYQ 2018 CBSE SQP] **[1 mark]**
- Q4.** On what material was Mesopotamian writing done? [PYQ 2020 School Annual] **[1 mark]**
- Q5.** Name the institution that organised the economy of the earliest Mesopotamian cities. [PYQ 2020 CBSE SQP] **[1 mark]**

**Section B — Short Answer (3 marks each, 4 Qs)**
**12 MARKS · 18 MIN**

- Q6.** What is meant by 'city life'? Why is a city more than a large village? [PYQ 2021 CBSE SQP] **[3 marks]**
- Q7.** Why was long-distance trade so important to southern Mesopotamia? [PYQ 2018 CBSE SQP] **[3 marks]**
- Q8.** Describe the legacy of Mesopotamia to the modern world. [PYQ 2024 CBSE SQP] **[3 marks]**
- Q9.** Explain the role of the temple in the earliest Mesopotamian cities. [PYQ 2021 CBSE SQP] **[3 marks]**

**Section C — Source-Based + Long Answer (5 + 8 = 13 marks)**
**13 MARKS · 26 MIN**

- Q10.** Read the source and answer the sub-questions: 'As the temple-city of Uruk grew, so did the volume of goods that passed through it — oxen, sheep, fish, grain and bread came in as offerings and taxes, and had to be given out again to those who worked for the temple. Memory could not keep track of so many dealings among so many people. From about 3200 BCE, scribes began to press signs into tablets of wet clay, at first small pictures of the things they counted, recording who had given what and how much.' (a) Which city is named in the passage? (b) From about which year did writing begin here? (c) Why did the people of Uruk need to keep written records? (d) What was the FIRST form of these written signs? (e) What does this source tell us about why writing was invented? [PYQ 2020 CBSE SQP] **[5 marks]**
- Q11.** Why did writing develop in Mesopotamia, and what was its importance? Explain. [PYQ 2022 CBSE SQP] **[8 marks]**

**Marking scheme & model answers** — see companion Answer Key PDF · all PYQs traceable to actual CBSE papers · [readyforboards.com](http://readyforboards.com) · +91 70330 05444