

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Bricks, Beads and Bones — The Harappan Civilisation

*Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.***FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS**

DATES: Mature Harappan c. 2600-1900 BCE; Early Harappan 3300-2600 BCE; Late Harappan 1900-1300 BCE

EXTENT: From Shortugai (Afghanistan) to Alamgirpur (UP) to Daimabad (Maharashtra) to Lothal (Gujarat)

MAJOR SITES: Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Dholavira, Kalibangan, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Banawali, Chanhudaro

URBAN PLAN: Citadel (raised, west) + Lower town (residential, east). Grid streets. Drainage system

BRICKS: Standardised 1:2:4 ratio (1 unit thick : 2 wide : 4 long). Baked bricks for important structures; mud bricks for houses

GREAT BATH: Mohenjodaro citadel; bitumen-lined ceremonial tank (~12m x 7m x 2.4m deep)

GRANARY: Large storage structure, also Mohenjodaro citadel

ECONOMY: Agriculture (wheat, barley, COTTON — world's first), animal husbandry, crafts (beads, pottery, metalwork), TRADE with Mesopotamia ('Meluhha')

SCRIPT: Pictographic + logographic. ~400-450 signs. Right-to-left. UNDECIPHERED.

RELIGION: Mother Goddess figurines, Pashupati seal (proto-Shiva debated), tree/animal worship, fire altars at Kalibangan

DECLINE: c. 1900-1500 BCE. Multi-causal: drying rivers + climate + deurbanisation. NOT Aryan invasion.

ARCHAEOLOGY: Cunningham (1860s ASI founder), John Marshall (1921-1922 Harappa/Mohenjodaro discovery), R.D. Banerji (Mohenjodaro)

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

- 1 Urban planning of Mohenjodaro/Harappa**
8 marks · 90% of years
5-step template: citadel/lower-town + grid + drainage + structures + 'planned' conclusion.
- 2 Source-based on Great Bath/Lothal/seal**
5 marks · 100% of years
Locate + describe + function/significance + wider implication.
- 3 Decline theories**
8 marks · 75% of years
Gradual, multi-causal, Aryan invasion rejected. List 5-6 theories with evidence + weigh them.
- 4 Evidence for social differentiation**
5 marks · 60% of years
Burial differences, house sizes, citadel vs lower town, restricted access to Great Bath, varying grave goods.
- 5 Why script is enigmatic**
3 marks · 70% of years
Short inscriptions + no bilingual text + unknown underlying language + 400+ signs.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

- 0-15 min**
Memorise KEY DATES (3300 / 2600 / 1900 / 1500 BCE) + 8 major sites + their locations on a map sketch.
- 15-30 min**
Write 'urban planning of Mohenjodaro' answer from memory using the 5-step template. Time: 12 minutes.
- 30-45 min**
Decline theories — list all 6 theories with one evidence each. Argue Aryan-invasion rejection.
- 45-60 min**
Make a single-page diagram showing Mohenjodaro layout (citadel + lower town + Great Bath + drains + granary).
- 60-75 min**
Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under 20-min timer.
- 75-90 min**
Review wrong answers + memorise Mortimer Wheeler / John Marshall / R.D. Banerji / Cunningham names + dates.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning. Helpline: +91 70330 05444 · readyforboards.com