



Rajasthan Public Service Commission

ASSISTANT ENGINEER EXAMINATION

HISTORY & CULTURE

**Comprehensive Theory with Practice questions
and Previous year solved questions**





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History & Culture

RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination

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Preface

The compilation of this book **History & Culture** was motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) Assistant Engineer Examination.

It would be worth mentioning that the entire syllabus of General Studies for RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination consists of five subjects namely Current Affairs, History & Culture, General Science, G.K. & Economic Developments with special reference to Rajasthan, and Geography & Natural Resources. The textbook of all five subjects will have special focus to Rajasthan which will help the aspirants immensely.

This particular textbook provides all the requirements of the students, i.e. comprehensive coverage of theory, fundamental concepts and objective type questions articulated in a lucid language. The concise presentation will help the readers grasp the theory of this subject with clarity and apply them with ease to solve objective questions quickly. This book not only covers the syllabus of RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination in a holistic manner but is also useful for other examinations conducted by RPSC. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book clarifies all the concepts. We have put in our sincere efforts to present detailed theory and MCQs without compromising the accuracy of answers.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.



With Best Wishes
B. Singh (Ex. IES)
CMD, MADE EASY Group

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PART

I

History of India

SECTION

A

Ancient India



The Indus Valley Civilization (2350–1750 BC)

1

CHAPTER

INTRODUCTION

- Indus valley civilization is also called as Harappan civilization because Harappa was the first site to be excavated in 1921 under the supervision of **Daya Ram Sahni**.
- The known extent of this civilization in the west is upto Sutkagendor in Baluchistan; Alamgirpur (UP) in the east; Daimabad (Maharashtra) in South; and Manda (J and K) in the north.
- This civilization belongs to Bronze Age/ Chalcolithic Age. Hence, it is also called Bronze Age civilization.
- Contemporary civilizations of Harappan civilization are Mesopotamian or Sumerian civilization, Egyptian civilization and Chinese civilization.

Important Sites of Harappan Civilisation

Site	Location	River bank
Harappa	Montegomari, Punjab (Pakistan)	Ravi
Mohenjodaro	Larkana, Sindh (Pakistan)	Indus
Sutkagendor	Baluchistan (Pakistan)	Dashta
Chanhudaro	Sindh (Pakistan)	Indus
Rangpur	Ahmedabad (Gujarat, India)	Meedar
Kalibangan	Hanumangarh (Rajasthan, India)	Ghaggar
Lothal	Ahmedabad (Gujarat, India)	Sabarmati & Bhogva
Banawali	Fatehabad (Haryana, India)	Saraswati
Dholavira	Kutchh (Gujarat, India)	Luni

Note: *The largest number of sites are found in Gujarat.*

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT SOME SITES

1. Harappa

- Working floors consisting of rows of circular brick platforms which were meant for threshing grain

have been found here.

- Six granaries and sixteen *agnikundas* (firepits) have been found here.
- People of Harappa knew the process of making tarcoal.
- Main gate for the entry in the houses of Harappa was in the north direction.
- R-37 cemetery have been found here.
- Terracotta figurine of Mother Goddess have been found here.

2. Mohenjo-daro

- Mohenjo-daro was discovered in 1922 under the supervision of **R.D. Bannerji**.
- The literal meaning of Mohenjo-daro in Sindhi language is **mound of the dead**.
- The Great Bath, a granary, big halls, a bronze statue of a dancing girl, idol of a yogi and numerous seals have been found here.
- The evidences of a assembly hall and proper planned houses with a kitchen and courtyard have been found at Mohenjo-daro.
- Seven layers of Mohenjo-daro city directs that the city was destroyed and rebuilt seven times.

3. Lothal

- A dockyard has been found at Lothal.
- In 1957, Lothal was discovered by S.R. Rao in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat.
- Red & black clay pots, copper tools, brick built tank like structure, a bead making factory and a seal from Iran have been found at Lothal.
- Linear scale of bronze have been found here.

4. Kalibangan

- It was not as well planned or organised as Mohenjo-daro was.
- It did not have a drainage system.
- A number of firepits *agnikundas* (firepits) have been found here.
- Kalibangan was discovered in 1953. It is located in upper Rajasthan.
- It saw two cultural phases viz. pre-Harappan and Harappan.

- A ploughed field have been found here.

5. Dhaulavira

- Dhaulavira in Gujarat was discovered in 1992 by **J.P. Joshi**.
- A script consists of big alphabets has been found on a gate in Dhaulavira.

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- **Town planning** was the most distinguishable feature of the Harappan civilization. Hence, this civilization is also called first urbanisation.
- Towns were divided into parts viz. citadel and lower town. Citadels were occupied by members of ruling class and lower town was inhabited by the common people.
- Dhaulavira is an exception because it existed in three parts.
- Harappan cities were developed in **Block Pattern/ Chess Board Pattern** because roads of these cities used to cut each other at right angles.
- Most peculiar feature of town planning was their **drainage system**. Drains were built of burnt bricks and covered by stone lids and manholes for cleaning. It shown that Harappan people were very conscious of hygiene.
- The Harappans knew the art of measurement as some sticks inscribed with measure marks have been found at some sites.
- Complete burial was the most common method of the disposal of the dead.
- **Banawali** and **Kalibangan** shows two phases, viz. pre-Harappan and Harappan.
- Rojadi, Desalpur and Surkotada faced all the three stages of Harappan civilization viz. pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan.
- **Chanhudaro** was the only city without a citadel.

ECONOMY OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

1. Agriculture & Animal husbandry

- They grew wheat and barley on a large scale. The other crops grown were pulses, cereals, cotton, dates, melons, pea, sesamum and mustard.
- No clear evidence of rice has been found, except from Rangpur and Lothal where some grains of rice were found, but they may be of later period.
- Harappan people were mostly peasants and thus the Harappan civilization was an agro-commercial civilization.

- Evidences of hoe and plough have been found in kalibangan and Banawali.
- Harappans domesticated sheep, goat, buffalo and pig. They also knew about tiger, camel, elephant, tortoise, deer, various birds, etc. However, they didnot know about **lion**.
- **Humpless bull** or unicorn was the most important animal.
- They did not know about the horse, except a jaw bone of horse which has been recovered from Surkotada in Gujarat in upper layers of excavation.
- The Harappans were the earliest people to produce cotton because cotton was first produced in this area. The Greeks called it **sindon**, which is derived from sindh.

2. Crafts

- The Harappan culture belongs to the Bronze Age, as the people were very well acquainted with the manufacture and use of bronze.
- They manufactured not only images and utensils but also various tools and weapons such as axes, saws, knives and spears.
- Weavers wove clothes of wool and cotton. Leather was also known to them but no evidence of **silk** has been found.
- Harappans used to make seals, stone statues, terracotta figurines, etc.
- Huge brick structures made up of burnt bricks and mud bricks suggest that brick laying was an important craft
- Harappans did not know about iron.
- The potters wheel was used to produce their characteristic pottery which was made glossy and shining.
- They knew boat making also, as it is evident from their seals.

Seals

- Their most important artistic work is seal.
- Seals are made of **steatite** and they are square in shape.
- The most depicted animal is bull. Ram, elephants, tigers, rhinoceros are also depicted but Cow, lion and horse are not found on them.
- Seals were meant for marking goods and perhaps owned by traders.
- About 2000 seals have been recovered from Harappan sites.
- Some seals have been found in Mesopotamia also.

- The goldsmiths made jewellery of gold, silver and precious stones.
- Bangle making and shell ornament making was also practised which is evident from the findings of Chanhudaro, Balakot and Lothal.

3. Trade

- Land and sea trade was in vogue.
- A dockyard has been found at Lothal which is the longest building of the Harappan civilization.
- Most important trading partner was Mesopotamia. It is evident from the inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Other trading partners were Afghanistan, Persia, central Asia and various parts of India.
- The Mesopotamian inscriptions refer to trade relations with **Meluha** which was the ancient name given to Indus region.
- Two intermediate trading stations called **Dilmun** and **Makan** are identified with **Bahrain** and **Makran coast** (Pakistan) respectively.
- The mode of trade was barter system.

RELIGION OF HARAPPANS

- Pashupati seal has been found from Mohenjo-daro in which a Yogi figure has been depicted.
- The Yogi on the seal is surrounded by buffalo, tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and deer. Hence, the Yogi is said to be proto-Shiva.
- Signs of phallic worship have been found.
- Harappans worshipped Mother Goddess. It is evident from the terracotta figurine recovered from Harappa.

- A building called **Great Bath** have been found at Mohenjo-daro which was meant for ritual bathing.
- They were superstitious as they wore amulets.
- Harappans worshipped *pipal* tree.
- No evidences of temples have been found in this civilization.

SCRIPT OF HARAPPANS

- The Harappans knew the art of writing. There are nearly 4,000 specimens of Harappan writing on stone seals and other objects.
- The Harappan script is not alphabetical but mainly pictographic.
- The Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.
- Script was consisted of about 400 symbols, out of which 75 were original and remaining were their variants.

DECLINE OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

- There are different view points of the historians on the decline of Harappan civilization.
- According to Wheeler Aryan attack was the cause of decline of Harappan civilization.
- As per G.F. Dales and Marshall, Aryans were not responsible for the decline of Harappan civilization.
- James Marshall stated that natural calamities were responsible for the decline of Harappan civilization. This theory is widely accepted for the decline of Harappan civilization.



HISTORY & CULTURE

- Q.1** From which Indus Valley site has the evidence of a ploughed field been found?
(a) Kalibangan
(b) Rakhigarhi
(c) Harappa
(d) Mohanjodaro
- Q.2** The bone of contention between Vijayanagar and Bahamani Kingdom was
(a) Tungabhadra Doab
(b) Kaveri Delta
(c) Malabar Coast
(d) Kaveri Doab
- Q.3** Which of the following places were the centre of the revolt of 1857?
1. Rohilkhand 2. Allahabad
3. Bundelkhand 4. Meerut
Code:
(a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 2, 3, 4
(c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4
- Q.4** Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched?
(a) Itimad ud Daulah's Nurjahan Tomb
(b) Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque SherShah
(c) Humayun's Tomb Aurangzeb
(d) Lahore fort Akbar
- Q.5** Which text among the following is not written by Amir Khusrau?
(a) Qiran-us-sadain
(b) Miftah-ul-futuh
(c) Tughlaq-nama
(d) Sirat-i-Firuz Shahi
- Q.6** Which of the following is not a Monolithic temple?
(a) Dharmaraj temple of Mahabalipuram
(b) Bhim Rath Mahabalipuram
(c) Kailash temple of Ellora
(d) Shore temple of Mahabalipuram
- Q.7** Which of the following statements regarding the principles and programmes of Arya Samaj is not correct?
(a) Negated all the escapist and fatalist philosophy
(b) Opposed widow remarriage
(c) Opposed idol worship
(d) Encouraged inter-caste marriage
- Q.8** Who unfurled the first Indian National flag at an International conference which was held in Germany?
(a) Madam Bhikaji Cama
(b) Indulal Yagnik
(c) Shyamji Krishna Varma
(d) Dada Bhai Naoroji
- Q.9** At the time of which movement did Gandhiji support the cause of the Khilafat movement in order to bring about the Hindu-Muslim unity?
(a) Swadesi Movement
(b) Civil Disobedience Movement
(c) Quit India Movement
(d) Non-Cooperation Movement
- Q.10** The women of Bhati clan of Jaisalmer performed Jauhar during the struggle against which ruler of Delhi?
(a) Balban
(b) Alauddin Khilji
(c) Firoz Tuglaq Shah
(d) Muhammad- bin -Tuglaq
- Q.11** Desh Hitaishini Sabha for social reform was established at -
(a) Jaipur (b) Udaipur
(c) Kota (d) Bundi

Q.12 Match the following

List-I (Prajamandal)

- A. Bikaner
- B. Jaisalmer
- C. Dhaulpur
- D. Banswara

List-II (Founder)

- 1. Bhupendranath Trivedi
- 2. Krishna Dutt Paliwal
- 3. Mitha Lal Vyas
- 4. Magharam

Codes:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| (b) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (c) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| (d) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Q.13 Which of the following pairs about unification of Rajasthan is not correctly matched -

- (a) Alwar, Bharatpur, Dhaulpur & Karauli Matsya Union
- (b) Jhalawar, Bundi, Rajasthan Banswara, Dungarpur, Sangh Kota, Pratapgarh, Kishangarh, Tonk. Shahpura & Kushalgarh
- (c) Rajasthan Sangh and United Udaipur Rajasthan
- (d) United Rajasthan and Greater Matsya Union Rajasthan

Q.14 Who among the following Saints did not use Mewati dialect in his/her writings?

- (a) Laldas
- (b) Charandas
- (c) Sunderdas
- (d) Sahjobai

Q.15 Which of the following texts on music were written by Rana Kumbha?

- 1. Sangitraj
- 2. Sangit Mimansa

3. Sudhprabandha

4. Rasikpriya

- (a) 1, 2
- (b) 1, 3, 4
- (c) 2, 3, 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Q.16 Folk theatre form Rammat belongs to the region of -

- (a) Bharatpur
- (b) Mewar
- (c) Bikaner
- (d) Dhaulpur and Karauli

Q.17 Identify the incorrect pair among the following-

- (a) Shila Devi Amer
- (b) Sachiyay Mata Osian
- (c) Sakrai Mata Sikar
- (d) Karni Mata Deshnoke

Q.18 Identify the place which is not any way related to Tejaji -

- (a) Pichiyak
- (b) Parbatsar
- (c) Sursura
- (d) Khadnal

Q.19 Mandaliya is worn by

- (a) Men on their head
- (b) Women their neck
- (c) Women on
- (d) Men on their their forehead wrist

Q.20 Who among the following were associated with Hurda conference against Maratha intervention?

- 1. Maharana Jagat Singh II
- 2. Swai Jai Singh
- 3. Maharaja Jaswant Singh II
- 4. Maharaja Abhay Singh

Choose correct answer -

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (b) 1, 2, 3
- (c) 1, 2, 4
- (d) 2, 3, 4

ANSWER KEY

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) | 4. (c) | 5. (d) | 6. (d) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) | 9. (d) |
| 10. (*) | 11. (b) | 12. (d) | 13. (*) | 14. (c) | 15. (d) | 16. (c) | 17. (c) | 18. (a) |
| 19. (b) | 20. (c) | | | | | | | |