

CUET · HISTORY · CLASS XII · CODE 314

Bricks, Beads and Bones (Harappan Civilisation)

CUET unit: Theme I — Harappan Civilisation and Archaeology

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Snapshot

- The Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilisation was a Bronze Age urban culture whose Mature phase ran c. 2600–1900 BCE, known primarily through archaeology rather than texts (script remains undeciphered).
- Standard CUET vocabulary: Citadel/Lower Town, planned drainage, Great Bath, steatite seals, faience, chert weights, Meluhha/Magan/Dilmun.
- The archaeological **method** developed through a clear sequence: Cunningham → Daya Ram Sahni → Rakhal Das Banerji → John Marshall (1924 announcement) → R.E.M. Wheeler (stratigraphy) → recent Rakhigarhi DNA work.
- Open problems CUET loves to test: decline (c. 1800 BCE), authority (single state vs multiple rulers vs equality), religion (Great Bath, "proto-Shiva", mother goddesses).

Detailed Notes

2.1 Core concepts

- **Terminology and time-span:** The Harappan Civilisation, named after Harappa where it was first identified, is also called the Indus Valley Civilisation; total span c. 6000 BCE–1300 BCE divided into Early Harappan (6000–2600 BCE), Mature Harappan (2600–1900 BCE, urban) and Late Harappan (1900–1300 BCE, decadent) (NCERT §Terminologies, p. 1).
- **Geographical spread:** Distinctive Harappan pottery, baked/unbaked bricks, seals, weights, beads and copper/bronze articles are found across Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Sind, Punjab (Pakistan) and Indian states of J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, UP, Gujarat and Maharashtra (NCERT §Terminologies, p. 1; Map 1, p. 2).
- **Number of sites and five major cities:** Over 2000 Harappan sites have been discovered; nearly two-thirds lie in the Saraswati basin; five major cities are Rakhigarhi, Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Dholavira and Ganweriwala (NCERT §Harappan Settlements box, p. 2).
- **Subsistence — crops:** Grains found at sites include wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea and sesame; millets appear at Gujarat sites; rice finds are relatively rare (NCERT §2, pp. 2–3).

- **Subsistence — animals:** Bones of domesticated cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo and pig; also wild boar, deer and gharial, plus fish and fowl; whether Harappans hunted or obtained meat from hunting communities is uncertain (NCERT §2, p. 3).
- **Agricultural technology:** Bull representations on seals and terracotta plus terracotta plough models from Cholistan and Banawali (Haryana) suggest ox-drawn ploughing; a ploughed field with two sets of furrows at right angles was found at Kalibangan (Rajasthan), indicating two crops grown together; canals at Shortughai (Afghanistan), wells, and Dholavira water reservoirs imply irrigation in semi-arid lands (NCERT §2.1, pp. 3–4).
- **Mohenjodaro layout:** Settlement is divided into a smaller but higher **Citadel** (walled, built on mud-brick platforms) and a larger but lower **Lower Town** (also walled, with buildings on platforms); platform construction alone is estimated at four million person-days (NCERT §3, pp. 5–6).
- **Standardised bricks:** Sun-dried or baked bricks across all Harappan settlements followed a uniform ratio — length and breadth four times and twice the height respectively (NCERT §3, p. 6).
- **Drainage:** Streets and drains were laid out first along an approximate grid pattern intersecting at right angles, then houses built along them; every house was connected to street drains; main channels were brick-set in mortar with loose-brick (sometimes limestone) covers for cleaning; house drains emptied into sumps/cesspits; drains were also found at smaller settlements like Lothal (NCERT §3.1, pp. 6–7).
- **Domestic architecture:** Houses centred on a courtyard, no ground-floor windows on outer walls, main entrance not giving direct view of interior, every house had its own brick-paved bathroom, many had staircases and wells; Mohenjodaro had about 700 wells (NCERT §3.2, p. 7).
- **Citadel structures:** Citadel held the warehouse and the **Great Bath** — a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor; two flights of steps on north and south, made watertight with bricks set on edge and gypsum mortar; a smaller building to its north had eight bathrooms; the Great Bath was probably meant for a special ritual bath (NCERT §3.3, p. 8).
- **Citadel variations:** At Dholavira and Lothal the entire settlement was fortified with internal walls; Lothal's Citadel was not walled off but built at a height (NCERT §Citadels box, p. 6).
- **Burials:** Dead were generally laid in pits, sometimes brick-lined; some graves contained pottery, ornaments (jewellery for both sexes), and occasionally copper mirrors; an ornament of three shell rings, a jasper bead and hundreds of micro beads was found near a male skull at Harappa cemetery; overall Harappans did not bury precious things with the dead (NCERT §4.1, p. 9).
- **Luxuries and hoards:** Utilitarian objects (querns, pottery, needles, flesh-rubbers) are distributed throughout settlements; luxuries (rare/non-local/complex-tech

objects like faience pots) and gold jewellery (all from hoards) concentrate in large settlements like Mohenjodaro and Harappa (NCERT §4.2, pp. 9–10).

- **Craft production at Chanhudaro:** A tiny site (under 7 hectares vs Mohenjodaro 125 ha) almost exclusively devoted to bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making (NCERT §5, p. 10).
- **Bead materials and techniques:** Carnelian, jasper, crystal, quartz, steatite, copper, bronze, gold, shell, faience, terracotta; steatite was soft, easily worked, and could be moulded as paste — steatite micro beads remain a technological puzzle; carnelian's red colour was obtained by firing yellowish raw material; specialised drills at Chanhudaro, Lothal and Dholavira; Nageshwar and Balakot specialised in shell objects (NCERT §5, pp. 10–11).
- **Procuring materials:** Locally available clay; outside materials included stone, timber and metal; transport by bullock carts (terracotta models), riverine routes along Indus/tributaries, coastal routes; Harappans established settlements at raw-material sources — Nageshwar/Balakot (shell), Shortughai (Afghanistan, lapis lazuli), Lothal (carnelian from Bharuch, steatite from south Rajasthan and north Gujarat, metal from Rajasthan); expeditions to Khetri (copper) and south India (gold); Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture probably supplied copper (NCERT §6 & §6.1, p. 12).
- **Long-distance trade:** Copper probably also from Oman — both Omani and Harappan artefacts contain nickel; a Harappan jar with black clay coating found in Oman; Mesopotamian texts refer to copper from Magan (probably Oman) and mention Dilmun (Bahrain), Magan and Meluhha (Harappan region); Meluhha exported carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold and varieties of wood; communication probably by sea; Dilmun weights followed the Harappan standard; depictions of boats appear on seals (NCERT §6.2, pp. 13–14).
- **Seals and sealings:** Seals/sealings facilitated long-distance communication — a bag's knot was sealed with wet clay impressed by seal(s); intact sealing meant the bag was untampered and identified the sender (NCERT §7.1, p. 15).
- **Script:** Harappan seals usually carry a line of writing (probably name + title); script is undeciphered, not alphabetical (375–400 signs, too many for an alphabet); written right-to-left (wider spacing on right, cramping on left); longest inscription has about 26 signs; writing also on copper tools, rims of jars, copper/terracotta tablets, jewellery, bone rods, and an ancient signboard at Dholavira (NCERT §7.2, p. 15).
- **Weights:** Usually made of chert, generally cubical with no markings; lower denominations binary (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32) and higher decimal (160, 200, 320, 640); metal scale-pans also found (NCERT §7.3, pp. 15–16).
- **Authority — evidence:** Extraordinary uniformity of pottery, seals, weights and bricks (same ratio from Jammu to Gujarat), strategic location of settlements and large-scale labour mobilisation suggest complex decision-making (NCERT §8, p. 16).
- **Authority — theories:** A large building at Mohenjodaro was labelled a "palace" but had no spectacular finds; a stone statue is called the "priest-king" by parallel with

Mesopotamia; competing views — (a) no rulers, everyone equal; (b) several rulers, one per city; (c) a single state — supported by uniformity and planning; possibly some form of democratic system (NCERT §8.1, pp. 16–17).

- **Decline:** By c. 1800 BCE most Mature Harappan sites in regions like Cholistan were abandoned; simultaneous expansion into Gujarat, Haryana and western UP; in surviving Late Harappan sites — disappearance of weights, seals, special beads, writing, long-distance trade, craft specialisation; deteriorating house construction; rural "successor cultures"; suggested causes — climatic change, deforestation, excessive floods, shifting/drying rivers, overuse of landscape; none alone explains civilisation-wide collapse; the unifying element (perhaps the Harappan state) ended (NCERT §9, p. 17).
- **Discovery — Cunningham:** Alexander Cunningham, first Director-General of the ASI, in 1875 noted that bricks taken by robbers from Harappa were enough to lay tracks for "about 100 miles" of Lahore-Multan railway; he failed to grasp the seal's age because his framework relied on Chinese Buddhist pilgrim accounts and assumed Indian history began with Ganga-valley cities (NCERT §The plight of Harappa box, p. 6; §10.1, p. 19).
- **Discovery — Sahni, Banerji, Marshall:** Daya Ram Sahni found seals at Harappa in older layers in the early 20th century; Rakhal Das Banerji found similar seals at Mohenjodaro; in 1924 John Marshall (Director-General, ASI) announced the new Indus civilisation, contemporaneous with Mesopotamia ("Marshall left India three thousand years older than he had found her"); Marshall excavated by horizontal units, ignoring stratigraphy (NCERT §10.2, p. 20).
- **Discovery — Wheeler:** R.E.M. Wheeler became Director-General in 1944 and rectified the stratigraphy problem; ex-army brigadier; in 1947 he tried to link Mohenjodaro skeletons with the Rigveda (Indra as **puramdara** the fort-destroyer) — "On circumstantial evidence, Indra stands accused"; George Dales (1960s) demonstrated the skeletons were not from one period, debunking the "Mohenjodaro massacre" (NCERT Source 3, p. 18; §10.3, p. 21).
- **Discovery — post-Partition Indian sites:** Kalibangan, Lothal, Rakhi Garhi and Dholavira have been discovered/excavated since 1947; specialists from subcontinent and abroad now jointly work at Harappa and Mohenjodaro using modern scientific techniques (NCERT §10.3, p. 21).
- **Recent archaeogenetics — Rakhigarhi:** The biggest Harappan city (550 ha) in Hisar district, Haryana; DNA extracted from skeletons by Deccan College Pune with CCMB Hyderabad and Harvard Medical College; indicates Harappans are indigenous, genetic roots to 10,000 BCE, no large-scale Aryan immigration, unbroken 5000-year continuity; reconstructed 3D facial features resemble modern Haryana population (NCERT Source 3, p. 18).
- **Religion and interpretation:** Terracotta figurines of women with head-dresses interpreted as mother goddesses; the "priest-king" statue; Great Bath and fire altars at Kalibangan and Lothal assigned ritual significance; "proto-Shiva" seal of a cross-

legged figure surrounded by animals — but in Rigveda, Rudra is neither Pashupati nor a yogi, so the figure may be a shaman; conical stones classified as lingas may have been gamesmen (Mackay) (NCERT §11.2, pp. 23–24).

2.2 Definitions to memorise

Term	Definition	Page
BP	Before Present	2
BCE	Before Common Era	2
CE	Common Era	2
c.	Latin <i>circa</i> , "approximate"	2
Mature Harappan	The urban phase 2600–1900 BCE — the most prosperous phase	1
Citadel	The smaller but higher walled section of Harappan cities, built on mud-brick platforms	6
Lower Town	The larger but lower walled residential section	5–6
Faience	A material of ground sand/silica mixed with colour and gum, then fired — used for "luxury" pots	9
Hoard	Objects (jewellery or metal) kept by people in containers, never retrieved, later found by archaeologists	10
Sealing	Wet clay impressed by a seal on a knot to certify untampered goods and identify the sender	15
Chert	The stone, usually cubical and unmarked, from which Harappan weights were made	15
Magan	Mesopotamian name for a copper source — probably Oman	13
Meluhha	Mesopotamian name probably for the Harappan region; exported carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold, wood	14
Dilmun	Mesopotamian name probably for Bahrain; its weights followed the Harappan standard	14
Mound	Build-up of occupational debris from repeated use/reuse of a landscape	20
Stratigraphy	Study of layers of an archaeological site, used to assign artefacts to cultural periods	20
Sterile layers	Layers of abandonment/desertion, identified by absence of cultural traces	20
Archaeogenetics	Study of DNA of ancient population using molecular genetics	19
Linga	A polished stone worshipped as a symbol of Shiva	23
Shaman		24

Term	Definition	Page
	Men/women claiming magical and healing powers and ability to communicate with the other world	

2.3 Diagrams / processes to remember

- **Fig. 1.1 — Harappan seal:** Steatite, with animal motif and undeciphered script; the most distinctive Harappan artefact (p. 1).
- **Map 1 — Mature Harappan sites:** Locations of Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan, Banawali, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira, Lothal, Sutkagendor, Chanhudaro, Nageshwar, Balakot (p. 2).
- **Fig. 1.5 — Reservoir at Dholavira:** Masonry water reservoir — evidence for water storage in semi-arid lands (p. 4).
- **Fig. 1.7 — Layout of Mohenjodaro:** Citadel (smaller, higher, west) and Lower Town (larger, lower, east) on grid pattern (p. 5).
- **Fig. 1.9 — Isometric drawing of a large Mohenjodaro house:** Courtyard plan with well in room 6 (p. 7).
- **Fig. 1.10 — Plan of the Citadel:** Shows Great Bath, warehouse and associated structures (p. 8).
- **Map 3 — Harappan civilisation and West Asia:** Shows Mesopotamia (Uruk, Ur), Dilmun, Magan, Meluhha, Shortughai, Sutkagendor, Lothal — the long-distance trade network (p. 13).
- **Fig. 1.23 — "Priest-king":** Stone statue, seated, named by parallel with Mesopotamian priest-kings (p. 16).
- **Fig. 1.27 — "Proto-Shiva" seal:** Cross-legged figure surrounded by animals (p. 23).
- **Timeline 2 — Major developments in Harappan archaeology:** 1875 Cunningham; 1921 Sahni at Harappa; 1922 Mohenjodaro begins; 1946 Wheeler at Harappa; 1955 S.R. Rao at Lothal; 1960 B.B. Lal & B.K. Thapar at Kalibangan; 1990 R.S. Bisht at Dholavira; 1997 Amrendra Nath at Rakhigarhi; 2013 Vasant Shinde's archaeogenetic research (p. 25).

2.5 Timeline / Key events

Year / Period	Event	Significance
c. 6000–2600 BCE	Early Harappan phase	Pre-urban settlements (NCERT §1.1, p. 1)
c. 2600–1900 BCE	Mature Harappan phase	Urbanism, planned cities, script, seals (NCERT §1.1, p. 1)
c. 1900–1300 BCE	Late Harappan phase	De-urbanisation; regionalisation (NCERT §1.1, p. 1)

Year / Period	Event	Significance
c. 1900 BCE	Major Mature-Harappan cities abandoned	Onset of decline (NCERT §1.9, p. 24)
1875 CE	Alexander Cunningham, first DG of ASI, publishes the Harappan seal	First scholarly notice (NCERT §1.7.1, p. 17)
1921 CE	Daya Ram Sahni excavates Harappa	Beginning of Harappan archaeology (NCERT §1.7.2, p. 18)
1922 CE	Rakhal Das Banerji excavates Mohenjodaro	Twin-site discovery (NCERT p. 18)
1924 CE	John Marshall announces discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation	Worldwide recognition (NCERT p. 18)
1944 CE	R.E.M. Wheeler appointed DG ASI; introduces stratigraphic method	Modern excavation technique (NCERT §1.7.3, p. 19)
1946 CE	Wheeler re-excavates Harappa	(NCERT timeline 2, p. 25)
1955 CE	S.R. Rao excavates Lothal (Gujarat)	Coastal port, dockyard hypothesis (NCERT p. 25)
1960 CE	B.B. Lal & B.K. Thapar excavate Kalibangan (Rajasthan)	Early & Mature Harappan layers (NCERT p. 25)
1960s	George Dales refutes Wheeler's "massacre at Mohenjodaro" thesis	(NCERT p. 24)
1990 CE	R.S. Bisht excavates Dholavira (Gujarat)	Reservoirs, large signboard (NCERT p. 25)
1997 CE	Amrendra Nath begins work at Rakhigarhi (Haryana)	Largest Harappan site (NCERT p. 25)
2013 CE	Vasant Shinde's team begins archaeogenetic research at Rakhigarhi	DNA evidence on Harappan population (NCERT p. 25)
2019 CE	Shinde et al. publish — Harappans not from steppe ancestry	Reframes origins debate (NCERT p. 24)

2.4 Common confusions / NTA trap points

- **Phase dates:** Early Harappan 6000–2600 BCE, Mature 2600–1900 BCE, Late 1900–1300 BCE. NTA often swaps "Mature" with "Late" or shifts the 1900 BCE boundary.
- **Five major cities:** Rakhigarhi, Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Dholavira, Ganweriwala. Kalibangan, Lothal, Chanhudaro and Banawali are NOT among the five — they appear as distractors.
- **Citadel vs Lower Town:** Citadel = smaller, higher, west; Lower Town = larger, lower, east. Both were walled at Mohenjodaro. At Dholavira/Lothal the **whole** settlement was fortified; Lothal's Citadel was built at a height but **not** walled off.

- **Weights system:** Lower denominations are **binary** (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32), higher are **decimal** (160, 200, 320, 640) — material is **chert**. NTA may flip "binary/decimal" between high and low.
- **Brick ratio:** Length: breadth: height = 4:2:1 (i.e., length = 4× height, breadth = 2× height) — uniform across all sites.
- **Discovery sequence:** Cunningham noted a seal (1875) but missed its age → Sahni excavated Harappa (1921) → Banerji at Mohenjodaro → Marshall announced (1924) → Wheeler corrected stratigraphy (1944). Don't confuse Marshall (announcer) with Cunningham (first DG ASI).
- **Magan / Meluhha / Dilmun:** Magan = Oman (copper), Meluhha = Harappan region, Dilmun = Bahrain. Frequently mixed up in match-the-following.
- **"Mohenjodaro massacre":** Proposed by Wheeler ("On circumstantial evidence, Indra stands accused"); refuted by George Dales in the 1960s.

Practice MCQs

PYQ Alignment

This chapter is one of the heaviest-weight Theme-I sources for CUET History — questions typically test (i) phase chronology and the five-cities list, (ii) site-feature matches (Lothal/Dholavira/Kalibangan/Chanhudaro/Nageshwar), (iii) Magan-Meluhha-Dilmun identification, (iv) brick ratio and chert-weight system, and (v) the discovery sequence Cunningham → Sahni → Banerji → Marshall → Wheeler. Recent papers have added an assertion-reason question on the Wheeler "massacre" thesis and a statement-based question on the Rakhigarhi archaeogenetic findings.

CUET 2023 — Actual PYQs from this chapter

Q.1 (CUET 2023) The author of The Story of Indian Archaeology is

- A) Daya Ram Sahni B) Rakhal Das Banerji C) S. N. Roy D) Romila Thapar **Tests:** Discovery and historiography of the Harappan civilisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.2 (CUET 2023) Who discovered the Harappan site of Mohenjo-daro?

- A) John Marshall B) Rakhal Das Banerji C) R. E. M. Wheeler D) Alexander Cunningham **Tests:** Discovery and historiography of the Harappan civilisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.3 (CUET 2023) Match the following Harappan sites with their rivers. A. Lothal B. Harappa C. Mohenjo-daro D. Kalibangan 1. Indus 2. Ghaggar 3. Sabarmati 4. Ravi

- A) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2 B) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 C) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1 D) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

Tests: Harappan sites and their geographical spread **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.4 (CUET 2023) Match the following archaeological terms with meanings. A. Stratigraphy B. Epigraphy C. Numismatics D. Paleography 1. Study of inscriptions 2. Study of coins 3. Study of writing systems 4. Study of soil layers

- A) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3 B) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1 C) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 D) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2

Tests: Sources and methods — archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.5 (CUET 2023) Which statement about Harappan city planning is correct? A. Houses were built around courtyards B. Roads were laid out in a grid pattern C. Houses had wells and bathrooms D. Drainage system was absent

- A) A, B and C only B) A and B only C) B and D only D) A, B, C and D **Tests:** Town planning of Harappan cities **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.6 (CUET 2023) Which of the following Harappan sites had evidence of a ploughed field?

- A) Mandu B) Ropar C) Banawali D) Kalibangan **Tests:** Agriculture and subsistence at Harappan sites **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.10 (CUET 2023) “It seems to me a suicidal and indefensible policy to allow the country to be looted of original works of ancient art.” Who gave this statement?

- A) H. H. Cole B) Colin Mackenzie C) John Marshall D) James Fergusson **Tests:** Discovery and historiography of the Harappan civilisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.51 (CUET 2023) Which of the following was an important source for reconstructing the history of the Harappan civilisation? A. Literary texts B. Archaeological remains C. Foreign travel accounts D. Folk traditions

- A) A and B B) B only C) B and C D) A, B, C **Tests:** Sources for reconstructing the Harappan civilisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.52 (CUET 2023) The Harappan civilisation flourished mainly along the river:

- A) Ganga B) Indus C) Yamuna D) Narmada **Tests:** Geographical extent and river systems **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.53 (CUET 2023) The script used by the Harappans is:

- A) Fully deciphered B) Partially deciphered C) Still undeciphered D) Alphabetical **Tests:** The undeciphered Harappan script **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.54 (CUET 2023) Which of the following was a major feature of Harappan cities?

- A) Circular city planning B) Grid pattern planning C) Random settlement D) Fortified villages only **Tests:** Town planning of Harappan cities **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.55 (CUET 2023) The Great Bath was discovered at:

- A) Harappa B) Lothal C) Mohenjo-daro D) Dholavira **Tests:** Mohenjodaro — citadel features and the Great Bath **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.56 (CUET 2023) Which of the following was NOT a Harappan site?

- A) Kalibangan B) Banawali C) Taxila D) Lothal **Tests:** Harappan sites and their geographical spread **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.57 (CUET 2023) The Harappan civilisation is also known as:

- A) Indus Valley Civilisation B) Aryan Civilisation C) Vedic Civilisation D) Gangetic Civilisation **Tests:** Names of the civilisation — Indus / Harappan **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.58 (CUET 2023) Which crop was commonly cultivated by the Harappans?

- A) Rice B) Wheat C) Maize D) Tea **Tests:** Agriculture and subsistence at Harappan sites **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.59 (CUET 2023) The seals of the Harappan civilisation were mostly made of:

- A) Gold B) Copper C) Steatite D) Iron **Tests:** Craft production — steatite seals **Answer:** Not in extracted key

CUET 2024 — Actual PYQs from this chapter

Q.6 (CUET 2024) Match List-I with List-II. List I A. Terracotta models of plough B. Ploughed field C. Traces of canals D. Water reservoirs List II I. Kalibangan II. Shortughai III. Dholavira IV. Cholistan Options:

- A) A-IV, B-I, C-II, D-III B) A-I, B-II, C-IV, D-III C) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV D) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I **Tests:** Site-specific features — Kalibangan, Shortughai, Dholavira, Cholistan **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.8 (CUET 2024) Match List-I with List-II. List I A. Shell B. Lapis Lazuli C. Carnelian D. Steatite List II I. Shortughai II. Nageshwar III. South Rajasthan IV. Lothal Options:

- A) A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II B) A-II, B-I, C-IV, D-III C) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV D) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I **Tests:** Craft production and raw-material networks — shell, lapis, carnelian, steatite **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.39 (CUET 2024) Which statements about Harappan seals are correct? (A) Distinctive artifact (B) Motifs conveyed meaning (C) Sanskrit script used (D) Pali and Prakrit used (E) Uneven spacing of script Options:

- A) (A) and (D) B) (C), (D), (E) C) (A), (B), (E) D) (A), (C), (D) **Tests:** Harappan seals — script, motifs and craft **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.41 (CUET 2024) The first site where the Indus Valley Civilization was discovered:

- A) Harappa B) Rakhigarhi C) Hulas D) Sinauli **Tests:** Discovery and historiography of the Harappan civilisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

CUET 2025 — Actual PYQs from this chapter

Q.1 (CUET 2025) Arrange the major developments in Harappan Archaeology in chronological order: (A) Report of Alexander Cunningham on Harappan seal (B) S.R. Rao begins excavations at Lothal (C) Daya Ram Sahni begins excavations at Harappa (D) Vasant Shinde begins archaeogenetic research at Rakhigarhi Options:

- A) (A), (B), (C), (D) B) (A), (C), (B), (D) C) (B), (A), (D), (C) D) (C), (B), (D), (A) **Tests:** Chronology of Harappan archaeology — Cunningham, Sahni, Rao, Shinde **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.2 (CUET 2025) Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of _____.

- A) Shortughai in Afghanistan B) Banawali in Haryana C) Lothal D) Mohenjodaro **Tests:** Site-specific features — Shortughai canals **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.27 (CUET 2025) The total time span of the Harappan Civilisation ranges:

- A) 2000–1000 BCE B) 6000–1300 BCE C) 1500–900 BCE D) Post-Vedic period **Tests:** Chronology and phases of the Harappan Civilisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key