

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 11th



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Subject : History

Chapter : 2

Chapter Name : Writing And City Life

Q1 Why do we say that it was not natural fertility and high levels of food production that were the causes of early urbanisation?

Answer. We say that it was not natural fertility and high levels of food production that were causes of early urbanisation because :

- Cities and towns were not just places with large population.
- Urban economies comprised of trade, manufactures and services. City people were not self-sufficient so they depended on products and services of other cities and villages.
- There was a continuous interaction among the people from villages and Urban centres for the exchange of goods and services.
- There must have been a social organisation in place because products like fuel, metals, different stone, wood, etc came from various places. Thus, an organized trade and storage was needed.

Page : 48 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q2 Which of the following were necessary conditions and which the causes, of early urbanisation, and which would you say were the outcome of the growth of cities :

(a) highly productive agriculture, (b) water transport, (c) the lack of metal and stone, (d) the division of labour, (e) the use of seals, (f) the military power of kings that made labour compulsory?

Answer. The following were necessary conditions of early urbanisation :

- highly productive agriculture

→ water transport

The following were the causes of early urbanisation :

→ lack of metals and stones

→ the military power of kings that made labour compulsory

The following were the outcomes of early urbanisation :

→ division of labour

→ the use of seals

Page : 48 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q3 Why were mobile animal herders not necessarily a threat to town life?

Answer. The mobile animal herders were not necessarily a threat to town life because the herders need to exchange young animals, cheese, leather and meat in return for grain, metal tools, etc. The manure of a penned flock was of great use to a farmer so they also exchanged this.

Herdsmen being mobile could raid agricultural villages and seize their stored food. They could even take their flock to water across a down field in order to ruin the crop of the other. Communities were often at conflict with each other.

Page : 48 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q4 Why would the early temple have been much like a house?

Answer. The early temples have been much like a house because it was believed to be the house of god. It had several rooms around and open courtyards. It was made up of unbaked bricks.

Temples were residences of various gods like the Moon God of Ur and Inanna the Goddess of Love and War.

Early settlers built temples at selected spots in the villages. The earliest known temple was a small shrine made of unbaked bricks.

Page : 48 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q5 Of the new institution that came into being once city life had begun, which would have depended on the initiative of the king?

Answer. The new institutions that came into being once city life had begun are crafts, services, temples, trade, architecture, schools and writing, etc.

The institutions that would have depended on the initiative of the king are :

Trade - The rules and regulations must have been decided by a ruler or the leader of all. If the common people decided the norms it would be based on their personal convenience so it was decided by the ruler. Temples - Construction of temples required huge sums of money and resources which was only possible on the king's end to provide such resources.

Schools and writings - This also depended on the king as this would also require huge resources to run, which only the king could provide.

Page : 48 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q6 What do ancient stories tell us about the civilisation of Mesopotamia?

Answer. Ancient stories tell us that Mesopotamian civilisation is known for its prosperity, city life, its voluminous and rich literature and its mathematics and astronomy.

Mesopotamia was important to Europeans because of references to it in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible. For instance, the Book of Genesis of the Old Testament refers to 'Shinar', meaning Sumer, as a land of brick-built cities.

According to the Bible, the Flood was meant to destroy all life on earth. However, God chose a man, Noah built a huge boat, an ark. He took a pair each of all known species of animals and birds on board the ark, which survived the Flood. There was a strikingly similar story in the Mesopotamian tradition, where the principal character was called Ziusudra or Utnapishtim.

Page : 48 , Block Name : Long Answer

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