EHI-02: India: Earliest Times to 8th Century A.D.
Assignment
TMA

Course Code: EHI-02
Assignment Code: EHI-02/AST/TMA/2026-2027
Total Marks: 100

Note: All questions are compulsory. Marks are indicated against each question.

Section 1: Answer each question in about 500 words.

1. Discuss the main features of the town planning of the Harappan civilization. 20

Or

Describe the social and political conditions of the Rig Vedic period.

2. Explain the cause for the rise and spread of Buddhism.

Or

Describe the central administration of the Mauryas. 20

Section 2: Answer each question in about 250 words.

3. Discuss the Neolithic culture of India. 12

Or

Analyze the main features of sculptural art between 200 B.C. to 305 A.D

4. Discuss the sixteen Mahajanapadas. 12

Or

Explain the nature of the state in Tamilaham during the early period.

5. Write a note on society and religion under the Gupta rulers. 12

Or

Discuss the political developments in the Deccan and South India for thr mid 6^{th} century A.D to 10^{th} century A.D.

6. Write a brief note on the Shungas and the Kushanas. 12

Or

Explain the cause of the rise of Magadha.

Section 3: Answer in about 100 words each.

7. Write short notes on any **two** of the following: 6 + 6

a) Chalcolithic cultures of Western, Central and Eastern India .

b) Principles and teachings of Janisam.

c) Mauran Art

d) Developments in religion in the post Gupta period.

1. Discuss the main features of the town planning of the Harappan civilization. 20

Answer

The Harappan civilization, also called the Indus civilization, was one of the world's earliest urban civilizations. Its mature phase developed roughly between 2600 and 1900 BCE. Important settlements such as Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Dholavira, Kalibangan and Lothal show that the people paid great attention to planning their towns. Although every settlement did not follow one fixed design, certain features appear repeatedly and help us understand their urban life.

Planned streets and neighbourhoods

One important feature was the arrangement of streets. At Mohenjo-daro, major streets generally ran along north-south and east-west directions, meeting one another at nearly right angles. They divided the inhabited area into blocks. Smaller lanes connected residential houses with larger roads. This arrangement made movement and access to houses easier. The streets differed in width, showing that there were main routes as well as narrow local passages. Archaeologists have found evidence of repairs and rebuilding, suggesting that the town continued to be used over a long period.

Division of settlement areas

Many Harappan towns had a raised, often fortified sector and a larger residential area. At Harappa and Mohenjo-daro these have commonly been described as the citadel and the lower town. The raised sector contained some important public structures, while the lower town had many houses and workshops. However, this division should not be treated as an identical rule for all sites. At Dholavira in Gujarat, the settlement was divided into several carefully enclosed zones, often described as the castle, middle town and lower town. These differences show both common planning ideas and local choices.

Drainage and sanitation

The drainage system is among the most striking achievements of Harappan town planning. Many houses had bathing platforms connected to drains. Waste water passed through small covered channels into larger street drains. Some drains were made of baked bricks and could be opened at certain points for cleaning. Sumps or settling arrangements helped collect solid waste. The provision of household drains and public drainage indicates that removal of dirty water was an organised concern. It would be incorrect, however, to assume that every house in every settlement enjoyed the same facilities.