

History

Original practice in 7 topic units, with explanations, worked examples and answer guidance. Use alongside the prescribed texts and syllabus.



7 practice units
42 tasks with answer guidance

Name / नाम: _____

Original selected-topic practice. Use alongside school lessons and the prescribed textbook. The contents define this book's scope.

CBSE course 027 · 2026–27 · Selected practice, not a complete syllabus or official examination paper.

UNIT 01 / 07 · LEARN & TRY

Writing and city life: reading urban evidence

Name: _____ Date: _____

Goal: Explain urban interdependence and evaluate the uses and limits of writing.

Learn

Early Mesopotamian cities were centres of administration, production, exchange and religious activity. Urban life required relationships between settlements and their agricultural hinterlands rather than independence from farming. Writing developed in association with practical needs such as recording goods, obligations and transactions, though its uses later extended much further. Tablets, seals, buildings and material remains provide different kinds of evidence. Surviving records are not a random sample of everyday experience: institutions able to commission and preserve writing are often better represented than people with little access to scribal work. An account of city life should therefore compare written and archaeological sources, explaining both the organisation they reveal and the people or activities they may leave less visible. Read evidence in context: identify its producer, approximate period, purpose and audience before drawing an inference. Separate what a source directly shows from what you infer. Compare a second type of evidence and acknowledge a limitation rather than treating any single account as the whole past.

Worked example

Worked inference: An original fictional classroom reconstruction lists “barley received: 30 measures; wool issued: 12 bundles”. It supports an inference about organised record-keeping and distribution. It does not identify the views of every producer or prove that the goods were freely exchanged; institutional context and other evidence are needed.

- 1.** Why could a city with specialised craft workers still depend on nearby farmers? [2 marks]

UNIT 01 · PRACTISE · 5–6

Writing and city life: reading urban evidence

5. Compare a merchant's transaction tablet and a household rubbish deposit as historical sources. Give one strength and one limit of each. [4 marks]

6. Original fictional argument: A student says irrigation inevitably creates a city. Revise this into a reasoned explanation using two additional factors. [4 marks]

Explain one answer. Choose a question to revisit after a few days.

UNIT 01 · ANSWER GUIDANCE

Writing and city life: reading urban evidence

1. Craft workers need food while concentrating on other tasks. Agricultural surplus and exchange allow specialised urban work to continue.
2. It could track receipt, storage or distribution of wool. The list supports accounting, but its precise purpose needs context such as find location and related records.
3. Records may have been produced by a small trained scribal group serving institutions. Survival of their writing reveals record keeping, not literacy rates across the population.
4. It suggests occupational specialisation linked through exchange and distribution. Location alone cannot establish ownership, workers' status or the exact system of payment.
5. The tablet can give names and quantities but reflects recorded transactions. Rubbish can reveal everyday consumption and material use but rarely names consumers or explains motives. Using both can broaden understanding.
6. Irrigation can increase food supply, but urban growth also requires arrangements for labour and distribution and networks supplying materials or trade. Surplus is an enabling condition, not an inevitable cause of city formation.

Teaching note

For every inference, write one sentence about what the source cannot establish.

Curriculum reference: https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/CurriculumMain27/SecPart2/History_SecP2_2026-27.pdf

Selected practice; outcomes are publisher-defined. School practicals, projects and prescribed readings require separate preparation.