

History

Original practice in 12 topic units, with explanations, worked examples and answer guidance. Use alongside the prescribed texts and syllabus.



12 practice units

72 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 / 12 · LEARN & TRY

Harappan cities: archaeology and cautious inference

Name: _____ Date: _____

Goal: Interpret Harappan material evidence without overstating uncertain conclusions.

Learn

The Harappan civilisation is investigated primarily through material evidence: settlement layouts, buildings, artefacts, burials and environmental remains. Planned streets or drains suggest organised construction, but they do not identify the exact form of political authority by themselves. Differences among sites matter; a feature found at one settlement cannot automatically be assigned to every Harappan location. Archaeologists infer activities from context and comparison, revising interpretations when new evidence appears. The script remains undeciphered, which limits direct access to administrative or personal statements. Distinguish a find, an inference and a hypothesis. Claims about social hierarchy, craft production or exchange are strongest when several kinds of evidence support them and alternative interpretations are considered. 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: Similar-sized bricks appear in several excavated structures.
Observation: brick dimensions are repeated. Inference: builders may have followed shared conventions. Limit: this alone does not prove a single empire-wide ruler.
Combine the pattern with settlement, production and distribution evidence before making a wider claim.

1. Why can Harappan seals not currently provide a secure translation of trade contracts? [2 marks]

UNIT 01 · PRACTISE · 5–6

Harappan cities: archaeology and cautious inference

5. Original fictional evidence: One burial has ornaments and another does not. Give an interpretation and two cautions. [4 marks]

6. Original fictional claim: Every building with a large room was a palace. Evaluate and suggest checks. [4 marks]

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

UNIT 01 · ANSWER GUIDANCE

Harappan cities: archaeology and cautious inference

1. The script is not conclusively deciphered. A seal's presence may suggest administration or exchange, but its inscription cannot be assumed to be a translated contract.
2. Shared building conventions or standards are plausible. Similarity alone does not identify a single ruler or explain how standards spread.
3. Multiple stages and tools fit a production process. A lone finished bead could have been acquired elsewhere and deposited through use or exchange.
4. Context links the object to associated materials, activities and chronology. Removing it without records weakens interpretations of use and relationships.
5. Different treatment may reflect social distinctions. Preservation and burial customs can also affect what remains; two graves are too small a sample to establish a civilisation-wide hierarchy.
6. Room size alone does not establish royal residence. Compare layout, access, associated objects, location and similar buildings; consider storage, assembly or other uses. State palace as a hypothesis until stronger evidence supports it.

Teaching note

Label claims “observed”, “inferred” or “uncertain” before turning notes into an answer.

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.