

# HISTORY ASSIGNMENT – CLASS XII

## 2016-17

**Answer the following questions:**

1. Why is most of our understanding of Indus Valley Civilization based on archaeological sources? Give two striking features of Harappan writing.
2. Which civilizations were contemporaries to Harappan Civilization? Why the Indus Valley Civilization is also called as the Harappan Culture?
3. Give any five aspects of present day India which can be traced to Indus Valley Civilization.
4. Scholars have varying views on source of authority during the Harappan period i.e., whether it was priest or king. Yet all agree to existence of some form of centralized power. Give reasons.
5. What are the evidences used by scholars to reflect on the religious practices of Harappans? Give five reasons.
6. Discuss some of the methods adopted by Asoka to maintain control over the diverse empire.
7. Differential access to land, labour and new technologies led to the emergence of a stratified society. Explain.
8. “Epigraphy alone cannot provide a complete understanding of history.” Analyze this statement.
9. Who was James Prinsep? How did his discovery give a new direction for studying early Indian history?
10. Could rulers have engraved inscriptions in areas that were not within the empire? Analyze this statement in the light of Asokan inscriptions.
11. Why do you think rulers made arrangements for irrigation?
12. Why do you think the rulers claimed divine status? Give examples in support of your answer.
13. Give reasons why Mahabharata is said to be a dynamic text?
14. Why do you think the Buddhist theory of social contract strikes a cord in today’s democratic societies?
15. Explain with examples how integration within the framework of the caste system was a complicated process?
16. Justify with examples, kings were not always Kshatriyas as defined by the Dharmasastras.
17. Early societies were marked by gender differences. Justify by giving evidence.
18. What are the elements that the historians consider while analyzing texts?
19. What strategies were evolved by the Brahmanas for enforcing social norms related with Varna Dharma?
20. Support with examples from Mahabharata the different criteria suggested for

becoming a king.

21. Mahabharata is a good source to study the social values of ancient times. Support this statement with suitable arguments.
22. The rules of Brahmanical texts were not universally followed in ancient times. Justify by giving examples.
23. "Buddhist literature needs to be studied to understand the sculpture at Sanchi and other places." Justify the statement with examples.
24. "The notion of savior is seen both in Hinduism and Buddhism." Justify the statement.
25. Sanchi survived but Amravati did not. Give reasons.
26. Explain the factors that led to the rise of Buddhism and Jainism.
27. How did the economic and political developments in the 6<sup>th</sup> c. BCE affect the religious beliefs of people?
28. The fatalists and materialists are two extreme notions. Explain.
29. Wherein and why were rules for monks and men laid down? Why do you think Punna wanted to join the Sangha?
30. "The Begums of Bhopal played a significant role in preserving the remains of the stupa at Sanchi." Support the statement with suitable evidence.