Ancient History · GS - I

Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	Ancient History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban planning, grid pattern, drainage system, baked bricks, citadel, Great Bath, granaries, residential structures, water management

Model Answer

Introduction

Harappan architecture represents one of the earliest examples of planned urban civilisation, characterised by functionality, standardisation and sophisticated civic infrastructure.

1. Urban Planning

Major cities such as Mohenjo-daro and Harappa followed a planned layout, generally divided into citadel and lower town. Streets were often arranged in a grid-like pattern.

2. Construction Techniques

Standardised baked bricks were extensively used. Houses commonly had courtyards, bathrooms and wells, reflecting attention to domestic hygiene.

3. Drainage and Sanitation

Covered drains, soak pits and interconnected wastewater channels demonstrate advanced civic engineering. Mohenjo-daro's drainage system was particularly sophisticated.

4. Public Architecture

The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro indicates monumental public construction. Large structures interpreted as granaries or storage facilities suggest organised economic activity.

Conclusion

Harappan architecture combined urban functionality, sanitation, water management and standardised construction, reflecting a highly organised urban society.

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