

Chapter -2

Writing and City Life

Question 1.

Why do we say that it was not natural fertility and high levels of food production that were the causes of early urbanization?

Answer:

It is often said that natural fertility and high levels of food production were the causes of early urbanization. It is because of the following reasons:

- Natural fertility encourages settled life and agricultural production.
- It paved the way for animal husbandry.
- Fertility of the soil was also helpful in the beginning of new occupations.
- Flourishing trade and commerce is also another major factor for urbanization.
- The development of art of writing and administration played a very critical role in the development of urbanization.

Question 2.

Which of the following were necessary conditions and which the causes of early urbanization, and which would you say were the outcome of the growth of cities:

(a) highly productive agriculture

(b) water transport

(c) the lack of metal and stone

(c) the division of labor

(e) the use of seals

(f) the military power of kings that made labor compulsory ?

Answer:

Following were the necessary conditions for urbanization:

- Highly productive agriculture
- Water transport
- The division of labor

Causes of early urbanization:

- Lack of metal and stones
- The use of the seals
- The military power of the kings that made labor compulsory.

Outcome of the growth of cities:

- Efficient transport system .
- Trade and services developed.

Question 3.

Why were mobile animal herders not necessarily a threat to town life?

Answer:

Mobile animal herders were required to exchange ghee, metal tools, grains, etc. So they were not a threat to town life.

Question 4.

Why would the early temple have been much like a house?

Answer:

Early settlers began to build temples at selected spots in their villages. The earliest known temple was a small shrine made of unbaked bricks. These early temples were much like a house because they were small in size. There used to be an open courtyard around which rooms were constructed. Temples were the residence of

various gods. Temples also had their outer wall going in and out at regular intervals, which no ordinary building ever had.

Question 5.

Of the new institutions that came into being once city life had begun, which would have depended on the initiative of the king?

Answer:

Temple, trade, seal making , sculpture and the art of writing were the new institutions that came into being with the beginning of the city life. These institutions depended on the initiative of the king.

Question 6.

What do ancient stories tell us about the civilization of Mesopotamia?

Answer:

Ancient stories tell us a lot about the civilisation of Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia was situated between the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers (now part of the Republic of Iraq) Mesopotamian civilisation was rich in wealth, city life, literature, mathematics and astronomy. One by one, three civilisation flourished there. These included Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilisation. Its society was divided into three classes, i.e.

1. The upper class
2. The middle class and
3. The lower class

People belonging to upper classes led a life full of comforts and luxury and enjoyed special privileges. Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Their life was normally prosperous. Religion was an important part of their life and people worshiped many gods and goddesses. Shamas was their main God. It was the Sun. Ziggurat was the name given to Sumerian temples.

Another description from the Bible: According to the Bible, the flood was meant to destroy all forms of life on the earth. However, God chose a man, Noah, to ensure that life could continue after devastating flood on the earth. Noah, built a huge boat, an ark. He took a pair each of all known species of animals and birds on the board, the arks which survived the flood. When other things were destroyed by the flood, his

boat remained safe along with all the species. Thus began a new life on the earth. There was a similar striking story in Mesopotamian tradition, where the principal character was called Ziusudra or Utnapisthim.