

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q4(a)

Give a detailed appraisal of skeletal remains from Chalcolithic culture of undivided Punjab

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Anthropology GS 2 · 20 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

Core demand of the question

- Give a detailed appraisal of skeletal remains from Chalcolithic culture of undivided Punjab
- Keep the answer to a 20-mark length of about 250 words

Revision summary

Undivided Punjab's Chalcolithic bone record centres on Harappa and related Ghaggar sites.

Kalibangan and Indian **Late Harappan** villages add smaller series.

The bodies look like labouring village-urban people.

Racial types were over-read from small cranial sets.

Siwalik apes are a different, much older file.

Introduction

Chalcolithic Punjab, in the undivided sense, includes late and post-Harappan village worlds of the Ghaggar-Hakra and adjacent plains. Skeletal remains from these levels are few, precious, and easy to over-read as race.

Body

What the bones are

- Cemetery and stray bone from **Harappan** and **Late Harappan** sites in the greater Punjab-Haryana belt, and from related Chalcolithic village cultures, give crania, teeth, and some post-crania.
- **Harappa** itself, though now in Pakistan, was the teaching cemetery of undivided Punjab. Indian sites such as **Kalibangan** and later Ghaggar settlements add thinner series.
- Health markers show labour, caries, and sometimes trauma, a village-urban body, not a royal tomb set.

Appraisal of older readings

- **Risley-style** nasal races were once forced onto these skulls as Aryan or Indus types. Sample size and mix make that a bad appraisal.
- Continuity with later South Asian variation is a safer reading than a replacement myth.
- **Siwalik** fossils are far older apes; they must not be collapsed into Chalcolithic Punjab humans.

Significance

- Bones people the copper-stone villages that follow or neighbour Mature **Harappa**.
- They support a biological population already diverse, farming and crafting, before Iron Age texts.
- Appraisal today is palaeopathology and cautious morphometrics, not a caste origin story.

Flow diagram

Harappa cemetery -> Undivided Punjab
Kalibangan Ghaggar -> Undivided Punjab
Undivided Punjab -> Village-urban bodies
Race types -> Weak appraisal

Conclusion

Chalcolithic Punjab skeletons, led by the **Harappa cemetery** and thinner Indian series, show working village-urban bodies. They do not certify Risley's races. They do show people on the Ghaggar-Indus stage after and beside the cities.

Facts & figures

Harappa cemetery

Principal skeletal series of the greater Punjab Harappan world.

Kalibangan

Indian Harappan site whose human remains are discussed with the same cultural world.

Late Harappan

Village transformation after Mature cities, still in the Punjab-Haryana theatre.

H. H. Risley

Race method wrongly projected onto such archaeological skulls.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-2/2016/give-a-detailed-appraisal-of-skeletal-remains-from-chalcolithic-culture-of-undivided-punjab/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com