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Q1

**The ancient civilization in Indian sub continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without breakdown to the present day. Comment.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS I · 12 marks · Indian Heritage and Culture

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

**Core demand of the question**

- The ancient civilization in Indian sub continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without breakdown to the present day. Comment
- Cover continuity of language, ritual, social forms, and living sites, and also real breaks such as Islam, colonialism, and urban change
- Keep the explanation within a 12-mark length

**Revision summary**

India kept Sanskrit-Prakrit-vernacular, pilgrimage, and dharma as living practice.

Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece lost their old public cults after conversion and empire.

Harappan script is still unread, so the oldest urban layer is not a proven straight line.

Islam, colonialism, and Partition remade custom even while older forms survived.

The comment is fair as relative continuity, not as zero breakdown.

**Flow diagram**

Vedic temple Bhakti stream -> Living language ritual

Egypt Mesopotamia Greece -> Cult and script break

Islam colony cities -> Vedic temple Bhakti stream

Living language ritual -> Present India

Islam colony cities -> Present India

**Conclusion**

- Comment by comparing living ritual and language with dead scripts of the Nile and Tigris, then qualify with Islam, colonialism, and unread Harappa.
- Treat preservation as adaptive memory, not as an unbroken political state from Mohenjo-daro to the Republic.

**Indian civilisation** kept a denser living chain of language, pilgrimage, and social form than Egypt, Mesopotamia, or classical Greece. The difference is real, but it is continuity through change, not a culture without breakdown.

## Facts & figures

### Unread Indus script

Harappan writing is not deciphered, so claims of full civilisational continuity from those cities stay unproven.

### Varanasi and Madurai

Long-used sacred cities that show place-memory still active in ritual life.

### Ramayana and Mahabharata

Epics still recited and staged, unlike Homeric religion as a living Greek cult.

### Bhakti and Sufi streams

Medieval devotion that carried older themes into new languages rather than wiping them out.

### Egyptian and cuneiform break

Pharaonic and Mesopotamian cults ended as public religions after Christianity and Islam.

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