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Q2

With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them. 2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron. 3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal. Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. Statement 1 is right - Rigvedic warriors used mail and helmet, while Harappan remains do not show that panoply - but statement 3 on the horse is also accepted, so 1 only is incomplete.

(b)

(b) 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 is false: Indus people knew gold, silver and copper (and bronze), not iron, and Rigvedic Aryans were not limited to those three metals in the way the statement frames the contrast. So 2 and 3 only is not the key.

(c) Official key

(c) 1 and 3 only. Coat of mail and helmet appear in Rigvedic warfare and not in Indus armour finds, while the domesticated horse is Rigvedic and lacks clear Indus evidence. Statement 2 fails on iron and on the metal list, so this pairing is the official key.

(d)

(d) 1, 2 and 3. Including statement 2 is fatal because the Indus corpus is a copper-bronze culture with gold and silver, not an iron-using one. All three is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c) 1 and 3 only. Rigvedic hymns and later Vedic equipment point to mail and helmets in war; Harappan sites have not yielded comparable armour. The horse is central to Rigvedic life, whereas Indus evidence for that animal remains unconvincing. Statement 2 reverses the metallurgy: Indus people used gold, silver and copper/bronze and did not know

iron. Hence only 1 and 3 stand.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Indus metals

Gold, silver, copper, bronze; no iron

Rigvedic horse

Ashva central to ritual and war

Harappan armour

No clear mail or helmet finds

Mature Harappan

c. 2600-1900 BCE

Early Vedic

c. 1500-1000 BCE (conventional)

Iron in India

Widespread from later Vedic / PGW horizon

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