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Activity Two – Reading Comprehension

What Is History?

History is the study of the human past. It helps us understand how people lived, how societies changed and why important events happened. Historians investigate the past by examining different types of evidence and interpreting the information they find. Their work allows us to build a better understanding of people, cultures and civilisations throughout history.

One of the main responsibilities of historians is to analyse historical sources. These sources provide information about past events and can be divided into two main categories: primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are original materials created during the historical period being studied. They include letters, diaries, official documents, photographs, maps, coins and archaeological artefacts. Secondary sources, on the other hand, are created after the events have taken place. They include history books, academic articles and documentaries written by historians who analyse and interpret primary evidence.

History is not simply a collection of dates and facts. Historians ask questions, compare different sources and consider multiple interpretations before reaching conclusions. Because new evidence is sometimes discovered, our understanding of the past may change over time. For this reason, History is considered a dynamic discipline that continues to evolve.

To study History successfully, students need to understand chronology. Chronology refers to the order in which events happened. Historians often divide the past into different historical periods, such as Ancient History, the Middle Ages, the Early Modern Period

and Contemporary History. These divisions help organise historical events and make them easier to study, although the exact dates may vary depending on the region of the world.

Today, History is closely connected with many other disciplines, including archaeology, anthropology, geography, economics and political science. By combining evidence from different fields, historians can develop a broader understanding of the past and explain how historical events continue to influence modern societies.

Studying History also helps students develop valuable academic skills. These include critical thinking, analysing evidence, evaluating different opinions and communicating ideas clearly. These skills are useful not only for historians but also for professionals working in education, museums, archives, cultural heritage and many other fields.

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the main purpose of History?

a) To memorise important dates.

b) To understand people, societies and past events.

c) To study only ancient civilisations.

d) To learn about famous kings and queens.

2. Which of the following is a primary source?

a) A history textbook.

b) A documentary.

c) A letter written during a historical event.

d) A modern biography.

3. Secondary sources are...

a) written during the historical event.

b) created after the event to analyse or interpret it.

c) always more reliable than primary sources.

d) only available in museums.

4. According to the text, why can historical interpretations change?

a) Historians often forget previous information.

b) Governments change history books.

c) New evidence may be discovered.

d) Every historian studies different countries.

5. What does chronology help historians do?

a) Translate ancient languages.

b) Discover archaeological sites.

c) Organise events in the order they happened.

d) Classify different civilisations.

6. Which historical period is NOT mentioned in the text?

a) Ancient History

b) The Middle Ages

c) Early Modern Period

d) The Renaissance

7. History is connected with...

a) Archaeology only.

b) Geography only.

c) Political Science only.

d) Several different academic disciplines.

8. Which skill is NOT mentioned as an advantage of studying History?

a) Critical thinking.

b) Analysing evidence.

c) Learning computer programming.

d) Communicating ideas clearly.

9. What is the main idea of the fourth paragraph?

a) Historians always agree about dates.

b) Historical periods help organise the study of the past.

c) Ancient History is the most important period.

d) Contemporary History is difficult to study.

10. Which statement best summarises the text?

a) History is mainly about remembering dates.

b) Primary sources are more important than secondary sources.

c) History is an academic discipline that studies the past through evidence and interpretation.

d) Archaeology is more important than History.

Answers

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the main purpose of History?

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