History: since the dawn of civilisation

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each history word.

Word | Political | Archaeological | Time period | Process

1 monarchy [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 excavation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 medieval [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 colonisation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 relic [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 revolution [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 prehistoric [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 decline [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 The country was ruled by monarchy of. _____
2 Archaeologists conducted excavation of the site. _____
3 This building is from medieval of period. _____
4 Colonisation began in of the 1500s. _____
5 They found ancient relic there. _____
6 The revolution change everything. _____
7 Little is known about prehistoric of times. _____
8 The empire went into decline of. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For a state ruled by a king or queen: monarchy / republic.
2 For digging to uncover historical remains: excavation / demolition.
3 For the period roughly between 500 and 1500 CE: medieval / prehistoric.
4 For settling and controlling a foreign territory: colonisation / independence.
5 For an object surviving from the past, often religious: relic / everyday item.
6 For a sudden, major political change: revolution / gradual reform.

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4 Complete the accounts with words from the box.

colonisation | decline | excavation | medieval | monarchy | prehistoric | relic | revolution

Account A: The country was ruled by a 1 _____ for centuries before a 2 _____ overthrew the royal family.
Account B: Archaeologists led an 3 _____ that uncovered tools from 4 _____ times, long before written records began.
Account C: The castle, a 5 _____ fortress, contains a sacred 6 _____ believed to be centuries old.
Account D: Historians study how 7 _____ reshaped the region, and how the empire's eventual 8 _____ affected local populations.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Why civilisations rise and fall

Historians have long debated why powerful civilisations eventually decline, proposing explanations ranging from environmental change and resource depletion to internal political instability and external invasion. No single factor typically explains a civilisation's fall in isolation; researchers increasingly favour multi-causal explanations, recognising that a weakened economy might make a society more vulnerable to external pressure, while political fragmentation can simultaneously undermine effective response to crisis. Archaeological excavation continues to refine these theories, as new evidence about diet, climate and trade networks challenges previously accepted narratives about specific historical collapses.

1 What have historians long debated? _____
2 Name two explanations proposed for civilisational decline. _____
3 Does a single factor typically explain a civilisation's fall? _____
4 What do researchers increasingly favour instead? _____
5 How might a weakened economy affect a society, according to the text? _____
6 What continues to refine these theories? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The country was ruled by a king. MONARCHY _____
2 They dug carefully to find old objects. EXCAVATION _____
3 A sudden political change overthrew the government. REVOLUTION _____
4 The empire gradually became weaker. DECLINE _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of why a civilisation or empire you know about rose and eventually declined. Include specific causes.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Political 2 Archaeological 3 Time period 4 Process 5 Archaeological 6 Political 7 Time period 8 Process

2 Corrections

1 ruled by a monarchy 2 conducted an excavation 3 the medieval period
4 in the 1500s 5 an ancient relic 6 revolution changed everything
7 prehistoric times 8 went into decline

3 Suitable descriptions

1 monarchy 2 excavation 3 medieval 4 colonisation 5 relic 6 revolution

4 Accounts

1 monarchy 2 revolution 3 excavation 4 prehistoric 5 medieval 6 relic 7 colonisation 8 decline

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Why powerful civilisations eventually decline.
2 Any two: environmental change, resource depletion, internal political instability, external invasion.
3 No.
4 Multi-causal explanations.
5 It might make a society more vulnerable to external pressure.
6 Archaeological excavation.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 It was ruled by a monarchy. 2 They conducted an excavation.
3 There was a revolution. 4 The empire went into decline.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.