

History - An Introduction

Chapter 1: History - An Introduction · Topic 1

Key Concept

Historians study evidence like ancient artefacts, documents, and buildings to understand what happened in the past.

History is divided into periods, like prehistoric (before writing), ancient, medieval, and modern times, each with distinct characteristics.

Studying history helps us learn from past mistakes and achievements, understanding how societies, cultures, and ideas have changed over time.

Sources of history include primary sources (original documents or objects) and secondary sources (books written about the past).

Quick Revision Notes

- History studies past events, people and societies.
- Historians study artefacts, documents and buildings.
- History has periods: prehistoric, ancient, medieval, modern.
- Each period has distinct characteristics.
- History helps us learn from past mistakes.
- It shows how societies and cultures changed.
- Primary sources are original documents or objects.
- Secondary sources are books written about the past.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss why studying history is useful.
- 2 Find an example of a primary source.
- 3 Find an example of a secondary source.
- 4 Name the four periods of history.
- 5 Discuss an artefact that tells us about the past.
- 6 Research an ancient civilisation briefly.