

**BASIC 7**

**HISTORY LESSON NOTE**

**FIRST TERM**

## **SUBJECT CONTENT**

1. Meaning and importance of History
2. Difference between history and storytelling
3. Sources of History; Meaning and examples of sources of History
4. Primary sources of History; Meaning of primary sources of History
5. Primary sources of History; Examples of primary sources of History
6. Secondary sources of History; Meaning of secondary sources of History
7. Secondary sources of History; Examples of secondary sources of History
8. Tertiary sources of History; Meaning of tertiary sources of History
9. Tertiary sources of History; Examples after three sources of History
10. How to access sources of History; libraries, cultural festivals, museums
11. Revision
12. Examination

## **Week 1**

### **MEANING OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Define history**
- 2. Explain the importance of History**
- 3. Identify a Historian**

The word history has a Greek origin called 'historia' which means information or an enquiry to elicit the truth.

Generally, history can be defined as the study of the past in the light of the present in order to determine the future. It is the analysis and interpretation of the human past based on facts and evidence.

A person who is trained in the study of history is called the history on. A student of history is also referred to as a historian. The writing of history is known as historiography while a person who specialises in the writing of history is called a historiography.

### **IMPORTANCE OF STUDY OF HISTORY**

1. The study of history helps us to be aware of the mistakes of the past so as to avoid them for a better future.
2. The study of history enhances the knowledge of our origin
3. The study of history promote our understanding of the contributions made by our various cultures and religion all over the world
4. The study of history helps us to understand and be aware of significant world events.

## **Week 2**

### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HISTORY AND STORYTELLING**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Explain the meaning of History**
  - 2. Define storytelling**
  - 3. State the differences between history and storytelling**
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1. Online storytelling, history is not a work of fiction, imagination for creative writings
  2. History deals with facts and evidence that is connected to the realistics of an event while storytelling deals with fictions
  3. Unlike storytelling, history cannot be changed or altered to suit anybody or a group of people
  4. History is time-based which is not true of storytelling
  5. Storytellers create every single character in an event while historians only identify the characters in every past events
  6. History is a product of serious research findings while storytelling is not.

### **Assignment**

- 1. Write at least five historical facts about Nigeria**

## **Week 3**

### **SOURCES OF HISTORY; MEANING AND EXAMPLES OF SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Explain the meaning of sources of History**
- 2. Mention the examples of sources of History**

Sources of history can be regarded as the avenues, methods and approaches through which people can access information and facts about past events with respect to people or a place.

It is the mining industry for the generation of historical knowledge. Any sort of material or object from a particular period in the past that conveys information can qualify as a source of history. They are the supporting materials, documents or the records in the form of evidence that help us to reconstruct the past.

Sources of history give us an in-depth understanding of things that have happened in the past from the point of view of the people who lived through them.

There are basically three types of sources of history and includes the following;

1. Primary sources of History
2. Secondary sources of History
3. Tertiary sources of History

#### **Week 4.**

#### **MEANING OF PRIMARY SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Define primary sources of history**
- 2. List examples of primary sources of history**

Primary sources of history are sources that contain first-hand information about the past.

They are sources of History are those authentic sources of evidence that provides us with facts about what happened in the past. Primary sources are directly related to the events of the past.

Examples of primary sources of history include;

1. oral tradition
2. Artefact
3. Legends
4. Folklores
5. Archive materials, etc.

### **Assignment**

1. **What is an Oral Tradition and how are Oral Traditions sourced?**

### **Week 5**

#### **EXAMPLES OF PRIMARY SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

1. **Define primary sources of history**
2. **Explain the examples of primary sources of history**

1. Oral tradition: These are facts that are preserved and narrated orally or verbally to other people. It is usually passed on from one generation to another.
2. Artefacts: Artefacts are man-made objects that are culturally significant to place and the people who lived or used them in the past.
3. Legends: Legends all traditional stories of ancient times about people or a place. Legends usually may not be verified because the people invite or supernatural being very important in our understanding of the beliefs of people and deity.
4. Folklores and folktales: These all sources of history delivered from the stories, customs, beliefs and culture of a people or a place.

5. Archives: Archives a special building or places where historical objects are preserved and stored in order to be useful sources of information in the future. Archived materials are information that provide evidence for people about the past. For example, in ancient times, information were received on stones, walls, bones, metals, poetry, calabash, wood, ivory, etc. Such objects consist what historians refer 2 hours archive material.

## **Week 6**

### **MEANING OF SECONDARY SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

1. **Define secondary sources of history**
2. **List examples of secondary sources of history**

The secondary sources of history are documented records of past events of a people or a place. The secondary sources of history are usually created by works of experts by historians, archaeologist, archivists, etc.

Examples of secondary sources of history include the following;

1. Textbooks
2. Journal articles
3. Government publications
4. Biographies
5. Autobiographies, etc.

## **Week 7**

### **EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Define secondary sources of history**
  - 2. Explain the examples of Secondary sources of history**
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1. Textbooks: Textbooks are the major secondary sources of historical records or research carried out by experts in the field e.g historians.
  2. Journal articles: These are also written forms of historical studies but it is difference from textbook in the sense that it is specific to particular topic written by various scholars.
  3. Government publications all records of specific events within a state, that are preserved and stored by the administration in the seat of power. Records like population census, birth and death rate, including records of importance court cases are preserved and stored by the government.
  4. Biographies: these are written records of the life stories of heroes and heroines. Biographies are usually written by experts known as biographers. They carry out this task by interviewing and recording specific actors of an important event.
  5. Autobiographies: these are written records of the life story of an actor by himself or herself. It shows events for example “My Watch” written by former president Olusegun Obasanjo is the personal record of the history of Nigeria from 1960 to 2014. Another good example is the book titled “There was a Country” by professor Chinua Achebe – this is a personal account of the Nigerian civil war.

## **Week 8**

### **MEANING OF TERTIARY SOURCES OF HISTORY**



**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Define Tertiary sources of history**
- 2. List examples of Tertiary sources of history**

Tertiary sources of history can be defined as those sources of history that depend on the existence of the primary and secondary sources for their generation. It then means that without the availability of the primary and secondary sources, tertiary sources will not exist. Essential resources combined and extract facts from primary and secondary sources of history.

Tertiary sources of history may not be as authoritative as the primary and secondary sources of history, but they are equally important sources of history.

Examples of the tertiary sources of history include the following;

1. Student project
2. Memorandum (memo)
3. Bulletins
4. Internet

### **Assignment**

1. Write short notes on three examples of a tertiary source of history

## **Week 9**

### **EXAMPLES OF TERTIARY SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

- 1. Define tertiary sources of history**
- 2. Explain the examples of tertiary sources of history**

1. Student project: when a student or group of students are given assignments and projects to carry out which involves searching into events that happened in the past, their submissions and write-up can be regarded as an important source of History.
2. Bulletins: Short official statement made by the president, his ministers, political office holders, summary of the news in electronic and print media such as newspapers and magazines etc. are important sources of history for any nation. Remember that government activities today become important history tomorrow.
3. Memoranda (memos): Memoranda is an important source of history in business offices and government institutions. It is a document of communication where decisions, events and observations on different subject matters are recorded.
4. Internet: A lot of information that are historical nature can be sourced from the internet using the Google search engine and Wikipedia. The Internet has brought historical fact closer to us than ever before and information we get from the internet can be useful for us in enhancing our historical depth on certain issues and events.

## **Week 10**

### **HOW TO ACCESS SOURCES OF HISTORY**

**Specific Objectives: At the end of the class, I should be able to;**

1. **Define sources of History**
2. **Explain the various ways/methods of accessing sources of History**

The ways of accessing historical sources include the following;

1. Excursion to historical sites: A historical site is a place or venue of significant events in the past. So, visiting of sites gives us the knowledge of the reality of the event.
2. Exhibition: This is a public display of artefacts in museums. Visiting such a display gives us insight into the history of the owners of such artefacts.

3. Museums: A museum is an institution that gathers, stores and preserves works of art, sculptures and objects of historical relevance. Visiting a museum gives us access to historical sources of a particular group of people.
4. Cultural festivals: A cultural festival is an annual celebration of the customs and tradition of a group of people. When we visit such occasion, we gain insight into the way of life of the people.
5. Libraries: A library is a place where books are collected and stored for referencing. For example in the Nigerian national library, newspapers that were published from 1960 till date are collected there which serves as a good access to the knowledge of the history of Nigeria.