

Level: 1st year

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Groups: 6,7,8,9, and 10

How to Analyse Historical Texts

I. Analyzing Historical Texts

A/ The External Study of the Text

1. The Source of the Text

- From a book.
- From a website.
- From a newspaper.
- From an archive.
- From a personal document.

2. The Nature/Type of the Text

- Historical political.
- Historical religious.
- Historical economic.
- Historical social.
- Historical cultural.

3. Providing a Title for the text

Choosing the title for a text is important, and it should correspond to the content of the text.

4. Determining the Chronological and Geographical Dimensions

5. Defining the Author

Knowing the author's life unveils the reasons and circumstances that led them to take an interest in the incident and write about it. It provides us with information for analyzing the text.

B/ The Internal Study of the Text

1. Explaining the Key Terms, Ambiguous, or Difficult

- Focus on the historical meaning in the context of the text rather than the literal linguistic meaning.
- Explain the terms that require clarification and through which the text's symbols are deciphered.

2. Identifying the Main Ideas

- Ideas are not necessarily organised by paragraphs.
- Ideas may not follow a sequential order in the text.
- There may be repeated ideas in the text.
- The same idea may exist but it is not limited to a particular paragraph, rather it is distributed throughout the entire text.

3. Identifying the General Idea

- It is not the title of the text, instead it attempts to provide the reader with a general summary to the text.
- There may be several general ideas to a single text.

4. The Historical Circumstances Surrounding the Text

- The historical events that happened with the events in the text; military economic, political, cultural...etc.

- The benefits of understanding the history of text are determining the time of writing the text and the events happened or mentioned in it, and facilitating the process of analysing the text and comprehending its meaning.

5. Analysis of the Text's Ideas

- Based on the text and the scientific knowledge acquired by the student, drawn from reliable sources.
- Be concise. Analysis does not imply the expansion of ideas without purpose.
- Analysis is reading between the lines –the hidden meaning-

6. Analysis the Text's Writing Style

- To see whether the style of writing is difficult or easy for the reader.
- To see if the style corresponds to the contemporary language.
- To check if the style truly conveys the intended meaning of the author.

7. The Importance and Value of the Text

- How does the text benefit us?
- What is its scientific and historical value?
- What are the domains covered by this text and how can it be utilized in various fields?

8. Critical Analysis, Evaluation, and Your Personal Opinion on the Text

- Critique involves referring to other sources that have tackled the topic of the text.
- Providing a personal opinion on the text is not necessary, unless you have extended knowledge about the topic.

9. Summary and Conclusion

- It is about what the student deduces after reading and analysing the text.
- It indicates if you really understood the text.

II.Importance of Analysing Historical Texts

1. **Learning from the Past:** Analysis allows societies to learn from past mistakes and successes, and helps in shaping understanding on the present and future decision-making.
2. **Critical Thinking Development:** Analyzing historical texts encourages critical thinking skills. Readers must evaluate the reliability, bias, and credibility of sources, which helps in developing a more nuanced and informed perspective on historical events.

In summary, the analysis of historical texts is essential for constructing a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the past, enabling us to learn from history and make informed decisions in the present and future.