FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCE

Master one History major

The Second English course by Nasri Wahiba

The text:

Tunisia is a North African country with a rich history that spans thousands of years. It was first settled by Berber tribes long before recorded history. Around the 9th century BCE, the Phoenicians, a group of people from the eastern Mediterranean, established the city of Carthage on the coast of modern-day Tunisia. Carthage quickly became a powerful city-state and an Important center for trade in the Mediterranean.

During the 3rd century BCE, Carthage clashed with the powerful Roman Empire in a series of wars called the Punic Wars. After several battles, the Romans defeated Carthage in 146 BCE and made it part of the Roman Empire. Tunisia remained under Roman rule for centuries and became an important center of Roman culture and learning.

In the 7th century, Arab armies arrived, and Tunisia became part of the Islamic world. Over the centuries, Tunisia was ruled by various dynasties, including the Aghlabids, Fatimids, and Hafsids. Each dynasty left its mark on Tunisia’s culture, architecture, and traditions.

In the 16th century, Tunisia was taken over by the Ottoman Empire and remained under Ottoman rule until the late 19th century. In 1881, France made Tunisia a protectorate, meaning that while it remained technically independent, the French controlled its government and economy.

After years of struggle, Tunisia gained independence from France in 1956. Habib Bourguiba became the first President of Tunisia and introduced reforms that modernized the country. Today, Tunisia is known for its unique mix of Arab and Mediterranean cultures and is a popular destination for tourists.

The Questions:

1. Provide a title for the text
2. What key terms can you identify in the text that relate to the main themes of Tunisian history?
3. Who were the first settlers in Tunisia?
4. What ancient city did the Phoenicians establish in Tunisia?
5. What were the Punic Wars?
6. When did Tunisia gain independence from France?
7. When did Tunisia gain independence from France?
8. Who was the first President of Tunisia?
9. Answer with true or false
10. Answer with true or false:

* The Phoenicians were originally from North Africa.
* Carthage became a powerful city-state because of its military strength alone.
* The Romans completely destroyed Carthage after the Punic Wars.
* Tunisia was a French colony until it gained independence in 1956.

1. Try to summarize the text in a short paragraph by identifying the main idea of each paragraph.