FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCE

Master one History major

The Third English course by Nasri Wahiba

The text:

Morocco has a diverse and fascinating history, marked by the influence of different cultures and empires. The first known inhabitants, the Berbers or Amazigh people, settled around 5,000 years ago. They developed a distinct culture, language, and social structure, which still have a strong presence today. The Berbers created early trade routes across the Sahara Desert, allowing them to trade goods like salt and gold with other African regions.

In the 7th century, Arab armies introduced Islam, which became the main religion. This also brought a new language, Arabic, which coexisted with Berber languages. The introduction of Islam united the region and led to the rise of powerful dynasties, such as the Almoravid and Almohad dynasties, who ruled across North Africa and Spain. These dynasties contributed significantly to architecture, building iconic mosques and palaces that are still admired today.

In the 15th century, European explorers began to reach the Moroccan coast, and this marked the start of European interest in the region. By the 19th century, European influence had grown, and in 1912, France established a protectorate over Morocco. This period of foreign rule brought new technologies and urban development, but it also led to tension as Moroccans fought to preserve their culture and independence.

In 1956, Morocco regained its independence, and it became a constitutional monarchy. Today, Morocco is known for its blend of Berber, Arab, and European influences, which is reflected in its art, food, and traditions. The country is a key cultural and economic center in North Africa.

The Questions:

1. Provide a title for the text
2. What key terms can you identify in the text that relate to the main theme?
3. Why the Berbers were important in early Moroccan history?
4. What religion was introduced in Morocco in the 7th century?
5. 10. ow Islam changed Morocco after the 7th century?
6. Name two Moroccan dynasties mentioned in the text.
7. What role European powers played in Morocco during the 19th century?
8. What type of government does Morocco have today?
9. What did the Berbers, or Amazigh people, trade across the Sahara Desert?
10. What is Morocco’s form of government today?
11. How Moroccan architecture reflects its history?
12. Could you tell me how Berber culture is still present in Morocco today?
13. What goods were commonly traded by the Berbers?
14. What is the main idea of each paragraph? Try to link them to provide a short paragraph as a summary of the text.