FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCE

Master one History major

The Fifth English course by Nasri Wahiba

The text:

Mauritania, a country in Northwest Africa, has a rich and diverse history shaped by its location between the Arab world and sub-Saharan Africa.

In ancient times, the area was home to the Berber people, who lived as nomads and traders. Around the 3rd century BCE, it became part of the Saharan trade routes, connecting North Africa with the rest of the continent. These routes helped spread goods like salt, gold, and ideas, including Islam, which arrived in the 8th century.

By the 11th century, the Almoravid movement, a group of Islamic reformers, emerged from Mauritania and played a significant role in spreading Islam across North Africa and Spain. Over time, the region became a blend of Arab and African cultures.

In the colonial era, Mauritania fell under French rule in the late 19th century as part of French West Africa. The country gained independence from France on November 28, 1960. Since then, it has faced challenges, including issues of ethnic diversity, desertification, and economic development.

Today, Mauritania is known for its vast desert landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and the unique way its people blend Arab and African traditions. Its history reflects the resilience and adaptability of its people over centuries.

The Questions:

1. What is the general idea of the text?
2. Provide a suitable title for the text .
3. Identify the keywords and try to define them.
4. What goods were exchanged through the Saharan trade routes?
5. How Islam spread to Mauritania?
6. When did the Almoravid movement emerge?
7. Why the Saharan trade routes were important?
8. Who ruled Mauritania during the colonial era?
9. What challenges does Mauritania face today?
10. What Mauritania is known for today?
11. When did Mauritania gain independence?
12. What role did the Almoravid movement play in history?
13. TRUE or FALSE

* The Almoravid movement originated in sub-Saharan Africa.
* Islam was introduced to Mauritania through European missionaries.
* Mauritania was part of French West Africa during the colonial era.
* The Almoravid movement only influenced Mauritania’s local communities.

1. Make a short summary for the text.