

The Fundamentals of History Questions

1. How does the author define history? Describe what, if anything, you think the difference is between “reconstructing” history compared to “producing knowledge” about it.
2. To what degree do you agree with the author’s claim that history is a necessity? Explain/justify your response.
3. To what degree is history knowledge subjective? Explain how you think two different historians, both striving for objectivity, can reach different conclusions. What does this say about historical knowledge?
4. How does the author describe primary and secondary sources? What determines the value of a source to historians?
5. Explain, in your own words, the section on “witting” and “unwitting” sources.
6. What does the author think the role of “the arts” or “cultural artifacts” should be in the study of history? Do you agree?
7. What traits does the author think good history writing should contain? To what degree do you think this is supported by your teacher and/or AP?