

## LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK TWO (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

**SUBJECT:** HISTORY

**CLASS:** JSS1

**TOPIC:** THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY

### THE MEANING OF HISTORY

History is viewed in different ways at various levels. As a term, history is derived from the Greek word **historia** meaning 'enquiry', research and knowledge gotten by investigation of things that happened in the past. History can thus be defined as the record of important events that happened in the past which helps us to understand the present, as well as in planning for the future.

As defined by the **Macmillan English Dictionary**, history refers to the “**study of the events of the past or an account of the events that happened during a particular period in the past**”. The **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary** defines **history as the study of past events, especially as a subject at a school or university**. In a nutshell, the records and documented important past events that tell about the origin, life and culture of a people at different times can be said to be history.

### Classification of History

There are various ways of classifying history. These include:

- a. Period or Time Sequence:** This is the most popular form of classifying history chronologically. Events, people and institutions can be presented in time sequence using era, generation and periods. For example, BC(Before Christ) or BCE( Before Common Era/ Before Christ Era), A.D. (Anno Domini), Prehistory (before written history, ancient, medieval(100 AD - 1450 AD), modern and post modern (contemporary) records.
- b. Civilizations:** History can also be viewed as a record of civilizations to show the effort of men in reshaping the world. Hence we have Roman Civilization, Egyptian Civilization, Mesopotamian civilization, Sumerian civilization, Indian civilization, Incas civilization, Phoenician civilization, American and Chinese civilizations.
- c. Level of Technology:** History can also be classed based on the level of technology at different phases and eras of human existence .e.g. Paleolithic, Neolithic, Stone Age, Iron Ages, pre-industrial, and post-industrial history or periods.
- d. Geographical Demarcation:** History can also be classed based on geographical points, scenes and events .e.g. world history, regional history and local history.
- e. Ideological or intellectual history:** This is history arranged based on beliefs, ideologies, philosophy and way of life.
- f. Subject history:** A record that gives an account of the beginning and development of a given subject.

## **g. Personal History**

History can also be categorised into the following classes:

A. Political History B. Economic History C. Cultural History d. Social History

### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HISTORY AND STORY TELLING**

	<b>History</b>	<b>Story-telling</b>
1	Uses accurate dates, real time, real persons and facts.	Uses fictional data created from the imagination
2	Data is drawn from primary, secondary and tertiary sources.	Sourced from imagination, myths, folktales, and satire( making jokes)
3	There is systematic dating known as chronological order of events.	In most cases dating is avoided, not required or unknown.
4	Historical subjects are generally past characters and events.	Stories might centre on both past and present issues.
5	Facts pass through internal and external checks for critical examination of written facts.	Stories do not go through checks for clarity and truth.
6	History has an inbuilt storytelling system which is an essential part of it.	Storytelling-telling may lack historical contents and characters.
7.	History is a professional discipline and a subject of study in schools and colleges, and a professional course in the university.	Storytelling is an art studied in history and a method of teaching history.

### **HOMEWORK**

1. What is history?
2. List out four ways of classifying history.
3. With the aid of a table, give four differences between history and storytelling.