**5 – History**

**Definitions:**

* The word "History" comes from Greek history meaning "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation". Scholars who write about history are called historians. Events occurring prior to written record are considered prehistory.
* History is systematically collected information about the past. When used as the name of a field of study, history refers to the study and interpretation of the record of humans, societies, institutions, end any topic that has changed over time.
* History is an academic discipline which uses a narrative to examine and analyze a sequence of past events, and objectively determine the patterns of cause and effect that determine them.
* History is a narration of the events which have happened among mankind, including an account of the rise and fall of nations, as well as of other great changes which have affected the political and social condition of the human race, Edward Hallett Carr asserts that "History is an unending dialogue between past and present" (Carr 196L:30).

**Historical Background :**

* Herodotus, a 5th-century BCE Greek historian is considered within the Western Tradition to be the "father of history, and. along with his contemporary Thucydides, Helped from the foundation for the modern study of history
* Traditionally the study of history has been considered a part of the humanities, In Modern academia, history is occasionally classified as a social science.
* In Middle English, the meaning of history was "story" in general. The restriction to the meaning the branch of knowledge that deals with past events; the formal record or study of past events, esp. human affairs' arose in the mid-fifteenth century.
* With the Renaissance, older senses of the word were revived, and it was in the Greek sense that Francis Bacon used the term in the late sixteenth century, when he wrote about "Natural History". For him, history was "the knowledge of objects determined by space and time". that sort of knowledge provided by memory.

**General information:**

* The study of history has sometimes-been classified as part of the humanities and at other times as part of the social sciences.
* Traditionally, historians have recorded events of the past, either in writing or by passing on an oral tradition, and have attempted to answer historical questions through the study of written documents and oral accounts from the beginning, historians have also used such sources as monuments, inscriptions, and pictures,
* ln general, the sources of historical knowledge can be separated into three categories: what is written, what is said, and what is physically preserved, and historians often consult all three.
* Archaeology is a discipline that is especially helpful in dealing with and objects contribute to the study of history. But archaeology rarely stands alone, lt uses narrative sources to complement its discoveries.( it needs the written texts).
* Often history is taught as part of primary and secondary education, and the academic study of history is a major discipline in university studies.

**History and prehistory**

* The history of the world is the memory of the past experience of Homo sapiens around the world, as that experience has been preserved, largely in written records.
* By "prehistory", historians mean the recovery of knowledge of the past in an area where no written records exist, or where the writing of a culture is not understood. By studying painting drawings, carvings, and other artifacts, some information can be recovered even in the absence of a written record.
* Since the 20th century, the study of prehistory is considered essential to avoid history's implicit exclusion of certain civilizations, such as those of Sub-Saharan Africa and pre-Columbian America. Historians in the West have been criticized for focusing disproportionately on the Western world.
* ln 1961-, British historian E. H. Carr wrote:

'The line of demarcation between prehistoric and historical times is crossed when

people cease to live only in the present and become consciously interested both in their past and future. History begin with the handing down of tradition and tradition means the carrying of the habits and lessons of the past into the future. Records of the past begin to be kept for the benefit of future generations."

* It mean that it is very important to know about what happened in the history of the world in order to learn from peoples 'historical lessons, to know about events of the past, and to specialize in history as an academic discipline.

**Historiography**

* Historiography is the study of the methodology of historians in developing history as an academic discipline, and by extension is anybody of historical work on a particular subject.
* The historiography of a specific topic covens how historians have studied that topic using particular sources, techniques, and theoretical approaches, Scholars discuss historiography by topic - the "historiography of the British Empire", the "historiography of early lslam", the "historiography of China - and different approaches and genres. such as political history and social history,