S1 History Practice Paper (Set 1): chronology and timelines, river valley civilisations, Greek city-states and Rome, the medieval manor and the Black Death, Silk Road trade, source reliability

Level: S1 | Subject: History | Time: 75 min | Total: 100 marks | Items: 24

Section A - Chronology and timelines

Study the information below and answer the questions.

1. A man was born in 55 BC and died in 12 BC. How many years did he live? (Note: there is no year 0 between BC and AD.) (4 marks)

2. Event A happened in 480 BC and Event B happened in AD 1453. How many years apart were they? (4 marks)

3. Which century does 221 BC belong to? (3 marks)

4. A timeline runs from 3000 BC to AD 500. How long is it, and how many centuries does it span? (3 marks)

Section B - The four river valley civilisations

Source 1: Summary table of the four river valley civilisations

Civilisation	Main river	Writing	Other features
Ancient Egypt	Nile	Hieroglyphs	Solar calendar (365 days)
Mesopotamia	Tigris, Euphrates	Cuneiform	Base-60 number system
Ancient India	Indus	Seal script (undeciphered)	Urban drainage
China	Yellow River	Oracle bone script	Bronze technology

With reference to Source 1 and your own knowledge, answer the questions.

5. According to Source 1, which river did each of the four civilisations depend on? Name all four. (5 marks)

6. The Egyptians used a solar calendar of 365 days. If one day has to be added every 4 years, how many days are added in 400 years? (4 marks)

7. Mesopotamia used a base-60 system. A day has 24 hours; how many minutes is that? (4 marks)

8. Which civilisation in Source 1 still has writing that cannot be fully deciphered? How does that limit our knowledge of its daily life? (3 marks)

Section C - Greek city-states and the Roman Empire

Study the figures below and answer the questions.

9. Athens in the 5th century BC: 30,000 adult male citizens, 60,000 women and children, 25,000 resident foreigners and 80,000 slaves. What was the total population of Athens? (5 marks)

10. What percentage of the total population were adult male citizens? (1 decimal place) (4 marks)

11. The Roman road network was about 80,000 km long. If a legion marched 30 km a day, how many days would it take to cover the whole network? (4 marks)

12. Athenian democracy allowed only adult male citizens to take part. Name two groups excluded from political participation. (4 marks)

Section D - The medieval manor and the Black Death

Read the situations below and answer the questions.

13. A manor had 1,200 acres of farmland. One third was the lord's demesne and the rest were peasant strips. How many acres was each? (5 marks)

14. A serf had to work 150 days a year unpaid on the lord's demesne. What percentage of the year (365 days) was that? (1 decimal place) (4 marks)

15. A serf harvested 240 bushels of grain and paid a tithe of 10% to the Church. How many bushels did he keep? (4 marks)

16. Between 1347 and 1351 the population of Europe fell from about 80 million to about 50 million. By what percentage did it fall? (4 marks)

Section E - Silk Road trade

Study the caravan data below and answer the questions.

17. A caravan travelled from Chang'an to Samarkand, 3,500 km. If the camels covered 25 km a day, how many days did one journey take? (4 marks)

18. The caravan made the return journey as well and stayed 40 days in Samarkand. How long was the whole trip? (4 marks)

19. The caravan carried 40 bolts of silk costing 5 taels each, and paid customs duty of 15% of the value. What was the total cost including duty? (4 marks)

20. If the silk was sold in Samarkand at 12 taels a bolt, what was the profit and the profit margin? (1 decimal place) (4 marks)

Section F - Sources and reliability

Source 2A is a travel account written by a 13th-century merchant after his own visit; Source 2B is a 20th-century textbook account. Answer the questions.

21. State whether Source 2A and Source 2B are primary or secondary sources, and give one reason for each. (6 marks)

22. The two sources give different population figures for the same city (2A: 50,000; 2B: 200,000). Give two possible reasons. (5 marks)

23. To check the city's population, what two other kinds of evidence could be used? (5 marks)

24. What two factors should be considered when comparing the reliability of the two sources? (4 marks)

TutorZone S1 History practice paper. Original questions, not publisher material.