

TOPIC 15: HISTORY

Speaking Part 1

Frequently-Asked Questions

- ✓ Do you like history?
- ✓ Do you think it's important to study history?
- ✓ Where do you study history?
- ✓ How did you learn about history when you were a child?
- ✓ Do you like history when you were young?
- ✓ Have you ever watched history films?
- ✓ Do you like TV programmes about history?
- ✓ When was the last time you read about history?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
keen on sth/doing sth	/ki:n/	very interested, eager, or wanting (to do) something very much (hứng thú)
historical	/hɪ'stɒr.ɪ.kəl/	connected with studying or representing things from the past (liên quan tới quá khứ)
figure	/'fɪɡ.ər/	a person of the type mentioned (nhân vật)
fascinating	/'fæs.ən.eɪ.tɪŋ/	extremely interesting (thú vị)

heritage	/'her.ɪ.tɪdʒ/	the history, traditions, practices, etc. of a particular country that exist from the past and continue to be important (di sản)
struggle	/'strʌɡ.əl/	to experience difficulty and make a very great effort in order to do something (đấu tranh)
colonization	/,kɒl.ə.naɪ'zeɪ.ʃən/	the act of sending people to live in and govern another country (thuộc địa hóa)
milestone	/'maɪl.stəʊn/	an important event in the development or history of something or in someone's life (đấu mốc)
declare	/dɪ'kleər/	to announce something clearly, firmly, publicly, or officially (tuyên bố)
sovereign	/'sɒv.ər.ɪn/	having the highest power or being completely independent (độc lập, tự trị)
invade	/ɪn'veɪd/	to enter a country by force with large numbers of soldiers in order to take possession of it (xâm lược)
integral	/'m.tɪ.grəl/	necessary and important as a part of a whole (quan trọng)
instill	/ɪn'stɪl/	to gradually put an idea or attitude into somebody's mind (làm thấm nhuần tư tưởng)
patriotism	/'pætriətɪzəm/	love of your country and the desire to defend it (lòng yêu nước)
appreciation of sth	/əˌpriːʃi'eɪʃn/	a full understanding of something (hiểu rõ, hiểu sâu sắc)

peace	/pi:s/	freedom from war and violence (hòa bình)
documentary	/ˌdɒk.jə'men.tər.i/	a film or television or radio programme that gives facts and information about a subject (phim)
account	/ə'kaʊnt/	a written or spoken description of an event (sự mô tả, kể lại)
vivid	/'vɪv.ɪd/	producing very clear pictures in your mind (đầy sống động)
battle	/'bætl/	a fight between armies, ships or planes, especially during a war (cuộc chiến)

Useful sentence structure

- ✓ I find + (something) very (fascinating/ boring)

Ex: I find learning about historical facts very boring.

- ✓ For me, (a historical event) is one of the biggest milestones in our country's history.

Ex: For me, the Declaration of Independence is one of the biggest milestones in our country's history.

- ✓ History plays a/an (+adj) part/role in our modern society.

Ex: History plays an integral part in our modern society.

- ✓ Learning about history is a great way to + (verb phrase).

Ex: Learning about history is a great way to develop a sense of patriotism.

PRACTICE

Q1: Do you like history?

Suggestions

- ✓ keen on history
- ✓ historical events + figures → fascinating
- ✓ learn about VN's heritage + how people struggled against colonization

Q1: Do you like history? (Sample)

Definitely, I'm very keen on history. I find learning about historical events and historical figures really fascinating. I love learning about the rich heritage of Vietnam and how Vietnamese people struggled against foreign colonization.

Q2: What historical event do you find most interesting?

Suggestions

- ✓ The Declaration of Independence → milestone
- ✓ 2/9/1945: Ho Chi Minh declared → VN became a sovereign state

Q2: What historical event do you find most interesting? (Sample)

Well, for me, the Declaration of Independence is definitely one of the most important milestones in Vietnam's history. On September 2nd 1945, President Ho Chi Minh declared to the world that Vietnam officially became a sovereign state, after years of being invaded.

Q3: Do you think history is important?

Suggestions

- ✓ plays an integral part
- ✓ instills a sense of patriotism + appreciation of peace

Q3: Do you think history is important? (Sample)

Obviously, history plays an integral part in any society. It instills in people a sense of patriotism and an appreciation for peace and order. Without history, we cannot possibly learn from our past failures.

Q4: Do you like to watch programs on TV about history?

Suggestions

- ✓ history documentaries: more interesting than history from textbooks
- ✓ give a vivid account of historical events

Q4: Do you like to watch programs on TV about history? (Sample)

Oh yes. I find them much more interesting than learning about history from textbooks.

History documentaries give a much more vivid account of historical events, especially battles and wars.

Q5: How do you get information about history?

Suggestions

- ✓ Internet → wonderful source for historical facts
- ✓ museums → admire collection of exhibits

Q5: How do you get information about history? (Sample)

I have to say the Internet is a wonderful source for historical facts and figures. I also love visiting museums, where I can admire their collection of exhibits. I think it is a very involved experience of learning about history.

Vũ Mai Phương

Speaking Part 2

Cue card

Describe an important historical event in your country
You should say
when it happened
what happened
who the most important people involved were and say
why it is important to the history of your country

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
not sb's cup of tea		If something is not your cup of tea, it is not the type of thing that you like (không yêu thích gì đó)
tedious	/'ti:.di.əs/	boring and tiring, esp. because long or often repeated (nhàm chán)
leave a lasting impression on sb	/ɪm'preʃ.ən/	have a profound effect on sb's mind (in đậm trong tâm trí)
force	/fɔ:s/	a group of people organized and trained, especially for a particular purpose (lực lượng)
overrun	/,əʊ.və'rʌn/	to spread over an area quickly and in large numbers (tràn ngập, chiếm)
The Politburo	/'pɒl.ɪt,bjʊə.rəʊ/	the main government group in a Communist country, which makes all the important decisions (bộ chính trị)
issue	/'ɪʃ.u:/	to produce or provide something official (đưa ra, phát hành)
order	/'ɔ:.dər/	something that someone tells you must do (lệnh, chỉ thị)
troops	/tru:ps/	soldiers on duty in a large group (đội quân, binh lính)
under one's command	/kə'mɑ:nd/	under sb's control over a situation (dưới sự chỉ huy của ai)
seize	/si:z/	to take something quickly and keep or hold it (nhắm giữ)

strategic	/strə'ti:.dʒɪk/	helping to achieve a plan, for example in business or politics (chiến lược)
surrender	/sər'en.dər/	to stop fighting and admit defeat (đầu hàng)
separation	/,sep.ər'eɪ.ʃən/	a situation in which two or more people or things are separated (sự chia cắt)
unify	/'ju:nɪfaɪ/	to join people, things, parts of a country, etc. together so that they form a single unit (thống nhất)

PRACTICE

Describe an important historical event in your country

You should say

when it happened

what happened

who the most important people involved were and say

why it is important to the history of your country

Sample

To be completely honest with you, history has never been my cup of tea. Partly because back when I was in high school, my history classes were tedious. However, there was one historical event that left a lasting impression on me. That was the Reunification Day, which took place on April 30th 1975.

After North Vietnamese forces successfully overran numerous provinces in Central Highland and near Saigon, the Politburo in Hanoi issued an order to launch the final attack on Saigon called the “Ho Chi Minh Campaign.” By April 27, the North Vietnamese troops, under the command of General Van Tien Dung, seized the key facilities and strategic points around Saigon. At half past eleven on April 30, Vietnam’s flag was raised over the Presidential Palace, marking the victory of the historic “Ho Chi Minh campaign”.

This event is considered a significant milestone in Vietnamese history because it marked the end of the Vietnam War. Another reason is that North and South Vietnam, after many years of separation, were formally unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. From then on, April 30 is celebrated as a national holiday in Vietnam.

Speaking Part 3

Frequently-asked questions

- ✓ How do students in your country study history?
- ✓ Who should pay for the maintenance of historical buildings and objects?
- ✓ Why don't people like study history?
- ✓ What do you think we can learn by studying events of the past?
- ✓ What important events do you think might take place in the future?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
compulsory	/kəm'pʌlsəri/	that must be done because of a law or a rule (bắt buộc)
significant	/sig'nɪfɪkənt/	large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed (quan trọng)
dynasty	/'dɪnəsti/	a period of years during which members of a particular family rule a country (triều đại)
hero	/'hɪərəʊ/	a person, especially a man, who is admired by many people for doing something brave or good (anh hùng)

revolve around sb/sth	/rɪ'vɒlv/	to have someone or something as the main or most important interest or subject (xoay quanh việc gì)
memorize	/'meməraɪz/	to learn something carefully so that you can remember it exactly (ghi nhớ)
preservation	/'prezə'veɪʃn/	the act of keeping something in its original state or in good condition (sự bảo tồn)
monument	/'mɒnjumənt/	a building, column, statue, etc. built to remind people of a famous person or event (tượng đài)
artefact	/'ɑː.tə.fækt/	an object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest (đồ tạo tác)
upkeep	/'ʌpki:p/	the cost or process of keeping something in good condition (chi phí bảo dưỡng)
revenue	/'revənju:/	the money that a government or an organization receives from taxes or from its business (doanh thu)

PRACTICE

Q1: How do students in your country study history? (Sample)

In high school – well most high schools – history is a compulsory subject. It is mainly focused on significant periods and events in Vietnamese history, like the Nguyen Dynasty, or national heroes, such as Tran Hung Dao or – of course – Ho Chi Minh. Unfortunately, studying history here often revolves around memorizing names and dates, so it can be a little tedious and dry.

Q2. Who should pay for the maintenance of historical buildings and objects? (Sample)

From my perspective, it seems that the preservation of historical buildings, monuments, and artifacts should be the responsibility of everyone. In other words, their upkeep should be funded from tax revenue and also from visitors paying a small entrance fee to view them.

Q3. Do you think more is expected from famous people than ordinary citizens? (Sample)

I think this can be attributed to two main factors. First, there is a problem with the teaching methodology. Students are simply expected to rote-learn – to learn by heart – a huge pile of names and dates and just spit these out in a test. Second, I think many people just lack an interest in the past. They don't think it is relevant to their lives now, so they simply don't care.

HOMEWORK

Describe a historical building in your area You should say
which the building is
how it looks like
what people do there
and also say whether you like this building or not