Ancient Egypt: Social Studies / History Assessment

Learning objective: To assess knowledge and understanding of Ancient Egyptian civilisation, including daily life, beliefs, and the significance of the River Nile.

Read each question carefully before writing your answer. Ensure your responses are clear and use historical terminology where appropriate. You have 45 minutes to complete this paper.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the wonders of the Nile Valley. She has learned that the geography of Egypt was vital to its success. The annual flooding of the River Nile provided fertile black silt, which allowed farmers to grow enough crops to support a thriving civilisation for thousands of years. From the building of the Great Pyramids to the complex rituals of mummification, Ancient Egypt remains one of the most fascinating periods in human history.

Word bank: Pharaoh · Hieroglyphics · Sarcophagus · Irrigation · Afterlife · Dynasty · Papyrus · Canopic jars

1. Name two ways the River Nile was essential to the survival of Ancient Egyptians. (2 marks)

2. Explain the role of a Pharaoh in Ancient Egyptian society. Why were they considered so powerful? (3 marks)

3. What were hieroglyphics, and what material did the Egyptians use to write on them? (2 marks)

4. Briefly describe the process of mummification. Why did the Egyptians believe this process was necessary for the deceased? (4 marks)

5. Identify one social class in Ancient Egypt (e.g., farmers, scribes, or artisans) and describe one typical task they would perform daily. (4 marks)

6. Compare the lives of a wealthy noble and a peasant farmer in Ancient Egypt. Consider their homes, diet, and daily responsibilities. (5 marks)

7. Why do historians rely heavily on archaeological evidence, such as tomb paintings and artefacts, to understand life in Ancient Egypt? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing how the 'shaduf' was used for irrigation near the River Nile.

Extension challenge: Total: /25