

Communication with the past:

Read the following texts carefully, and then choose the correct answer from A, B, C or D to complete the sentence below each text:

1) The tale begins over 2000 years ago in Egypt. When Pharaoh Ptolemy IV died, his six-year-old son became the ruler. This was the start of years of chaos as rival groups tried to influence him. Eventually, the boy-pharaoh grew up and, with the assistance of powerful priests, he took control

The story of the Rosetta Stone -----

- A) started more than 2000 years ago
- B) started less than 2000 years ago
- C) started 2000 years exactly
- D) All of the above

2) The Rosetta Stone is one of 18 stones that were put in temples around Egypt; their purpose was both to point this message and to bring into law some very generous tax breaks for priests. The stone is of particular historical importance because the 'memo' it contains is written in three languages: Greek, an Egyptian language called Demotic, and hieroglyphics like those found on tombs

The underlined word "those" refers to

- A) Languages
- B) Hieroglyphics
- C) Greek
- D) Demotic

3) There, academics tried to figure out what was written on it, but nobody could understand the hieroglyphics. That was, until a researcher named Thomas Young came across a group of symbols that spelled the name 'Ptolemy'. His work was continued by Jean-François Champollion who finally figured out how to read the mysterious text in 1882. Young and Champollion's work allowed us to work out exactly what is written on all the great objects and monuments of Egypt.

- A) destroy
- B) understand
- C) cause
- D) see with difficulty

4) Rongorongo was found in the 19th century on various wooden objects and is made up of symbols showing animals, humans and plants. Then there's the beautiful Voynich Manuscript, a book which has been dated to the early 15th century. It is thought to be written in a European language – though not a familiar one – and contains strange pictures of plants and animals.

Which is not true about the beautiful Voynich Manuscript?

- A) It was found between 1801-1900
- B) It has been dated between 1401- 1500
- C) It contains pictures showing plants and animals
- D) It is written in an uncommon European language

5) Finally, according to some estimates, the Tartaria Tablets, which were unearthed in Romania in 1961, are over 7000 years old. This would make the symbols on these small round discs the earliest known form of writing. As with many messages from the past, opinions differ and even the experts can be sure of almost nothing. One day, someone will almost certainly spell out what these strange messages mean, and where mystery remains, investigation will surely continue.

The sentence 'It indicates the date when Tartaria Tablets were discovered' is

- A) This would make the symbols on these small round discs the earliest known form of writing
- B) As with many messages from the past, opinions differ and even the experts can be sure of almost nothing
- C) One day, someone will almost certainly spell out what these strange messages mean
- D) Finally, according to some estimates, the Tartaria Tablets, which were unearthed in Romania in 1961, are over 7000 years old

ANSWER KEY:

1	A
2	B
3	B
4	A
5	D