

S 5.1 The Old Cities



S5.1.5

The importance of the Old Cities in the past when compared to the present.

A. Fill in the blanks with the words provided.

ruled over	village	important	nation
Rabat	Mdina	for the management	<i>karozzini</i>
advertise	different	the pirates	commercial



When we talk about the old cities of the Maltese Islands, we are mostly referring to Mdina, Birgu and the Citadel in Gozo.

These cities were always very _____

for the Maltese people. In the past, the old

cities were important _____ of the Maltese Islands, for defence, for business and for the security of the population. So the government of Malta, with all the officials and leaders that _____ the Maltese Islands used to be found at _____. When there used to be a signal that there are _____, everyone used to go and take shelter behind the bastions, the Maltese used to go to Mdina and the Gozitans used to go to Ċittadella.

The old cities were also _____ centres. When one needed to buy something which he/she did not find in his _____, one used to go to Mdina, Birgu or the Citadel as we do nowadays when we go to Valletta.

We notice that next to Mdina and the Citadel, two big cities developed and both are named _____ . Due to this the business continued to further develop.



Nowadays the old cities have a _____ importance than they had in the past. They became an important part of our identity. They are part of our history, part of the memories we have as a _____. So one should praise the many teachers who always saw the importance of the educational visits to these old cities. One should also encourage more visits to these cities.

One cannot visit the Maltese Islands and not visit Mdina, Birgu and the Citadel. In the brochures which _____ holidays in Malta, there usually are pictures of these cities. The tourists love these old cities. In these cities there is a lot to see and one finds a lot of restaurants and souvenir shops. A common scene in these cities is the _____ carrying the tourists and also guides explaining about the places of interest in these cities to the tourists. We must not forget how important tourism is for the Maltese economy. Many Maltese and Gozitans do business and earn money when offering services to the tourists visiting our islands.

B. Use your knowledge about the old cities to answer the following questions.

1. Give two reasons why Mdina was important in the past.

a) _____

b) _____

2. Why is Mdina important nowadays? (mention one point).

3. What is the name of the castle that always offered security to those who used to live in Victoriosa?

4. Why is the Citadel also important for our country nowadays?

5. Mention one reason why we should look after these three old cities.

6. What should be done when one of these three cities is damaged?

7. In our visits to Imdina, Victoriosa and the Citadel, we always meet with a lot of tourists. Why is it important for the Maltese people when a lot of tourists visit our country?

8. If a tourist asks you to suggest one place to visit in Mdina, which place would you suggest they visit? Why?

9. If a tourist asks you to suggest one place to visit in the Citadel, which place would you suggest they visit? Why?

10. If a tourist asks you to suggest one place to visit in Birgu, which place would you suggest? Why?

