

S 5.2 FROM THE PREHISTORTIC TEMPLES TO THE CATHEDRALS



S5.2.5

Identifying ways about how we can conserve and where necessary restore places of worship.

A. Read the following then answer the questions.



Notice how this megalithic rock is corroding.

Why does this occur?

This is due to the so called elements, which are:

- ❖ the sun
- ❖ the wind
- ❖ the rain

This photo was taken in a really old place where once our ancestors used to worship the Gods they believed in at the time. These are the Megalithic Temples of Hal Tarxien.

What can we do to prevent further damage?

What can we do to PROTECT them; i.e. to CONSERVE them.

The second picture shows an example of how we are protecting other megalithic temples such as Hagar Qim and Imnajdra. They have been covered by a big tent. The tent is protecting them from the sun and rain but the wind can still affect them. Experts are observing these tents to see whether these are providing the results



they were intended for i.e. to prevent the megalithic rocks from decaying.



This is the Victory Church in Valletta. The church was the first place of worship which was built in Valletta and here the Grandmaster Jean De Valette used to go to pray every day.

If one looks closely at the picture, one can notice that it has just been restored.

What happens when a historical site is restored?

The rock which corroded is removed and new rock is inserted instead of it. One has to be very skilled to do this job. Though nowadays many Maltese people, after following special courses, are capable of restoring churches, chapels, monuments and other historical places and get them to look as good as new.

Answer the following questions.

1. When we CONSERVE a type of building, we are:
 - a) Wetting it with water and letting it dry.
 - b) Protecting it from the elements.
 - c) Painting it.

2. The megalithic temples of Hagar Qim and Imnajdra have been conserved by:
 - a) Placing tar underneath them.
 - b) Planted many trees next to them so they provide shade.
 - c) Covered them by a big tent.

3. By time, Maltese rock starts to deteriorate due to the elements. These are:
 - a) The sun, the rain and the wind.
 - b) The electricity wires.
 - c) The trees and plants.

4. The temples of Ħal Tarxien (are, are not) covered by a tent and so at the moment they are being damaged.

5. When rain water enters through the dome of the church:
 - a) No damage occurs as the dome is very high up.
 - b) The glass of the windows changes colour.
 - c) The paintings of the dome are damaged.

6. Restoration of the churches (costs, does not cost) a lot of money.

7. Nowadays restoration:
 - a) Is able to be done by many Maltese people as they attended the necessary courses.
 - b) Only the English do it.
 - c) Only the Italians do it.

8. One of the churches which have been restored in Valletta is

9. Write a sentence about the history of this church.
