

Paragraph D

Q7:

Part of what makes family-tree research so fascinating is the sense of uncovering a mystery as you find more clues – just like a detective would. This kind of process was shown in the hugely popular programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?', which featured well-known TV personalities exploring their family origins. The show's researchers often found surprising information. One person, interviewer Jeremy Paxman, was disinterested at first. He believed it was more important to be 'forward-looking' – and think about the future rather than the past. Then he learnt that his great-grandmother had managed to raise nine children by herself after her husband died, even though she was extremely poor. He soon wanted to know more. Certainly this kind of programme has encouraged people to look for their own ancestors.

Paragraph E

Q8:

Before the age of the internet, if you wanted to find out about your family history, you would have needed to travel to different locations. People used to visit churches to look at their records, for example, the names of people who were born and died in the area. Another way to investigate family history would be to look through old newspapers that were stored in the basements of libraries, or to search through birth and marriage certificates at the local town-council building. Not all of these visits, of course, would be successful. You needed to be very patient and have a lot of spare time to find out about your past.

7. Paragraph D

8. Paragraph E

Read the options (i, ii, iii, v and vii) from the list of headings and the paragraphs. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph.

Paragraph F

Q9:

Researching your family tree has now become an ever more popular activity, partly for the reason that it has become much easier, faster and more convenient. Councils have uploaded many public records to their websites, including details of marriages, names of taxpayers and property owners, and the wills of people who have died. Many museums and libraries have also become involved, and offer guidance about the best tools and apps to use when searching for ancestors. One online company which helps people trace their ancestors was recently bought for over £2.4 billion – showing just how popular this method of research has become.

Paragraph G

Q10:

Despite the advances of modern technology, it can still be a challenge to find your distant ancestors. Before the 11th century, a person would only sometimes share their parents' surname. This was because a surname usually showed the town or region where you came from, e.g. John of Kent, or your occupation, e.g. John (the) Baker. So, if a child was born in a different place to a parent or had a different job, they might have had different surnames. This system also meant that thousands of people had exactly the same surnames even when they were not related. For wealthy people, it would also have been possible to have two different surnames if they owned land or property in two different locations. Of course, many old records have also been lost or destroyed, too.

Paragraph H

Q11:

Many people who are keen on producing a family tree are interested in looking forwards rather than back. They recognise their role as an ancestor of people who haven't even been born yet, and who may live in many different parts of the world. They want to create records for them – showing the different branches of the family today. Rather than writing out the family tree in a book in the traditional way, they record stories, images and voices using audio and video recordings for their descendants to see one day.

9. Paragraph F

10. Paragraph G

11. Paragraph H