

Autumn 2

Broad Horizons

Set : Thursday

Due: Monday



Broad horizons. Confident leaders.



"Make it possible."



Tenacity

We promote **honesty, responsibility, perseverance and resilience.**
We hold everyone to the same **high standard**, so that everyone **achieves**.



"Look after each other."



Empathy

We value **family and community.**
We promote **inclusivity, manners, gratitude and respect**, celebrate and appreciate **diversity**, and instil the **courage to do what is right**, not what is easy.



"Be the best you can be."



Aspiration

We instil **confidence and ambition**, and promote **purpose, passion, pride and independence.**
We strive for
100% effort, 100% of the time.



"Every moment matters."



Motivation

We teach that **every day is a chance to be better** than we were the day before.
Personal and collective success is the incentive, and everyone will be **celebrated** for being the **best version of themselves.**

Name.....

Tutor group.....



Tenacity | Empathy | Aspiration | Motivation

Broad Horizons

Why do we set this homework?

This homework is unique to Saltash Community School and has been created by your teachers just for you! The vocabulary, questions and extended writing tasks all aim to help you practise the essential skills needed to be a successful student, and support all areas of the curriculum.

Our school vision is "Broad Horizons. Confident Leaders." This is what we want for each of you when you leave us at the end of year 13.

We have chosen this vision carefully and it shapes everything we do for you- it's why we have our TEAM values and help you to develop the leadership traits within.

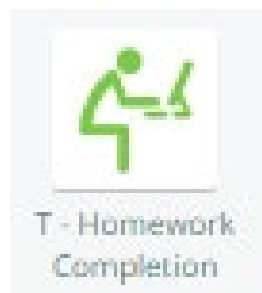
Why 'Broad Horizons'?

The term "broad horizons" evokes a sense of vastness, openness, and limitless possibilities. It suggests a worldview that extends beyond the immediate and familiar, embracing a wider range of experiences, perspectives, and cultures. Essentially, it is about expanding one's mental horizons, breaking free from limitations, and embracing the diversity of the world. Broaden your horizons and you will in turn gain *cultural capital*: a form of knowledge that will grant you access to opportunities and networks. This can lead to greater success in education, careers, and personal relationships, and can significantly enhance your quality of life.

What do I do with this homework?

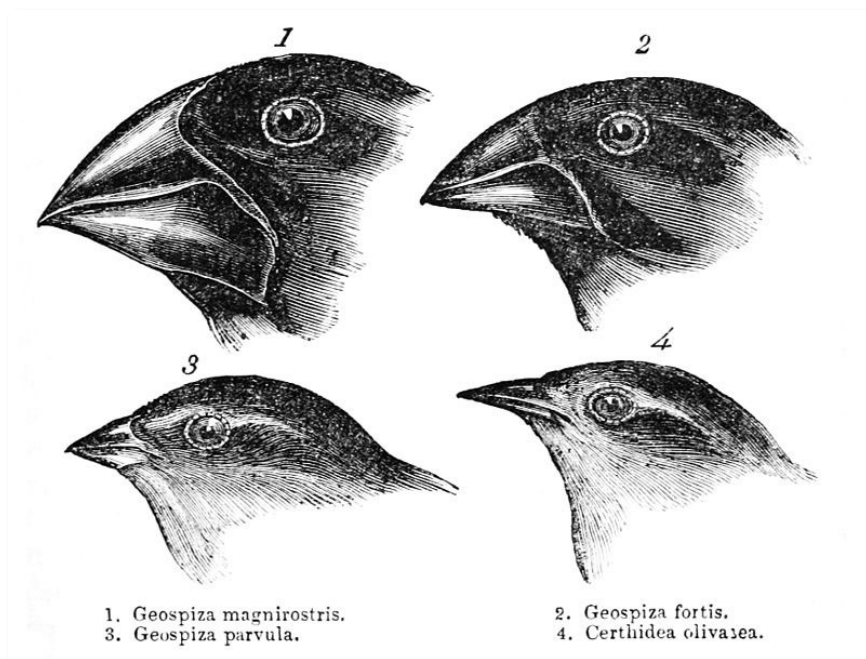
On a Thursday in tutor time, your tutor will introduce the article for the week, and together you will look at the words and definitions in the key vocabulary table. At home, you will be expected to read the article, answer the comprehension questions (in FULL sentences) and then complete an extended piece of creative writing. If you are absent or late for Thursday tutor, you must still complete this homework, including the vocabulary.

On Mondays, your tutor will check your booklet in line-up. You will be given points for both completion and effort, which can earn you two points per week. Consistently good work will earn you even more points! If you have not completed your homework, or if you forget / lose your booklet, you will receive a negative point and you will be expected to complete it for the next day. Don't forget that x3 negatives for homework mean you will be expected to attend a Friday detention after school, where we will help you to catch up. Come and see a member of staff at any time on Thursday or Friday if you need help or get stuck, or send your tutor an email. We are always here to help!



Learning new things is exciting and gaining knowledge makes you a more interesting person. We hope that you enjoy the articles within this booklet, and that it ignites an interest in the wider world that will last you a lifetime.

Darwin's finches



Charles Darwin's voyage to the Galapagos Islands in the 19th century was a pivotal moment in the history of science. It was during this expedition that he observed a remarkable diversity of finches, each with unique beak shapes and adaptations. These birds, now famously known as Darwin's finches, provided crucial evidence for his theory of evolution by natural selection.

The Galapagos Islands, a remote archipelago located off the coast of Ecuador, offered Darwin a unique opportunity to study a variety of species isolated from the mainland. He noticed that the finches on each island were similar in appearance but had distinct differences in their beaks. Some had short, stout beaks for cracking seeds, while others had long, slender beaks for probing insects.

Darwin hypothesised that these variations in beak shape were the result of adaptation to different food sources on each island. Over time, the finches that were best suited to their environment were more likely to survive and reproduce, passing on their advantageous traits to their offspring. This process, known as natural selection, led to the diversification of the finch population into distinct species.

In his groundbreaking book "On the Origin of Species," Darwin presented his theory of evolution by natural selection, supported by the evidence he had gathered from his observations of the Galapagos finches. His work revolutionised our understanding of the natural world and laid the foundation for modern biology.

Since Darwin's time, scientists have continued to study the Galapagos finches, learning more about their evolutionary history and the factors that have shaped their diversity. For example, researchers have observed how the finches' beaks have changed in response to changes in their environment, such as drought or the introduction of new species. The Galapagos finches remain a powerful symbol of evolution and adaptation. Their story is a testament to the incredible diversity of life on Earth and the interconnectedness of all living things. By studying these remarkable birds, scientists can gain insights into the processes that have shaped our planet's biodiversity.

Word from text	Definition
<u>voyage</u>	long journey involving travel by sea or in space.
<u>pivotal</u>	of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else
<u>diversity</u>	the state of being diverse; variety
<u>expedition</u>	a journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose, especially that of exploration, research, or war
<u>adaptations</u>	the action or process of adapting or being adapted
<u>evolution</u>	the process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth
<u>archipelago</u>	an area that contains a chain or group of islands scattered in lakes, rivers, or the ocean
<u>isolated</u>	far away from other places, buildings, or people; remote
<u>slender</u>	(of a person or part of the body) gracefully thin
<u>hypothesised</u>	proposed an explanation made on the basis of limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation.
<u>advantageous</u>	involving or creating favourable circumstances that increase the chances of success or effectiveness; beneficial
<u>offspring</u>	a person's child or children, or an animal's young
<u>diversification</u>	The act of making something more varied
<u>distinct</u>	recognisably different in nature from something else of a similar type
<u>groundbreaking</u>	Innovative; pioneering
<u>observations</u>	the action or process of closely observing or monitoring something or someone
<u>biodiversity</u>	the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world

•Where are the Galapagos islands situated?

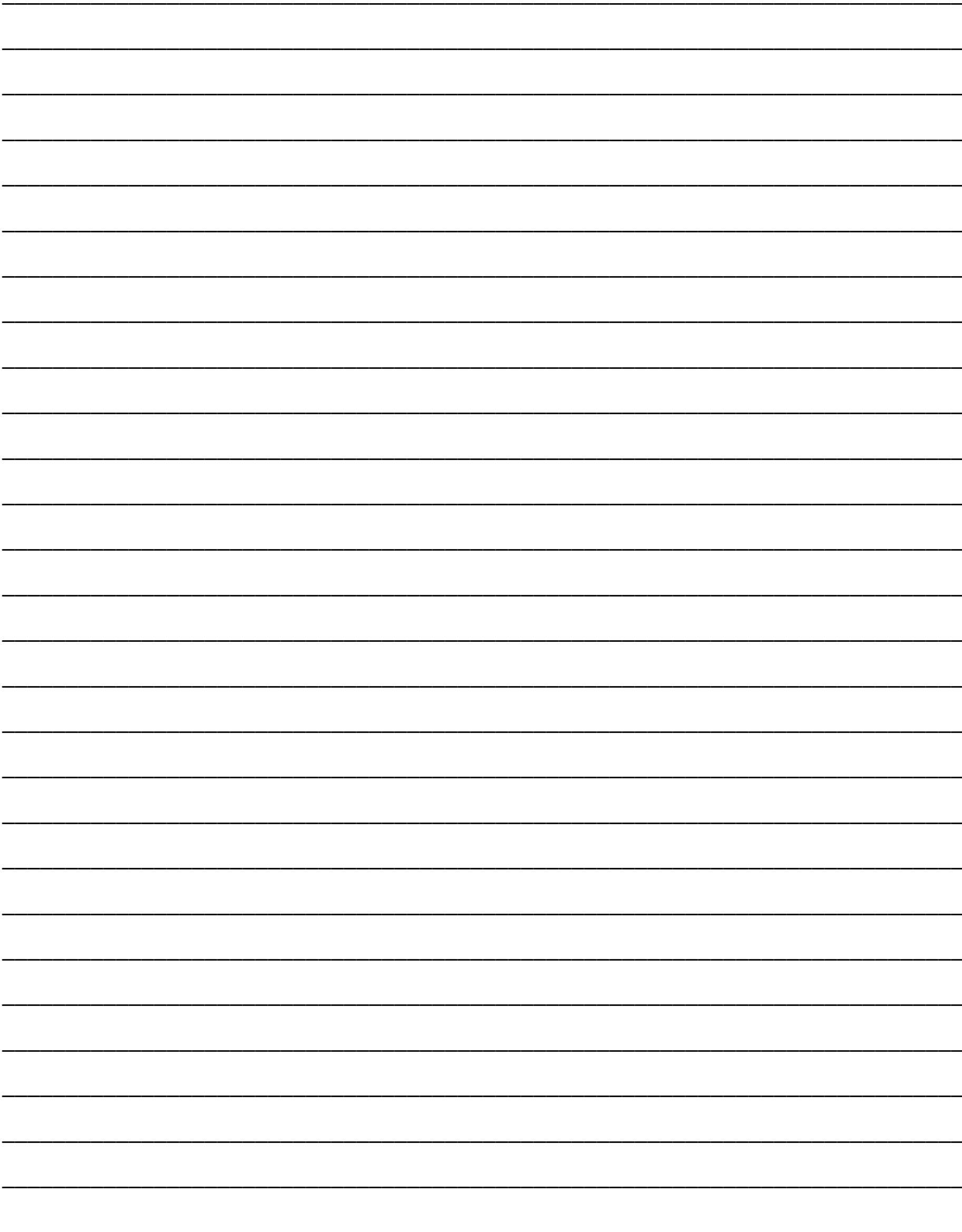
•What was different about the finches on various islands? Give two examples.

•What was the name of Darwin’s book?

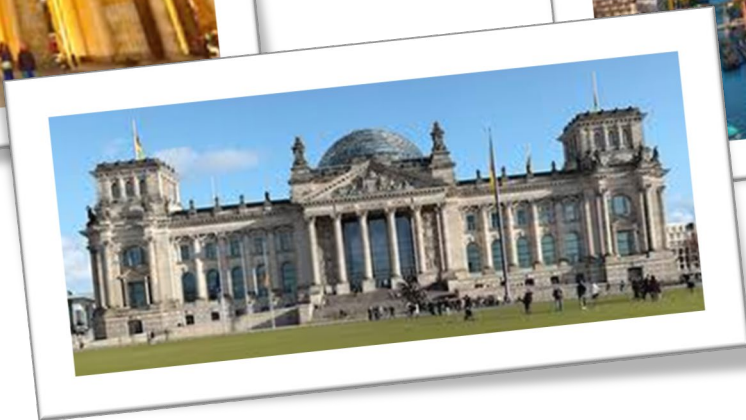
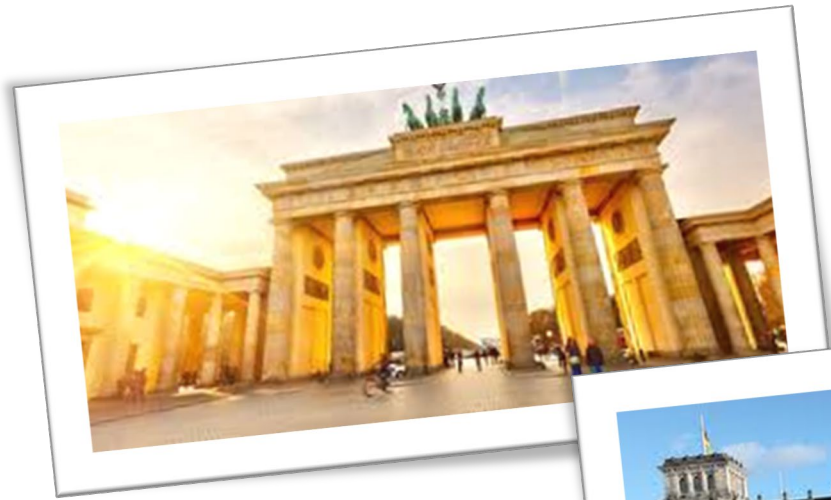
•More recently, what other ways have the finches’ beaks changed?

Write a short story about a traveller who is shipwrecked on the Galapagos islands. Include somewhere in your story the finches that are native to the island.

[illegible]



Berlin



- 1 Berlin, the **vibrant** capital of Germany, is a city **steeped** in history, culture, and modernity.
2 From its **tumultuous** past to its thriving present, Berlin has emerged as a global **metropolis** that
3 **captivates** visitors with its unique blend of old and new.
- 4 Berlin's history is marked by significant events that have shaped its identity. As the former
5 capital of East Germany during the Cold War, the city was divided by the Berlin Wall, a
6 physical and **ideological** barrier that separated the **communist** East from the **capitalist** West.
7 The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 marked a turning point for Berlin and Germany, symbolising
8 the end of the **Cold War** and the **reunification** of the nation.
- 9 Today, Berlin is a **testament** to its resilience and ability to reinvent itself. The city's historic
10 landmarks, such as the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag building, and the Berlin Cathedral,
11 stand as reminders of its past. The iconic Brandenburg Gate, once a symbol of division, now
12 represents unity and freedom. The Reichstag building, the seat of the German parliament, is
13 a striking architectural masterpiece with a glass dome offering **panoramic** views of the city.
14 Newer monuments, such as the **controversial** Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the
15 Berlin Wall at the East Side Gallery, and the Urania World Clock on Alexanderplatz, serve as
16 further reminders of Berlin's **chequered** past.
- 17 Berlin's cultural scene is as **diverse** as its history. The city boasts a **thriving** arts community, with
18 **numerous** museums, galleries, and theatres. The Pergamon Museum houses a collection of
19 ancient artifacts, including the iconic Pergamon Altar. The Museum Island, a **UNESCO** World
20 Heritage Site, is home to several world-class museums, including the Neues Museum and the
21 Bode-Museum.
- 22 For those seeking a more **contemporary** experience, Berlin offers a vibrant nightlife and
23 varied music scene. The city is **renowned** for its electronic music scene, with world-famous
24 clubs like Berghain and Watergate attracting DJs and music lovers from around the globe.
25 Berlin's trendy neighbourhoods, such as Kreuzberg and Prenzlauer Berg, are filled with cafes,
26 bars, and boutiques.
- 27 Berlin is also a city that embraces its green spaces. The Tiergarten, one of Europe's largest
28 **urban** parks, offers a peaceful **oasis** in the heart of the city. The Viktoriapark, located in the
29 Schöneberg district, boasts a stunning waterfall and offers panoramic views of the city.
30 Whether you're interested in history, culture, or simply exploring a vibrant metropolis, Berlin has
31 something to offer everyone. With its unique blend of old and new, Berlin is a city that
32 continues to captivate and inspire visitors from around the world.

Word from text	Definition
<u>vibrant</u>	full of energy and life.
<u>steeped</u>	surround or fill with a quality or influence
<u>tumultuous</u>	make an uproar or loud, confused noise
<u>metropolis</u>	a very large and busy city
<u>captivates</u>	attract and hold the interest and attention of; charm
<u>ideological</u>	political, cultural, or religious beliefs
<u>communist</u>	a political and economic system that seeks to create a classless society in which the major means of production, such as mines and factories, are owned and controlled by the public.
<u>capitalist</u>	describing a system economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit.
<u>Cold War</u>	a state of conflict between nations that does not involve direct military action but is pursued primarily through economic and political actions, propaganda, acts of espionage or proxy wars
<u>reunification</u>	Coming back together again after being separated
<u>testament</u>	something that serves as a sign or evidence of a specified fact
<u>panoramic</u>	a wide view surrounding the observer
<u>controversial</u>	causing much discussion, disagreement, or argument
<u>chequered</u>	marked by periods of varied fortune
<u>diverse</u>	showing a great deal of variety
<u>thriving</u>	prosperous and growing
<u>numerous</u>	great in number; many
<u>UNESCO</u>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<u>contemporary</u>	living or occurring at the same time
<u>renowned</u>	known or talked about by many people; famous
<u>urban</u>	belonging to, or relating to, a town or city
<u>oasis</u>	a fertile spot in a desert

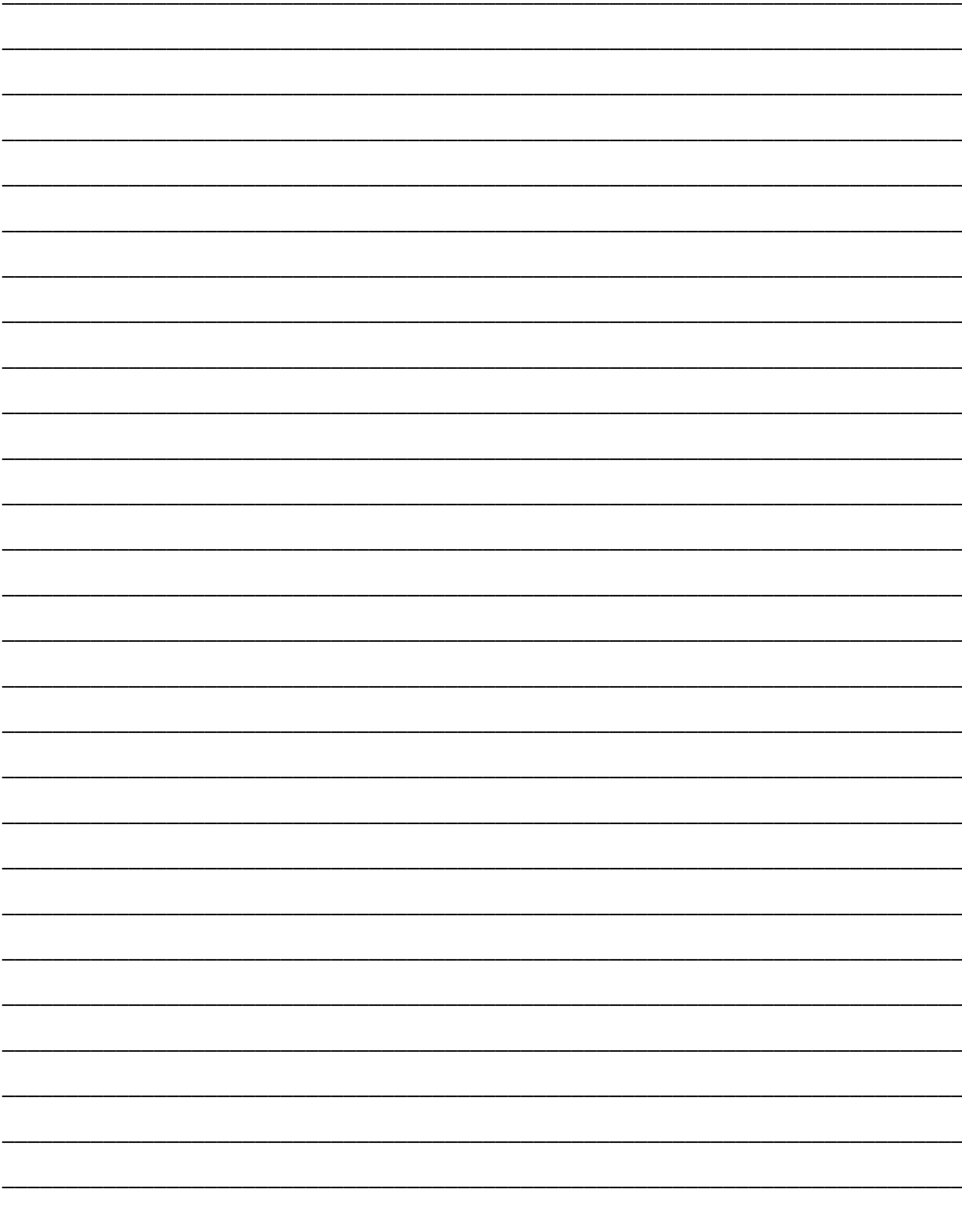
- What was the purpose of the Berlin Wall?

- Name four famous landmarks in Berlin.

- What is the name of Berlin's UNESCO world heritage site?

- What is the *Tiergarten*?

[illegible]



The Roswell Incident



1 The Roswell Incident, which occurred in New Mexico, United States, in July 1947, remains
2 one of the most **enduring** mysteries in the history of UFO sightings. The incident involves the
3 alleged crash of an **extraterrestrial** spacecraft near Roswell Army Air Field, followed by a
4 government **cover-up**. While the **official** explanation was that a weather balloon had
5 been recovered, many believe that the incident involved a genuine encounter with
6 extraterrestrial beings.

7 The Roswell Incident began on July 4, 1947, when a **rancher** named William "Mac" Brazel
8 discovered strange debris scattered across his property near Roswell. The debris included
9 metallic fragments, long, thin strips of material, and what appeared to be the **charred**
10 remains of a creature. Brazel reported the find to the Roswell Army Air Field, which
11 promptly **dispatched** a team to investigate.

12 The military **initially** described the debris as a "flying disc," sparking widespread public
13 interest and **speculation**. However, within a few days, the military revised its explanation,
14 claiming that the debris belonged to a weather balloon. This sudden change in **narrative**
15 fuelled rumours of a government cover-up, and the Roswell Incident quickly became a
16 global **sensation**.

17 Over the years, numerous theories have been **proposed** to explain the Roswell Incident.
18 Some believe that the debris was indeed from an extraterrestrial spacecraft, while others
19 **contend** that it was a secret military project. One popular theory suggests that the military
20 recovered the bodies of alien beings, which were then taken to a secret facility for study.
21 Despite the numerous theories and investigations, the truth behind the Roswell Incident
22 remains **elusive**. The military has consistently denied any involvement with extraterrestrial
23 beings, and there is no **definitive** evidence to support the claims of a government cover-
24 up. However, the incident continues to fascinate people around the world, and it remains
25 one of the most enduring mysteries in the history of UFO sightings.

26 The Roswell Incident has had a **significant** cultural impact, influencing popular culture,
27 literature, and film. It has **spawned** countless books, movies, and television shows, and it
28 continues to be a popular subject of discussion among UFO enthusiasts. While the truth
29 behind the incident may never be fully known, the Roswell Incident serves as a reminder of
30 our fascination with the unknown and our enduring search for answers to life's greatest
31 mysteries.

Word from text	Definition
<u>enduring</u>	continuing for a long time; lasting
<u>extraterrestrial</u>	a being from out of this world; alien
<u>cover-up</u>	try to hide the fact of illegal or illicit activity
<u>official</u>	relating to an authority or public body and its activities and responsibilities
<u>rancher</u>	a person who owns or runs a ranch (a large farm for cattle)
<u>charred</u>	Burnt and blackened
<u>dispatched</u>	send off to a destination or for a purpose
<u>initially</u>	first of all
<u>speculation</u>	the forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence
<u>narrative</u>	a spoken or written account of connected events; a story
<u>sensation</u>	a widespread reaction of interest and excitement
<u>proposed</u>	put forward (a plan or suggestion) for consideration by others.
<u>contend</u>	assert something as a position in an argument
<u>elusive</u>	difficult to find, catch, or achieve
<u>definitive</u>	of a conclusion or agreement) done or reached decisively and with authority.
<u>significant</u>	sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy
<u>spawned</u>	produce or generate a large number of

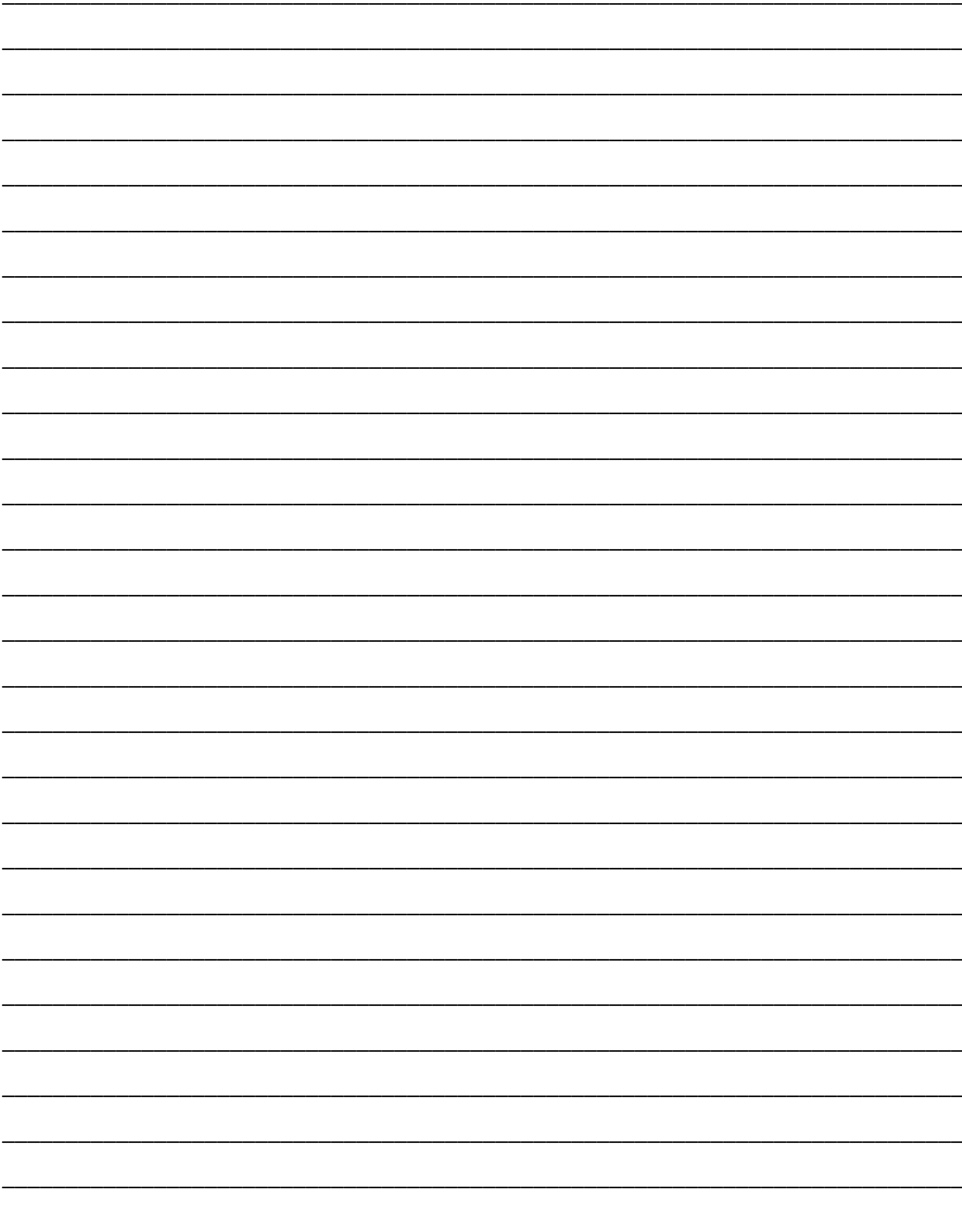
•What was the Roswell incident?

•What did “Mac” Brazel find on his property?

•How did the military explain the debris? Give two explanations.

•Give two theories as to how some explain the Roswell incident.

[illegible]



The Spanish Civil War



The Spanish Civil War began on 18 July 1936 when General Franco and other Spanish officers from the **colonial** Army of Africa staged a failed right-wing military **coup d'état** against the **democratically** elected Popular Front government.

In response to the attempted coup, loyalist forces and popular **militias** rose up to defend the **besieged** republic. In turn, Nazi Germany and **Fascist** Italy came to the aid of the **belligerent** officers, airlifting the Army of Africa from the Spanish protectorate in Morocco to mainland Spain.

Like other interwar crises across Europe, the three-year conflict that ensued pitted those who wanted to preserve the **elite hierarchies** of pre- WW1 Europe against those who embraced social and political change.

During the war, Franco's so-called Nationalist forces pursued a campaign of **systematic extermination**, with aerial bombing of civilian populations, as in the case of Guernica; attacks on evacuees, as in the case of the Málaga-Almería Road Massacre; and the **summary execution** of teachers, **intellectuals**, and political opponents. Franco's Nationalist forces emerged eventually victorious. But by the war's end, 350,000 Spaniards had died as a result of the conflict and another 500,000 had fled into exile.

In many ways, the **dictatorship** that followed was initially just as brutal. Between 1940 and 1942, 200,000 Spaniards died because of political repression, hunger, and disease. Even Spaniards living in **exile** continued to suffer. For example, during the Second World War, Francoist officials sent 10,000 Spanish prisoners of war in occupied France to Nazi concentration camps in Austria.

During the 36-year dictatorship, the Francoist regime never abandoned its political violence. However, brutality gave way to reform beginning in the 1950s. With the goal of establishing a **strategic** position in the emerging Cold War order, the regime touted its anti-Communist credentials, liberalised the economy, and introduced limited social and political **reforms**.

At the same time, three million Spaniards migrated from the rural south to the industrial north, where they started new lives in cities and factories.

Taken together, these reforms from above and social changes from below laid the foundations for the Spanish "economic miracle" (1959-1974).

The dictatorship came to an end in 1975 when General Franco died. Members of the former regime and its opposition **negotiated** the political **transition** that followed under the supervision of King Juan Carlos, whom the dictator had selected as his personal **successor**. Working together behind closed doors, they established a **constitutional monarchy** with a parliamentary system based on the principles of representative democracy.

Word from text	Definition
<u>colonial</u>	relating to a colony (country or area under political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country.)
<u>coup d'état</u>	a sudden, violent, and unlawful seizure of power from a government
<u>democratically</u>	in accordance with the principles of democracy
<u>militias</u>	a military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency
<u>besieged</u>	surrounded by armed forces
<u>Fascist</u>	a person who has far-right, authoritarian, ultranationalist political ideologies
<u>belligerent</u>	hostile and aggressive
<u>elite</u>	a select group that is superior in terms of ability or qualities to the rest of a group or society
<u>hierarchies</u>	Systems in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority
<u>systematic</u>	done or acting according to a fixed plan or system
<u>extermination</u>	killing, especially of a whole group of people or animals
<u>summary execution</u>	execution when a person is accused of a crime, and killed immediately, without a full and fair trial
<u>dictatorship</u>	autocratic form of government which is characterised by a leader, or a group of leaders, who hold governmental powers with few to no limitations
<u>exile</u>	the state of being barred from one's native country
<u>strategic</u>	relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests
<u>reforms</u>	changes, often to improve
<u>negotiated</u>	obtain or bring about by discussion
<u>transition</u>	the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another
<u>successor</u>	next in line for a position of power
<u>constitutional monarchy</u>	system of government in which a monarch shares power with a government

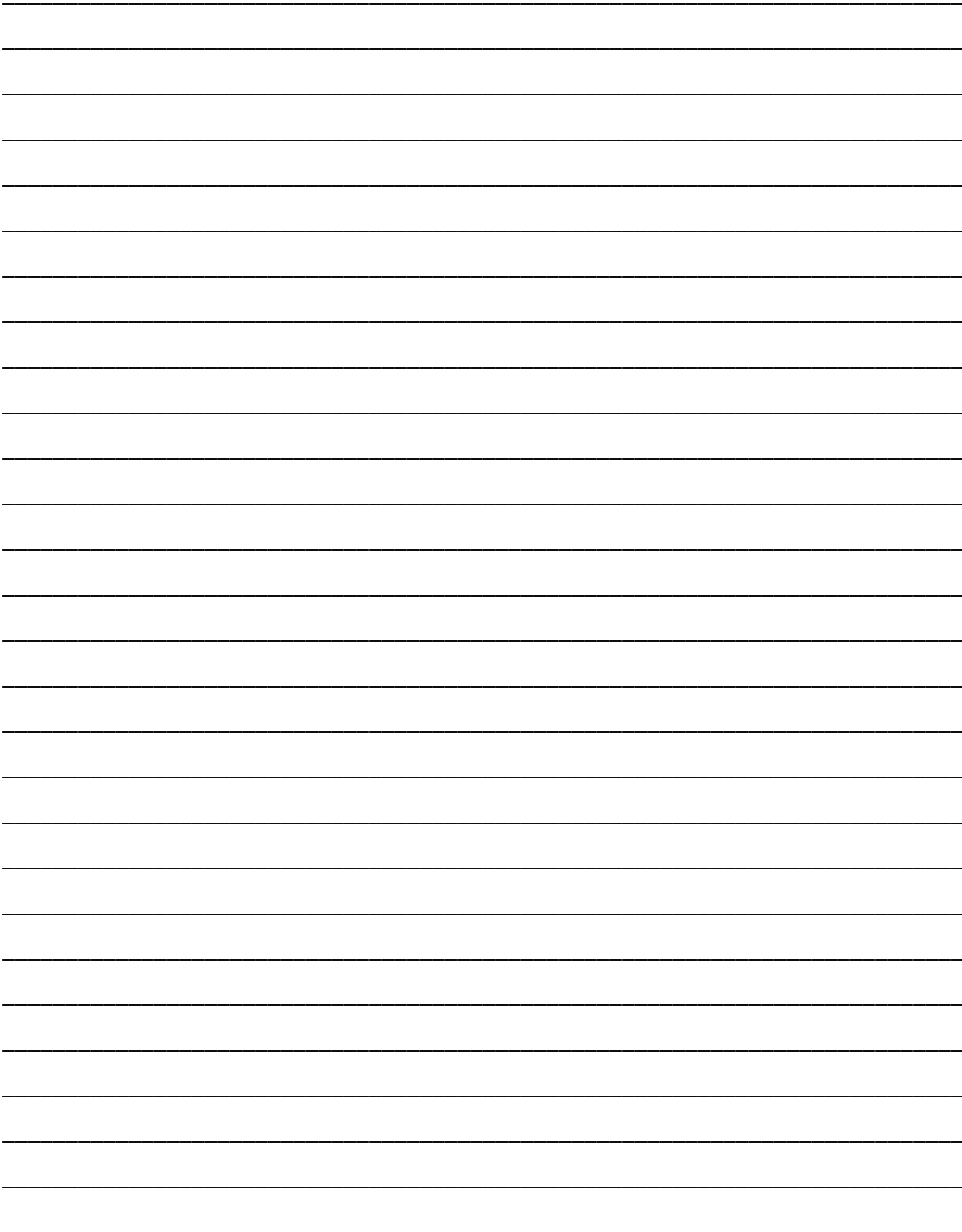
- Who led the coup- d'état against the democratic government?

- Who else supported General Franco and the Nationalists?

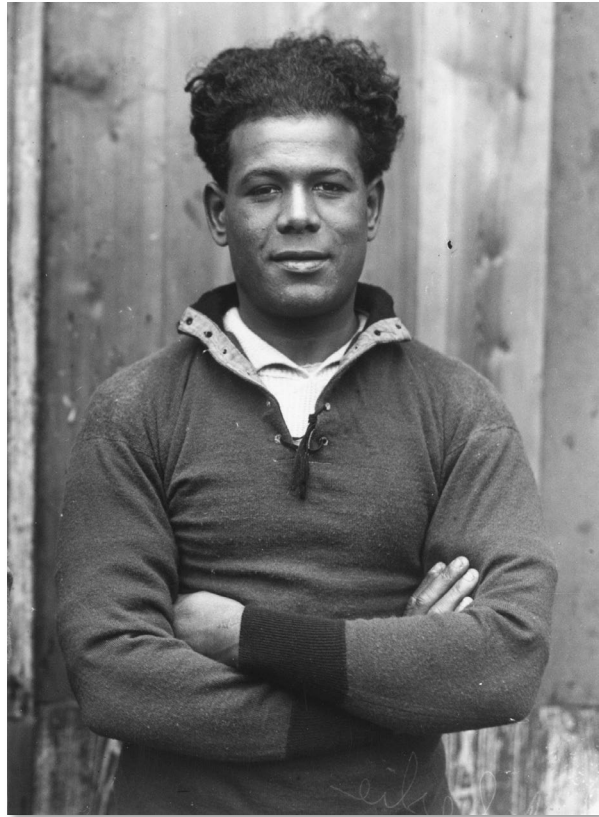
- Why did the Nationalists want to gain control of Spain?

- What happened when General Franco died in 1975?

[illegible]



Jack Leslie



Jack Leslie, a name often overlooked in the **annals** of football history, was a **pioneering** figure who broke down racial barriers in the sport. Despite his extraordinary talent and achievements, his legacy has been **overshadowed** by the **prejudice** he faced during his playing career.

Born in Canning Town, London, in 1901, Leslie was a **prodigious** footballer from a young age. His exceptional skills and natural ability led him to join Plymouth Argyle, where he quickly established himself as a key player. However, his career was marked by a significant obstacle: his race.

In 1925, while playing for Plymouth Argyle, Leslie was selected to represent England in a match against Ireland. This was an historic moment, as Leslie would have become the first black English footballer to play for the national team. Unfortunately, the Football Association (FA) **intervened**, blocking his selection due to his race.

The FA's decision was a stark reminder of the **pervasive** racism that existed in British society at the time. Leslie's exclusion from the England team was a bitter disappointment, but he continued to excel at the club level. His talent and determination were **undeniable**, and he remained a beloved figure among Plymouth Argyle fans.

Despite the setback, Leslie's **legacy** extends far beyond his playing career. He became a symbol of hope and inspiration for Black footballers who faced discrimination in the sport. His courage and resilience in the face of **adversity** paved the way for future generations of Black players who would break down barriers and achieve success.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of Jack Leslie's **significance** as a football pioneer. His story has been shared widely, and his contributions to the sport have been celebrated. Plymouth Argyle has honoured his memory by erecting a statue of him outside Home Park, and naming the thoroughfare around the stadium 'Jack Leslie Way.' The Football Association has also apologised for its **discriminatory** actions.

Jack Leslie's life serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of fighting against racism and promoting equality in all aspects of society. His legacy is a testament to his extraordinary talent and his **unwavering** commitment to the sport he loved. Although he may have been forgotten for many years, his name will now forever be associated with progress and the breaking down of barriers.

Word from text	Definition
<u>annals</u>	(from annual) a record of events year by year.
<u>pioneering</u>	involving new ideas or methods
<u>overshadowed</u>	tower above and cast a shadow over
<u>prejudice</u>	preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience
<u>prodigious</u>	remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree
<u>intervened</u>	take part in something so as to prevent or alter a result or course of events.
<u>pervasive</u>	spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people
<u>undeniable</u>	unable to be denied or disputed
<u>legacy</u>	the long-lasting impact of particular events
<u>adversity</u>	a difficult or unpleasant situation
<u>significance</u>	the quality of being worthy of attention; importance
<u>discriminatory</u>	making or showing an unjust or prejudicial distinction between different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, sex, age, or disability.
<u>unwavering</u>	continuing in a strong and steady way

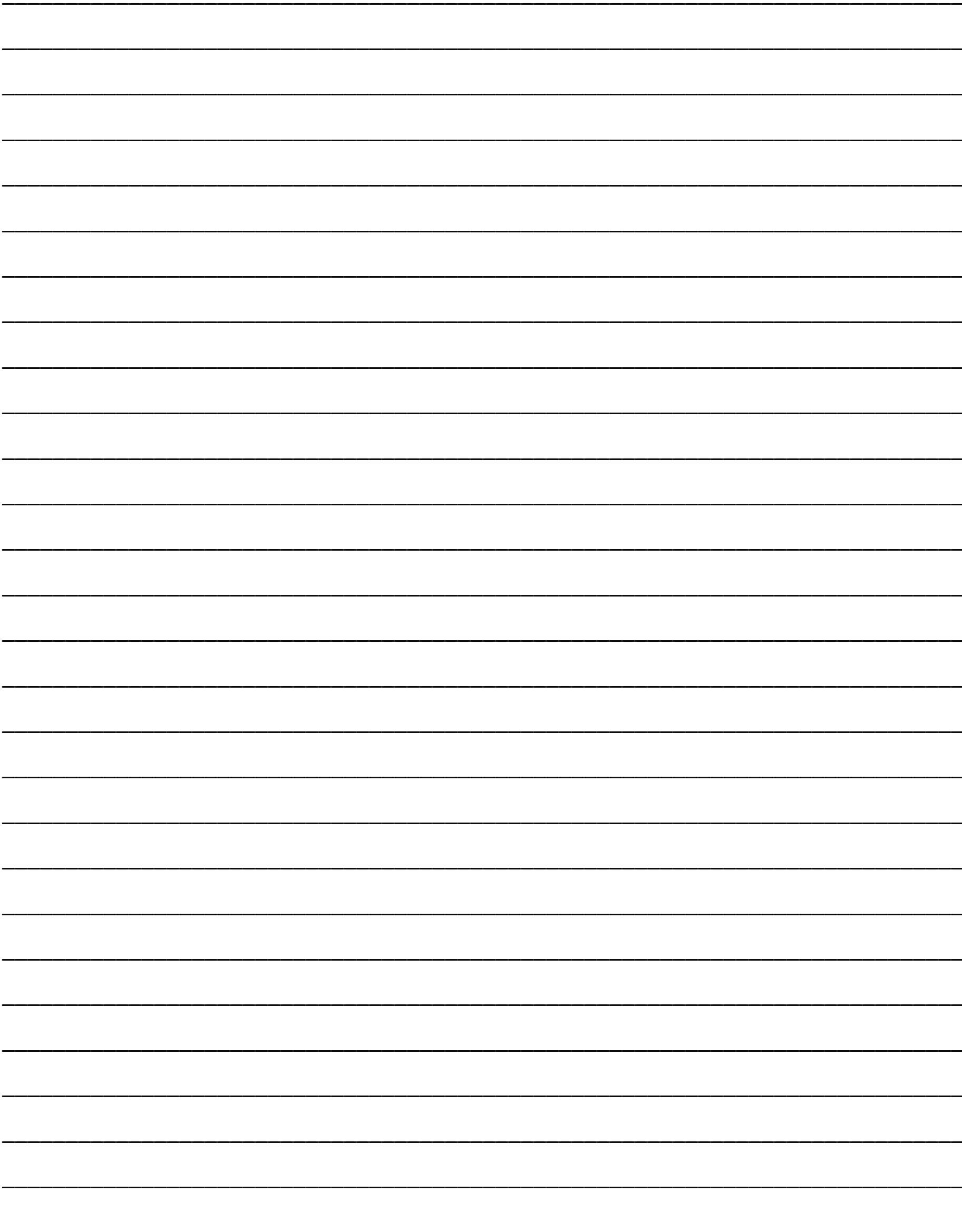
•When and where was Jack Leslie born?

•Against whom was Jack Leslie to play in his debut England match?

• Why did Jack Leslie never get to play for England, despite his talent?

•How have Plymouth Argyle honoured Jack Leslie? Give two examples.

[illegible]



The Starry Night



Vincent van Gogh, a Dutch **Post-Impressionist** painter, is **renowned** for his vibrant and expressive style. His iconic works, including "The Starry Night," have **captivated** audiences for generations.

Vincent van Gogh was born in 1853 in Zundert, the Netherlands. His early life was marked by a **turbulent** relationship with his parents and a failed career as an art dealer. It was during his time as a **missionary** in Belgium that Van Gogh began to develop a serious interest in art. He enrolled in art schools in Brussels and Antwerp, where he honed his skills and experimented with different styles.

Van Gogh's artistic career was characterised by a restless spirit and a constant search for inspiration. He moved frequently throughout his life, seeking new subjects and artistic challenges. He lived in Paris for a time, where he was influenced by the Impressionist movement and developed a more vibrant and colorful palette. However, his chaotic personality and **unconventional** approach to art often **alienated** him from the Parisian art world.

In 1888, Van Gogh moved to Arles in southern France, hoping to find a more peaceful and supportive environment. There, he painted some of his most famous works, including "The Starry Night." This iconic painting was created in June 1889 from Van Gogh's bedroom window at the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole **asylum**, where he had voluntarily committed himself due to his **deteriorating** mental health.

"The Starry Night" is a **masterpiece** of Post-Impressionism, characterised by its bold colours, swirling brushstrokes, and expressive use of form. The painting **depicts** a night sky filled with swirling stars and a crescent moon. A small village is nestled below, with a cypress tree standing tall in the foreground. The painting's vibrant colours and **dynamic** composition create a sense of movement and energy.

The creation of "The Starry Night" was a significant moment in Van Gogh's life. Despite his struggles with mental health, he was able to channel his emotions into his art, creating a work of extraordinary beauty and power. The painting's popularity has only grown over time, and it is now considered one of the most recognisable works of art in the world.

Van Gogh's life was **tragically** short. He died in 1890 at the age of 37, following a self-inflicted gunshot wound. However, his **legacy** lives on through his art. His paintings continue to inspire and **captivate** audiences around the world. "The Starry Night" is a testament to Van Gogh's genius and a reminder of the power of art to **transcend** time and space.

Word from text	Definition
<u>Post-Impressionist</u>	a term used to describe the reaction in the 1880s against Impressionism. It was led by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh and Georges Seurat
<u>captivated</u>	attract and hold the interest and attention of; charm
<u>turbulent</u>	characterised by conflict, disorder, or confusion; not stable or calm
<u>missionary</u>	a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country.
<u>unconventional</u>	not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed
<u>alienated</u>	experiencing or inducing feelings of isolation or estrangement.
<u>asylum</u>	(archaic) an institution for the care of people who are mentally ill
<u>deteriorating</u>	becoming progressively worse.
<u>masterpiece</u>	work of outstanding artistry, skill, or workmanship.
<u>depicts</u>	represent by a drawing, painting, or other art form
<u>dynamic</u>	characterized by constant change, activity, or progress. "a dynamic economy"
<u>tragically</u>	in a way that involves or causes extreme distress or sorrow
<u>legacy</u>	the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life
<u>captivate</u>	attract and hold the interest and attention of; charm
<u>transcend</u>	be, or go, beyond the range or limits of something

- Why was Van Gogh's early life difficult? Give two examples.

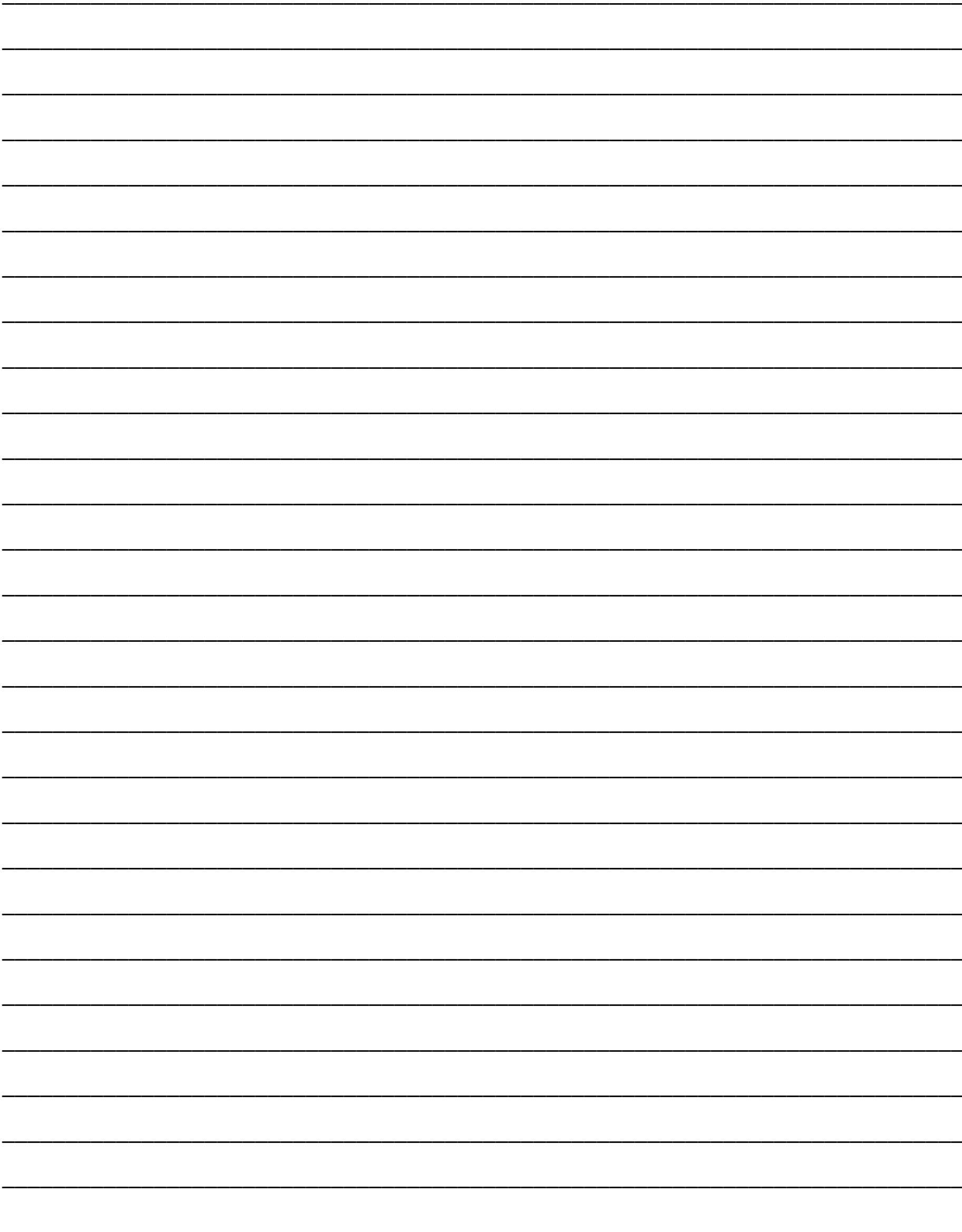
- Why did Van Gogh move to Arles in France?

- Where was Van Gogh when he painted *The Starry Night*?

- How did Van Gogh die?

Choose a piece of artwork, photograph or poster that has a particular meaning to you. Write a piece where you explain why you consider it to be important.

[illegible]



The Christmas Truce

On Christmas Eve 1914, in the **dank**, muddy trenches on the Western Front of the first world war, a remarkable thing happened.

It came to be called the Christmas Truce, and it remains one of the strangest moments of the Great War.

British machine gunner Bruce Bairnsfather, later a **prominent** cartoonist, wrote about it in his **memoirs**. "Here I was, in this horrible clay cavity," Bairnsfather wrote, "...miles and miles from home. Cold, wet through and covered with mud. There didn't "seem the slightest chance of leaving—except in an ambulance." At about 10 p.m., Bairnsfather noticed a noise. "I listened," he recalled. "Away across the field, among the dark shadows beyond, I could hear the murmur of voices." He turned to a fellow soldier in his trench and said, "Do you hear the **Boche** kicking up that racket over there?"

"Yes," came the reply. "They've been at it some time!"

The Germans were singing carols, as it was Christmas Eve. In the darkness, some of the British soldiers began to sing back. "Suddenly," Bairnsfather recalled, "we heard a confused shouting from the other side. We all stopped to listen. The shout came again." The voice was from an enemy soldier, speaking in English with a strong German accent. He was saying, "Come over here."

One of the British sergeants answered: "You come half-way. I come half-way."

What happened next would stun the world and make history. Enemy soldiers began to climb nervously out of their trenches, and to meet in the barbed-wire-filled "No Man's Land" that separated the armies. The soldiers traded songs, tobacco and wine, joining in a **spontaneous** holiday party in the cold night.

Bairnsfather could not believe his eyes. "Here they were—the actual, practical soldiers of the German army. There was not an atom of hate on either side."

And it wasn't confined to that one battlefield. Starting on Christmas Eve, small pockets of French, German, Belgian and British troops held **impromptu ceasefires** across the **Western Front**.

One British fighter named Ernie Williams later described in an interview his recollection of a makeshift football game: "The ball appeared from somewhere, I don't know where... They made up some goals and one fellow went in goal and then it was just a general kick-about. I should think there were about a couple of hundred taking part."

German Lieutenant Kurt Zehmisch of the 134 Saxons **Infantry**, a schoolteacher who spoke both English and German, also described a soccer game in his diary, which was discovered in an attic near Leipzig in 1999. "Eventually the English brought a soccer ball from their trenches, and pretty soon a lively game ensued," he wrote. "How marvelously wonderful, yet how strange it was. The English officers felt the same way about it. Thus Christmas, the celebration of love, managed to bring **mortal** enemies together as friends for a time."

At least one account has survived of a Christmas Truce gone bad: the story of Private Percy Huggins, a Briton who was relaxing in No Man's Land with the enemy when a **sniper** shot to the head killed him and set off more bloodshed. The sergeant who took Huggins' place, hoping to **avenge** his death, was then himself picked off and killed.

In another account, a German **scolded** his fellow soldiers during the Christmas Truce: "Such a thing should not happen in wartime. Have you no German sense of honour left?" That 25-year old soldier's name was Adolf Hitler.

Neither **high command** was pleased with the festivities. Some accounts of the Christmas Truce hold that soldiers were punished for **fraternisation**, and top command issued orders that it should never happen again.

For the rest of World War I—a conflict that would ultimately claim roughly 15 million lives—no Christmas Truces appear to have occurred. But in 1914, these curious holiday get-togethers reminded all those involved that wars were fought not by forces, but by human beings.

As for Britain's Bruce Bairnsfather, he summed up the distinct historic moment this way: "Looking back on it all, I wouldn't have missed that unique and weird Christmas Day for anything."

	Definition
<u>dank</u>	unpleasantly damp and cold
<u>truce</u>	an agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting or arguing for a certain time
<u>prominent</u>	important; famous
<u>memoirs</u>	a historical account or biography written from personal knowledge.
<u>Boche</u>	(derogatory, informal) German, especially a soldier
<u>spontaneous</u>	performed or occurring as a result of a sudden impulse or inclination
<u>impromptu</u>	unplanned
<u>ceasefires</u>	stoppages of a war in which each side agrees with the other to suspend aggressive actions
<u>Western Front</u>	one of the main theatres of war during the First World War, and included areas in Luxembourg, Belgium and France
<u>infantry</u>	a branch of an army made up of soldiers trained, armed, and equipped to fight on foot
<u>mortal</u>	of a living human being, subject to death.
<u>sniper</u>	a military or paramilitary marksman who engages targets from positions of concealment
<u>avenge</u>	inflict harm in return for something
<u>scolded</u>	Told off
<u>high command</u>	the highest leaders in an organisation
<u>fraternisation</u>	is the act of establishing relations between people or groups.

- Name three things that happened during the Truce of 1914.

- What was the civilian occupation of German Lieutenant Kurt Zehmisch?

- Who said “Such a thing should not happen in wartime. Have you no German sense of honour left?”

- What did the High Command think about the Christmas Truces, and what did they order to happen?

[illegible]

