

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 8

#88 The Yuan Dynasty (1271AD – 1368AD)

Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, speaking, listening and writing skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Do you know the answers to the following questions about the Yuan Dynasty?

Qt 1: Why did the Yuan Dynasty bring an increase in foreign trade to China?

Qt 2: According to the article, what could be one important reason for the short life of the Yuan Dynasty?

Try to find the answers from the main article mentioned below.

Vocabulary

1. sinicized (adjective): become Chinese in behaviour or style.
2. steadfastly (adverb): in a very firm manner.
3. literati (noun): well-educated people with good knowledge of literature.
4. erudition (noun): showing a lot of learning.
5. stark (adjective): obvious and clear.
6. inscriptions (noun): words cut in stone.
7. underglaze (noun): the colouring below a shiny surface.
8. vernacular (noun): a local dialect.
9. genre (noun): the literary style.

The answer to relevant question in the preceding set of exercises No. 87: The Sung Dynasty (960AD – 1279AD) is as follows:

Qt2: The two reasons mentioned in the article of Encyclopaedia Britannica were foreign invasion from the north and deterioration of the quality of the bureaucracy over time.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read the following article on the Encyclopaedia Britannica web-site about the Yuan Dynasty. Check whether you really know everything it says about the dynasty.

A brief history of the Yuan Dynasty

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Yuan-dynasty>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

To learn more about the Yuan Dynasty, listen to the following short descriptions on You Tube:

History of the Mongol Empire explained in 5 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fdVhGeOsfQ>

Subutai and the Mongol invasion of Europe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BbbLDwi5LA>

The Heirs of Genghis Khan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4CWB7FsV6w>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the following well-expressed sentence in the article?

“Those painters sought in their art a return to what they viewed as more ideal times.”

The expression “seek a return to” means to aim at achieving a good quality existent in the past. For example, you can say:

“After the devastation at the earthquake, the Government is carrying out massive reconstruction work in the city to seek a return to the city’s past prosperity.”

Now, can you write a sentence with your own story using this expression and send it to see.u@cityu.edu.hk? Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.