

Long before the Romans arrived, North Africa was home to a powerful civilization: the Numidian kingdom. It reached its peak in the second century BC under King Massinissa, who united the eastern and western Numidian tribes and made Cirta, today's Constantine, his capital.

Massinissa encouraged farming on a large scale. Thanks to his policy, Numidia, which had been a land of nomadic shepherds, became one of the main producers of wheat in the Mediterranean world. The king also developed trade with Greek and Carthaginian cities, and Numidian coins carrying his portrait have been found far from Africa.

The Numidians left impressive monuments. The Medracen, near Batna, is a royal tomb built in a circular shape more than two thousand years ago. Its architecture shows that the Numidians had borrowed ideas from their neighbours while keeping their own style. Today, historians agree that this ancient civilization is an important part of Algeria's identity, and they call for better protection of its sites.

(Text written by the site)

Part One: Reading (15 points)

A. Comprehension : (8 points)

1. **The text is:** a) a biography b) a historical article c) a tourist brochure.
2. **True or false?** a) Massinissa ruled before the arrival of the Romans. b) Numidia never produced wheat. c) The Medracen is a royal tomb.
3. **Answer:** a) What did Massinissa do to make Numidia rich? b) What do historians ask for today?
4. **Who or what do the underlined words refer to?** "his" (§1, line 3) → ... ; "they" (§3, last line) → ...

B. Text exploration : (7 points)

- 1. Find in the text words closest in meaning to:** highest point = ... ; joined = ...
- 2. Find in the text words opposite in meaning to:** weak ≠ ... ; modern ≠ ...
- 3. Join the two sentences with the connector given:** The tribes lived separately. Then Massinissa united them. (before)
- 4. Combine using a relative pronoun:** Massinissa was a great king. He made Cirta his capital.
- 5. Complete the table:**

Verb	Noun	Adjective
to produce	...	...
to protect	...	...

Part Two: Written expression (5 points)

Written expression

Your school magazine is preparing an issue about Algeria's heritage. Write an article of about 120 words in which you present an ancient site in Algeria (Timgad, Djemila, Tipasa, the Casbah, the Medracen...) and explain why we must protect it. Use: was built, had been, should, heritage, visitors.

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