

The First English Exam

Hagia Sophia is one of the most famous landmarks in Turkey. It was originally built as a cathedral in the sixth century by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. Its construction began in 532 and was completed in 537. It is one of the greatest surviving examples of Byzantine architecture.

Hagia Sophia has a classic basilican architectural plan, which is typically rectangular. Its dimensions are huge for any church built at that time. It is about 82 meters long, 73 meters wide and 55 meters high. It has two floors with a giant dome in the centre, along with smaller domes, above. Only the best materials were used for building Hagia Sophia, including marble walls and flooring, and gold wall and ceiling decoration.

Hagia Sophia or “Church of Divine Wisdom” was converted into a mosque under Sultan Mohammed the Conqueror after he took control of Constantinople in 1453 and served as the principle mosque of Istanbul for five hundred of years. During the Turkish period, Hagia Sophia attained Islamic features, such as the mihrab, and the four minarets outside. It became a model for many of the Ottoman mosques of Istanbul such as the Blue Mosque, the Suleiman Mosque, the Shehzade Mosque and the Rustem Pasha Mosque.

In 1935, under Turkish president Kamel Atatürk, Aya Sofia was turned into a museum. This landmark was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985. In 2020, it was converted to serve as a mosque again in a highly controversial decision. Every year millions of visitors come to admire the beauty of Hagia Sophia.

Adapted from www.uaeuiaie.wordpress.com

Section One : Reading & Interpreting

A/ Reading Comprehension Read the text carefully then do the following activities (7pts)

Activity One: I read the text then answer these questions (2pts)

- a. Did Hagia Sophia serve as a mosque at the beginning?
- b. Was it added to the list of World Heritage Sites?

Activity Two: I read the text again and complete the fact file below (3pts)

FACT FILE	
Landmark : Hagia Sophia	Height :
Location :	Length : 82 meters
Date of construction : 537	Width :
Founder : Emperor Justinian	Material : Roman brick, marble

Activity Three:

1- I find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following (1pt)

- a) *very big* = § 2.....
- b) *several* = § 3.....

2- I find in the text words that are opposites in meaning to the following (1pt)

a) *finished* ≠ § 1.....

b) *bigger* ≠ § 2.....

B/ Mastery of the Language

(7pts)

Activity One: I reorder the words then write the correct sentence : (2pts)

it / by a fire / was rebuilt / in 1992 / Windsor Castle / was destroyed / because / .

Activity Two: I rewrite the sentences in the passive voice (3pts)

a) The Pharaohs built the Pyramids between 2589 BC and 2504 BC.

• The Pyramids

b) Bashir Yelles and Meriam Konieczny designed the Martyr's Memorial.

• The Martyr's Memorial

c) Millions of tourists visit the Great Wall of China every year.

• The Great Wall

Activity Three: I find in the text **two (2) words** for each sound (2pts)

<i>/ ei / name</i>	<i>/ ai / nine</i>
1-	1-
2-	2-

Section Two : Situation of Integration

(6pts)

Topic: You went to Constantine last holiday and you visited the Mosque of Emir Abdelkader.

You were fascinated about its beauty.

Write a paragraph to describe this wonderful structure. Use the information in the *fact file* and the following *notes*:

- ❖ Capacity (15000 worshiper) – named after the Algerian leader – second largest mosque in Algeria

Fact File

Landmark : *Emir Abdelkader Mosque*

Location : *Constantine, Algeria*

Designer : *Mustapha Musa (Egyptian architect)*

Length : *160 meters*

Width: *80 meters*

Date of construction: *1969-1994*

Best of luck