

Read the text about how Las Vegas has developed over the years, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-6. Put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.

History of Las Vegas

The first Las Vegas Strip hotel, the El Rancho, opened in 1941. It became famous for its "all-you-can-eat" buffet and a Las Vegas tradition was born. Five years later, "Bugsy" Siegel and his mob affiliates opened the Flamingo Resort on the Strip. It was the first Las Vegas resort to combine a luxury hotel name, entertainment, and gambling, and was to become the prototype for the lavish Las Vegas casino-resort in the 1950s.

Vegas in the 1950s

The Flamingo was followed by the Sahara, the Sands, the Tropicana, the Showboat, the Riviera, and several other casino resorts. By 1954, over 8 million people were visiting Las Vegas each year, drawn by the lavish resort and name entertainers as much as by the gambling. Top performers, such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, and Dean Martin played in intimate cabaret-style theaters.

The 1950s was also the era of nuclear arms testing in Nevada. Between 1951 and 1963, the Atomic Energy Commission detonated over 100 explosions. Despite the dangers (largely ignored and underplayed at the time), many casinos promoted the tests as tourist attractions and even built "sky rooms" from which to view the mushroom clouds.

The 50s also saw the city of Las Vegas develop from a casino town to a functioning city. McCarran Airport was built in 1948; The University of Las Vegas was established in 1957; and the Las Vegas Convention Center opened in 1959. By 1960, Las Vegas had a permanent population of over 64,000.

Howard Hughes and the 1960s

Many of the early Las Vegas casinos, such as "Bugsy" Siegel's Flamingo Hotel, had ties to, and received financing from, organized crime syndicates from the Midwest and East Coast. In the 1960s, this began to change. Corporations, led by the example of Howard Hughes' acquisition of the Desert Inn, started seeing Las Vegas casinos as legitimate business ventures. By the end of the decade, organized crime was all but out of the gaming business.

Steve Wynn, the 80s, and 90s

The opening of Steve Wynn's 3300-room Mirage Resort on the Strip in 1989 ushered in a new era of Las Vegas resorts. Gone and going were the simple gambling halls in favor of huge theme resorts, complete with resident attractions, headliners, and elegant restaurants as well as casinos. Funding for these mega-resorts was unique also. The Mirage was the first resort to be constructed with a junk bond offering. The free volcano attraction in front of the hotel as well as the resident Siegfried and Roy show became the model for Las Vegas resorts in the 1990s.

The city of Las Vegas boomed also. By 1995, the city's population had skyrocketed to over 350,000 residents, spurred by an incredible 9 percent annual increase in jobs.

Downtown Las Vegas also experienced a renaissance in the 1990s. Fremont Street transformed itself in 1995 into a pedestrian mall, enclosed by a 90-foot high domed screen onto which an elaborate sound and light show is projected every hour after dark. The area also boasts street performers, interesting shopping, and frequent free concerts.

To make more room for the new generation of Las Vegas resorts, developers began imploding, or blowing up, the old 1950s-style hotels and erecting new resort palaces in their ashes. Such was the fate of the Dunes, the present site of the Bellagio Hotel & Casino; the Sands, the present site of the Venetian Resort; and the original Aladdin Hotel in favor of the new Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

Las Vegas Today

Las Vegas today offers something for visitors of all ages. In addition to the lavish casinos, the city boasts theme parks, some of the nation's best restaurants, elaborate pool complexes, and one-of-a-kind shopping arcades. Over 34.7 million travelers visited Las Vegas in 2005.

0 **The Flamingo Resort**

- A was the most luxurious casino in the 1940s.
- B focused mainly on light entertainment.
- C offered all-inclusive package holidays.
- D was the first of its kind.

1 **In the 1950s show business celebrities**

- A performed to small audiences.
- B visited Las Vegas in huge numbers.
- C concentrated on comedy mainly.
- D always stayed in luxury hotels.

2 **The testing of nuclear weapons in the 1950s**

- A was viewed by huge numbers of tourists.
- B furthered the development of atomic war technology.
- C triggered the public's interest in atomic energy.
- D was advertised in order to draw visitors to Las Vegas.

3 **In the 1960s, Las Vegas casinos**

- A became the centre of large-scale money transactions.
- B had to close down due to criminal activities.
- C were eventually regarded as lawful enterprises.
- D had to cope with the pressures of competing businesses.

4 **Steve Wynn's Mirage Resort**

- A quickly became the most popular casino on the Strip.
- B set new standards for future Las Vegas resorts.
- C offered fine dining for hotel guests only.
- D was the first hotel to put on spectacular nightly entertainment.

5 **In the 1990s the city centre of Las Vegas**

- A was upgraded with a few high-tech cinemas.
- B attracted the entertainment industry.
- C became much more lively.
- D offered hourly outdoor laser shows throughout the day.

6 **A number of modern luxury hotels were built**

- A along the most attractive stretches of the Strip.
- B in an environmentally friendly way.
- C to appeal mainly to the younger visitors.
- D on the sites of the old hotels.

History of Las Vegas

0	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>

Von der
Lehrperson
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richtig falsch

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