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Academic ESL: World History, Guns, Germs and Steel Assignment

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OER ESL 86: UNIT 1- READING, WRITING AND LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

Jared Diamond - Interview: Tracing theory, evidence and research goals.

BEFORE YOU READ:

Watch the summary of “Guns, Germs and Steel”, Part I

- Take notes as you listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM1IUXBepIE>

Language Skills

- 1) Important vocabulary and phrases:

deterministic, to be superior to, to discover that, to hope for, to be conscious about, to contribute to, to be suitable for, to be available, to be at a disadvantage or advantage

(See Grammar section for further information and exercises.)

- 2) Study the vocabulary and parts of speech in the chart.

Noun	Adjective	Adverb
history	historical	historically
	special	especially
	virtual	virtually
substance	substantial	substantially
economy	economical	economically
science/scientist	scientific	scientifically

- 3) Read and scan the text for any information related to **main research question, theory, evidence, or goal (achievement)**. Where is the theory

mentioned? Which evidence is Diamond mentioning? What is he trying to achieve with his research? Take notes!

- a. What is Jared Diamond's main research question?
- b. Fill in the chart with quotes that contain text information related to theory, evidence, and research goal/ outcome.

Theory						
Evidence						
Outcome or research goals						

4) Summary

Summarize Jared Diamond's "main idea" about human development in your own words. Use a short quote if necessary. Conclude with describing the expected outcome and a short discussion: Does his theory seem to be a good approach to his main question?

5) Reflective Journal

"Another thing that I've learnt on this journey is to put faces, human faces on abstract features of history. We talk about history, we talk about development, we talk about competition between societies and the wealth of nations – here in Africa there are human faces on it. When we go into a malaria ward, and see a child in a coma from malaria, and when we see people who are really poor, that

puts a human face on these problems. When we talk about history it can sound intellectual, but history is really the fates of individual people like me, and all like the Africans that we have seen on this journey.”

- a) What do you think Jared Diamond means by putting faces on “abstract features of history”?
- b) Can you think of an example you read about in the history of your country, or the world, where you didn’t fully understand what happened until you had a “human face” to connect to the historical event? Write down your thoughts and don’t forget to “tell the story” of what happened.