Historical Developments of LEISURE / EVENTS / TOURISM .

Historical Developments

- Is Leisure and NEW CONCEPT?

Historical Developments

- Common Misconception - - - Leisure is not a NEW CONCEPT!
- Leisure is an ancient idea.
- Associated with Wealth and Privilege since early times.

Historical Developments

- It is believed that the first types of Leisure took the form of celebratory events - such as; key occasions of birth, death.....
- However Godbey (1978) asserts that *"there was no deliberate leisure" (nothing structured or planned).*

Historical Developments

- Cutten (1929)
- *"It was from these days or hours of primitive leisure, when crude but very real beginnings were made, that the arts, the sciences, the games and all the products of civilisation date"*

Historical Developments

- Can you provide any examples of such early types of leisure?

Historical Development

- Greeks:
- During Greek times, ‘Leisure thinking’ was largely influenced by the scriptures of Plato and Aristotle (Philosophers).
- 500BC – Saw the ‘true birth’ of the Leisure Ethic.

Historical Development

- Leisure Ethic – Intelligent use of free time.
- A privilege however **not** pursued by all!!

- Greek Leisure was greatly biased towards the elite of society

Historical Developments

- During Greek times, leisure had links with wealth, privilege and education.
- IE: Rich of Society!!
- Plato wrote about Leisure being the antithesis of work. Work being linked to the “toils of manual labour” – leisure was instead about “Freedom” , “Choice” and “Education”

Historical Developments

- Plato asserted the importance of ‘leisure indulgence’ to become more learned - - - ‘capable citizens’ would become more educated through select leisure choices (Music, Sport, Drama…..)

- Evidence of Greek Links between Leisure and Education = Paideia (Def: Education and Play), Schole (Def: Scholar and Leisure)

Historical Developments

- Greeks were the first to consider the Work / Leisure Dichotomy

- Leisure - positive activities in society (Freedom for)
- Work - negative activities in society (No choice)

- Leisure leads to aesthetic, spiritual or intellectual enlightenment.....(privileged in Society)

- Workers (poor in society) were considered incapable of leisure.....
  (Aristotle)

Historical Developments

- Greek Leisure Ideal
- Widespread usage of slaves to provide Leisure forms – Gladiatorial Offerings!?!
- Olympic Games – Elite Athletes

Historical Developments

- Early forms of leisure provision – which influenced today's provision EG:

- Olympic Games, Stadia, Gymnasia, Amphitheatres, Festivals, Events……

- NB: Greek Leisure was founded on Slave Labour and Elitism ☹

Historical Development

- Romans:
- Further development of the Leisure concept circa 27BC.
- As like the Greeks, the Romans placed great emphasis on leisure – but for a different purpose!!!!
- FITNESS FOR WORK + WAR.

Historical Developments.

- Sports indulged in to maintain levels of fitness and strength.
- Recurring theme - - - leisure was elitist!!
- Slaves were used to provide leisure – (serving / exhibitions of violence).
- Developed leisure for the masses over a period.

Historical Developments.

- Manipulation of Leisure - - - to control the population / masses - - *"Leisure was utilitarian not Aesthetic"* Torkildsen (2001, P68)
- Baths, Arena and Amphitheatres provided 'leisure' entertainment (largely explicit - violent / graphic nature).
- EG: The Colosseum – 'The Circus Maximus'
- 'Bread and Circuses' Strategy - - - Entertainment to control the masses.
- Violent scenes of gladiatorial battles – *contests played out to the death.*

Historical Developments

- ‘Leisure’ eventually led to the DOWNFALL of the Roman Empire - -

- Financial collapse of the empire – from extravagant event / entertainment provisions.

- Masses became unruly due to over-exposure to violent exhibitions.

Historical Developments:

- Dark Ages - Middle Ages: 400 – 1000AD
- Religious Influences on Leisure
- Decline of the Roman Empire and move towards spiritualism – Christianity.
- Greater emphasis placed on **WORK** <u>instead</u> of 'sinful' Leisure.

Historical Development:

- Work was deemed important - - - work hard to ensure a place in the 'afterlife'. Purpose of life was to prepare for the next life.

- Work became virtuous. The church made hard attempts to dispel the previously accepted debased activities of the Romans.

- Leisure 'Frowned Upon' - - only religious observance was considered acceptable.

Historical Development:

- End of Middle Ages = Reduction in the Church's Power. Leisure became influenced by the rich of society (Noblemen / Political Leaders / Gentry).

- Hunting, Hawking, Music, Dance, Competitive Sports, Markets (trading) – Fairs (festivals / travelling entertainers) ……

Historical Developments

- Renaissance and Reformation :
- 14th / 15th Century
- Renaissance Period – whereby Leisure became less elitist. A decline in the church led to developments in free-will 'music, dance' - - previously considered sinful.
- Liberalism – led to enlightenment and extravagance.

Historical Developments:

- Industrial Revolution:
- 18th - 19th Century.
- Advancements in technology / machinery influenced leisure.
- Rural to Urban Migration – (Employment in towns / cities)

Historical Development:

- Life was difficult - - Overcrowded towns / cities.....
  Poor working and living conditions

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- Improved by the <u>Reform Movement.</u>

- **Creation of : Leisure forms = RECREATION - public baths / parks / entertainment.....**

- **Creation of : Public holidays / Improved Pay / Legal Working Conditions.**