

**Exercise 1:** Look at the image below and try to answer the questions

Who is this? .....



Where was he born? .....

How old is he? .....

What is / was his job ? .....

Which building is he standing in? .....

How long did he work there? .....

How does he know Monika Grütters? .....

*To find answers; complete Exercise 2&5*

## Exercise 2 Reading

Neil MacGregor

16 June 1946

Neil MacGregor, is a British art historian and former director of the British Museum from 2002 to 2015. He was born in Glasgow and at the age of nine, he first saw Salvador Dalí's *Christ of Saint John of the Cross* which had a **profound** effect on him and sparked his lifelong interest in art.

MacGregor was educated at Glasgow Academy.

The period that followed was spent studying philosophy at the *École Normale Supérieure* in Paris (*coinciding with the events of May 1968*), and as a law student at Edinburgh University



MacGregor was made director of the British Museum in August 2002, at a time when that institution was £5 million in debt. He has been lauded for his "diplomatic" approach to the post, though MacGregor rejects this description, stating that "diplomat is conventionally taken to mean the promotion of the interests of a particular state and that is not what we are about at all"

On 8 April 2015, MacGregor announced his resignation as Director of the British Museum. In a statement issued by the British Museum, MacGregor reported that in retirement he will be chairing an Advisory Board to make recommendations to the German Minister of Culture, Monika Grütters, on how the Berlin Palace–Humboldtforum Foundation, drawing on the Berlin collections, can become a place where world cultures can be explored and debated © Wikipedia

### Exercise 3 : Match these key words from the text with their meaning.

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. profound          | a. having or showing skill in dealing with people in difficult situations                          |
| 2. to spark          | b. a large important organisation that has a particular purpose, for example, a university or bank |
| 3. an institution    | c. to officially tell somebody that you are leaving your job, an organisation, etc.                |
| 4. debt              | d. to start an interest in or curiosity for something  |
| 5. to laud           | e. an official suggestion about the best thing to do   |
| 6. diplomatic (2)    | f. the situation of owing money, especially when you cannot pay                                    |
| 7. a post (4)        | g. a job, especially an important one in a large organisation                                      |
| 8. conventionally    | h. very great; felt or experienced very strongly   |
| 9. to resign         | i. having the role of giving professional advice   |
| 10. advisory         | j. (formal)to praise somebody / something  |
| 11. a recommendation | k. the accepted and traditional way of doing or understanding something; usual or normal           |

### Exercise 4 : Find and highlight keywords in the text (see example: **profound**)

## Exercise 5:

## Listening

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9d8CjyvcREI> 26 minutes

Click on the link and \* listen for answers to the questions.

\* If necessary, switch on the closed captions (CC)

1. What does "Wir sind ein Volk" mean in English? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the map showing Great Britain and Germany highlight? (1:33 min)\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was King of Great Britain in 1714? \_\_\_\_\_
4. According to Neil Mc Gregor how does power in Germany differ from power in Britain? \_\_
5. What object is used in the exhibition to symbolise the Holy Roman Empire? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What year was that object made ? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In which century were all Jews expelled from Britain? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What handwritten text is contained on the inside cover of Luther's Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What two sides of the German personality are displayed in Dürer's engravings? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How old was Goethe in the painting on display? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who created the bronze figure, Der Schwebende? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Which cathedral was it made for? \_\_\_\_\_

The video was produced in 2014 for an exhibition in the British Museum called 'Germany: Memories of a Nation' The objects are now on display at the

*Martin-Gropius-Bau Museum in Berlin*

**October 8, to January 9, 2017.**

If you would like to hear Neil Mc Gregor speak German, click here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSX3KW-9A\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSX3KW-9A_Y)

## Exercise 6:

## Talking

**2: Write down three questions on any aspect\* of the material to ask your partner in class**

(\*Germany, Public Museums, Education, History, Power, Religion, Understanding, Diversity, Art, etc.)

1 \_\_\_\_\_?

2 \_\_\_\_\_?

3 \_\_\_\_\_?