

- c** Now read the text. Can you find the answer to your question from **4b**?

The Maltese Islands are situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, 100 km from Sicily and 290 km from North Africa. They are only 314 sq. km and the population is about 350,000.

The climate is warm and healthy with mild winters and dry, hot summers. There are very few days when the sun does not shine; frost, snow, ice and fog are unknown. The month of January can be wet and windy, but never very cold. Malta's sunshine and the clear blue seas make it the ideal holiday island for thousands of tourists who go there every year.

Malta has a very rich history dating back to 4000 BC. You can find a magnificent collection of prehistoric temples built over several centuries from 2400 to 1800 BC. The Knights of St John stayed in Malta for 268 years and built many palaces. Grand Master De la Valette built Valletta, the capital, in 1565. Valletta has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The Maltese speak at least two languages – Maltese, a Semitic language, and English. Malta was a British colony for 164 years. The island became independent in 1964 and a republic in 1974. Most people speak Italian as well as some French. Some schools have started to teach German.

The Maltese are very friendly. Malta is the ideal destination to spend a holiday. It offers many attractive and interesting places for tourists. You can visit many museums, palaces, churches, temples, old cities and romantic fishing villages. There are many theatres, restaurants, pubs and shopping centres. The sea is warm and clear and the beaches are attractive.



## 5 Working with words

- a** There are five paragraphs in the text in **4c**. Think of a key word that sums up each paragraph. For each word write one sentence. The first one has been done for you.

Key Word	Sentence
1. <u>Situation</u>	<u>Malta is in the Mediterranean Sea.</u>
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

**Learning Tip – Reading**  
 You do not have to know the meaning of all the words in a text to understand it. The key words will help you understand the message.