Pieces of History **Answers**

Which manuscript is the oldest?

Convert the manuscript dates into modern decimal numbers (also known as Hindu-Arabic numerals):

Roman Numerals	I	V	X	L	C	D	M
Modern Numerals	1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

Manuscript A: MCCXXI = 1000 + 200 + 20 + 1 = 1221

Manuscript B: MCLXIV[a] = 1000 + 100 + 50 + 10 + 4 = 1164

Manuscript C: MDXXII = 1000 + 500 + 20 + 2 = 1522

Therefore, manuscript B, which was written in the year 1164, is the oldest.

[a] because the 'I' comes before the 'V' the number represented is 'I' before 'V' or 1 before 5, which is 4.

What is the combined age of the manuscripts?

First, calculate the age of each of the manuscripts by subtracting the year they were written from the current year:

Manuscript A: 2020 – 1221 = 799 years old

Manuscript B: 2020 – 1164 = 856 years old

Manuscript C: 2020 – 1522 = 498 years old

Now calculate the combined age:

799 + 856 + 498 = 2153 years old