IELTS Writing Task 2: 'family history' topic

In some parts of the world it is becoming popular to research the history of one's own family. Why might people want to do this? Is it a positive or negative development?

Note:

I would call this a "2-part question". The task is **NOT** to write an essay about the positives and negatives of researching family history. The task is to explain why people do it, and then give your opinion as to whether it is a positive **OR** negative thing to do.

Tip:

Why not do some research on the Internet around the topic of "family history"? Try to find some good words and phrases that English speakers use when writing about this topic e.g. family tree, ancestors, genealogy, tracing family history, a person's roots etc.

Essay Plan - 10 minutes

Paragraph 1: Just write 2 sentences
- introduce the topic
- give an overall answer to both questions

Paragraph 2: Why might people want to research family history?
- various different reasons
- to know more about themselves and their roots, where they come from, whether their
  ancestors had similar personality traits
- because the Internet makes it easier to do this research, we hear about others who have
  done it, there are even advertisements to encourage us
- out of curiosity e.g. we might secretly hope that we have a famous or wealthy ancestor

Paragraph 3: Is it positive or negative?
- positive in my view
- a fascinating hobby, a nice way to spend free time, a good talking point with family and
  friends e.g. if we discover a particularly interesting ancestor
- a good way to teach children about history, how earlier generations lived
- we may even find "long-lost" family members, distant relatives that we might have the
  chance to meet

Paragraph 4:
- conclude by repeating (paraphrasing) the overall answer to both questions