



Preparing for GCSE History

“A people without the knowledge of their past History, is like a tree without its roots.”
Marcus Garvey

Welcome to your GCSE history taster document. In GCSE History you will study four units, on which you will be tested at the end of year 11. The exam board is AQA and the units are:

- **America: opportunity and inequality 1920 – 1973**
This topic takes an in-depth look at the social, cultural and economic changes taking place in America following key events such as the Depression and the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Conflict and Tension: the interwar years 1919 – 1939**
This topic examines the political landscape between WW1 and WW2, looking at the role of the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations in the lead up to another worldwide conflict.
- **Britain, Health and the People: c.1000 – present day**
This topic assesses the development of medicine over time, looking at changes to public health, surgery and the treatment of disease from the Medieval period, right up to modern day COVID-19.
- **Elizabethan England: 1568 – 1603.**
This topic studies a small part of the reign of Elizabeth I, when she faced particular turmoil in international relations as well as what life was like for the Tudor people.

Below are some suggestions to give you a taste of the course. They are mixtures of books (fiction and non-fiction), documentaries, films and podcasts.



Film and documentaries

One great way to get a sense of the different topics is through watching films and documentaries. Below is a list of suggestions for each topic. Remember there are lots more out there that you can find.

America: Opportunity and Inequality 1920 -1973.

- Gatsby (2013) - Life in the roaring 20s:
- The Untold story of Emmet Luis Till (Youtube)
- Selma (2018) – the story of Martin Luther King’s influence and Civil Rights Marches in the southern states of America

Conflict and Tension: Interwar 1919 – 1939:

- Hitler the Rise of Evil (Amazon prime and Youtube) - A dramatization of the Rise to power of Adolf Hitler.



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- World War II in Colour (Netflix)

Britain, Health and the People: c.1000 - present day

- The Physician (2013) - a movie about medicine in different parts of the world during The Middle Ages
- Scream a History of Anaesthetics (Youtube)

Elizabethan England: 1568 – 1603.

- Elizabeth (2007) & Elizabeth the Golden Age (1998).
- Timeline - Elizabeth's pirates (Youtube)



Books

Books are a great way to engage with history. Reading historical novels or the works of historians will give you a great sense of the period.

America: opportunity and Inequality 1920 -1973.

- Of Mice and Men (Steinbeck 1937) - Life in the Great Depression
- Child of the Civil Rights Movement (2009) - a view of someone who grew up during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Conflict and Tension: Interwar 1919 – 1939:

- The Winter of the World (Ken Follet 2012) - The story of a family living through the inter war years
- The Origins of the Second World War in Europe (Bell 2013).

Britain, Health and the People: c.1000 - present day

- Blood and Guts (Porter 2002)- a look at medicine and surgery through time
- World Without End (2007) - a novel set in the Black Death of the Middle Ages.

Elizabethan England: 1568 – 1603.

- A Time Traveller's guide to Elizabethan England (Mortimer 2012)
- The Complete works of Shakespeare – Plays written and performed during and after Elizabeth's reign.



Podcasts

If you enjoy listening to podcasts there are a lot out there that will help you prepare for your GCSE topics. Below are some examples of the Podcasts you might like to listen to:



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- GCSE Pod – Through school you have access to GCSEPod where there are a number of podcasts related to your topics. There is also a Podcast dedicated to preparing you for your History GCSE - <https://www.gcsepod.com>
- “You’re Dead To Me” – BBC podcast with episodes covering many different aspects of history, with the added bonus of a comedian!
- History HIT – Dan Snow’s podcast series that takes a deep dive into many important events in History
- The Rest is History – available on Spotify. Two Historians try to detangle significant events in the past.



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