



HISTORY

Exam board: Edexcel

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Are you thinking about studying History at A Level? The activities in this 4 week preparation for Bede will give you a taste of what might be in store for you as a student of this subject.

History is a highly academic course that will give you the key skills that are needed for further study and work in which ever area that you choose. This course aims to get you thinking about some of the skills that you will be using as well as the topics that we will be looking at.

Week 1 Task: What is History?

You should spend around 3 hours on this task.

History is more than the study of what has happened in the past; in our history course we look at how past events have been interpreted. It is really interesting to see how different historians can look at the same event but come to different conclusions. One of the key skills of a historian is being able to evaluate these interpretations using evidence. This helps us to develop our critical thinking skills and can lead to some pretty lively debates. The week 1 task will help you to develop the key skills of research, analysis and evaluation.

Below are four contentious issues throughout history. Pick the one that you are most interested in and research it. Find out what the different interpretations are and what evidence is used. You should then come to a judgement on what you think.

- Why were the Nazi Party able to maintain power?
- Why did World War One happen?
- Was there a crisis of government in the last years of Elizabeth I's reign?
- Why was the Slave Trade abolished?

Use the template below to help you structure

Debate	Key facts about this topic	Interpretation 1	Interpretation 2	Interpretation 3	My viewpoint



Week 2 Task: British History

You should spend around 3 hours on this task.

In first year we look at the theme of 'Democracies in Change'. For our first unit we study Britain from 1918 – 1997. We are looking at how Britain has changed across this time period and the reasons for this. We will be looking at:

- A Changing Political Environment including industrial relations, politics and economics
- The History of the Welfare State including education and healthcare
- Society in Transition including race and immigration and women's rights
- Changing Quality of Life including living standards, holidays and sports
- The Impact of Thatcher's Governments

Your task is to pick two of these topics, research them and create a timeline of key events in that area from 1918 – 97. You should pick the one topic that you're most interested in looking at and the topic that you know least about.

You can use the internet to help you research.

Week 3 Task: American History

You should spend around 3 hours on this task.

For our second unit we continue to look at democracies in change but move on to our depth study of America c.1920 – 55. We will start by looking at the 'Roaring 20s'. This is a well-studied period of time and the name often brings to mind images of flapper girls, Gatsby style parties and never-ending prosperity. However, the 1920s in America also brought a period of great social change which often caused tensions. Some of the most prominent tensions were:

- The rise of the KKK
- Prohibition and Gangsters
- Women's Rights
- Immigration controls
- The Red Scare
- Unfair distribution of wealth/farmers

For this task you need to research each of above tensions and create a mind-map or notes detailing the key points for each one. You can use the internet to help you but this video from CrashCourseHistory is a good starting point:

<https://youtu.be/VfOR1XCMf7A>

Once you have done this you should answer the following question:

'What was the most significant social tension in 1920s America?'

I am looking for a clear answer with well-explained support for the judgement. You should look at each of the tensions and explain why they are/are not the most significant.



Week 4 Task: The Witch Craze

You should spend around 2 hours on this task.

In our final year we look at the Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America. One of the most famous witch trials in history is the Salem Witch Trials. In this task you're going to find out a little bit more about who was who in these trials.

You can use the internet to help you research but the website and documentary below are a good starting point:

<https://www.salem.org/salem-witch-trials/>

<https://youtu.be/5ddKfab3exg>

Name	Role played
Samuel Parris	
Tituba	
Ann Putnam	
Abigail Williams	
Governor Phips	
Increase Mather	
Sarah Osborne	
Reverend George Burroughs	
Rebecca Nurse	
Mary Walcott	





Reading list

Below are some ideas of resources that you may want to use to widen your knowledge of the topics that we study. It is suggested that you spend more time researching Unit 1 as this is where we will be starting the course.

Unit 1 - Britain

Andrew Marr, The Making of Modern Britain

Andrew Marr, The History of Modern Britain

Downton Abbey and The Crown are useful for looking at social changes in British history

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/public-health-history>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/working-lives-in-the-mining-industry>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/womens-rights>

Thatcher documentary - <https://youtu.be/ISBrTkAruZc>

NHS documentary - <https://youtu.be/-ywP8wjfOx4>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

Unit 2 - America

Crash Course US History Playlist. Video 31 is a good starting point: <https://youtu.be/y59wErqg4Xg>

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/ugly-history-japanese-american-internment-camps-densho>

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-historic-women-s-suffrage-march-on-washington-michelle-mehrtens>

Unit 3 - Witch Craze

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/ugly-history-witch-hunts-brian-a-pavlac>