

History A Level Summer Tasks

History isn't a subject that is stuck in the past, far from it. Historical events are what have shaped society into what it is today. Do you have a passion for knowledge, and an eagerness to explore different cultures and historical perspectives to see how these have shaped the world today? Then History is the A Level choice for you! History is a traditionally academic subject which is desired by many employers and higher education institutions. A Level study will allow you to develop the analysis and interpretation skills which you began to explore at GCSE level, and expand your understanding of the history of some of the greatest powers in History.

How will you be assessed?

A Level Paper one: Breadth study with interpretations on **The Tudors: England, 1485–1603**

How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?

In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?

How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?

How did English society and economy change and with what effects?

How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?

How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Assessment: 2 hour 30 minutes written exam (40% of A-level) Questions: Three essay questions with two assessing understanding of the period in breadth, and one which assesses the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations.

Paper two: Depth Study with sources on **Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945 -**

This option provides for the study in depth of a period of German history during which a newly developed democratic form of government gave way to a dictatorial Nazi regime. It explores political concepts such as 'right' and 'left', nationalism and liberalism as well as ideological concepts such as racialism, anti-Semitism and Social Darwinism. It also encourages reflection on how governments work and the problems of democratic states as well as consideration of what creates and sustains a dictatorship.

Assessment: 2 hours and 30 minutes written exam (40% of A-level) Questions: You will answer three questions, one assessing source analysis and evaluation skills and two which assesses the period in depth.

NEA (Coursework): You will complete one question which will assess your ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations and sources and organising and communicating ideas. This will be focused on either Changes to British Democracy 1800-1930/ American Civil Rights 1865-1970s/ Russia 1825-1953

Task 1: The Tudor Dynasty – The "Claim vs. Reality" Profile (1C)

In 1485, Henry VII became King of England after defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. However, taking the crown and keeping it are two very different things.

Your Instructions: Research the beginning of Henry VII's reign and produce a one-page fact file answering the following:

1. **The Weakness:** Find out why Henry's actual biological claim to the English throne was considered incredibly weak. (Hint: Look into his mother, Margaret Beaufort, and the John of Gaunt lineage).
2. **The Genius Move:** Henry VII officially dated the start of his reign to **21st August 1485**. The Battle of Bosworth happened on the **22nd August 1485**.
 - *Why did he deliberately date his reign to the day BEFORE the battle? What did this legally mean for anyone who fought against him at Bosworth?*
3. **The Consolidation:** List three things Henry did in his first few months as King to ensure the public and the nobles accepted him (Hint: Look at his coronation and his marriage).

Task 2: Weimar Germany – The "Born in Chaos" Mapping (2O)

In November 1918, Germany's autocratic monarchy collapsed, and a brand-new, ultra-democratic republic was born. It did not have an easy start.

Your Instructions: Create a detailed timeline or mind map outlining the **Four Core Shocks** that hit the German Republic between October 1918 and June 1919. For each event, explain **what happened** and **why it made the new government look weak or untrustworthy**:

1. **The Abdication of the Kaiser (November 1918):** Why did the Emperor leave, and who was left in charge of the country?
2. **The Spartacist Uprising (January 1919):** Who were they, what did they want, and how did the new government stop them? (Hint: Look up the *Freikorps*).
3. **The Weimar Constitution (Early 1919):** Look up **Proportional Representation** and **Article 48**. Define them, and identify one potential danger of each system.
4. **The Treaty of Versailles (June 1919):** Why did the German people feel "stabbed in the back" (*Dolchstoßlegende*) by their own new politicians for signing this?

YouTube contains clips and many useful documentaries on the Tudors and Germany. Some of which are listed below. You can find these and also take notes whilst watching them (this will also help improve your note taking skills). If you search the different monarchs and the different topics on Germany, you'll see there's plenty more:

The Tudors:

Henry VII – the Winter King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5FsriGn300>

Documentary Henry VIII The Most Iconic King of English History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR0ARGxRTAQ>

Germany: Adolf Hitler's rise to power | History - Andrew Marr's History of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br-QxsOJ-Jg>

The Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rCWjwSSOii>

This will help give you some contextual understanding for the course when we begin in September.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSh2y-jBXJA&t=274s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCRh5pRsiPM&list=PLucsO-7vMQ00twBJvRZKs1KNUKUVCl06C&index=26>