



10 Things to Do to Prepare for...

GCSE History

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Activities

1. Exam Board

Find out what exam board you are going to study at GCSE and which 4 units you are going to study. Write out the titles, the topics and the time period.

2. Timeline

For each of the units, create a timeline of the key events that are in that topic. Include changes to the law [such as acts, bills, and important and relevant court cases], changes to governments, foreign and domestic polices and other relevant changes and events.

3. Key Figures

For each of your timelines, add important individuals [such as monarchs, political leaders, notable reformers, scientists and other key figures].

4. Fact-File

For some of those individuals, create a biographical fact-file. Find an image of them [such as a cartoon, photograph, film or painting] and then find an additional image from another medium or source [such as a painting of Elizabeth I begun/completed after her death]. Do the images differ? Why do you think this is the case?

5. Key Terms

In GCSE History there are some key terms that are important to understand no matter what units and exam board you are going to study. Create a glossary of the following terms:

- ideology
- communism
- capitalism
- federalism
- nationalism
- socialism
- feudalism
- divine right of kings/ queens
- constitutional monarchy





- proportional representation
- republic
- government
- parliament (Reichstag, Politburo, Congress of the United States [Senate/ House of Representatives])

6. Words in Context

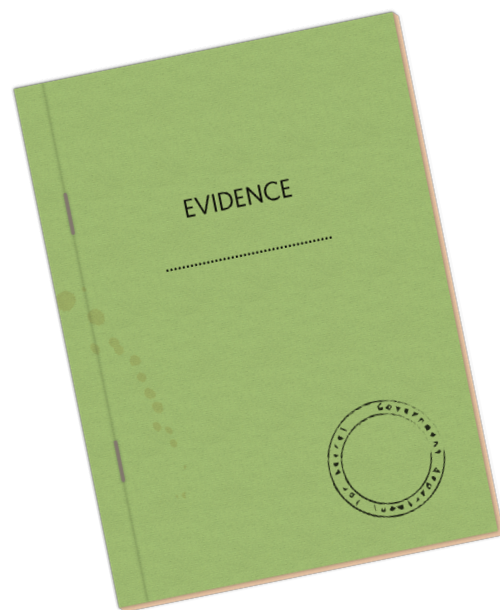
Use as many of the words in activity 5 as you can in a developed sentence. Try to include a detailed example for each one.

7. Evidence

What different pieces of evidence can historians use to find out more about the past? Create a detailed list.

8. Examples

Find 3 examples for each “type” of evidence on your list. Make sure they are linked to the topics you are studying. For example, if you chose diary, two examples could be the diary of Anne Frank and diary excerpts from President Harry Truman on 25th July 1945.



9. Environment

Each GCSE History paper has a question based on an historic environment [place]. Find out where that is [for example, for Edexcel Medicine it is “The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches”]. Create a mini project on that place. Find out as much as you can about it. Include images, information and reflect upon the context of the place and how it is important/ significant.

10. Geography

Research the geography of the countries and areas in the world you are about to study (e.g. China, Germany, Europe, America, Russia, England in the 1500s). Draw your own map of that area. Make sure it is from the correct time period. Add as much detail as you can.