

History A Level – Democracy and Dictatorships

Preparation work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

Pre-reading and research will help you to become more familiar with the topics you are going to study on your A Level History course. If you complete the tasks below they will also help you to become more confident when you start your course. Remember it is also a good idea to make sure you recap and consolidate your GCSE History knowledge as well.

Specification :

Over the two years of studying History; Democracy and Dictatorship, you will cover:

Unit 1 – England 1445-1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII

Unit 2 – Germany 1919-1963

Unit 3 – Russia and its Rulers, 1855-1964

Coursework – a 3,000-4,000 word essay on one of the following subject areas: The Crusades, The Tudors, Background to Civil Rights in the USA or The Cold War.

Further information on the specification can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf>

Task 1:

Case Studies:

Produce a 1 side (A4) summary of at least two of the following topics that you will be studying as part of your course:

Henry VI as King <https://www.historyextra.com/period/plantagenet/henry-vi-nice-guy-terrible-king>

The Berlin Airlift, 1949 <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/berlin-airlift>

The murder of Rasputin <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-38469903>

The break with Rome under Henry VIII <https://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/royal-history/why-did-henry-viii-break-with-rome>

Task 2:

Websites for Further Research and Reading:

<https://www.historyextra.com/tag/wars-of-the-roses>

<https://alphahistory.com/weimarrepublic>

<https://www.historyextra.com/tag/russian-revolution>

Books to Read:

- **The White Queen** by Philippa Gregory
- **Lancaster & York: the Wars of the Roses** by Alison Weir
- **The Winter King (Henry VII)** by Thomas Penn
- **The shortest History of Germany** by James Hawes
- **A Woman in Berlin** (an anonymous personal account of a woman living in Berlin at the end of WW2)
- **Stasiland (on the East German secret police)** by Anna Funder
- **Russian History: a very short Introduction** by George Hosking

Podcasts:

In our Time (Youtube or BBC iPlayer) on the **Wars of the Roses, Margaret of Anjou, Hitler in History, Dietrich Bonhoeffer** (an anti-Nazi clergyman), **the Emancipation of the Serfs** (in Russia), the **Assassination of Alexander II** (of Russia) & **Lenin**
<https://www.historyextra.com/tag/wars-of-the-roses> includes podcasts on **Henry VI & the House of York**

<https://www.historyextra.com/tag/russian-revolution> includes podcasts on **the murder of the Romanovs, Lenin and the Russian Revolutions & the death of Stalin**

Task 3:

Films to Watch:

- **England's Early Queens Part 2 32m** in (Youtube) on Margaret of Anjou
- **Finding the missing skeleton of King Richard III** (Youtube)
- **Henry VII. The Winter King HD** (Youtube)
- There are several short videos on Weimar & Nazi Germany on Youtube in the **Between 2 Wars** series
- **Hitler's Circle of Evil** (Netflix)
- **Auschwitz: the Nazis and the Final Solution** (Netflix)
- **Cold War The Wall** (Youtube)
- **Crash Course video on the Russian Revolution and Civil War** (Youtube)
- **The last Czars** (Netflix)
- **The Russian Revolution BBC Full Documentary** (Youtube)
- **Epic History TV History of Russia** (Youtube)
- **The Death of Stalin** (Netflix)

Progression Opportunities

Why choose History A Level – Democracy and Dictatorships:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/history/seven-reasons-to-study-history>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/history>

We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.



