



GET READY TO STUDY A LEVEL HISTORY

If you are planning to study A Level History with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

FAQ

What specification will I study?

You will be studying the Pearson Edexcel A Level History specification.

Use the weblink or QR code to read about the specification and you can also view past papers to see what the assessment looks like.

[Edexcel AS and A level History 2015 | Pearson qualifications](#)

How many lessons will I have a week?

You'll have 4 lessons a week, each lesson is 1 hours and 5 minutes

Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?

Sherridan Cocker: s.cocker@barnsley.ac.uk

Simon Olsen: s.olsen@barnsley.ac.uk

What subjects go well with History?

English Literature, English Language, Politics, Law, Geography, Religion & Philosophy

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What grades should I have?

In addition to the general sixth form entry requirements, learners must have grade 5 or above in GCSE History **and** English Language.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will cover 3 periods, sitting one exam in each:

Britain: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement, 1625-1701

Russia in Revolution: 1894-1924

Germany: United, Divided, and Reunited, 1871-1990

In addition, you will complete an independent research project (coursework) of 3000-4000 words in Year 13.

WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study the course you will need the following equipment:

- A folder with dividers
- Lined paper
- Pens and pencils
- Highlighters
- A ruler
- Course Textbook

Students also find it useful to have:

- Blank flashcards

All students need to buy an exam board course textbook and these can be purchased from an online retailer such as Amazon or bookshops such as Waterstones. Financial support is available for those who qualify.

The textbook can be found via this link:

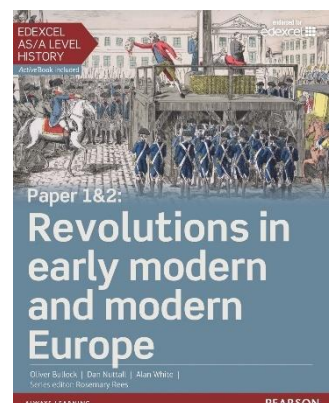
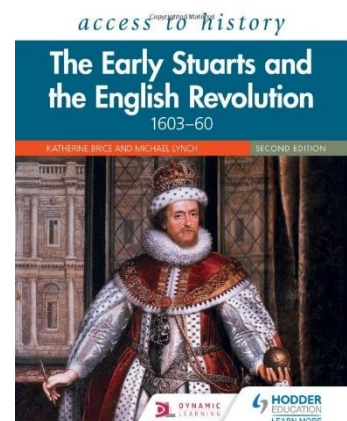
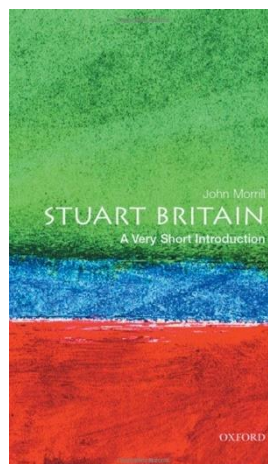
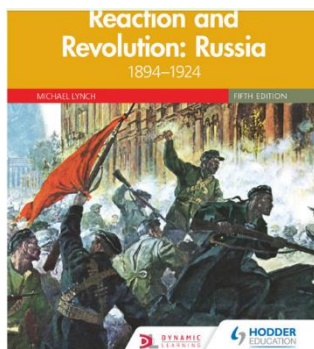
[Course Textbook](#)

Students may also find the following additional books useful:

[Lynch & Brice: Stuart Britain](#)

[Morrill: Intro to Stuart Britain](#)

[Lynch: Russia in Revolution](#)



FIND OUT MORE

These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

Careers	Careers in History
YouTube	The English Civil Wars
Further Reading / Useful websites	Mark Kishlansky, A Monarchy Transformed Christopher Hill, A Century of Revolution Orlando Figes, A People's Tragedy Sean McMeekin, The Russian Revolution

INDUCTION TASK

THIS WORK IS DUE FOR:

**Your First Lesson. Please
ensure you bring it with
you!!**

**If there are any questions about this
work, you can email either Sherridan or
Simon (email addresses at the top of
the doc)**

Enrolment Work

Use this booklet to complete your enrolment work. You should complete it in the following order:

- 1. Answer the questions below on The English Reformation, using the information from the reading pack. Write your answers in full, on a separate piece of lined A4 paper** (this is available online, if you do not have a paper copy)
- 2. Answer the questions on King James I and his foreign policy, using the information from the reading pack. Write your answers in full, on a separate piece of lined A4 paper** (this is available online, if you do not have a paper copy)
- 3. Read the additional information on James I from the reading pack. Summarise it in half a side of A4** (this is available online, if you do not have a paper copy)
- 4. Write an essay examining the impact of the Reformation on the early Stuarts** (the essay question is included below, and there is a help sheet below too).

The English Reformation

1. Apart from Henry VIII's desire for a divorce, what were his other motivations for breaking with the Catholic Church?
2. By breaking with Rome (the seat of the Catholic Church), and establishing the Protestant Church of England, who was Henry forced to give positions of power to?
3. Henry VIII's children, Edward and then Mary, both had contrasting ideas about religion. What were their religious views, and who did each rely on to promote their reforms?
4. How did this impact Elizabeth's attempts to establish a religious settlement? What does this show regarding parliament's importance and attitudes?
5. What impact did Mary's treatment of Protestants have on Protestant views of Catholics? Did her actions help or hinder the Protestant cause?
6. Why did Protestant ideas develop in different ways? What impact did this have on the Reformation across Europe?
7. Why did returning Protestants wish to reform the Church of England after Mary's death?
8. What form did the Elizabethan religious settlement take? Who was still left dissatisfied by it?

9. What was the result of the Northern Rebellion of 1568-69 and what impact did it have on English Protestant views of Catholics?
10. Who were the Puritans? How did they attempt to reform the Church?
11. Why did Elizabeth seek to protect the power and status of bishops, and refuse the Puritan calls for reform?
12. How did the Reformation affect the three kingdoms?
13. What arguments could be made to suggest that James inherited a stable system of government in 1603?
14. What arguments could be made to suggest that James did not inherit a stable system of government in 1603?

James' Foreign Policy

1. What attempts had James I made to remain neutral in the European dispute between Catholics and Protestants before the outbreak of the Thirty Years War?
2. How did James intervene to try and prevent the outbreak of war between the Elector Palatine and the Holy Roman Empire?
3. What was James' initial strategy towards the war? What was parliament's response & who did they target?
4. What kind of strategy did Parliament which to adopt in the war? Why?
5. How did James respond to parliament's discussions of wartime strategy?
6. What were the repercussions of the 1621 parliament for the Crown?
7. What were the repercussions of the 1621 parliament for parliament?
8. How did the actions of Buckingham and Charles contribute to the outbreak of war with Spain?
9. How did Charles and Buckingham's actions ensure that Charles inherited an angry parliament when he became King in 1625?

Essay Question & Help

Essay Question: *How accurate is it to say that the problems faced by the early Stuart monarchs were primarily down to the impact of the English Reformation?*

This question asks you to assess the extent to which the Reformation was the main cause of the monarchy's difficulties, or whether other issues were more to blame.

You will therefore need to examine not just the Reformation, but other factors too. These may include:

- The Reformation
- The Crown's foreign policy
- The changing nature of parliament

Each of these factors will need to be discussed in its own paragraph, that assesses its importance to the question.

How to structure your essay:

Introduction

- Give a brief intro to the question, that offers a judgement (answer the question!)
- Identify the factors you will discuss (eg, the Reformation, foreign policy, and parliament)

Main body of essay – This is where you will discuss your factors

- The Reformation
 - How did it affect the Crown's power?
 - What was its impact on society?
 - Did it create problems for the monarch? How serious were these problems?
- The Crown's foreign policy
 - What foreign policy difficulties did the Crown face?
 - How serious were they?
 - Were problems in foreign policy linked to the Reformation?
- The changing nature of parliament
 - How had parliament changed over the decades before James' reign?
 - What did parliament want, and how did it try and achieve its aims?
 - Did parliament make life easier or more difficult for the monarch?

Conclusion

- Give your overall judgement on the question – what was the most important factor and why?
- Use JEON – see below!

Make sure you read the list Essay writing guidelines!

How to structure a paragraph: At GCSE, you have written paragraphs in a format similar to PEEL (Point, Evidence, Explain, Link) or PEAL (Point, Evidence, Analysis, Link). However, at A Level, you need to write in much more depth and focus on **analysis**. Each paragraph should be built around a particular argument, and have at least **3 pieces of evidence or examples** that support your argument, and include lots of analysis. Therefore, you're a level paragraphs should look more like **PEAEAEAL**. It is best to analyse each piece of evidence or example one at a time, rather than giving all 3 examples/evidence at once and *then* analysing them.

Point

- Introduce the *argument* you will make in that paragraph – (eg, 'The increasing demands of parliament was a significant problem for the monarchy, but not as severe as the impact of the Reformation...')

Evidence

- Give some evidence or an example to back up your argument.

Analysis

- This is the most important part of a paragraph and is what wins you the most marks!
- Analyse the significance of the point and evidence you have used to demonstrate your argument.
- Analysis means you need to link your evidence to the focus of the question (eg, the problems of the monarchy) and explain why it is important.

Link

- Each paragraph should end with a clear link back to the question, that summarises the overall significance of the factor you have discussed in that paragraph – a bit like a mini-conclusion.

An A level Paragraph:

Point

Evidence/Example

Analysis

Evidence/Example

Analysis

Evidence/Example

Analysis

Link

Conclusions:

If you struggle writing a conclusion, use the **JEON** format:

Judgement – what is your answer to the question?

Evidence – strongest supporting evidence?

On the other hand – what other factors contributed?

Nevertheless – final judgement

Here is an example paragraph from the Russian history unit:

Clearly, repression played a key role in the ability of Tsarism to ensure its own survival and continue Nicholas' autocratic government. Without the support of the armed forces, Nicholas would have been vulnerable to the incidents of rebellion and social unrest across his vast empire, however the loyalty of the Russian army ensured that the state could deploy troops at will to crush any fledgling discontent before it developed into a serious revolt, as shown by the fact that in 1902, the army was used to suppress over 365 strikes. The ability to use armed soldiers against his own people, despite its brutality, was one of the fundamental reasons as to why Nicholas was able to ensure control over the empire before 1905. Despite the fact that it did not endear him to his people, violent repression meant that the state secured its own survival, and that of Tsarism. In addition, Nicholas' use of the Okhrana ensured that any opposition that did evade his heavy-handed repression had nowhere to flee. The Okhrana's reach across Europe helped protect Tsarism's authority, even after opponents fled. As a result, opposition was not only illegal, but would be pursued across state borders if needed, meaning Nicholas was never faced with any serious threats to his power. However, this also meant that underlying resentment and bitterness towards the state continued to fester amongst the empire, as the demands of the peasantry and workers were left unresolved, compounded by the continued use of brutal repression. Ultimately, repression was essential in securing Tsarism's survival, and it ensured that the state upheld its control and authority, alongside other methods.

Essay writing guidelines:

- Writing in the first person (no 'I believe...' State your judgement in a convincing way, 'Clearly, the Reformation was the most significant cause of problems for...').
- No contractions (use 'do not', instead of 'don't').
- You must write in the past tense ('Puritans were determined to...', not 'Puritans are determined to...').
- Ensure spelling, punctuation, and grammar is correct.
- Handwrite your essay – a good essay should be somewhere between 3-4 sides of A4.