

## How to revise History

### Step 1: Know your exams:

Question Types	Paper 1 – Trenches & Medicine			Paper 2 – Superpower relations & Elizabeth			Paper 3 - Germany		
	1 hour 15 minutes			1 hour 45 minutes			1 hour 20 minutes		
			Time			Time			Time
	Trenches	Describe two features of ... [4 Marks]	5mins	Cold War	Explain two consequences of ... [8 Marks]	10mins	Give two things you can infer from Source A about ... [4 Marks]	5mins	
How useful are Sources A and B for.... [8 Marks]		15mins	Write a narrative account analysing ... [8 Marks]		15mins	Explain why ... [12 Marks]		15mins	
How could you follow up Source A to find out .... [4 Marks]		5mins	Explain two of the following ... [16 Marks]		25mins	How useful are Sources B and C for ... [8 Marks]		15mins	
Medicine	Explain one way ... [4 Marks]	5mins	Elizabeth	Describe two features of ... [4 Marks]	5mins	What is the main difference between these Interpretations? [4 Marks]	10mins		
	Explain why ... [12 Marks]	15mins		Explain why ... [12 Marks]	20mins		Explain one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about ... [4 Marks]	5mins	
	“Statement” How far do you agree? [16 Marks + 4 SPaG]	30mins		“Statement” How far do you agree? [16 Marks]	30mins		How far do you agree with the Interpretation about ... [16 Marks + 4 SPaG]	30mins	
<b>Key points to remember:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use CNOPCAT to analyse the sources in question 2.</li> <li>➤ You will be asked to compare different time periods in the Medicine questions.</li> <li>➤ Read the questions carefully ... you get a choice for the final question.</li> </ul>			<b>Key points to remember:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Cold War section appears first.</li> <li>➤ In Section B there are 2 options (Henry VIII or Elizabeth) – You answer the Elizabeth questions!</li> <li>➤ There are no sources in this exam.</li> </ul>			<b>Key points to remember:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This exam is based around Sources and Interpretations.</li> <li>➤ Use CNOPCAT to analyse sources in question 3.</li> <li>➤ The final 3 questions are all about the same Interpretations – read them carefully.</li> </ul>			

### Step 2: Know the key terms used in your exams:

<b>Source</b>	Something from the period of time being studied, e.g. a photograph, diary entry, official record, etc...	
<b>Interpretation</b>	The opinion of an historian writing about the topic. Usually written many years after the event.	
<b>Useful</b>	How good is a source for finding out information about something? We use the CNOPCAT test:	
	<b>Content</b>	What does it tell you about the topic?
	<b>Nature</b>	What type of source is it? E.g. diary, photograph .... (why does / doesn't it make it useful?)
	<b>Origin</b>	Where did the source come from? E.g. who wrote / drew it? ... (why does / doesn't it make it useful?)
	<b>Purpose</b>	Why was the source made? (why does / doesn't it make it useful?)
	<b>Comprehensive</b>	Has the source left anything out about the topic that you know? If so, what?
	<b>Accurate</b>	Does the source fit with what you know about the topic? If not, what is inaccurate?
<b>Typical</b>	Is the source in any way unusual?	
<b>Features</b>	Specific things about something. E.g. specific gases and their effects on the Western Front.	
<b>Explain why</b>	Aim for 3 different reasons why an event happened. You will be given hints in the exam.	
<b>How far do you agree?</b>	This is asking for a formal essay response. Introduction, evidence in agreement, evidence in disagreement and a conclusion needed.	
<b>Consequence</b>	A result of something.	
<b>Infer</b>	What you can learn from something without specifically being told. E.g. a car boot full of junk suggests a person is messy.	

### Step 3: Complete the tasks suggested in this section based on what you are finding difficult:

Problem 1: I don't know anything!	
<b>SOLUTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop panicking – you can't possibly not know anything!</li> <li>• The exams are not a test of your knowledge of everything – the examiners want to see how you use some of the information you have.</li> <li>• Complete a topic knowledge audit (collect from Mr Marriott) and be honest with yourself.</li> <li>• Target the areas where you honestly have no clue.</li> </ul>
	Tried and tested strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Read over the relevant section in a revision guide / textbook and make yourself notes as you go.</li> <li>➤ Try to make the notes in a bullet-point list, spider-diagram or flash cards.</li> <li>➤ Focus on key points – Who someone is (e.g. Harvey) – What did he do? – What impact did his work have?</li> <li>➤ If you are looking at an event – try to find out 3 reasons why it happened – what actually happened during the event you are looking at? – What were the consequences of the event?</li> <li>➤ Get someone to help you if they know the topic you are looking at really well.</li> </ul>

Problem 2: I struggle with dates and knowing what happened when.	
SOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make yourself brief timelines of the topics listing the key events and when they happened.</li> <li>• Revision guides and textbooks are full of useful timelines to get you started with this.</li> <li>• Try making a blank timeline – can you remember what happened when without looking at any notes? Check to see if you were right.</li> <li>• A3 paper is excellent for timelines – stick these around your room at home and study them every night before you go to sleep!</li> <li>• Knowing a timeline of events is really important for Medicine – remember it divides neatly into (Middle Ages, Renaissance, Early Modern &amp; Modern) – nothing much happens until you reach the Early Modern period.</li> <li>• Most people find Germany really easy once they remember what happened when.</li> </ul>

Problem 3: I run out of time in exams	
SOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the timing guidance in Step 1 to remind yourself of how long to spend on each type of question.</li> <li>• Collect an example exam question and have a go at writing and answer sticking strictly to the time you are allowed.</li> <li>• You will need to keep practicing at this until you have mastered it unfortunately.</li> <li>• Remember, you will be faster when you are not using notes to help you write an answer.</li> <li>• In the exam – make a quick plan first – this will help you remember what you need to write about.</li> </ul>

Problem 4: I struggle with a particular type of exam question.													
SOLUTION	Find the type of question you struggle with and follow the advice below:												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4 Mark Explain one way / key features /</td> <td>Find a really specific topic, e.g. Germ Theory – have a go at bullet pointing 2 absolutely crucial things about that topic. Keep practicing this with as many different topics that you can think of / find difficult.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Mark How Useful are Sources ...</td> <td>Find a source from a textbook. Try the CNOPCAT test on it. Compare what you have done with a friend, or get feedback from your teacher.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Following up Sources / Making inferences</td> <td>Find a source from a textbook. Plan answers to infer / follow up questions based on the source you have in front of you.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interpretation questions</td> <td>Find an interpretation from a textbook. Try to explain in your own words what the historian is saying about a topic. Then – think about whether you agree / disagree with them based on what you know.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Mark Explain why questions</td> <td>Find a topic, e.g. Why support for the Nazis grew after 1929. See if you can think of 3 different reasons why that happened.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Mark Essay questions</td> <td>Find example questions from the past questions available. Plan an answer to it – get feedback from your teacher. You might also benefit from trying to write it up formally then getting feedback.</td> </tr> </table>	4 Mark Explain one way / key features /	Find a really specific topic, e.g. Germ Theory – have a go at bullet pointing 2 absolutely crucial things about that topic. Keep practicing this with as many different topics that you can think of / find difficult.	8 Mark How Useful are Sources ...	Find a source from a textbook. Try the CNOPCAT test on it. Compare what you have done with a friend, or get feedback from your teacher.	Following up Sources / Making inferences	Find a source from a textbook. Plan answers to infer / follow up questions based on the source you have in front of you.	Interpretation questions	Find an interpretation from a textbook. Try to explain in your own words what the historian is saying about a topic. Then – think about whether you agree / disagree with them based on what you know.	12 Mark Explain why questions	Find a topic, e.g. Why support for the Nazis grew after 1929. See if you can think of 3 different reasons why that happened.	16 Mark Essay questions	Find example questions from the past questions available. Plan an answer to it – get feedback from your teacher. You might also benefit from trying to write it up formally then getting feedback.
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Problem 5: I've tried revising, but I still can't remember anything.	
SOLUTION	<p>The methods you have used so far clearly have not worked, you will need to try something different (remember, what works for one person may not work for another):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flash Cards</b> – Pick a small topic, e.g. 'Night of the Long Knives' – write this on one side of a card. On the back, write the key facts in bullet-points – Study the points carefully – Test yourself – Can you remember the key points by only seeing the key word on the front – keep repeating until you can remember them.</li> <li>• <b>Posters</b> – Make a mind-map for the topic you are revising by using all your notes/revision guide – Study your poster carefully – Test yourself, can you recreate the poster with no notes in front of you?</li> <li>• <b>Profiles</b> – make character profiles for key people within a certain topic (what they did, how they did it, impact they had...).</li> <li>• <b>Exam Questions</b> – Find an exam question you think you would find difficult – try to make a plan/perfect answer using all your notes for that question – Get it checked.</li> <li>• <b>Lists</b> – Simple, but effective – make a bullet-point list of all the key points you need to know for a topic section – study it – can you not write the list with no notes in front of you – repeat until you can.</li> <li>• <b>Online Resources</b> – Lots of websites such as BBC Bitesize have factual knowledge quizzes you can use.</li> <li>• <b>Timelines</b> – Using your notes / revision guides / textbooks – make yourself timelines of the whole topic – this will help you remember what happened when.</li> </ul> <p><b>Remember-</b> by making these resources – that in itself is revision and will help you remember things.</p>

#### Step 4: Consider these final words of wisdom:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The best way of revising history is by practicing past exam questions, either by making essay plans or writing them up formally in timed conditions. Your teacher will be happy to mark these and give you feedback.</li> <li>• Do not underestimate the power of a timeline. Topics like Germany can be difficult, but by making a timeline of what happened when, this will really help.</li> <li>• These are LOTS of resources available to help you revise: VLE (textbooks and revision guides are all there); BBC Bitesize, GCSE Pod; Simply type History revision into Google – lots of things are there – some are quite good!</li> <li>• You may be tempted to prioritise subject like English, Maths &amp; Science and ignore History. Keep in mind, when an employer looks at your results and sees good grades in some subjects, but not in others – they will think you are incapable of multi-tasking and potentially lazy – they may not employ you as a result. The more grades you have at 5+, the better your options are later in life.</li> <li>• Use your remaining time in History wisely – it's not too late if you fully apply yourself.</li> </ul>
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