

History





**A LEVEL History**

**Course handbook & Pre course tasks 2025/2026**



#### Course outline

A Level History at Highcliffe School follows the **OCR exam board specification**. Further details about the exact content of the units specified below can be found on this link: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf>

The course is split into four distinct areas, two of which you will study in Year 12 and the other two areas in Year 13.

#### How is history assessed?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Content Overview** | **Assessment Overview** | |
| **Unit 1: British period study and enquiry.**   * ***The Early Stuarts and the origins of the Civil War 1603-46.*** * ***The execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646-60. (Source based enquiry)*** | **British period study and enquiry (Y108)**  **50 marks**  **1 hour and 30 minutes paper** | **25 %**  of total A level |
| **Unit 2: Non British period study**  ***Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963*** | **Non-British period study (Y221)**  **30 marks**  **1 hour paper.** | **15 %**  of total A level |
| **Unit 3: Thematic study and historical interpretations**  ***Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992***  You will develop the ability to treat the whole period thematically, and to use your detailed knowledge of the depth study topics to evaluate interpretations of the specified key events, individuals or issues. | **Thematic study and historical interpretations**  **(Y319)**  **80 marks**  **2 hours and 30 minutes paper** | **40 %**  of total A level |
| **Unit 4: Topic based essay.**  ***This essay will be based on a topic of your choice related to unit 2 of your studies.*** | **3000-4000 word essay (Y100)**  Non examination assessment.  You will write a 3000-4000 on a topic of your choice related to your Unit 2 study on the Cold War in Asia 1945-1993. This unit is an internally assessed unit. A title proposal form must be submitted to OCR by your teacher to get approval before you  commence your research and write up. | **20%**  of total A level |

**SUMMER TRANSITION WORK**

We are so excited to hear that you are hopefully going to be joining us in September to study A Level History.

This booklet will give you a brief introduction to the course layout and help you to start getting to grips with some of the key terminology and ideas in preparation for September.

**The first term** there are 2 topics we will study. These 2 topics will contribute towards the first 2 final exams you will sit in the summer of Year 13.

These two topics are:

1. The Early Stuarts
2. Germany Democracy to Dictatorship 1918-1964

Please complete the 4 tasks below and bring this completed workbook with you in September. We have also added some links and information about future Career Pathways in History, with links for you to do some research!

**Best wishes, Team History**

**\*SUMMER TRANSITION WORK HAND IN WEEK: 8th – 12th SEPTEMBER**

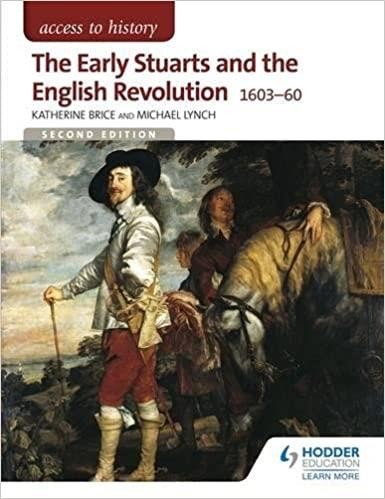
#### Expectations

* Students are expected to purchase a working file for each unit that they study in order to record and organise any notes and worksheets used in lessons.
* Students are expected to have the correct stationery for the lessons including pens, pencils, scissors, glue and highlighters.
* Students are expected to have the correct textbook with them for each lesson.
* Students are expected to read widely around the topics that they are studying and not just rely on the knowledge acquired from the textbooks or resources their teacher has given them.
* As the lessons involve a lot of discussion based work and exam style questions it is expected that students will complete all home study tasks to a high standard and these must be handed in on time.
* Students are expected to attend all lessons.
* MISSED LESSON CONTENT DUE TO ABSENCE – Students are expected to catch up in their designated study periods (work is shown to teacher upon arrival to the next lesson).

**Course textbooks**

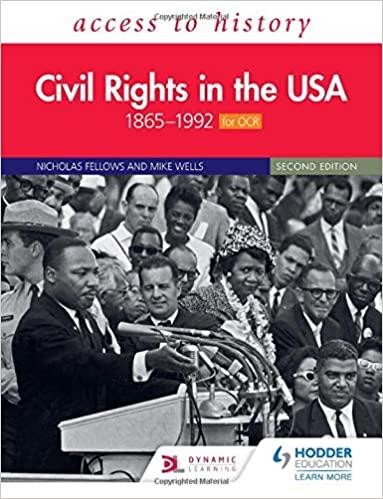
You may wish to buy the following course textbooks to help you get a head start before September.

#### For Unit 1: For Unit 2: For Unit 3:



Access to History: The Early Stuarts and the English Revolution 1603-1660 Katherine Bryce and Michael Lynch ISBN: 978-1471838828

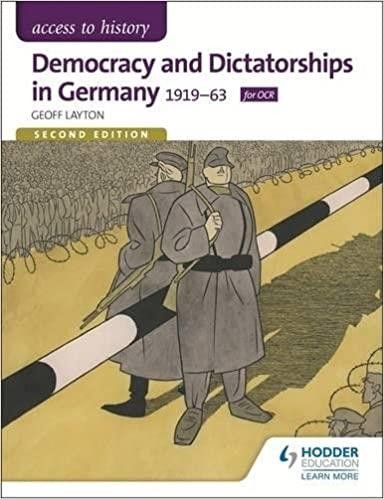
Access to History: Democracy and Dictatorships 1919-1963



Access to History: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

Nicholas Fellows and Mike Wells ISBN: 978-1510457935

Geoff Layton

ISBN: 978-1471839153

**Task One - Why History?**

This is the beginning of your journey to becoming an A Level Historian, what has led you to start this journey?

* Step 1: Write your new history teachers a short letter about why you have chosen to study A Level History, what you are looking forward to and what you may need help with.

Task Two - Chronology:

During your A Level studies you will be exploring new time periods, topics and themes in both breadth and depth. Understanding the key chronology of your units will be central to your ability to both analyse sources in their context and engage critically and meaningfully with essay questions.

* Step 1: Create a timeline on A3 paper which spans the first period you will be studying on the Stuarts unit. You should use the overview list of dates below to help build your timeline.
* Step 2: On your timeline, plot on the key events with full dates and titles.
* Step 3: For each event, can you write a brief description of what happened and the consequences of it? (You may need to research these to find out about them)
* Step 4: Can you see any themes, e.g. Finance, Religion? Colour code your timeline

**Challenge:** Can you now begin to explain the strengths and limitations of timelines? How far, and in what ways, will they be useful to you in studying the past?

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An example section of an Early Stuarts and the English Civil War timeline:



Task Three: - Note Taking- The collapse of Imperial Germany

Watch the video lecture at the link here and answer the following questions in good detail:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZpR6TMgEm0&list=PLXtShDmDvfwwZ0jw8E3h58rZ43HycbDDi>

1. **What were the results of World War One for Germany?**
2. **How did this impact the ruling of the country?**
3. **What did the result of the war mean for the running of Germany? (What does Constitutional democracy mean?)**
4. **Who became leader of the new German constitutional country?**
5. **What threats still were there to the stability of this new system?**
6. **What was established and what was it called?**

**Stuarts Glossary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Keyword | Definition |
| Absolute (power) |  |
| Anarchy |  |
| Arminians |  |
| Impeachment |  |
| Inflation |  |
| Inquisition |  |
| Jesuits |  |
| Merchant Adventurers |  |
| Militia |  |
| Monopolies |  |
| Predestination |  |
| Prerogative |  |
| Presbyterians |  |
| Providentialism |  |
| Puritans |  |
| Quakers |  |
| Recusants |  |
| Regicide |  |
| Sacraments |  |
| Sect |  |
| Separatist |  |
| Stadtholder |  |
| Surplice |  |
| Tithes |  |
| Wardships |  |

**Germany Glossary**

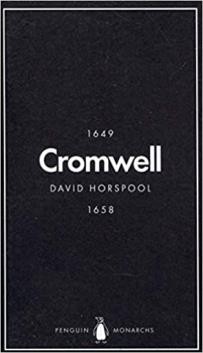
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Keyword | Definition |
| Anschluss |  |
| Aryan |  |
| Blitzkrieg |  |
| Diktat |  |
| Freikorps |  |
| Gestapo |  |
| Hyperinflation |  |
| Kaiser |  |
| Lebensraum |  |
| Putsch |  |
| Reichstag |  |
| Reparations |  |
| Schlieffen Plan |  |
| Volk |  |

### **Read, Watch, Listen- Unit 1 The Early Stuarts and the English Civil War 1603- 1660**



READ





*A Monarchy Transformed*. By Mark Kishlansky



WATCH

*Penguin Monarchs Series*

*James I – Thomas Cogswell*

*Charles I - Mark Kishlansky*

*Oliver Cromwell –*

*David Horspool*



The Stuarts (BBC),

Monarchy with David Starkey,

Cromwell,

The English Civil War (Amazon Prime)





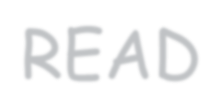
LISTEN

Revolutions Podcast available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts app and: [https://www.revolutionspod](https://www.revolutionspodcast.com/2013/09/001-the-kingdoms-of-charles-stuart.html) [cast.com/2013/09/001-the-](https://www.revolutionspodcast.com/2013/09/001-the-kingdoms-of-charles-stuart.html) [kingdoms-of-charles-](https://www.revolutionspodcast.com/2013/09/001-the-kingdoms-of-charles-stuart.html) [stuart.html](https://www.revolutionspodcast.com/2013/09/001-the-kingdoms-of-charles-stuart.html)

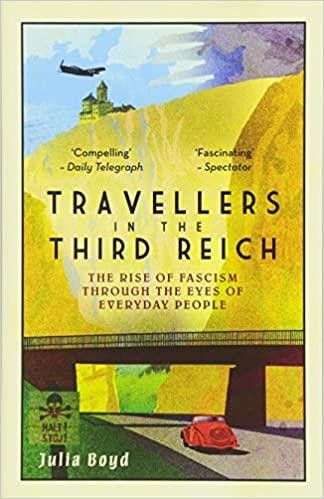
In Our Time Podcast available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts app and:

[https://www.bbc. co.uk/programmes/b0080xph](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0080xph) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000g3f6> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0001fv2> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546mp>

### **https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51WJuVG49WL._SX325_BO1,204,203,200_.jpgRead, Watch, Listen- Unit 2- Germany Democracy and Dictatorships.**



READ

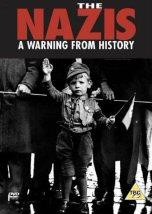
*Travellers in the Third Reich: The Rise of Fascism Through the Eyes of Everyday People*. By Julia Boyd

*Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War, the Berlin Wall and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth*. By Iain MacGregor





WATCH

The Nazis a warning from History (BBC)

Hitler’s Circle of Evil

(Netflix)



Operation Finale

The Peacemakers TOV Documentary (Youtube)

(Netflix) [https://www.youtube.co](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-HkCRozls)

[m/watch?v=74-HkCRozls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-HkCRozls)



Dan Snow’s History Hit Podcast Episodes:

‘Interwar Germany’s Secret Ally’ 6th Jan 2020

<https://www.historyextra.com/topic/nazi-germany/>

**Careers in History:**

**Top History Universities:**

University of Oxford: [University of Oxford | Course Finder (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/university-search/undergraduate/history/university-of-oxford)

Durham University: [Durham University | Course Finder (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/university-search/undergraduate/history/durham-university)

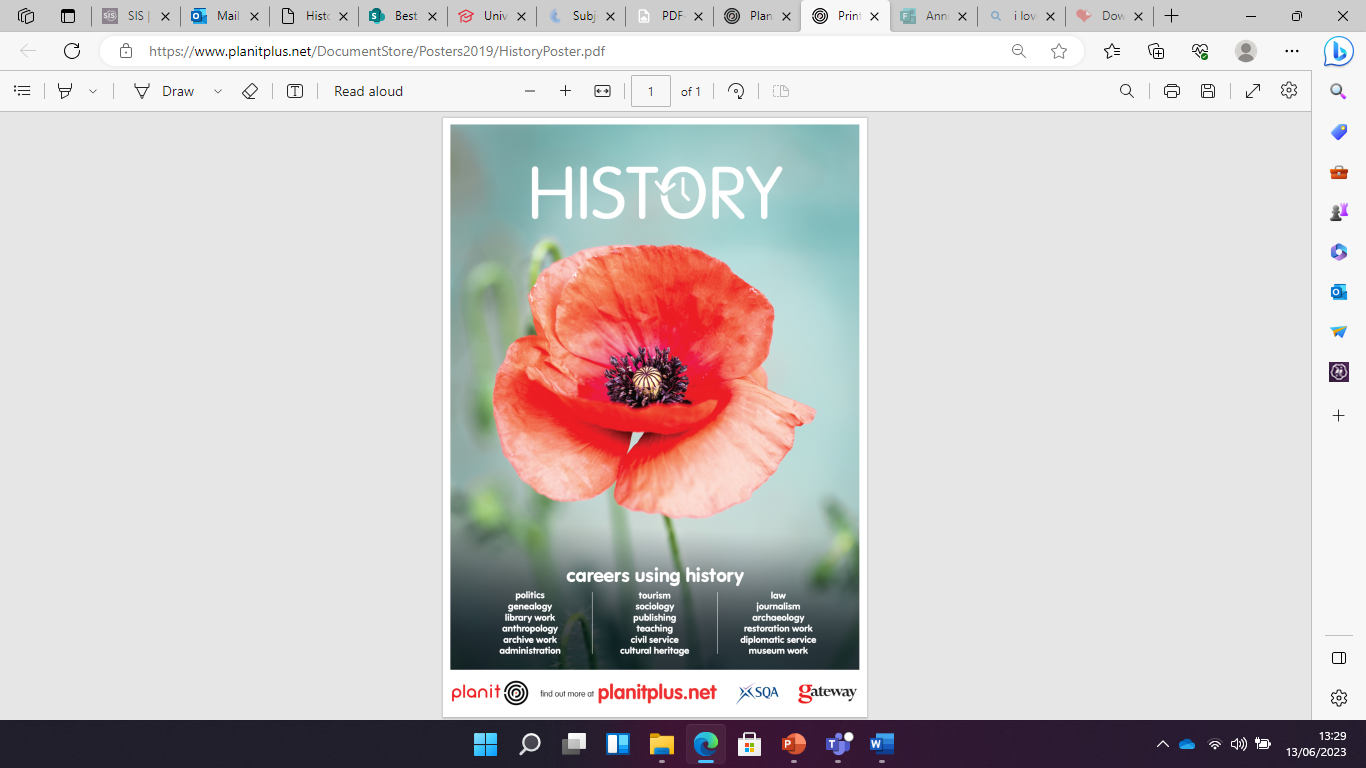
Warwick University: [University of Warwick | Course Finder (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/university-search/undergraduate/history/university-of-warwick)

**Local Universities:**

University of Southampton: [University of Southampton | Course Finder (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/university-search/undergraduate/history/university-of-southampton)

University of Chichester: [University of Chichester | Course Finder (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/university-search/undergraduate/history/university-of-chichester)

**Careers in History:**

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