



PiXL Gateway: Progression

History

A Transition Unit of Work

The beginning of your journey to becoming an
A Level Historian

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Edexcel: A-Level History: St Augustine's

Year 12:

Paper 1: Germany and West Germany 1918- 1989

Paper 2: Spain, 1930-78: republicanism, Francoism and the re-establishment of democracy

Year 13:

Paper 3: Protest, Agitation and Reform in Britain 1780-1928

Coursework: The development of the Cold War

Building Block 1: 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: Identify which three examination units you will be completing as part of your A Level studies on the school website.

Step 2: Create a timeline on A3 paper which spans the entire time period you will be studying for each of your three units.

Step 3: On your timeline, plot on the key events with full dates and titles.

Step 4: For each event, can you write a brief description of what happened and the consequences of it?

Step 5: In a separate colour, draw and annotate arrows explaining the connections between the events in your timeline – how are key events/changes connected?

Step 6: Counterfactual analysis is a key component of A Level study. For 5 of the events on your timeline, can you explain how history would have been different if this event had not occurred? Can you predict how your timeline might have looked different? What does this tell you about the importance of this event within this unit of work?

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?

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-2015.coursematerials.html#%2FfilterQuery=category:Pearson->

[UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials](#) (On this page, right at the bottom, is a zip file called 'A Level History Topic Booklets' download it and look at Route G, it includes the Spain/Germany courses and will help you to make timelines!)

Building Block 2: Causation and Consequence

A majority of the essays you write throughout Year 12 and Year 13 will address the conceptual focuses of causation and consequences – why do events happen, and what are the implications of them?

Step 1: From your timeline for each of your examination units, identify 5 key events (if in doubt, double check with your History teacher for Year 12 to see if the events you have chosen are suitable!).

Step 2: Do some research and create a mind map, with the event in the middle, divided into two sections – causes and consequences.

Step 3: On the left hand-side, identify between 5-10 causes as to why this event happened. For each event use the “shades of likelihood” scale to explain how far, and in what ways, this cause led to the event occurring:

1	2	3	4	5
Partially	Noticeably	Dramatically	Certainly	

Step 4: For your causes, now categorise your factors into the following themes: political; social; economic; long-term cause; and short-term cause.

Step 5: From your causation map, can you now identify what you think is the most important cause behind this event, and justify your decision?

Step 6: On the right hand-side, identify between 5-10 consequences that occurred as a result of this event.

Step 7: For your consequences, now categorise them into the following themes: political; social; economic; long-term consequence; and short-term consequence. Can you explain the links between your consequences?

Step 8: Can you identify what you think is the most important consequence of this event, and justify your decision?

Building Block 3: Significance

One of the central recurring themes in A Level History is the role and significance of individuals in shaping events. Why is it that some individuals are more significant than others? In what ways, if at all, can the contributions of some individuals to the past be unprecedented? In what ways are some events in the past inevitable, unaffected by human agency?

Step 1: From your timeline, identify 5 key individuals from each of your examination units (if in doubt, double check with your History teacher for Year 12 to see if the people you have chosen are suitable!).

Step 2: For each of your individuals, complete the grid below, explaining the ways that they are significant:

In what ways was this individual's actions or ideas remarkable, both at the time and since?

Why are the actions of this person remembered today and in the past?

What do the actions and ideas of this individual reveal to us about the values and concerns of the time period in which they lived?

In what ways did the actions or ideas of this individual result in short or long term consequences?

Step 3: Based upon your grids, which of your individuals do you think was most significant and why? If you had to rank them into an order of significance, what would your criteria be for what makes an individual significant in the past?

Building Block 4: Interpretation

A Level History will not only require you to study the past, but also to engage critically with the interpretations of different historians about the past: historiography.

Task 1: Select one of the texts from the reading list below. You might want to select something that will help you prepare for your A Level units in Year 12, or explore something new – speak to your teacher for advice!

Task 2: Write a book review of your text, addressing the questions below:

- What are the key arguments of this historian?
- How convincing do you find these arguments, and why?
- What surprised you about this historian's interpretation of the past, and why?
- What did this text reveal to you about the nature and the challenges of studying History?

David Abulafia, *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean*, 2011

R.J.B Bosworth, *Mussolini*, 2002

C.Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, 1992

David Cannadine, *What is History Now?*, 2000

D.Carpenter, *The Struggle for Mastery: Britain 1066-1284*, 2003

E.H.Carr, *What is History?*, 2001

William H.Chafe, *The Unfinished Journey: America since World War II*, 1999

Peter Clarke, *Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-2000*, 2004

D.Crouch, *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*, 2002

Frank Dikotter, *The Cultural Revolution: A People's History 1962-1976*

R.J.Evans, *In Defence of History*, 2001

R.J.Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich*, 2003

R.J.Evans, *The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815-1914*, 2016

N.Ferguson, War of the World: History's Age of Hatred, 2006

N.Ferguson, The Pity of War: Explaining World War I, 1998

Orlando Figes, A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1924, 1996

Shelia Fitzpatrick, The Russian Revolution 1917-32, 1994

E.H.H.Green, Thatcher, 2006

Yuval Noah Harari, Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, 2015

E.J.Hobsbawm, Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 2006

E.J.Hobsbawm, The Age of Revolution 1789-1848

Simon Jenkins, A Short History of England, 2012

T.Judt, Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945, 2005

D.Kynaston, Austerity Britain: 1945-51, 2007

M.Mazower, Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century, 1998

Andrew Marr, The History of Modern Britain, 2017

John Morrill, Oxford Illustrated History of Tudor and Stuart England, 1996

D.Reynolds, One World Divisible: A Global History since 1945, 2000

J.M.Roberts, Penguin History of the Twentieth Century: The History of the World, 1901 to the present, 2004

Edward Said, Orientalism, 1978

D.Sandbrook, Never had it So Good, 2005

Robert Service, Stalin: A Biography, 2004

Mike Sewell, The Cold War, 2002

Jonathan Sperber, Revolutionary Europe 1780-1850, 2000

David Starkey, The Reign of Henry VIII, 1985

Robert Tombs, The English and Their History, 2014

Stephen Tuck, We Ain't What We Ought To Be: The Black Freedom Struggle from Emancipation to Obama, 2010

Gordon Wood, Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic 1789-1815, 2011

Mr Braid's Recommended Watch and Read List!

This is a collection of films, programmes, documentaries and books that I recommend either for information relevant to the course or because they expand on topics that we only get to discuss in brief. Please be aware that some of the films contain swearing and some nudity. Many of these cover topics that are upsetting, if you wish to ask any questions before you watch any of these please email me. Some of these are available on Netflix or YouTube, some of them are available on US Netflix and some we have the DVD's of in school.

I would expect students that have chosen history as an A-Level topic to be spending time watching and reading to extend their knowledge. The most successful students are the ones with a wide range of knowledge and understanding to call upon.

Your course is divided into 4 themes (politics, economics, society and opposition) across three time periods (Weimar, Nazi, FRG) You then also do "Part C" this is a discussion about the outbreak of WW2 and whether it was the result of Hitler's intentions or other influences. Top level part C answers require a great deal of knowledge and understanding. Extra reading and viewing is extremely useful to help you achieve this.

Films

- **Downfall** – Film looking at the last days of WW2. Inside Hitler's bunker up to his suicide. The film is in German with subtitles. The film shows how out of touch Hitler was at the end and how severe the situation had got in Berlin. I also think it is good to show how committed to Hitler many Germans were.
- **Valkyrie** – Film with Tom Cruise (not totally historically accurate) Good overview of the July Bomb Plot, the most successful attempt to try and kill Hitler. The general facts are correct but the characters have been exaggerated.
- **Schindlers List** – Film that focuses on the Holocaust and Oskar Schindler, a German and member of the Nazi party who managed to save the lives of thousands of Jewish Workers. The film gives an excellent look at the Holocaust. It was made recently but is filmed in black and white.
- **Sophie Scholl: The final days** – The film looks at members of the White Rose group (anti Nazi protesters) Their arrest, the Nazi legal system and their execution.
- **Edelweiss Pirates** – The film is about a more violent anti Nazi youth group towards the end of the war. They were well known for their conflict with Hitler Youth members
- **Hitler Rise of Evil** – I cannot recommend this enough , it is available in full on YouTube (although the quality is poor) This film follows Hitler's life from a child to when he takes control of Germany. It mentions and covers all of the major events in Germany from 1914-1933.
- **Operation Finale** – This does not directly relate to our course but is interesting. We don't get a chance to discuss what happened to Nazis that managed to escape Germany. This film looks at the story of Adolf Eichmann, "the architect of the Final Solution" (Holocaust) The film shows how Nazis were tracked down and returned to face trial for their crimes.
- **The man with the Iron Heart** – This is interesting for wider information, this looks at how people in countries conquered by Germany in WW2 tried to resist the Nazis. This film is set in German occupied Czechoslovakia and looks at the life and death of Reinhard Heydrich. Heydrich is considered one of the "worst" Nazis. He was responsible for rounding up and executing Jewish people in Czechoslovakia
- **All quiet on the Western Front** – A film that could give you a wider understanding of World War One as it gives an accurate depiction of how terrible the war was for German soldiers. The film shows the horrors on World War One. If you chose to watch it consider how betrayed German soldiers would have felt, putting up with these conditions, watching their friends and family being killed or wounded and then being told that they had lost. Remember that Hitler was a soldier during World War One.
- **The Baader Meinhof Complex** – One of the few FRG films. This looks at one of the best known FRG terrorist organisations in the 1960's and 70's

- **Germany Year Zero** – This was filmed in Berlin in 1947. The film follows a young boy and his family trying to survive in Berlin after the war. The story itself is valuable as it gives a very good representation of what life would have been like for Germans after WW2, struggling to rebuild their country before the FRG is fully established. You see how people try not to talk much about the past. The footage of the city is real so you can see how much damage was caused to Berlin by the war.
- **Generation War** – 3 part show on Netflix, it follows a group of Young Germans from the beginning of World War Two to the end of the war.
- **World War Two in Colour** – This series goes in depth for the whole of World War Two. The first bit of this series is very useful to help you understand the outbreak of World War Two that we discuss in section C of the Germany unit.

YouTube

History hint = YOUTUBE IS AMAZING!!! If you're finding a particular topic hard try and find a video or documentary about it. There are lots of historians who make history videos specifically for people learning.

Crash Course World History – This man discusses historical topics but also explains historical concepts such as capitalism and communism

- **Nazis A warning from History** – Some of these are available on YouTube, 6 part series looks at the rise and fall of the Nazis and covers topics such as support, opposition, Outbreak of WW2 (part C) and the holocaust
- **Germany after the War, 1945-49** – Two Hour documentary looking at post war Germany upto the formation of the FRG. There is more of a Cold War focus to this. It is still beneficial as it gives good post war information and also because you'll be studying the Cold War in yr.13
- **Berlin History 1945-1958 "Journey Across Berlin" 1961 US Information Service; Cold War**- This is essentially an American propaganda video but it contains some clear explanations of the events on 45-58.
- **10 minute history: Weimar and Nazi** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vO-HXO7HwY>
- **BBC bitesize: Weimar and Nazi**: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqDR8kvs9gY&list=PLHZk29-llwv3F6UOGTIWT5dBnlqG7B7OS>
- **How did the Weimar Government Work**: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMK3Y0-DtPA>

Reading – You're doing history, get used to reading

- **A history of Modern Germany**: Dietrich Orlow – covers 1871 to present so not all relevant to the course, the book is ordered chronologically however and makes a useful reference tool
- **Richard J Evans Trilogy**: -
 - o 1. The coming of the Third Reich,
 - o 2. The Third Reich in Power,
 - o 3. The Third Reich at War
- **Weimar Germany**: Promise and Tragedy
- Pretty much any **Ian Kershaw book**: Kershaw has written extensively on the Nazis and is considered one of the best historians. His range of books is vast so has covered a lot of the subjects we discuss.
 - o Ian Kershaw – The Nazi Dictatorship
 - o Ian Kershaw - Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris
- **Germany since 1945: politics culture and society** – Book that covers most of the key themes of the FRG in a reasonable level of detail
- **A.J.P Taylor** – The origins of the Second World War
- **Wikipedia** – It's not perfect but there's a lot there



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