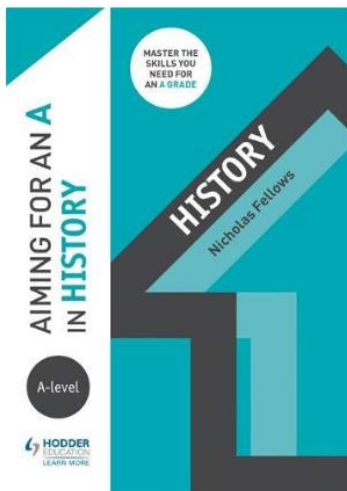


With learning at home replacing exams this year, it is more vital than ever that you complete transition work if you want to make a great start to your A Level History studies.

A big part of making the transition to A Level History is thinking about the skills that were so important at GCSE – you need to develop these even further. At no time does GCSE require you to tell a story, you use your contextual knowledge to prove your points. A Level requires this in even greater detail.

You also need to be prepared to complete reading at home in order to do well. Lessons are designed to discuss what you have found out, not tell you things for the first time – you now have a great opportunity to practice this!

Read



This book will give you a good idea of the general skills that are needed in order to get top grades at A Level. It is available from book shops and online, and there is a kindle version (used with the kindle app on your phone) which is usually slightly cheaper.

This book does not give you any of the subject knowledge that you need, it tells you how to approach the course. It will NOT be required reading once the course starts – you will have enough of that to do to get through the content, so now is the perfect time to be looking at it.

Other books are available and are just as good – just remember that it is OCR History (Course code H505).

Research

Finding out any information on the three main subject areas will give you a head start in September. We cover the following areas:

- Civil Rights in the USA 1865 – 1992
- The Early Tudors 1485-1558
- Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963

Look online and in any books (both written by historians and general textbooks) for information on these topics. It is good to get a wider grasp of these periods, so looking at 'key events' beforehand can be really helpful. Some examples are below:

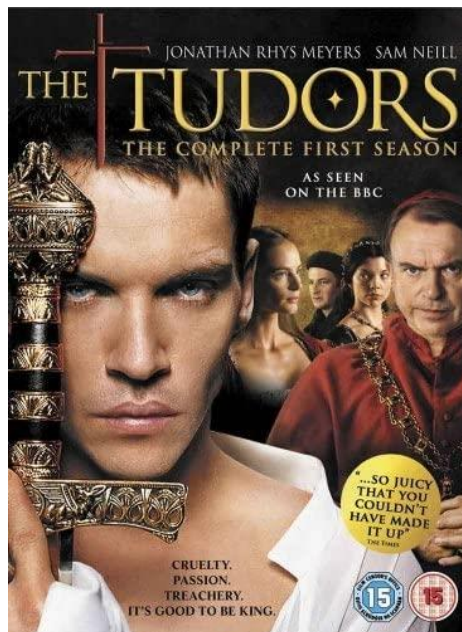
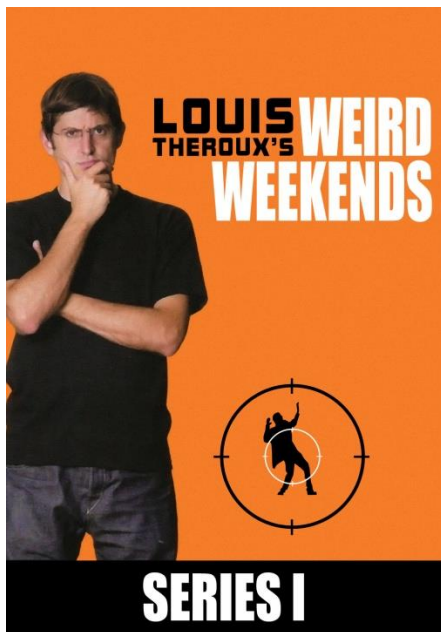
USA	Tudors	Germany (Year 13)
Civil Rights Act 1964 The New Deal (1933 onwards) The impact of the Cold War on domestic policies The Gilded Age (end of the 1800s) The Black Power movement and Malcolm X and its wider impacts	Henry VII claiming the throne How Henry VII ran England Henry VIII's early reign Henry's 'great matter' The Reformation Edward VI, Mary & Elizabeth – the crises around their monarchies	The Treaty of Versailles The Weimar Government The Great Depression The Nazis/Third Reich The impact of WWII/defeat Divided Germany The building of the Berlin Wall

Watch

There are a number of different documentaries, series and films that you can watch to get into the topics. Just remember that they don't always give you the facts that you need for the course specification, and lots of films and series over-exaggerate events or even make them up completely. Many are available on BBC/Channel 4, or through subscription services that you might already have, like Netflix or Amazon Prime.

- Any documentaries on Civil Rights leaders (Martin Luther King, or less well-known but equally important figures) are useful. BBC has clips on civil rights leaders, while Louis Theroux brings in some modern takes, looking at Black Power movements and white supremacists (beware of the offensive language and upsetting scenes that these will inevitably involve). Films like *Harriet* and *Forrest Gump* also give insights into the period.
- BBC has box sets of The Tudors, focussing on Henry VIII. Documentaries on his six wives and religious changes are also readily available. The War of the Roses has also been dramatised over the years, and there are a number of documentaries out there. There are also plenty of films about Elizabeth I.
- Nazi Germany has been covered so much that it is almost impossible not to find documentaries on this period in Germany's history. Look for anything that tells you about the politics of the time, and life for the ordinary German. The Holocaust has also got lots of informative and unsettling documentaries. Don't forget to look at Weimar Germany, and the creation of East and West (GDR and FRG) Germany.

At this point, it is a good idea to keep a note of what you see and where you see it. If you want to mention a point in discussions next year or return to something that you have already seen, it is a lot easier if you know exactly where the point was! *Series 1, episode 3, 20-25mins.*



Next up

There is plenty here to be thinking about. We will look at some of the background context next – this will include the American Civil War, the War of the Roses, and Imperial Germany and WWI.