FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Welcome to the History Department!

"HISTORY IS A CACOPHONY OF VOICES, ALL OF THEM COMPETING TO TELL THEIR OWN VERSION OF THE STORY."
LUCY WORSLEY

A history of revolutions in different periods and places

Students of history are expected to study a period of at least two hundred years.

They must also study:

- 20% British History
- An element of non-British History
- Historical interpretations that will lead to a piece of independent coursework.

As a department we wanted to ensure that students engaged with a range of social, political, economic and religious history.

We also wanted the course to have a unifying theme that students could develop a detailed understanding of.

Why History?

- History is relevant to the world that we live in today.
  - Russia in the 21st century has its roots in the revolution in 1917.
  - Our modern parliamentary democracy is born out of the Civil War and political conflict of this era.
  - The history of race relations in America is an ongoing issue that is still not solved. To understand this we **must** look backwards.

Why History?

- Develop transferable skills that will help you in any number of careers.
  - Close analysis and evaluation of primary material and interpretations.
  - Developed written and verbal communication skills.
  - Ability to argue and debate.
  - Research skills.

- Because you love it. If you find the people, actions and thoughts of the past intriguing then history is the subject for you.

Year 12

- **Two examined units, focused on the theme of Revolutions.**

- **Unit 1: Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement**

- **Unit 2: Russia in revolution, 1894-1924**

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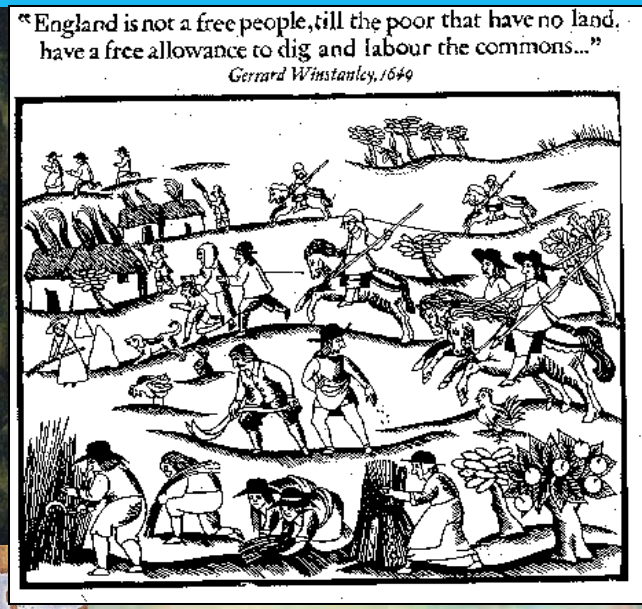
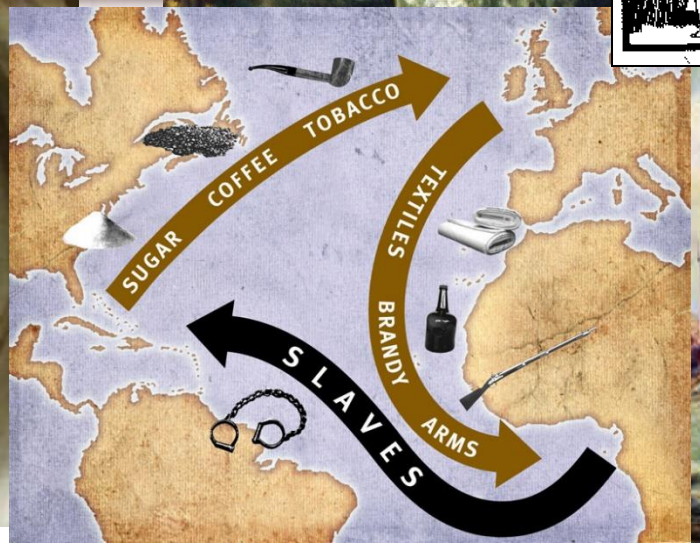
Britain 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement





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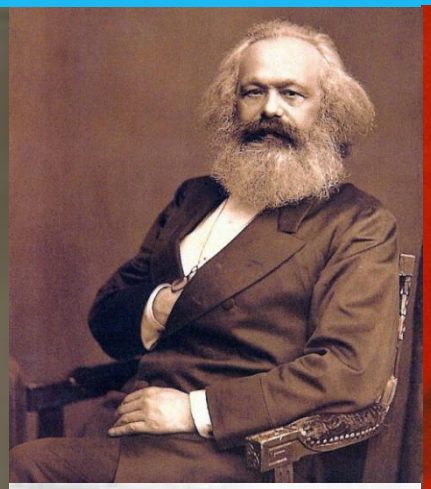
Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924



Year 13

- A thematic study covering at least 100 years
- A piece of coursework

- Unit 3: Civil rights and race relations in the USA 1850-2009

- Unit 4: An individual coursework assignment on an historical debate of the student's choice. The chosen debate will be drawn from the unit Russian Revolutions 1894-1924.

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Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1850-2009

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Coursework: Russian Revolutions, 1894-1924

AMBITIOUS ▼ COLLABORATIVE ▼ HAPPY ▼ INTEGRITY ▼ ENDURANCE ▼ VERSATILITY ▼ EXCELLENCE ▼

How is History A level examined?

- Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 13: two of the units will have been studied in Year 12; the third will be taught in Year 13.

- Coursework will be completed in Year 13.

What will the exam papers look like?

- Paper 1: 2 hours 15 minutes
  - Two knowledge-based essays, one interpretations question using two sources.
- Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes
  - One source-based essay, one knowledge-based essay.
- Paper 3: 2 hours 15 minutes
  - One source-based essay, two knowledge-based essays.

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Where can history take you?

Time well spent in HISTORY

Careers in History

THE NATIONAL TRUST AND ENGLISH HERITAGE

The National Trust manages or owns a large number of heritage sites, not only historic buildings but also vast acreages of grounds which will require traditional agricultural and horticultural management. Jobs available will include administrators, conservators, wardens, housekeeping staff, visitor information and ticket-selling staff, shop and café staff, gardeners and more. The Trust also has regional offices which include the usual range of office staff, and also education staff, personnel management, press and public relations people etc. Full details of National Trust vacancies can be found on their website. There is no 'quick click' route to these, but if you type the word 'vacancies' into the site search engine, you should get all the information you need on the types of jobs available.

The National Trust also runs an apprenticeship scheme for horticultural/grounds workers - they call it 'careership', so if you are a school leaver with an interest in both history and horticulture, you might like to ring their information line, 0344 800 1895, for more information. Trainees get a chance to live and work in some very beautiful places!

English Heritage of course also manages a large number of properties and offers a range of jobs, but they do not currently have comprehensive national information easily available on a website. Everything is done regionally, with vacancies usually advertised in local papers. You could also try contacting the personnel department of your regional English Heritage office. In addition, there are of course hundreds of privately owned 'stately homes', heritage sites and historic buildings in the UK, which again will use a range of staff. Vacancies in these will usually be advertised locally.

HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES

In addition to the National Trust and English Heritage there are other organisations looking after specific areas of heritage and history. You can find these online or by looking through the Directory of British Associations at your local library. Unfortunately, most of these Societies and Associations, like the Historical Association, manage with a very small staff and a lot of committed volunteers, so vacancies are seldom available. If you have a particular area of interest, however, it might be worthwhile to join the relevant Association, both for interesting activities, updates and information, and for the networking opportunities these provide.

POLICE AND ARMED FORCES

The Armed Forces may deal with very modern situations, equipment and weaponry, but as mentioned before, every regiment, every ship and every Air Force base has its own history, of which it is very proud, and they are delighted when recruits turn up who have an interest in history. Obviously they will require other personal qualities and the qualifications they look for - and subjects they need at GCSE or A-level - will depend very much on the type of work you want to do. The range is actually huge, and there are opportunities for supported university degree courses as well as on the job training in a whole variety of career options which lead to qualifications recognised in the civilian world. For enquiries about careers in the Armed Forces, contact your local recruitment office or visit the appropriate Forces website(s), for example: RAF, Army, Navy.

LIBRARIES

Many libraries recruit university students as part time library assistants, so one way of finding out whether you would enjoy library work is simply to get a part time library job while you're studying. If it appeals to you, you can take post-graduate training in librarianship, perhaps while continuing to work in a library. Obviously, general libraries cover a whole range of subjects, so do reference libraries - though any search skills you gained as a student will help you help others in their studies. There are also some specialist local history libraries, and major libraries (like the British Library) also have specialist sections. For example, at the time of preparing this booklet, the British Library were advertising for a project worker who would be helping to create a web-based resource for lifelong learners on English Accents and Dialects, using their very extensive collection of oral history tapes. To get more information on careers as a librarian, go to the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals website.

LEARNING TO LOCATE & SIFT FACTS - In this Internet-based, information overloaded world, employers really appreciate someone who can sift through the evidence to find the vital information – a skill that history is better placed than any other subject to help you develop.

UNIVERSITIES

Universities campuses can be like small towns, and so offer a whole range of job opportunities - many of which are part time and filled by students, as you will discover if you go there! - but while some grants exist for postgraduate studies, the majority of research opportunities are post MA or post-doctorate, and these are pretty fiercely fought over. They can, however, be worth fighting for - one around at the time of writing this booklet offered a gem of an opportunity to a History of Art PhD who would 'provide academic support for current work on the decoration of the 16th century Royal Apartments at Stirling Castle' and would include 'a conference and a series of publications'. The best way to find out more about working at a university is to check their websites.

COMMUNICATING YOUR IDEAS & THOUGHTS IN A WAY THAT MAKES SENSE TO OTHERS - whether that be verbally or in essays, graphs or illustrated reports – and having the confidence to defend your findings. These skills are vital for arguments and presentations in a range of careers.

RECORD OFFICES, ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES & UNIVERSITIES

These are a great resource for people interested in history, whether national, local or simply of their own family or home. They therefore also provide job opportunities for people who love history and get on well with people (because record offices and archives don't just keep documents safe, they make information available, and have an ever-increasing thrust towards education). To get an idea of the kind of vacancies available, check out the national website, and click on the 'Jobs and Careers' link at the bottom of the page. Local Records Offices and archives are likely to advertise locally. There is also a Society of Archivists, whose website (click on Training or Careers) can provide you with useful information.

MEDIA AND JOURNALISM

There is a national training advisory service, Creative Skillset, which offers advice to people seeking careers in broadcasting, film and interactive media. You also should keep an eye on the advertisements in The Guardian on Mondays (media day) or their online media jobs listings, and check out the websites of any broadcasting company or newspaper you might like to work for.

With regard to print journalism, check out the National Council for the Training of Journalists' website. This gives good advice on the qualifications needed and the routes of entry. Beware, though - this is a popular career route (practically every university careers website you may care to visit will have something on media careers!) and the competition, especially for something like a trainee producer's job with the BBC, is very fierce indeed.

HISTORIC HOUSES, HERITAGE SITES AND ORGANISATIONS

Any major heritage site will have a huge range of jobs, from the Property Manager at the top (a job which requires considerable maturity, administrative and management experience) and down through many ranks of support staff.

HANDLING EVIDENCE TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS - to identify truth and recognise myth, propaganda and downright lies (useful in every aspect of life!)

Job Skills in History

JUST AS HISTORY HAS MADE OUR WORLD WHAT IT IS, HISTORY CAN ALSO BE A KEY PART OF YOUR FUTURE. STUDYING HISTORY INFORMS THE PRESENT AND GIVES YOU THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.

TEACHING

If you feel you have a flair for conveying your own knowledge of and enthusiasm for history to others, teaching is definitely an option – whether you do this as a PGCE course after your history degree, or you are more interested in training as a primary teacher where history will be one of a number of subjects you are likely to teach.

The government is very keen to get new teachers on board, so there are perks in the way of grants and remission of your student loan if you stay in teaching for a set period of time. Make no mistake, though, teaching isn't an easy ride! It demands commitment, patience, a lot of hard work (forget the holidays for a moment and think of the evenings/weekends you may have to spend preparing lesson plans!).

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Jobs exist at many levels and in many areas in the museums and galleries sector.

With a relevant degree (and perhaps a postgraduate qualification in Museum Studies) you could be a curator.
A history degree will be a bonus if you are applying for an administrative position, though ideally you should also get some administrative experience and develop relevant skills, such as IT.
The education section of museums and galleries will be looking for graduates with teacher training and experience, but there will be a range of other roles that don't require a degree to suit people who may have other qualifications. Watch our Careers with History interview with Lynne Minett, Head of Learning at the National Railway Museum.
In the art world, conservation opportunities also exist, but there are very specific degree routes for these, as practical skills need to be learned.

Jobs which do not require a degree – and which may offer a chance for learning on the job – will be things like information assistants, box office attendants, shop and café staff. People with practical skills like carpentry will be needed in the exhibitions department; those with graphic design skills may also be needed here, and in the production of leaflets etc. Large museums in cities and busy tourist areas (including Open Air museums and visitor attractions with a strong historical element) may also have jobs for costumed 'living history' re-enactors, though these may well be only seasonal.

A good site to visit is Museum Jobs.com to get an idea of the range of museum jobs on offer (in the UK and abroad). You could check out details of jobs though the specialist advertiser is the Museums Journal. The Museums and Galleries Yearbook is also a good resource to help you identify over 2,500 potential employers! Also visit the websites of individual major museums, which often have a 'vacancies' section.

HORTICULTURE & NATURE CONSERVATION

We've already mentioned the National Trust's training scheme for people who will work in the gardens and grounds of their properties. If you like practical outdoor work, gardening can combine very nicely with an interest in history. There are job opportunities for people with horticultural qualifications and/or experience to work on the gardens of many historic properties, whether owned by heritage organisations, individuals, councils or of course some of the ancient schools and universities. Sometimes this involves restoring a historic garden or park to its former glory, following planting patterns laid down a century or more before. Nature conservation can also link very well with history, as so much of England's countryside has been shaped by the history of its agriculture. Certain traditional skills such as dry stone walling, coppicing and hedge-laying are still in demand, especially in the extensive acreages covered by National Trust properties and National Parks. The Forestry Commission are also restoring some traditional woodland management practices, and increasing their community and schools education activities. Many traditional skills can be learned as a volunteer with organisations such as BTCV, and though it wouldn't be easy to make a full time living using them, these skills plus a knowledge of and interest in history could help you find a job as, say, an Assistant Park Ranger or Ranger in a National Park.

LEARNING ABOUT COUNTRIES, SOCIETIES & CULTURES - so many of today's conflicts and alliances have their roots in the past; how can you understand, trade successfully with, or report on a country if you know nothing of its culture or history?

ARCHAEOLOGY

It's probably best if you contact the Council for British Archaeology direct. Archaeologists are usually graduates, but there are plenty of contract opportunities for people with other qualifications, plus the increasingly technical side of archaeology - familiar to any fans of Time Team - requires specialist technicians. For a slightly irreverent - but realistic - look at careers in archaeology, you could try the website of Current Archaeology magazine.

ARCHITECTURE & THE CONSERVATION OF BUILDINGS OR ARTEFACTS

It is unlikely that you will have taken a history degree and then decided to go into these fields; the usual route is to take specialist degrees (e.g. architecture, restoration - the City & Guilds one includes stone-masonry and carpentry). Or, if you don't want to follow the degree route, there are non-degree skills training opportunities for architectural technicians and building trades workers (stonemasons, carpenters, joiners, plasterers, bricklayers, metalworkers etc.) to which specialist training in conservation techniques can then be added. Some firms of architects specialise in conservation work - at the time of writing this booklet, one was advertising in The Guardian for qualified conservation architects and technicians to work on 'world heritage sites, National Trust properties, churches, castles, historic houses'. The advert specified that 'computer literacy is essential together with an academic interest in the historic background of conservation projects'. You might like to contact the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings or the The Institute of Conservation to get an idea of the kinds of specialist training courses, activities and career opportunities available...

LEARNING ABOUT PEOPLE - how they interact, differing perspectives and interpretations, the motives and emotions that can tear people apart into rival factions or help them to work together for a common cause (useful knowledge for team-building at work!)

LAW

You do not necessarily have to take the conventional route of studying Law at University in order to become a lawyer; there are various routes into law. Nowadays, there are lots of non-law graduates in the legal profession. There are even school leaver schemes and apprenticeships available. It is also common to go to University to study something else, like History, and then complete a conversion course after your undergraduate degree.

Whether you study History to GCSE, A-level or University level, History and Law are both about questioning motivation and looking beneath the surface, which makes them intrinsically linked. History teaches you skills which are important to have as a lawyer: critical thinking, asking why, analysing information and presenting arguments as well as training memory and teaching you how to research. Barristers need to have an excellent memory for precedents, i.e. legal cases in the past where judgement may be considered to have set a precedent which could still apply to a similar case today. Studying History before going in to Law may even give you an advantage of having had more life and academic experience.

NATIONAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are a host of opportunities at graduate and non-graduate levels, in all of which the study of history will be a bonus. For example, those dealing with planning applications are likely to be involved in searches of records and will need a knowledge of local history, while if you are working in the Diplomatic Service, it goes without saying that if you are posted to a British Embassy in a country, you really do need some knowledge of that country's history! Vacancies, including trainee posts, are usually advertised in The Guardian (print and online), and in the case of local government, in local papers. Politicians of all parties also often need researchers. Websites worth visiting to find out more are:

+ Your local Council's site (which usually lists vacancies, Modern Apprenticeships, and other training opportunities)

+ The Civil Service recruitment website

What do I need to get onto the course?

- Grade 5 in History
- Grade 5 in English Literature
- An active and passionate interest in current affairs.
- Ability to communicate clearly on paper and in class discussion.
- Determination to learn and get better at writing.