

Year 11

Below is a range of questions, a small reading list and list of materials that will support your progression onto studying A-Level History at QE.

Whilst studying A-Level History you will study two topics throughout both the first and second year of the course:

- Unit 1 – The Tudors, England 1485-1603
- Unit 2 – The Cold War, c1945 -1991

In preparation for A-Level study it would be worth researching the time periods directly preceding the start of the time periods in study:

- Unit 1 – The Wars of the Roses and Religion in England
- Unit 2 – International relations in the 1930s and then the experiences of the USSR and the Allies in WWII.

As the perfect starting point for your studies, it would be worth researching and answering the following questions:

In preparation for the Tudors topic	In preparation for the Cold War topic
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ What were the Wars of the Roses?✓ Why was Henry VI such a disastrous king?✓ How did the reign of Richard III benefit Henry Tudor?✓ What legacy did the Wars of the Roses have on England?✓ Why did Henry VII win the Battle of Bosworth in 1485?✓ What was the nature of religion in 15th century England?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ What were the central ideas in Leninism, Stalinism and Marxism?✓ What were international relations like between East and West in the 1930s? (Look at the idea of collective security against Nazi Germany and also Appeasement. It is really important that you know what the Nazi-Soviet pact was and why it was signed.✓ How was the Soviet experience of WWII different to that of Britain, France and the US? Where were they mainly fighting? How were they working together? What levels of casualties and damage did they suffer? Operation Barbarossa will be something you really need to know about.

Handy Resources:

Books

The Tudors

- Peter Ackroyd - “ Tudors : The History of England (Volume 2) ”.

This is an excellent introduction to the Tudors. It is very readable and takes an analytical approach inside the key story. You will be able to see, hear and touch this exciting past. Most importantly it will make you think!!

The Cold War

- John Lewis Gaddis- The Cold War.

An excellent overview of the course which is fairly short for such a long period and very accessible/student friendly. It will also be a good opportunity for you to get into the habit of reading history like an A Level student rather than just relying on the textbook like at GCSE.

Websites

The Tudors

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_the_Roses

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/henry_vi_king.shtml

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/tudor/history-extra-explains-why-were-they-called-tudors-tudor-history-henry-viii-dynasty-when-did-it-start-surname-house/>

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/elizabethan/tudor-timeline-10-momentous-dates/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Medieval_England

The Cold War

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-britain-hoped-to-avoid-war-with-germany-in-the-1930s>

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/operation-barbarossa>

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/second-world-war/timeline-important-dates-ww2-exact/>

Other

Youtube

Tudors

There are so many excellent documentaries on this period. Please pick and choose from the following. As with the Cold War topic each documentary is presented by an expert, so you are in the best and safest of hands.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB_OThWd-eA : Henry VI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB_OThWd-eA : War of the Roses

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3x1m20> : Battle of Bosworth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5FsriGn300> : Henry VII

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x20nxy2> : Henry VIII (4 Part Series :))

Cold War

Please bear in mind that the following clips are about warfare and some students may find some of the themes and images upsetting. If you are concerned, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will look for alternative resources.

WWII in colour. There is a lot here and my expectation is that you have an understanding of what happened rather than an expert knowledge.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkc4SkQgELpluNtDb3tpfH2hEvsafBsS>

Appeasement - Have a think about how Stalin might be viewing the actions that were taking place between Britain, France and Hitler. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR8ISozEbcS>