

GCSE History Reading list for Homework

Below are a list of reading, viewing and visit opportunities which will extend your learning out of the classroom. You should aim to do at least three of the things per unit. It doesn't matter which three so you can pick which you'd prefer.

Some of the visits are free, many of the books are in the school library or can be accessed for free from Norfolk library service either in physical or ebooks. Many of the videos are available on youtube or streaming services or we have them several of them in department. If you want to watch our copies let us know and we can arrange to show them over some lunch times.

It is worth keeping an eye on BBC iplayer under the history section. They often have things not listed below which would be good but they tend to not be on there for very long and change frequently.

Another good resource is BBC history magazine. This can be accessed cheaply when they have offers if you subscribe (which you can cancel once you've had the cheaper issues and resign up again) or can be accessed for free via Norfolk library service (either digitally or physically). We also have copies within department you can come and read at lunchtimes.

I have left two slots on each unit for you to add additional things you have found to watch / read / visit. Please tell us about those things so we can add them to the list for next year.

V = visit

NF(A) = academic non fiction text

TB = school textbook

S = TV drama series

D = documentary

N = novel for adults

YA = novel for teenagers

F = film

GN = graphic novel

NF = non fiction

Anglo Saxon and Norman England

type	title	description	Star rating
V	Norwich Castle	Norman castle in Norwich city centre Open Mon-Sat: from 10am–4.30pm Sun: 1–4.30pm Get in for £2 one hour before closing	
V	Castle Acre	Castle near Swaffham. Castle is free to visit at all times, as access is unrestricted. Priory up the road is English heritage and only open during the day and at a small price	
V	The Tower of London	William's castle in London. Not cheap but worth a visit if you are in London	
NF(A)	The Feudal kingdom of England 1042-1216 by Frank Barlow	Non-fiction academic book about Anglo-Saxon and Norman England the way it is run	
NF(A)	The Norman Conquest by Marc Morris	Non-fiction academic book, which looks how England changed after the Norman conquest.	
NF(A)	The Battle of Hastings by MK Lawson	Non-fiction academic book which explores the Battle of Hastings	
NF(A)	Edward the Confessor	Non-fiction academic book, which discusses Edward the Confessor and his role as king of England.	
TB	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1088 Student Book by Rob Bircher	Exam board textbook, which will be used in class. We do not have enough funds to lend copies out. Students do not need a copy but may like to have one to consolidate learning covered in lesson and for exam practice tips.	
S	1066 (2009)	Drama series of events of 1066. Please note this is a 15 and a bit gory. Please check with parents that they are happy for you to view	
D	The Normans (2010)	BBC documentary on the Normans	
D	Simon Schama's a History of Britain	Volume One cover medieval history including Anglo Saxon and Norman England	
D	David Dimbleby's Seven Ages of Britain	Episode one has a section on Norman conquest. Clips can be found on youtube showcasing the Bayeux Tapestry and The Tower of London	
N	The Harrowing by James Aitcheston	Novel set in Norman England about the time of the uprisings against William. Please be aware this is Adult fiction and a bit gory in places.	
D	1066: A Year to Conquer England featuring Dan Snow (BBC)	Series about the events of 1066	

Weimar and Nazi Germany

type	title	description	Star rating
V	Imperial War Museum – Holocaust exhibition	The London Imperial War Museum’s holocaust exhibit is stunning and free to enter.	
YA & F	The Book Thief by Markus Zusak	This novel tells the story of death who happens to be following the story of a young girl living in Nazi Germany. Also available as a film.	
N	Alone in Berlin by Han Fallada	Novel set in Nazi Germany. Based on a true story which tells the story of a couple who decide to oppose the Nazis after their son is killed at war.	
NF	Anne Frank’s diary	Anne Frank’s diary telling her story of how her family hid for the Nazis during World War Two	
D	Causes of WW2 / Nazis	https://youtu.be/Fur-A32ms60	
S	Hitler –the rise of evil	Drama series on the early years of Hitler. Available cheaply on amazon or easy to find on youtube.	
D	The Nazis a warning from History	BBC documentary series. Very good indeed. Very cheap on Amazon and easy to find on youtube.	
YA	Boy in the striped Pajamas by John Boyne	Novel or film about a young German boy who makes friends with a young Jewish boy.	
NF	Weimar and Nazi Germany by Hinton and Hite	A Level textbook. Very helpful if you want to extend knowledge	
NF	The Third Reich by Michael Burleigh	Academic book about the Third Reich	
YA	Auslander by Paul Dowsell	Novel about a young boy living in Nazi Germany who doesn’t want to be involved in the Nazi party.	
N	Fatherland by Robert Harris,	Adult fiction set in an alternative world where the Nazis won the war. Has grown up themes so please check that your parent is happy for you to read it first.	
N or S	The man in the high castle by Philip K Dick	Book or series on Amazon prime set in alternative world where the Nazis won the war. It has some grown up themes so check if OK to view but it really gives a sense of the terror people lived under whilst the Nazis were in power.	
YA	When Hitler stole pink rabbit by Judith Kerr	Novel about a Jewish girl’s story under Nazi rule.	
GN	Maus: a survivor’s tale (and sequel) by Art Spiegelman	A graphic Novel which tells the story of the Holocaust.	
TB	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 by John Child	Exam board textbook, which will be used in class. We do not have enough funds to lend copies out. Students do not need a copy but may like to have one to consolidate learning covered in lesson and for exam practice tips.	

Medicine through time

type	Title	description	Star rating
V	Leeds medical museum	The Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds is awesome. Downstairs they have a replica 19 th century street and displays on the development of medicine. Upstairs they have exhibitions on the development of surgery. It's a bit gory and really fascinating	
V	Science Museum – medicine exhibition	The Science Museum in London has history of medicine exhibition which is rather good and free to enter.	
V	St Thomas's old operating theatre London	This museum is an old operating theatre which is fascinating. It's not pricey and national trust members can get in half price.	
TB	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Medicine Through Time, C1250-Present: Student Book by Sally Thorne and Hilary Stark	Exam board textbook, which will be used in class. We do not have enough funds to lend copies out. Students do not need a copy but may like to have one to consolidate learning covered in lesson and for exam practice tips.	
D	Pain , Pus and Poison (Michael Moseley)	Open University series. You can get it on DVD but it is pricey so I would suggest finding it on youtube instead. (3 episodes)	
D	Blood and guts a history of surgery (Michael Moseley)	BBC series. Don't think it is available on DVD. I've found it in the past on youtube or daily motion	
D	Filthy Cities Medieval London (Dan Snow)	BBC series. Don't think it is available on DVD. I've found it in the past on youtube.	
S	7 industrial wonders of the world – sewer king (Bazalgette episode)	Available on DVD but easily found on youtube	
NF (A)	The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A medical history of humanity by Roy Porter	Academic book about the history of medicine	
D	The NHS a difficult beginning	BBC documentary. Don't think it is available on DVD. I've found it in the past on youtube.	
YA	Saw bones by Catherine Johnson	Novel about an apprentice to a Victorian surgeon	
N	The wages of sin by Kaite Welsh	This is very gruesome and deals with murders of prostitutes in Victorian Edinburgh so check that it is OK to read from an adult at home. The main character is a female trainee doctor.	

Historic environment (ww1 trenches and surgery)

type	title	description	Star rating
V	War Graves trip	There are many sites in the Ypres and Somme area which are worth a look at. If you've been on the year 8 trip you will have seen them. If your family decides to do this as a trip as part of your holiday please email Mr Stek for ideas of places worth visiting	
V	Imperial War Museum London – WW1 exhibition	This is free to enter and well worth a look if you are in London	
NF (A)	World War I: An Illustrated History by L Clark	Covers the First War World in good detail with illustrations	
NF (A)	The First World War by GJ Groot	Gives lots of details about World War One	
F and N	All Quiet on the Western Front	Film and Novel which tells the war from the German side.	
F and N	Regeneration	Novel about World war One looking at the experience of a famous war poet.	
D	The Great War (BBC)	Comprehensive BBC series about World War One	
D	The Somme: from Defeat to Victory	Documentary about the Somme from the BBC available on DVD or found on youtube.	
D	Blood and guts a history of surgery (Michael Moseley)	BBC series. Don't think it is available on DVD. I've found it in the past on youtube or daily motion	
YA	Dawn Dusk Both by Eve Edwards	Novels focusing on nurses in World war One	
YA	Poppy and Poppy in the Field by Mary Hooper	Novels focusing on nurses in World war One	
YA	Things a Bright Girl can do by Sally Nichols	Mostly focuses on Suffragettes but also stuff on impact of World War One	

Super power relations and The Cold War

type	title	description	Star rating
TB	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91: Student Book by Christopher Catherwood and Nigel Kelly	Exam board textbook, which will be used in class. We do not have enough funds to lend copies out. Students do not need a copy but may like to have one to consolidate learning covered in lesson and for exam practice tips.	
YA	Going Over by Beth Kephart	Novel about a girl living in Germany during the Cold War	
D	Introduction to the Cold War	Documentary found here https://youtu.be/bTk3dFC7t00	
D	Beginning of Cold War	Documentary found here https://youtu.be/HpYCplyBknl	
D	Berlin Blockade	Documentary found here https://youtu.be/CZidBq8QS-g	
D	Berlin airlift	Documentary found here https://youtu.be/_nHdB1vJNsg	
D	Cuban Missile Crisis	Documentaries found here https://youtu.be/Snc4g8yAURO https://youtu.be/LgLmaRcGlzQ https://youtu.be/WKjppKx9NL0	
NF (A)	The Origins of the Cold War by Martin McCauley	Academic book which gives a good introduction to why the cold war started in a concise way.	
YA	The fire eaters Almond, David	Novel about fire-swallowing street performer as he contemplates the end of the world (the year is 1962 and the US and Soviet Union seem to be heading toward nuclear war	
YA	Sektion 20 Dowswell, Paul	A nail-biting thriller about a boy who escapes East Berlin, but not the reach of the Stasi	
YA	Life: an exploded diagram Peet, Mal	A brilliant coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of the Cold War and events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis set in North Norfolk.	
F	13 Days (2000)	Film about the Cuban Missile Crisis	
F	The man from UNCLE (2015)	Spy film set during the Cold War	
V	The imperial war museum London	They have several exhibits linked to cold war. Free to enter	