

# HISTORY

Resources pack and taster activities to give you a greater understanding of the A-Level course ahead.



# Welcome to Presdales History A-Level

History is the study of human experience in the past. We study real lives, places and events. We use evidence to explain causes and consequences, change and continuity, and why different people interpret the past and its significance in different ways.

In preparation for your course we would like you to complete at least some of the following tasks, which are divided into Core and Extension options. Everyone who wishes to join the History course in September should complete the Core tasks.

## Get a flavour of your A-Level Topics

As a way in, prior to reading the two books listed below for your core task, you might like to listen to these podcasts:

**Gone Medieval:**

<https://play.acast.com/s/gone-medieval/theriseofhenryvii>

**Helen Rappaport speaking about the Russian Revolution**

**(Dan Snow's History Hit):**

<https://play.acast.com/s/dansnowshistoryhit/localhostdownlearning-russianrevolution>

You could use this [worksheet](#) to guide you in summarising key points from Rappaport's talk. This would help you get an overview of Russia & its Rulers Unit 3.

## Advice on accessing books

There are several options available for accessing books.

Visit your local library and ask to check the library catalogue. If these books are not in your local library they can be ordered in from another library in Hertfordshire or from the central store.

Each of the recommended books can be downloaded from Amazon as an ebook, for £5 or less. You can read Kindle books using the free Kindle

app, on any device. You can also order the print books from Amazon.

There is no need to use Amazon. The Book Nook in Ware offers a discount to Presdales students on course textbooks and will order any book you need. Visit them or contact them online to place an order. You can also order online from Wordery, Blackwells, Foyles or Waterstones, or from independent booksellers, who need support to survive at the moment. If you order from Hive, a percentage of your purchase goes to a local independent bookshop of your choice.

You can buy second hand copies from Amazon sellers, or from AbeBooks, which should save you money.

## Prepare for your Year 12 course (core)

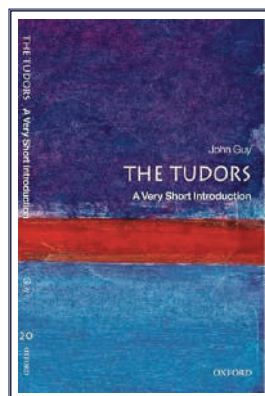
### Unit 1: The Early Tudors, 1485-1558

You can buy second hand copies from Amazon sellers, or from AbeBooks, which should save you money.

*A Very Short Introduction to the Tudors* by John Guy is the most authoritative short introduction to this age in British history. It will give you a good indication of the social, economic, religious and political changes that took place in this era.

**To buy from Amazon:**

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tudors-Very-Short-Introduction-Introductions/dp/0192854011>





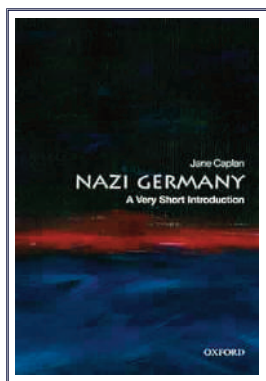
# Welcome to Presdales History A-Level

## Unit 2: Democracy and Dictatorships, Germany, 1919-1963:

This unit sees us return to the themes we explored at GCSE and the destruction of monarchy, the implementation of the Weimar, its fall, the rise and control of the Nazi regime and then the post-Second World War divided Germany. As a department we advise you to read the [\*A Very Short Introduction to Nazi Germany\*](#).

To buy from Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nazi-Germany-Short-Introduction-Introductions/dp/0198706952>



Read both books and make some notes about both eras, common themes and changes that occurred.

You may use [this table to help you write notes](#).

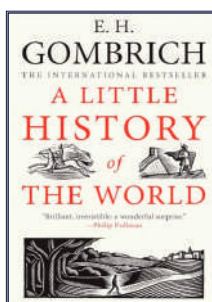
## Explore Big History (extension)

EH Gombrich published his *A Little History of the World* in 1936, with young readers in mind. Although shaped by its time, and mainly, though not entirely, focused on the Western World, it remains an excellent survey of world history from the very beginnings of human history onwards. Libraries or second hand book stores / internet stores will have an inexpensive copy.



### TASK

As you listen or read, make a timeline of key events that stand out in Gombrich's account of world history. You could colour-code them according to how much you feel you already know about them, from the very familiar to the very unfamiliar, and mark a few events, developments or time periods you would like to find out more about.



## Delve into micro-history (extension)

[\*The Voices of Morebath\*](#) by Eamon Duffy

About the people of one village in Devon in the 16th century.

[\*Black Tudors\*](#) by Miranda Kaufmann

Each chapter tells the story of one black individual living in Tudor or early Stuart England, revealing loads about the period through their stories.

[\*The Five\*](#) by Hallie Rubenold

Focuses on five women living in poverty in Victorian London.

[\*The Hare with Amber Eyes\*](#) by Edmund de Waal

History of the first half of the twentieth century through one family's story, ranging from Russia to Japan to Austria.

[\*Death in Ten Minutes\*](#) by Fern Riddell

The story of radical Suffragette, Kitty Marion.

[\*East West Street\*](#) by Philippe Sands

Traces his family's experience of the Holocaust and connects it to prosecution of leading Nazis at the Nuremberg trials.

[\*Stasiland\*](#) by Anna Funder

Stories from behind the Berlin Wall.

[\*Wild Swans or Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister\*](#)

- both by Jung Chang

Communist China through the experiences of individual women.

## History documentaries (extension)

Available on iPlayer [BBC History documentaries](#)

## Listen to some podcasts (extension)

In addition to the BBC History of the World in 100 Objects (see above), these are some really great History podcasts which are short, easy to listen to, and very informative. Try selecting some on topics that are completely unfamiliar, as well as some that are more familiar.

[Greg Jenner's You're Dead to Me \(from one of the creators of Horrible Histories\)](#)

[Dan Snow's History Hit](#)

[Janina Ramirez: The Art Detective podcasts \(art history\)](#)

[Find all History podcasts from BBC Radio here](#)