



# Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: History

Year Group: 10&11

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## Why is independent learning in history important?

Independent Learning is vital in History. It gives pupils the chance to research and discover more about the past on their own and to take part in more extended enquiries. It is also an opportunity for pupils try use their historical skills on their own to see how well they have understood concepts and ideas and to see their ability to explain and communicate their answers. At GCSE Independent Learning is also crucial for preparation for Controlled Assessment and the final examination.

## How will independent learning be set?

Independent Learning will be set once a week. This will be written in planners and on Fronter. Sometimes tasks will be longer exercises, such as completing examination questions and sometimes, to balance this, shorter learning tasks. During the time of Controlled Assessment (May, Year 10) it is not possible to set work to be done at home and during this stressful period students get a needed break.

## What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

It is essential for GCSE success that all homework is completed on time and to the very highest standard possible. Staff will ask work to be re-done if it does not meet this requirement.

## What help and support is available?

There is a wealth of support material on Fronter. The History Department is open every lunchtime for homework club where a member of staff will be able to help and give more resources. The main textbooks given to Year 10 and 11 are superb and the revision book given to Year 11 students before the mock examination is also invaluable. We also subscribe to a website called Practice Every Question (the link to this can be found on Fronter) which has examination advice and model answers for all previous questions.

**What work can be completed in addition to the set tasks?**

Pupils will always have work to be continuing with. They can spend time re-capping over previous topics or using their textbooks to read ahead. There are also a great wealth of resources available on Fronter for students to use to help them with this, such as links to BBC Bitesize and other good History websites. Of course, we also encourage at GCSE for students to spend any spare time reading further around the subject and learning more about time periods not being covered in the course. The school library has very good resources. History documentaries are always being shown on TV and the news often has reports that relate back to historical events. It may be sensible for students to use their textbook to read about topics that we do not cover (such as the Russian Revolution or Cold War) but the options are vast.